



# MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## Press Release

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## Local Observatory Open To Public

(For immediate release)

Astronomers at Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are once again throwing open the doors of their observatory to members of the public.

The Society - a registered educational charity - 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 January and March.

Society Chairman, Les Marsden, commented "These evenings are really popular and give the Society a chance to show people what we can do. The observatory and the spectacle of the night sky amaze many of our visitors - so much so they come back year after year!"

Dates for viewing evenings over the following months are: January 18, January 19, February 15, February 16, March 22, March 23.

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.

## **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)