

# Space Exe Annual Conference 2024

Space Exe is a fun, inclusive society dedicated to providing a space for students interested in astronomy, rocketry and all things space-related. Founded in 2015 to build the XRT-C, a student-operated radio telescope, we now focus on four main areas: stargazing, projects, outreach and socials.

As a society, we are passionate about sharing the wonders of the universe, running an annual conference bringing together a diverse range of speakers to make research taking place in the southwest more accessible.

Our fourth conference features seven inspiring scientists at different stages of their careers, from students to amateur astronomers to professors and a tech entrepreneur. All talks will be uploaded to our society YouTube channel.

We hope you enjoy!



# Our speakers



**David Strange** is a retired farmer and has been an active astronomer/ astrophotographer for the past 50 years. His interests include imaging comets and the deep sky, spectroscopy and the history of astronomy. He is currently Chairman of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society in Sidmouth.



**Mike Willmott** is a retired science and astronomy teacher and an amateur astronomer and FRAS. He co-founded the Cornwall Schools Astronomy Project and pioneered taking school students to work as visiting astronomers at the international observatory at La Palma, in the Canary Islands. He has worked with colleagues at the Caradon Observatory to promote astronomy, including as part of the team that successfully applied for Bodmin Moor to be a Dark Sky Landscape in 2017 and now provides educational outreach for Bodmin Moor Dark Skies and astronomy in general.



**Ben Godson** is an astronomer at the Isaac Newton Telescope in La Palma and a PhD student with the University of Warwick. They study the detection of supernovae, kilonovae, and anything else that goes bang in the night using the GOTO robotic telescope network.



**Chris Isaac** is a tech entrepreneur with 30 years of experience promoting and growing technology and engineering businesses. He is the CEO of SpaceAM and the published author of the Leading-Edge Vortex Lift (LEVL) sample probe for the Venusian atmosphere.



**Scott Shier** is an MPhys Physics with Astrophysics student currently playing the world's hardest game of 'Where's Wally' looking for exoplanets in archival data from the Keck observatory.



**Wayne Thomas** is an amateur astronomer and FRAS. He co-wrote the Bodmin Moor Dark Sky Landscape application for International Dark Sky status, which was gained in 2017, and is a Dark Sky International Delegate. Along with colleagues including Mike Willmott and Michael Bennett, he provides the educational outreach for Bodmin Moor Dark Skies. In the daytime, he is a consultant haematologist and honorary Associate Professor at the University of Plymouth.



**Chris Lintott** is a Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Oxford and the 39th Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College. His work covers objects from galaxies to interstellar objects and includes machine learning to find unusual, interesting objects in large surveys. Best known as the co-presenter of the BBC Sky at Night, he is an accomplished lecturer and author; his latest book, 'Our Accidental Universe' is out later this month.

# Timetable



9:30	Registration
10:00	Welcome talk
10:10	Victorian Men of Science: Norman and James Lockyer <b>David Strange</b>
10:50	Astronomy in Education – Where Next? <b>Mike Willmott</b>
11:30	Refreshment break
11:50	Using the GOTO to Detect Electromagnetic Counterparts to Gravitational Wave Events <b>Ben Godson</b>
12:30	Lunch Break
13:15	Cost-Effective Ways of Sampling the Venusian Atmosphere <b>Chris Isaac</b>
14:00	Lights, (\$10 billion) Camera, Exoplanets! <b>Scott Shier</b>
14:40	Refreshment break
15:00	Astronomy Outreach in an International Dark Sky Landscape <b>Wayne Thomas</b>
15:40	Being Surprised by the Universe: How to Find the Unusual in the Vera Rubin Era <b>Chris Lintott</b>
16:20	Closing talk

# Want to find out more?



All of today's talks will be uploaded to our society YouTube channel, where you can also find talks from our previous conferences.

And why not follow us on social media to find out about our future events?

Facebook: **SpaceExe**

Instagram: **@spaceexesoc**

YouTube: **SpaceExe**

Website: **www.spaceexe.org**



## The Space Exe Committee

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