

The Observatory

The Observatory is open on Tuesday evenings for members' informal meetings and observing if the sky is clear. It is in Rue du Lorier, behind the large bunker which is about 100 metres up the road from La Houquette School. Telephone 264252.

The meeting room includes seating for 20 people, a ceiling-mounted projector, computer with broadband internet access and astronomical software, a library and basic kitchen.

A separate building with a roll-off roof houses a permanently-mounted computer-operated 16-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and a 5-inch Takahashi refractor. Two additional GOTO telescopes (8" SCT and 12" Dobsonian) are also available for visual observing.



The Summer Milky Way (J.M. Dean)

In addition, there is a GOTO equatorial mount and astrophotography grade refractor for imaging.

For solar observing there is a 6-inch heliostat. Outside there is a mixture of lawned and hard surfaces for telescopes.

Meetings and observing activities

The Section meets every Tuesday night from around 8pm. If the weather is clear the telescopes are used for viewing the night sky. Otherwise there may be a short presentation on an astronomical topic given by a member followed by a discussion. New members are taught how to use the GOTO telescopes.

Meetings are also held when there are special events, such as eclipses. Occasional formal lectures are held, given by members or visiting speakers; some are held at La Société's lecture theatre at Candie Gardens.



Comet Hale-Bopp (1997, David Le Conte)

The Observatory library contains a large collection of books, which members can borrow. The Section has subscriptions to the major astronomical magazines, and is a member of the British Astronomical Association, the Federation of Astronomical Societies, and the Society for Popular Astronomy.

Each August we hold a barbecue to coincide with the Perseid meteor shower. In December we gather for a Christmas dinner at a local hostelry.

If you are interested in joining, we suggest that you first come along to one or two of our Tuesday meetings as a guest.

Membership benefits & how to join

Members can attend all meetings, and have access to the telescopes and other equipment, learning from the experience of other members.



The Horsehead Nebula (J.M. Dean)

Members also receive an annual newsletter, *Sagittarius*, which contains Section news, details of forthcoming events, and articles written by members.

Members of the Astronomy Section must be members of La Société Guernesaise, the details of which are available at www.societe.org.gg, or by telephone 725093. Current (2020) annual subscription rates are: single £28, double/family £34, students £5.

Section members are asked for an additional annual subscription of £5 to support the Section.

For further details email: astronomy.gg@cwgsy.net.

Remember, you do not have to know anything about astronomy to be a member – just have an interest in the subject. To join, please complete and submit the form overleaf.

Membership application form

La Société Guernesiaise Astronomy Section

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

I confirm that I am a member of La Société Guernesiaise.

Signature _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

The annual Astronomy Section subscription is **£5.00**.

Please send this form, with payment (to La Société Guernesiaise Astronomy Section) to the Section Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Peter Langford, Fief L'Eveque, Rue de la Boullerie, St Andrew's, Guernsey GY6 8XF.

Alternatively, it can be sent to: Account 'La Société Guernesiaise Astronomy', Sort Code 60-09-20, A/C No. 70602964, Reference Your name. Be sure to include your name as reference. It would also be helpful if an email was sent to the Treasurer at pmlang@cwgsy.net

Note that you must be a member of La Société Guernesiaise in order to join the Astronomy Section. You can apply for membership of La Société at www.societe.org.gg/about/join.html.

Outreach activities

Public open evenings are held on Thursday evenings through the summer school holidays. They include observing with the telescopes and a talk in the meeting room. There are also few solar open days through the year. Many locals, children and visitors attend these events. The observatory is run by members as volunteers and a small donation is suggested to help with running and maintenance costs.



The Observatory hosts many educational outreach events where children and youth groups can learn about the solar system, deep space, astrophysics and cosmology.

Each year the Section runs a Stargazing Course. The course focuses on practical observing, supported by theory and descriptions of celestial objects, including the planets, evolution of stars, and cosmology. The course is very popular and fills very quickly. Other courses such as Astrophotography are also run through the year.



Astronomy

La Société Guernesiaise

Guernsey's astronomical society is a Section of La Société Guernesiaise, the local studies society. An active group of some 50 members, the Section runs the island's Observatory, and welcomes anyone with an interest in astronomy, whether beginner or more experienced. The Observatory is well equipped with modern instruments, and is used as the centre of the Section's activities.



For full details visit our website:

www.astronomy.org.gg



Pickering's Triangle supernova remnant (J.M. Dean)