

BBC's All Night Star Party!

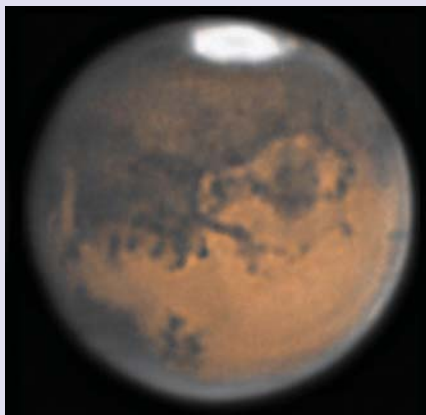
Coinciding with the closest approach of Mars to Earth in the last 60,000 years, BBC Two had a party. The All Night Star Party, a special live Open University programme for BBC Two, took place on 23 August night and lasted for one hour and a half.

In the course of this special programme BBC Two handed over the Isaac Newton Telescope to 600,000 viewers giving them the chance to point the telescope to stunning objects live and see the images on screen and online as they came out from the Wide Field Camera. The programme also focused on several aspects of British amateur and professional astronomy, in particular, the Beagle 2 Mars lander and, of course, obtaining an image of Mars live. This latter task was the responsibility of two amateur astronomers, Damian Peach and John Mills, who were based on the roof of INT's building.

The event was followed by 400 amateurs at Jodrell Bank where the main broadcast centre had been placed.

I would like to thank all ING staff for the impressive effort made for this big event and without whom this couldn't have been possible. I would also like to thank all the people involved at the Open University and the BBC, in particular, Peter Brown, programme producer, Martin Mortimore, La Palma broadcast director, and Chris Riley, presenter on La Palma. □

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Top: Online live feed of images. Middle: Presenter Chris Riley and support astronomer Romano Corradi. Bottom: Image of Mars obtained by Damian Peach and John Mills from INT's roof.

Seminars Given at ING

Visiting observers are politely invited to give a seminar at ING. Talks usually take place in the sea level office in the afternoon and last for about 30 minutes plus time for questions afterwards. Astronomers from ING and other institutions on site are invited to assist. Please contact Danny Lennon (djl@ing.iac.es) and visit this URL: <http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/science/seminars.html>, for more details. These were the seminars given in the last 18 months:

- Sep 18. Simon Jeffery (Armagh Obs.), "The results of binary white dwarf mergers".
- Oct 29. Michael Pohlen (IAC), "The nature of stellar disk truncations in galaxies".
- Nov 7. Mario Melita (Queen Mary, London), "The dynamical structure of the Kuiper Belt".
- Nov 21. Jorick Vink (Imperial College), "The winds from the most luminous stars".
- Nov 27. Hugo Schwarz (CTIO-NOAO), "The SOAR telescope".
- Dec 10. Juan Cortina (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), "The MAGIC telescope".
- Dec 17. Xuefei Gong (Nanjing, China), "The SOAR telescope".
- Jan 13. Ivo Saviane (ESO Chile), "The luminosity-metallicity relation of dwarf irregular galaxies".
- Jan 27. John Taylor (Keele), "Eclipsing binaries in open clusters".
- Jan 31. Birgitta Nordstrom (Lund, Sweden & Copenhagen, Denmark), "Nucleosynthesis in the Early Galaxy".
- Feb 18. Paul Harding (Case Western Reserve, USA), "Star Streams in the Milky Way: Fragments of its History".
- Feb 27. Laura Colombari (ING), "Kinematics perturbations and low activity galaxies connection".
- Feb 28. Sebastián Sánchez (Potsdam), "Integral field spectroscopy at the AIP".
- Mar 12. Sebastian Els (ING), "Planet formation: a new way to observe them forming".
- Mar 18. Gijs Nelemans (IoA-Cambridge), "Observing double white dwarfs: test for common envelope theory, type Ia supernova progenitor models and gravitational wave noise predictions".
- Mar 25. Eran Ofek (Tel Aviv University), "Measuring the time delay of the lensed quasar HE1104-180".
- Apr 21. Daniela Lazzaro (Observatorio de Rio de Janeiro), "Spectroscopic observations of asteroids: the S30S2 and Vestoids Project".
- Apr 24. Ilona Söchtig (ING), "Environment of Quasars".
- May 7. Giangiaco Gandolfi (CNR, Roma, Italy), "Short GRBs: an unsolved enigma".
- May 8. Olga Kuhn (JAC, Hawaii), "Probing the faint end of the $z > 3$ quasar luminosity function".
- May 15. Gloria Andreuzzi (Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma), "VLT-FORS1 observations of NGC 6397: Evidence for Mass Segregation".
- Jun 5. Humberto Campins (University of Central Florida), "Comets and Origin of Earth's Water".
- Jul 2. Simone Marchi (University of Padova, Italy), "Spectroscopic Investigations of Near-Earth Objects".
- Nov 26. Silva Järvinen (NOT), "Photometric Study of Young Active Stars".

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Recent and old ING's **Technical Notes** can be downloaded from:
http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/observing/manuals/man_tn.html.

Other ING publications are available on-line at the URLs below:

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