

# BBC Star Party

Jodrell Bank Radio Observatory hosted the BBC's All Night Star Party on Saturday 23 August, at the start of the fifth National Astronomy Week. Newly-painted (a coat of 5300 litres!), the Lovell Telescope provided a dramatic floodlit backdrop for the proceedings. Links to the 2.5-metre Isaac Newton Telescope (INT) on La Palma allowed spectacular images to be obtained and shown at the request of viewers. Ace planetary imager Damian Peach used his rather smaller telescope to obtain magnificent, detailed live pictures of Mars.

Sir Patrick Moore was among the celebrity guests, and was most amenable to photographers and autograph hunters.

Dr Lucy Rogers of West Didsbury Astronomical Society reports on an asteroid hunt jointly conducted by members of her Society and Macclesfield AS. Images from the INT and Klet Observatory in the Czech Republic were scanned for moving objects, with 20 new 'suspects' found according to the BAA's Dr Richard Miles.

The late-night programme got what appears to have been a very successful NAW off to a good start. Reports of local society NAW events will be welcomed for these pages at the *AN* Editorial address.



The floodlit Lovell Telescope provided a backdrop for the BBC Star Party. Image by Stephen J. Griffiths.



Scanning images for new asteroids at the BBC Star Party. Image by Stephen J. Griffiths.