



# The Space Soc. Observer

Bimonthly Newsletter of Space Soc.

Issue No.7

**Welcome** to the seventh Edition of “The Space Soc. Observer” a bimonthly Newsletter keeping you informed about the activities of our Society and keeping you updated with the latest Space News.

The Editor

Finally, its Toulouse time,

and the 28 lucky members who are making the trip are pretty much excited. So I hope at least. I can talk only for myself but I have to say that I can't wait until its Friday. For all the other astronomy and space enthusiasts there is as every year the great alternative, the Astrofest 2011. So don't feel left behind and go to some exciting presentations and meet other great people interested in astronomy.

The Editor



**Space Soc. Trip - Toulouse**

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## Space Soc. Trip to Cité de l'Espace



Cité de l' Espace is a space themed adventure park in Toulouse. Toulouse is a city in southwest France on the banks of the River Garonne. With 1.1 million inhabitants it is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in France.

### What to do in the Space Theme Park



Climb into MIR Space Station to find out how it is to be a Russian Kosmonaut or board the Soyus Spacecraft. Don't forget the bottle of Vodka to make that experience as authentic as possible. Or maybe just look at a life-size Ariane 5 heavy lift Launcher and take a walk between the planets. Other highlights are Moon Runner, Gyro Extreme, Planetarium and Imax.



## What else to do in Toulouse

**Here are some of the cultural highlights Toulouse has to offer.**



### **Roman amphitheatre**

**The theatre was built in the middle of the first century AD. That's the only Roman monument still to be seen in its entirety.**



### **The Saint-Sernin basilica**

**This Romanesque building is considered to be the biggest in the western world. It was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and holds a treasure trove of religious reliquaries in its crypt.**



**Or maybe a cruise on the river Garonne. Weather forecast predicts sunshine and temperatures of 12°C-15°C.**





As promised for all the other astronomy enthusiasts. If you are still free that weekend in February and you are sad you didn't make it to Toulouse, spend the weekend in London and get tickets for Astrofest 2011.

Here are some Highlights:

### Friday, February 4, 2011

- 10.35 Observing with the Faulkes Telescopes**  
Paul Roche, Faulkes Telescope
- 12.15 Strangers and giants: Uranus and Neptune**  
Chris Arridge, UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory
- 16.15 Seeing how galaxies form: new observation from Hubble and Herschel**  
Steve Eales, Cardiff University

### Saturday, February 5, 2011

- 10.00 Near Earth Objects-impacts in your lifetime**  
Alan Fitzsimmons, Queen's University Belfast
- 15.05 How astronomers are mapping our Galaxy**  
Gerry Gilmore, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge
- 16.15 Recreating the early Universe**  
Brian Cox, University of Manchester



### Some of the Exhibitors:

Optricon/Vixen, Orion Optics UK,  
Solarscope, Royal Observatory  
Greenwich, Astronomy Now, The  
Open University, Cambridge  
University Press, Atik Cameras

### Important-Important-Important-Important

Want to be a Co-Writer? Take your Camera to the Astrofest 2010, take some picture and write a little story for our Issue No.8



- 🎯 **Space Soc. Cinema:** *Thursday; 03/02/2011; 19:30; KLT3; Choices: Star Trek, Wall-E, Blade Runner*
- 🎯 **Telescope Nights and Training:** *02/02/2011; 20:00; outside Woodys or the domes*
- 🎯 **Rocket Building:** *No date set*
- 🎯 **Socials:** *No date set*
- 🎯 **Specials:**

**Kent Physics Centre / Seminars**  
*Antique English Clocks; Prof. Ted Parker; School of Engineering & DA; University of Kent; Tuesday; 22/02/2011;19:30; RLT1*

*Colour Vision; Mohamed Sobhy; School of Engineering & DA; University of Kent; Tuesday; 19/04/2011;19:30; RLT1*

*Studying materials with neutrons; Prof. Neal Skipper; Condensed Matter and Material Physics Group;UCL; Tuesday; 17/05/2011;19:30; RLT1*



**In this Section Space Soc. Members can have their say. So I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts. Please use the e-mail addresses at the end of this newsletter to send your messages.**



**facebook**

If you have paid for your Space Soc. membership you should also be a member of our Facebook group. Look at pictures of our previous trips, Images of the Faulkes Telescope Project, leave messages and check for updates and news. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5573843814>



**Good News! End of December Andy and I invested some of our Society money on new equipment. We bought an 80° field of view eye piece and a heat shield to keep our telescope warm and prevent dew settling on the optics. Hopefully we have some clear nights soon.**



**And more good news. Space Soc. won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the national physics society competition. Thanks to the record numbers of members and the great work the committee puts in we are 3<sup>rd</sup> in the UK. Well done folks and we promise to keep the good work up. That means we won £150 for our budget.**

**Preview Issue 8**

**Special** Toulouse Trip

**Astro** Fest

**Updates** & Voices

## Astronomy

### Hubble pushes the limit

The Hubble Space Telescope conducting Ultra-deep imaging has uncovered a galaxy 13.2 billion light years away. This was when the Universe was just 4% of its current age and beats the previous distance record by roughly 150 million light years.

If you want to read more go to [www.astronomynow.com](http://www.astronomynow.com)

## Space Science

### Space Shuttle rolls out to launch pad

The repair's of the Space Shuttle Discovery external tank is finished and awaits the flight readiness review on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Assuming no more problems develop, NASA hopes to go for launch on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to read more go to [www.spaceflightnow.com](http://www.spaceflightnow.com)

## Physics and Astrophysics

### Large Hadron Collider (LHC) runs through to 2012

Management at CERN announced that the Large Hadron Collider at CERN will run through to the end of 2012 with a short technical stop at the end of 2011. It will use a beam energy of 3.5 TeV. After 2012 it will go into shutdown and prepares for full design energy of 7 TeV in 2014.

If you want to read more go to <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110131133123.htm>



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