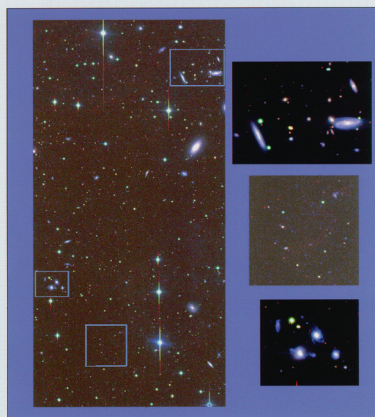


NEWSLETTER



These images represent one of the fields observed in the Faint Star Variability Survey which is one of the Wide Field Survey programmes being carried out at the INT (see Nic Walton's article on page 3).

Message from the Director

Dear Reader,

First there was the Gemini newsletter of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, then there was Spectrum, produced by the Royal Observatories... But now there is ING's own magazine: the ING Newsletter!

The ING Newsletter is the third incarnation of the information bulletin for the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes on La Palma. The changes in name over the years reflect the managerial changes that have passed the

scene. The name of this newsletter may not be as poetic as the previous two incarnations, but at least it describes its purpose well.

The main purpose of the ING Newsletter is to keep users of the telescopes informed on the actual state of the facilities. It will report on telescope and instrument enhancements, on progress in improving the infrastructure, and to keep the community up to date with new instrument developments and policy issues. The ING Newsletter will also be a source of factual information that astronomers

Chapter 6

Public Relations

Various actions were taken as part of ING's outreach to the astronomical community and the general public. The first issue of the ING Newsletter was published, with the aim of improving our communication with the astronomical community. This Newsletter will appear twice per year, and will be made available primarily through the World Wide Web, and in hard copy to libraries in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Spain.

Furthermore, the [INGNEWS] e-mail exploder was started, which reaches hundreds of active ING users directly. The [INGNEWS] exploder has already proven invaluable for sending abroad urgent news from ING such as instrumentation announcements and notes on applying for observing time.

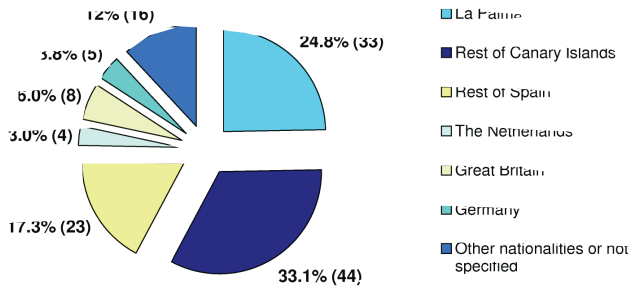
As during previous years, the public Open Days were organised on three days during the summer. A total of 3600 visitors were shown around during 111 guided tours to the ING telescopes. Also throughout the year many groups visited the WHT (see next page for detailed statistics).

The 4th International Site Managers Meeting was this year hosted by the ING on La Palma. Issues of interest common to observatories were discussed, ranging from transport arrangements at observatories to operational models and plant maintenance as well as many other topics. Attendance included representatives from observatories around the world.

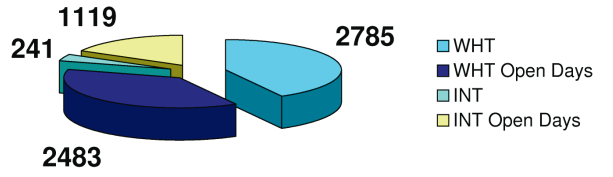
ING collaborated with IAC in the preparation of the exhibit "20 Años de Astronomía en La Palma" (20 years of astronomy on La Palma) in order to commemorate the international agreements signed in 1979 which brought the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory into existence.



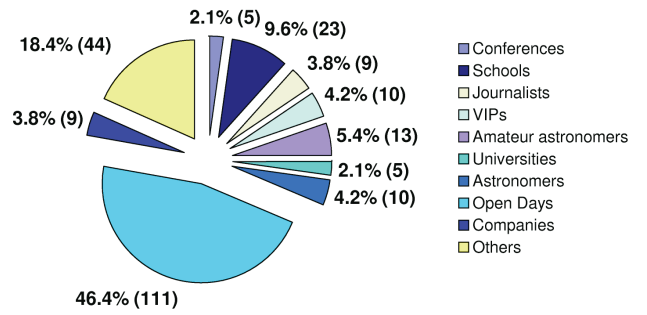
Origin of visits



Visitors per telescope



Visits



These plots show some statistics of the visits to the ING telescopes in 1999. Between parenthesis the total number of visits.