



Letter from the Editor

This issue is packed with a mix of new rockets, insight into Russian satellite launches, how an early cruise missile helped open up the space age and why a secret US spy satellite may have been used to help ground controllers understand the magnitude of the damage to the Skylab space station – compromised just after its launch 45 years ago in the month of this issue's cover date.

There is also an interesting note from Alan Stern of New Horizons fame about the great strides made in recent decades, in our understanding of the Kuiper Belt – a largely undiscovered region in our solar system.

Lots going on and a lot to talk about, but can I direct your attention to page 46 where Vix Southgate wants you to do your best to get out there and shout about the wonderful way in which the space programme is enriching the lives of everyone on the planet? And to do that through World Space Week-UK, open to everyone. This is YOUR Society and Vix is waiting to make this a bumper year for promoting space through the Society.

David Baker

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Features

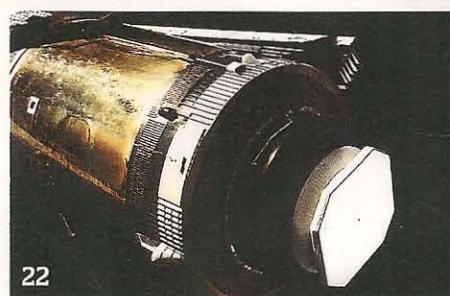
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- 36 Belts and Braces**
New Horizons Principal Investigator Alan Stern answers a frequently asked question as to why precursors to the outer planets and beyond failed to explore the Kuiper Belt.



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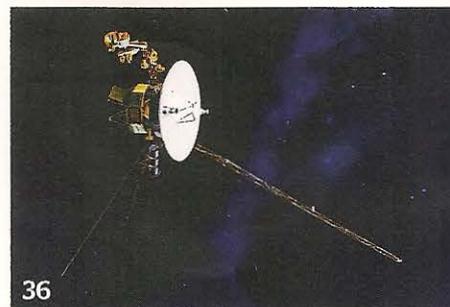
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The British Interplanetary Society promotes the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity, connecting people to create, educate and inspire, and advance knowledge in all aspects of astronautics.

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