



Happy 10th Birthday

Jim Savage-Lowden Observatory



Highlands Astronomical Society's observatory located next to Culloden Battlefield which houses the largest public telescope in the Scottish Highlands and provides stunning views of the night sky for all with an interest in astronomy.



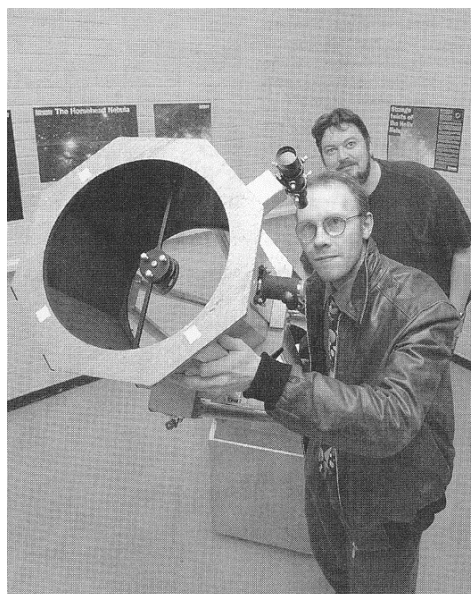
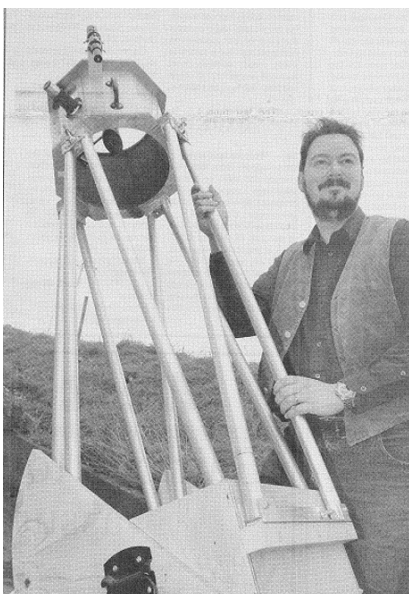
Highlands Astronomical Society (HAS) was formed in 1994 after the merger of the Moray Astronomical Society and the Inverness Astronomical Society, which was founded a year earlier by Jim Savage-Lowden, who became Chairman. The Society occasionally used the car park at Culloden Battlefield as an observing site and the first public observing session occurred here in 1996.



Jim Savage-Lowden

In 2001, a rotating shed with a 10" telescope was purchased and it was decided to locate the observatory to Culloden Battlefield.

The mirror of a telescope donated by the Abbey at Fort Augustus was used in a Dobsonian telescope built by members Maarten de Vries, Antony McEwan and Rob Nuttall and is still used today.



In 2002, membership increased and, as awareness of HAS grew, more of the public attended observing sessions and more organisations asked for talks. The observatory's rotating shed was renovated by members this year and then opened as our official observatory in 2003. It was named after Jim who had died suddenly the year before.





In 2004 the National Trust for Scotland offered HAS a permanent site on their land and Rob Nuttall began the drawings for the new observatory.

The Society became a registered charity in 2006, the design for the new observatory was settled and fund raising began. By the end of 2007 we had raised over £65,000, planning permission, and the building warrant had been granted.





In 2008 the required £75,000 had been raised from a variety of sponsors and construction began in earnest. The permanent Jim Savage-Lowden Observatory, housing a Meade 14" LX200R telescope, at last became a reality and was opened on the longest day by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Professor John Brown. The Rt Hon Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, and the Provost of Inverness were also present.



The Scottish Highlands is a superb location for observing the night sky and the JSL Observatory has allowed Highlands Astronomical Society to enable its members and the public to experience the wonderful views afforded by the dark Highland sky.

Happy Birthday JSL Observatory and Many Happy Returns!



Charity SC037209