

Sadly, Will Gater had work commitments for the meeting on 19th April and couldn't make so we had a couple of short talks from Terry and Bud. We hope that Will can make it to one of the meetings in the summer months.

Terry gave an extended version of the Arthur Davis Talk given (to a small Covid reduced audience) in December 2021. This used a number of Arthur's slides to illustrate both the Meteor Crater and the Observatories of Flagstaff, Arizona. These are within a few hours' drive of each other along the famous Route 66. The scale of the crater comes out well in Arthur's images. For those of you unfamiliar with Arthur, there is an obituary at <https://www.wolas.org.uk/content/arthur-davis-1930-2020>. He was an early member at CADAS and was very generous to the society just before and after his death in 2020. He also left some 1300 slides and a slide digitiser which Terry has used to capture the majority of the slides that had not got water damaged.

Bud has been working on his "Ladder Telescope" since the start of the Covid lockdowns (see Astronomy Now January 2023) based on a 16" mirror that was in Arthur's shed and given to the society. The next stage of getting optimal performance is putting the Ladder Telescope onto a heavyweight mount that will take the weight of the scope. To this end, Bud has invested in a Skywatcher EQ8R which finally arrived last week from China. This is a fearsome beast and Bud showed videos of its arrival (in traditional heavy rain) and construction. Let's hope for some clear skies for Bud to add to his impressive record of lunar photography.

After the break we had images by Terry of Mercury, Venus some southern hemisphere RCW catalogue objects. This was followed by the (perhaps inevitable) animation of NGC6729 showing the latest outburst starting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. This was the first public display of this outburst movie. Bud had a number of images of Jupiter showing the vagaries of the Somerset seeing on the quality of the detail. He followed this with a surprisingly contrasty view of Mars taken at the end of January 2023.

The events, both in the sky and on the ground, for the next few weeks were given by Terry and follows below.

The next meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> May and will be the "Ask the Panel" session. Questions to be given should be sent to terry at [terry.evans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terry.evans@hotmail.co.uk) ready for the meeting (though questions from the floor will be welcomed :-).

# Upcoming Events

## Planets

Mercury past its brightest but showing a nice crescent in telescopes

Moving in towards inferior conjunction (1<sup>st</sup> May)

Moon nearby Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Venus well positioned in evening sky and sets after midnight BST

Moon near on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Mars in Gemini but fading Only as bright as Castor

Saturn will start becoming visible in the morning but very low

## BAA Meeting

The BAA Spring meeting will be in Cardiff on May 13th on

Cosmology: Galaxies and Stars. See <https://britastro.org/event/baa-spring-meeting> .

## Meeting Schedule

May 17     Ask the Panel & Canal Halley Model

June 21     Jo Richardson   Dark skies of Exmoor