



University of the Third Age

# Sussex U3A Network

Sussex U3A Network Registered Charity No. 1103923

## THE EXPLORATION OF THE PLANETS

**Date and times:** Saturday, 19th March 2011 from 10a.m. to 3.50p.m.  
**Venue:** South Downs Planetarium and Science Centre, Sir Patrick Moore Building, Kingsham Road, Chichester, PO19 8RP (*map overleaf*)  
**Tutor:** Dr John Mason

### **Description of content of the day.**

*This study day, for people with little or no previous knowledge of astronomy, shows how spacecraft have explored the Solar System and helped to unlock the secrets of the planets, their rings and moons. We shall take you from the very first probes to the Moon and planets in the late 1950s and early 1960s, through the great journeys of discovery made by the Mariners, Pioneers and Voyagers, to the very latest robot probes. We shall bring you right up-to-date with the most recent missions to the Red Planet, Mars, and the ongoing Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. We shall end with a look at space probes to comets, and the New Horizons mission to icy Pluto and beyond.*

**Maximum number 70.**

### **Timetable and Programme**

9.30 a.m.	Registration
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	Session 1: The Sun and inner planets Mercury and Venus
11.00 – 11.25 a.m.	<i>Coffee/tea</i>
11.25 – 12.25 p.m.	Session 2: Blue Earth, red Mars and the Asteroids
12.25 – 1.25 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.25 – 2.25 p.m.	Session 3: The gas giants: Jupiter and Saturn
2.25 – 2.50 p.m.	<i>Tea/coffee</i>
2.50 – 3.50 p.m.	Session 4: The outer solar system – Uranus, Neptune and Pluto

**About the tutor.** A former President of the British Astronomical Association, Dr. John Mason tutored a very successful astronomy study day for us in 2009. He was an applied physicist by profession and astronomy, astrophysics and space technology are his main areas of expertise. He is currently Principal Lecturer at the South Downs Planetarium and Science Centre.

### **Administrative Information**

**Tea/coffee will be provided, but you are STRONGLY advised to bring your own lunch as there are no facilities nearby.**

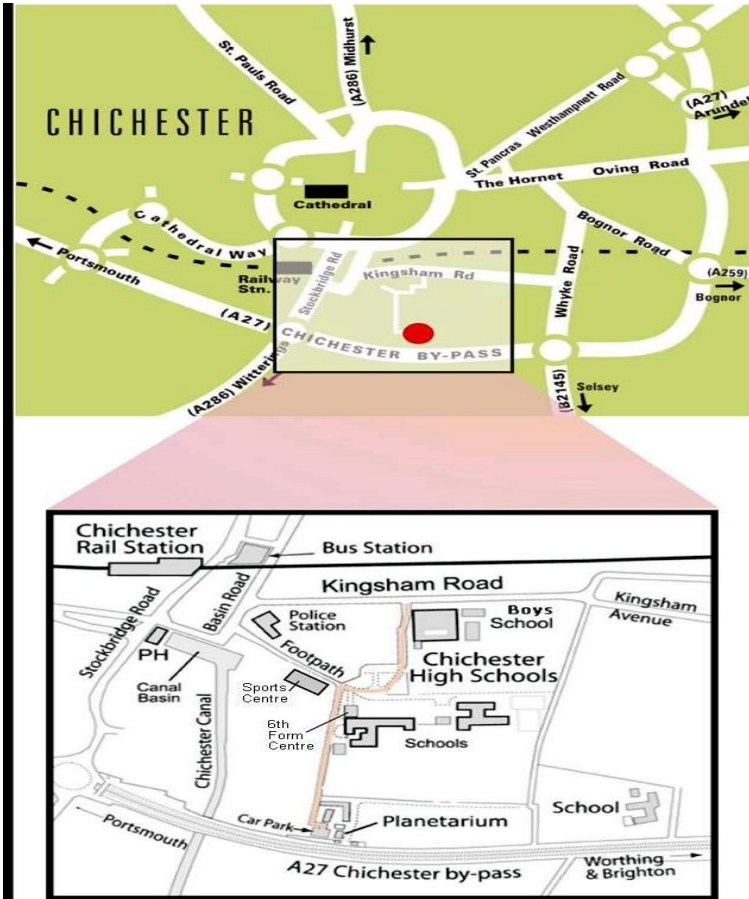
Detach the application form on page two and send it **with a SAE for confirmation of your place and your cheque** (payable to SUN) for £9.00 (£12.00 if not a Sussex U3A member) and with the title of the Study Day on the back to: The Study Day Administrator, PO Box 173, Eastbourne, BN24 9EJ

Members of Sussex U3As will be given priority *N.B. A separate cheque is required for each Study Day.* Fees are not normally refunded.

If you have any queries (Re availability of places, disabled access, cancellation etc) please contact the SUN representative for your own U3A - not the venue. Your SUN representative will be able to give you the Study Day Administrator's telephone number if needed - for obvious reasons we do not want to publish this on the internet.

If you apply to attend the study day, please could you let the SUN representative for your own U3A know, just in case it is possible to co-ordinate transport.

South Downs Planetarium and Science Centre, Sir Patrick Moore Building, Kingsham Road, Chichester, **PO19 8RP\***



**By Road:** Turn off the A27 Chichester By-Pass at the roundabout marking the junction with the B2145 Selsey road, but turning north into Whyke Road, towards Chichester City Centre, and after 500 yards turn left into Kingsham Avenue. (If you reach the railway line you have gone too far.) Travel along Kingsham Avenue until the road narrows, where it becomes Kingsham Road, and the main entrance to the Chichester High Schools is 300 yards further on, to the left. On entering the High School site, follow the road southwards, until it curves to the right, and after another 20 yards turn sharp left just before the Tim Peake Sports & Conference Centre. Follow the straight single carriage road (highlighted in pink on the map below) all the way to the end, into the car park which is situated behind the Planetarium building. Brown and white signs will direct you to the Planetarium from Kingsham Road. Car parking is free.

\* Please **DO NOT** try to find the Planetarium by entering their postcode into a satnav; you will not be taken to the correct place.

**By Train and Bus:** The Planetarium is situated just 5 minutes' walk from both Chichester bus and railway stations. From the bus station, walk southwards across the railway line into Basin Road, passing the police station on your left, then turning immediately left onto a footpath signposted to the Planetarium. From the railway station enter Basin Road from Stockbridge Road, and after passing the Canal Basin to your right, turn right onto the footpath sign-posted to the Planetarium. Access to the Planetarium is via a single carriage road leading off to the right from this footpath. (See the route highlighted in pink on the map below.)



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Detach this part and send with cheque (payable as above) for £9.00 (£12.00 if not a Sussex U3A member) with **the title of the Study Day on the back and SAE** to the name and address above. Bookings on first come first served basis. Your form and cheque will be returned if no place is available.

(Please print) Name of  
 First name ..... Surname ..... Your U3A .....

Address .....

.....Post Code ..... Tel: .....