

## Ayrshire Astronomical Society – Zoom Speaker Programme 2020/2021

A link for each meeting can be found on the AAS website at.....

[www.ayrastrosociety.com](http://www.ayrastrosociety.com)

links will also be available on the AAS Facebook page.

The Zoom meetings are open to all and you do not need to be a member of the Society.

**26th October 2020 – 8pm**

Lyn Smith - Director of the BAA Solar Section

Presentation:- 'The Solar Cycle'

*'This talk covers a short history of the recording of the solar cycle, a look back at Cycle 24's highlights, an update on what's happening now, and a look forward to Cycle 25 and what we can expect'*

**23rd November 2020 – 8pm**

Dr. Robert Smith - Emeritus Reader in Astronomy, University of Sussex

Presentation:- 'Supernovae'

*'Robert Smith was educated at the University of Glasgow, (BSc Mathematics and Physics, PHD Astronomy), and taught there from 1966-1968, when he moved to Sussex as a Research Fellow.*

*Until 1985 he was a theoretician, working on rotating stars, large-scale circulation in stellar envelopes and contact binary stars. Since then he has been primarily an observer, working on spectroscopy of cataclysmic binaries, (CV's and Algols). Robert has been the editor of the Observatory Magazine and Managing editor of the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society, (RAS). He was also the founding Chair of the Membership Committee of the RAS and went on to hold several other positions including Vice President of the Council.'*

**14th December 2020 – 8pm**

**Dr. Pete Edwards - Director of Science Outreach, Department of Physics, Durham University**

**Presentation:- 'Bringing the Universe down to Earth - The Large Hadron Collider'**

**25th January 2021 – 8pm**

**Howard Parkin**

**Presentation: 'Exploring the Red Planet'**

*'Howard has been teaching astronomy since 1985. He is a founder member and former chairman of the Isle of Man Astronomical Society. Howard was elected as a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 2013. In the same year he established an astronomy consultancy company, 'AstroManx' and obtained dark sky discovery status for 26 sites throughout the IOM. Howard regularly appears on local TV and radio and hosts a monthly astronomy programme. In 2009 he hosted a live link with the International Space Station, speaking with astronaut Nicole Stott'.*

**22nd February 2021 – 8pm**

**Jonathan Shanklin, Emeritus Fellow, British Antarctic Survey**

**Presentation:- 'An Astronomer in Antarctica'**

**22nd March 2021 – Details to Follow**

**26th April 2021 – 8pm**

**Roger Pickard**

**Presentation:- 'Variable Stars'**

***‘Roger has been studying the sky for over 50 years with a main interest in Variable Stars - stars that vary in brightness over time-scales of a few hours to many years. Until recently he was the Director of the BAA Variable Star Section, a post he held for almost 20 years. He has his own remote controlled telescope in his garden which he operates from the comfort of his study, something he highly recommends as you get older and like the cold less and less!’***

**24th May 2021 – 8pm (Preceded by the AGM)**

**Mike Frost - Director of the BAA Historical Section**

**Presentation:- ‘The Green Flash’**

***‘Mike is a past chairman of Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and was a founder member of the Society for the History of Astronomy. His talk, ‘The Green Flash’ has a strong Scottish content, Mike has previously presented this to the Stirling AS and also at an astro-festival in Wigtown’.***