



MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Press Release

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Astronomers Hoping for Lottery Boost

(For immediate release)

A local astronomical Society has applied for a lottery grant to update its facilities at its observatory at Hooper, near Rotherham.

The bid, backed by local MP John Healey, will cover the cost of 16 inch telescope which will be computer controlled.

The dome, which can be seen from miles around, will also be motorised, so it will rotate at the touch of a button and the dome shutters will also be motor controlled.

The aging 18" telescope has been dismantled and, if the bid is successful, will be replaced by the new telescope shipped in from America.

The new one will feature many up to date features which will enable members and the public to explore the heavens with ease.

The Society holds popular public viewing evenings when the observatory can be booked by clubs, societies and individuals for the evening. It's even hosted birthday parties!

The observatory is also thrown open for special astronomical events such as the recent close conjunction of Mars. However the best ever open evenings were to observe the comet Hale-Bopp some years ago when 800 people attended over two evenings!

Ends

Background Information

Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society is a registered educational charity with the object to promote education in astronomy and its associated science for the public benefit.

For further information:

Visit the Society's web site at www.msas.org.uk.

Contact the Chairman, Les Marsden on 01709 584217.