



# MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## Press Release

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## Local Astronomers Welcome Patrick Moore

(For immediate release)

Astronomers at Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are preparing to greet fellow astronomer and TV personality Patrick Moore. Millions know Patrick as the presenter of the BBC Television's "The Sky At Night" which he has presented since 1957. On Thursday, November 23 Patrick will appear at Rotherham Civic Theatre. The Mexborough & Swinton society, a registered educational charity, will be on hand to welcome visitors and demonstrate the talent and enthusiasm of astronomers in the area.

Society Chairman Les Marsden remarked "We are confident that a large number of people with an interest in astronomy will wish to see Patrick so it is an ideal opportunity for us to raise awareness of astronomy in the region". Rotherham Theatres are also delighted with the partnership, Principal Arts Officer, Martyn Green, commented "It is a wonderful opportunity for Rotherham Theatres to work with Mexborough and Swinton Astronomical Society and we really hope to further develop joint events and activities in the future".

The Society operates the JA Jones Hooper Observatory, which was paid for and built by the members; it houses a 0.45-meter Newtonian reflecting telescope - one of the largest in the area. The observatory is open to the public for one weekend per month between September and March. These Public Viewing Evenings have proved enormously popular, visitors to the Patrick Moore evening will have the opportunity to book their visit to the observatory. Dates for viewing evenings over the following months are: 01 December, 02 December, 05 January, 06 January, 02 February, 03 February, 02 March and 03 March.

Community groups such as cubs, scouts and schools can also book an evening for their group exclusively. For further information or to book a visit to the observatory visit the on-line booking web site at [www.msas.org.uk/pve](http://www.msas.org.uk/pve) or telephone (01709) 579529.

Tickets for the Patrick Moore evening are available from Rotherham Theatres Box Office on (01709) 823640 / 823621.

**Ends**

### Background Information

Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society was established in 1978 in order to promote and advance the public understanding of astronomy and its related sciences. The society became a registered educational charity in 1997.

The Society meets every Thursday evening at its own room at Swinton Working Men's Club, visitors are always welcome and there is no obligation to join. There is a small charge of £1 per visit that helps us to continue to promote astronomy. Meetings begin at 19:45 and the clubroom is open from 19:15.

For further information on Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society, membership, meetings or observing events visit the web site: [www.msas.org.uk](http://www.msas.org.uk)