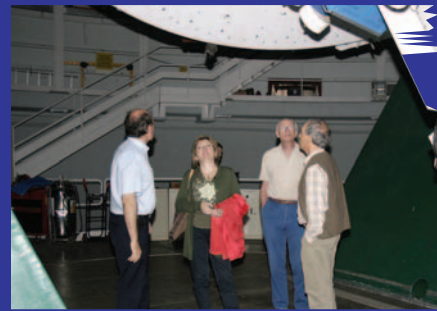


Visits to ING and Open Days

On 18 July and 15 August two Open Days were organised, on which the public was invited to visit both the WHT and the INT. The total number of visitors was 2853 split into 80 tours. Also on 20 August another Garafía's Day was organised on which 160 people in 4 tours were shown round the WHT. Apart from Open Days, a total of 1862 visitors in 84 tours were shown round the WHT and occasionally the INT from December 2003 to August 2004.

Some VIP visitors in the last 10 months were: the Presidente of AURA, Bill Smith, and the NSO director (ATST-IP), Steve Keil, visited the WHT on 27 October; on 29 January the Spanish astronaut Pedro Duque visited the WHT (see photo top right); on 25 July the Spanish Education and Science Minister, María Sansegundo, visited the WHT at night accompanied by other ministry members (see photo bottom right); on 26 August the president of the Spanish Research Council, Carlos Martínez, visited the WHT. □

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A Short Course in Adaptive Optics Organised by ING

The ING organised a Short Course in Adaptive Optics in collaboration with Imperial College London, University of Durham and the National University of Ireland. The course was held on the 12–14th January 2004 in Los Cancajos, La Palma.

It was adapted for observatory staff and designed to explain the basic principles of adaptive optics, provide an introduction to wavefront sensing techniques, describe the components currently used for adaptive optics, identify new technologies of potential importance for incorporation into adaptive optical systems, describe current applications of adaptive optics and identify new applications.

The course was taught by Prof Chris Dainty, Dr Gordon Love, Dr Richard Myers and Dr Carl Paterson and contained a trip to the WHT to look at its adaptive optics instrumentation. Local organiser was Stephen Goodsell (ING). □



Course lecturers. From left to right: Prof Chris Dainty, Dr Gordon Love, Dr Richard Myers and Dr Carl Paterson.



Course room at Hotel H10 Taburiente Playa, Los Cancajos.

Happy Birthday INT !

On 13 February 2004 the Isaac Newton Telescope was 20 years of continued operation on La Palma. During this period of time the INT has produced an impressive contribution to astronomy research: more than 1100 papers published in refereed journals. We thank all the staff and visiting astronomers who have made this possible! The accompanying pictures show the INT in its former location in Hertsmonceux in the late 60s, the official inauguration on La Palma on the 29th of June, 1985 and a recent picture of the telescope.

