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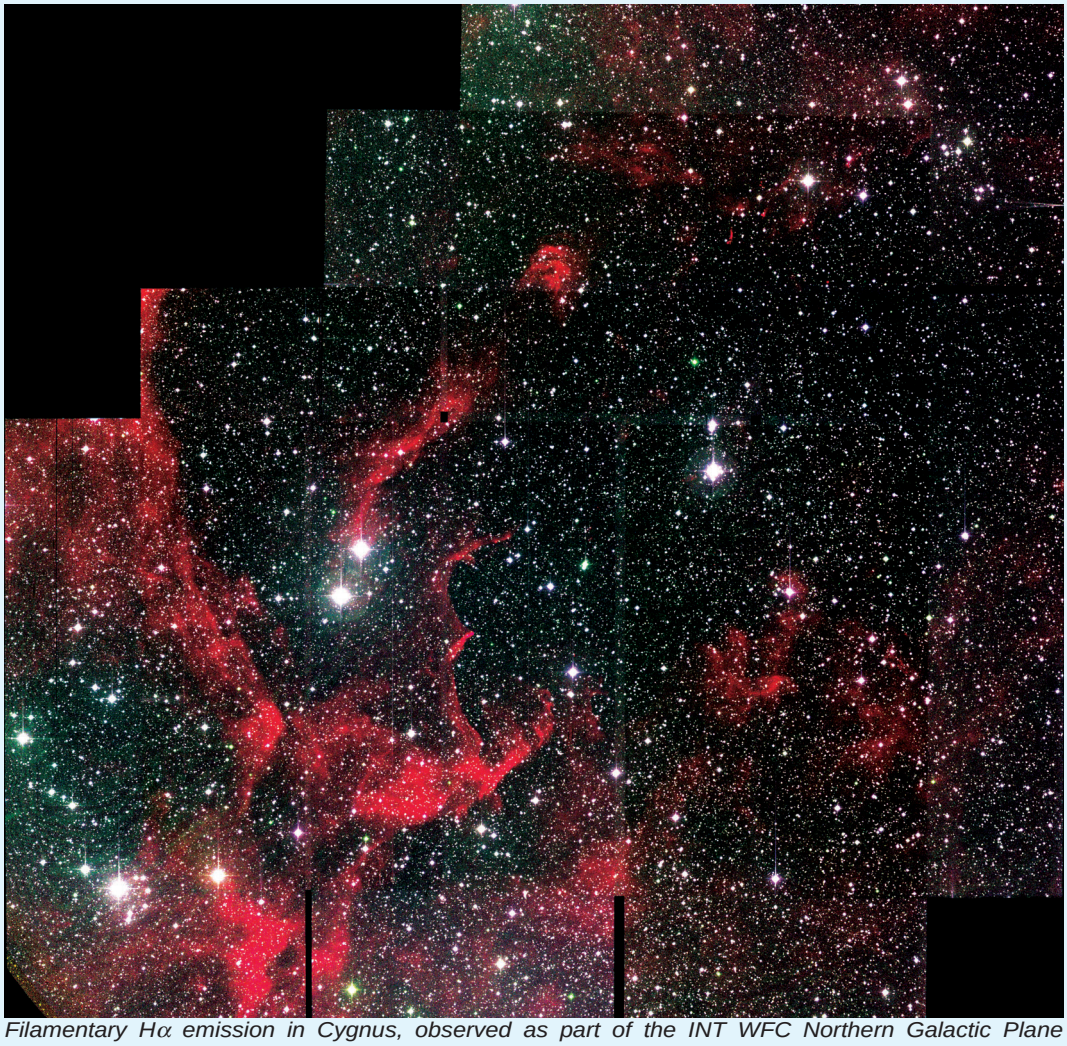
THE ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES

NEWSLETTER



Filamentary Hα emission in Cygnus, observed as part of the INT WFC Northern Galactic Plane photometric Hα survey (IPHAS). The colour scheme is red for Hα, blue for the Sloan r' band, and green for Sloan i' band. As this is a significantly reddened region, as well as nebulous, there are many stars coming through strongly in the i' band, appearing here as a background of green stars. Colour image courtesy of Mike and Jonathan Irwin (IoA, Cambridge). For more information see the article by Janet Drew et al. on page 3.

Message from the Director

Dear Reader,

In the previous issue of this Newsletter I reported on the initiation of a project for the development of a Rayleigh laser guide star beacon, GLAS, for the WHT. Since then much work has gone into this project, and an important milestone was passed in January with the successful completion of the Preliminary Design Review. The positive outcome of that review implies that the project now moves towards the final design stage, and real money can now be spent on hardware. For example, the solid-state laser system will be purchased shortly. GLAS is a complex and demanding development, with exciting science prospects that make this project worthwhile; watch this space !

Another key event that will take place during the summer of this year is an independent international review of the ING, commissioned by the ING Board. The high-profile committee of four world-renowned astronomers will focus specifically on the medium-term future of the observatory. The views of the wider astronomical community —your views— will play an important role, and to that effect a community questionnaire has been released to provide an easy input channel. Until May 31st input can