Sun and Moon, Time and Tide

by Prof Michael Whittle, MB, BS, BSc, MSc, PhD

- The tides are caused by the gravity of the moon, pulling on the seawater. But there is only one moon, yet there are two high tides a day.
- The height of the tides varies from day to day, over a two week cycle, and is greater at some times of year than others.
- The coast of Britain has significant tides; the Mediterranean hardly any.
- The sun's gravity is 180 times greater than that of the moon, at the surface of the earth, yet the influence of the moon on the tides is more than double that of the sun.
- The moon and sun cross the sky from east to west, yet the time of high tide moves along the English Channel coast from west to east.
- These and related questions will be explored in this talk.

"*Everything I thought I knew about the tides turned out to be wrong!*"

The author is willing to give this talk to groups of people, of all ages and backgrounds, in return for a fee and travelling expenses. The technical level of the talk will be adjusted to suit the particular audience.

A record high tide: Bosham Lane on 10th March 2008

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