CADAS September 2018 meeting.

Just like last month, 33 people signed in at our September meeting. Those who sent their apologies for not being able to come missed another enjoyable meeting.

Ron noted that we will be supporting Chard Library’s ‘Stargazing evening’ on 6th October and have again been asked to help Redstart School with their astronomy and space evening next February. Paul and Ron assisted Jo Richardson with a ‘Solar day’ at Sherborne Prep School on 7th September. Amazingly, although there was broken cloud throughout the day, every one of the 200 pupils managed to view the sun using safe methods.

Our main speaker was our old friend James Fradgley whose topic was ‘Orbital oddities’. The weird and wonderful ways in which orbiting objects can affect each other is enough to make anyone’s head spin. Fortunately for us James was able to simplify and describe these complexities in such a way that we were able to avoid any sense of dizziness or disorientation. In this, he was helped by some excellent animations of the effects of various orbital interactions.

 Just as an illustration of some of the phenomena touched on, James dealt with the significance of the various Lagrange points, Lissagous orbits, Roche limits, Horseshoe and Co-orbital orbits and Klemperer Rosettes as well as the so called Bodes Law. James also discussed some of the consequences of these orbits on their bodies such as the formation and life of rings and the various tidal effects from resonances. He also described how orbital mechanics can be used to control and direct the placement of space vehicles. Great talk James! Thanks for that.

Our break was followed by members sharing some of their images. Terry, Jan, and Gordon were the contributors and as usual we were treated to some excellent shots of a variety of objects including the Helix and Cocoon nebulae, M 92 and the Milky way taken on a range of equipment. It is always a treat to see what folk have captured. Thanks Terry, Jan and Gordon.

Thanks too, to Zena, Annabelle and Richard for catering duties and to those who helped with the aftermath of the feast. Great work, gang! Much appreciated.

And here’s a quick reminder that Lorna still have some of those really smart CADAS coasters. Why not buy a set at the next meeting. All proceeds go to CADAS.

Next month will be our ‘Ask the panel’ meeting. It would help to have some prepared questions for the panel. This is also an opportunity for anyone needing help with equipment to perhaps bring this along for some hands -on guidance.

See you on Wednesday 17th October and until then, clear skies!