



Society
for the
History of Astronomy

Joint meeting with the North West Group
of Astronomical Societies
CHETHAM'S LIBRARY, MANCHESTER
2008 SATURDAY 29TH MARCH.

9.30 for 10.00am Registration in the Great Hall, Chetham's Library.

10.00-10.45 **'Varied aspects of the orbit of Venus'**
Presented by Murad Ghorbals, Liverpool AS

Abstract

An account of the orbit of Venus, with special reference to its well defined periodicities, the feasibility of visually observing the planet at certain inferior conjunctions, the latest Venus can set and earliest it can rise at different latitudes, the recurrence of transits over the centuries, and a comparison of Halley and Delisle's methods of timing these events.

11.00-11.45 **'William Lassell - Telescopes, Planets, and Drinking Beer!'**
Presented by Gerard Gilligan, Liverpool AS

12.00-12.45 **'Henry Prescott, 17th Century Sidewalk Astronomer'**
Presented by Richard Sargent, Chester AS

1.00-2.00 **Lunch** (not provided)

2.00-2.45 **'Through Status to the Stars: the Victorian Middle Classes of Leeds and their Astronomical Society'**
Presented by Ray Emery, Leeds AS

Abstract

Suggested in the 1820s, formed in the 1850s, and revived in the 1890s, the Leeds AS largely reflected the interests and style of the emerging metropolitan bourgeoisie. Its own evolution mirrors the changing social structure and social geography of Leeds as it became both a city and one of Britain's most prosperous and diverse industrial urban centres. The Society, with its wealth of characters and links to the likes of John Herschel and George Biddell Airy, provides an insight into the aspirations of the social types who created and maintained it up to WW1 and beyond.

3.00-3.45 **'Stonyhurst Observatory: Geomagnetism and the Sun'**
(title TBC)
Presented by Fintan O'Reilly, Stonyhurst College AS

3.45-4.15 **Tea** (inclusive with ticket)

4.15-5.15 **'The History of UK Radio Astronomy at Cambridge and Jodrell Bank'**
Presented by Sir Francis Graham-Smith, Jodrell Bank

Tickets are £10 in advance (Please note there is limited seating capacity at Chetham's and are available on a first come, first served basis from the SHA Treasurer.

Post cheque with A4 sae to: SHA, 14 Keightley Way, Tuddenham St Martin, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9BJ

QUOTE REF --- [AWC/MAS](#)