THE ADSTOCK SCIENCE CLUB

The last two months' Science Club Meetings have been busy events, covering lots of areas of science and discussing how the Science Club will develop as its numbers continue to creep steadily upwards.

After viewing Jupiter and its moons at an earlier meeting, members were given an in depth look at the planet in a talk by Demetri, one of our Club members, and former student of astrophysics. The talk covered not just the technical aspects of the planet's formation and its moons, but also its effects on the Earth and its significant impact on human culture. Did you know that the word "jovial' stems from the Roman god Jove, representing Jupiter, who was considered by astrologers to be the bearer of good humour?!

The Science Club also had one of its regular visits to St Paul's School in Milton Keynes, which hosts talks by leading scientists. This lecture covered Liquid Crystals and the Displays which utilise their properties, by Professor Helen Gleeson from Manchester University, who directs much of this country's research into LCDs. It was fascinating to learn that these displays, which we have on our TVs, in our cars, phones and so on, now form our interface with nearly all consumer technology, but use principles which can be found in the formation of beetle shells, and even in the division of DNA within cells.

What about the Science Club's future? As numbers continue to rise, a website is planned for development (in-house, of course!), more talks from prominent scientists and technology researchers are planned, and where numbers require it, the village hall will be used. We also plan to have more presentations from Club members, who are happy to demonstrate their science and technological knowledge to the group.

Fear not though, there's no requirement to give a talk, anyone can come along and just listen and learn with the rest of us! Just come along on the second Thursday of each month to 1 Greenfields and see what we do, or call Marius on 01296 712 561 for more details.

Simon Braithwaite