

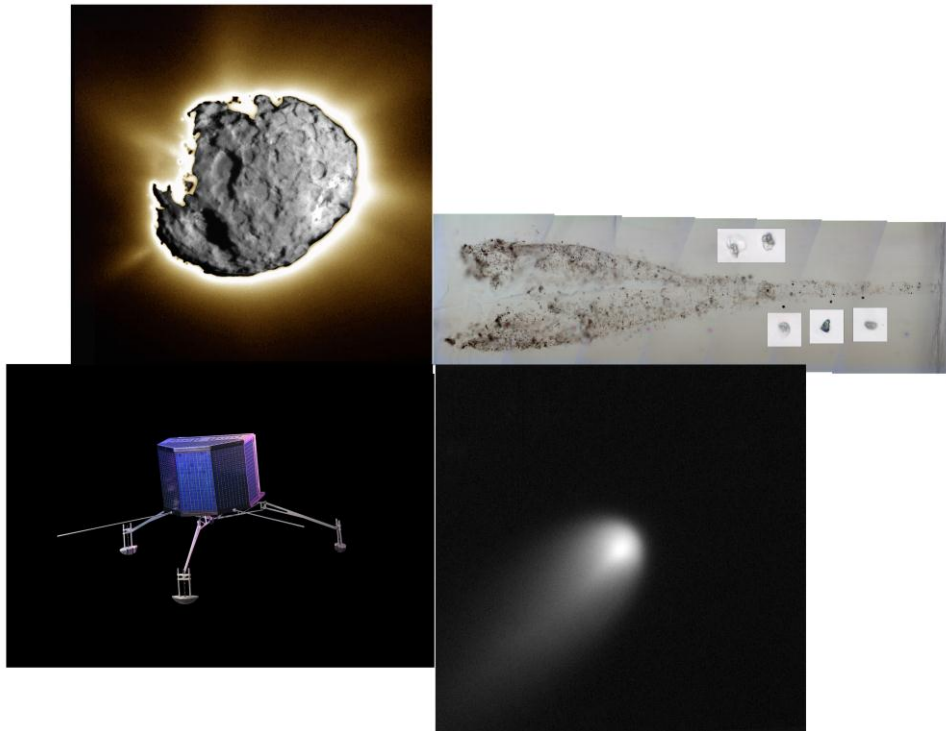


ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY SPECIALIST DISCUSSION MEETING

Bridging The Gap: Comets After Stardust and Before Rosetta

Organisers:

Dr Mark Price (Univ. of Kent), Dr Stephen Lowry (Univ. of Kent)
and Professor Mark Burchell (Univ. of Kent)



Upper Left: Comet 81P/Wild 2 (NASA/Stardust), Upper Right: Cometary dust grain captured in aerogel by Stardust (NASA),
Lower Left: Rosetta Lander (ESA/Astrium - E. Viktor), Lower Right: Comet ISON (NASA/Hubble Space Telescope Institute).

Friday 11 April 2014
Royal Astronomical Society Lecture Theatre
Burlington House, Piccadilly

Studies of comets have been dramatically changed by space missions to several comets. In the last decade the NASA Stardust spacecraft returned samples from comet 81P/Wild 2 and flew past comet Tempel 1 which had also been visited by the NASA Deep Impact Mission. This year the European Space Agency spacecraft Rosetta will rendezvous with comet 67P/ Churyumov-Gerasimenko and will then place a lander on its surface – the first soft landing on a comet. In addition, ground based astronomers and the general public will have been able to see comet 2012 S1 (ISON) loom large in the night sky during the end of 2013 and early 2014.

This discussion meeting aims to bring together all those interested in cometary science; bridging the gap between those working on different space missions, as well as between those working on missions, modellers and observational astronomers. Talks are expected to include latest results from 81P/Wild 2, the status of, and expectations for, Rosetta as well as on news of comet ISON.

This Specialist Discussion Meeting is open to all; admission is free for RAS members, £15 for non-members (£5 for full-time students). For further details of location and times see www.ras.org.uk/ or phone the Society on 020-7734-3307.