



## Irish Astronomical Society



*Irish Astronomical Society logo*

The Irish Astronomical Society (IAS) was founded in 1937 and is the oldest national astronomy organisation in the country.

### Meetings

During the dark half of the year (September to April), the society conducts an active lecture programme with meetings occurring regularly each month. There, new members can meet and interact with older and more experienced members in a friendly atmosphere. Books, magazines and videos are also available for loan to members from our library. The venue sports a bar which is available for members' use after meetings.

### Publications

The IAS produces two publications: ***Orbit*** and ***Sky High***.

***Orbit*** is the regular 24-page bimonthly magazine for society members and features up-to-date news, regular notes on what's happening

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in the sky and a range of articles covering a variety of aspects of astronomy. The magazine is written by members for members and any contributions are always enthusiastically accepted!

***Sky High*** is our annual almanac publication featuring topical articles and detailing what's up in Irish skies month by month for the coming year.

### Activities

We try to meet at least twice a month at a dark site (weather permitting!) where we can get a good view of the heavens without too much intrusion from light pollution. These meetings give members the opportunity to examine some of the equipment available to amateurs (telescopes, binoculars, eyepieces, etc.) and to see their capabilities first-hand - essential if you're thinking about buying your own equipment.

These meetings also let new or inexperienced members learn their way around the night sky



*I.A.S. visit to Dunsink Observatory 8th May 1999.  
Photo: Barry Pickup*

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*Dunsink Observatory Dome with 12" South refractor.  
Photo: Barry Pickup*

from the old hands in the society. They're also social occasions, so bring along hot chocolate and snacks to keep yourself warm on those cold winter nights! You should wear several layers of clothing and thick woolly socks to keep out the cold. Some form of hat is almost essential.

From time to time, the society organises trips to various sites of astronomical interest - such as to Armagh Planetarium and Observatory or to Birr in Co. Offaly, home to the newly restored 72-inch Leviathan reflecting telescope which, in the last century was the largest working telescope in the world! Members have, in previous years, also been on trips abroad to view the return of Comet Halley and a number of solar eclipses.