

## **Newbury Astronomical Society Wednesday 23/01/2018**

**Apologies:** Peter Bendall, Steve Knight

**Present:** George Sallit, Chris Hooker, Alan Wyle, Richard Fleet, Jonathan Saunders, Mark Gray, Nicky Fleet, Chris Dole, Ann Davies, David Boyd, Tony Hersh, Steve Harris, Chris Douglas, Kath Nurse

**Minutes:** Accepted

**Matters Arising:** Counter on our website is producing good figures of people viewing the summaries of lectures. Agreed that it was worth doing but the write up should be shared between members. Chris H will cover the February meeting and Richard has volunteered to do the March meeting.

UHF microphone didn't work for last speaker. Mark Gray will check it

We now have the new screen which is working well.

Chris Douglas will look at a links page on the website so that people can upload photos

**Last Meeting:** Owen's talk was successful and enjoyed by membership. Colin Stuarts presentation at the beginning of January was also enjoyed - interesting to look back over the years to Xmas RI lectures.

Last Beginners UFO meeting was enjoyable even though it was considered 'one sided' by some. It was agreed that this is inevitable.

**Next Meeting:** Ann has attempted to get confirmation from our next speaker, Dr Louise Alexander who has moved jobs. Ann will continue to pursue.

**Beginners:** Discussion on whether we should offer more 'education' perhaps by running short workshops on particular themes. We agreed to use questionnaires to hand out to get an idea of what the membership would like. Nicky will design and Kath will put on chairs and be responsible for collecting up at meeting.

Next meeting Richard will talk on Asteroids, Steve and Nicky on Gamma Ray Bursts, Alan will do Black holes, Talks planned for solar weather and eventual death of Sun

**Forthcoming Events:** Burbage on 24th Feb Richard and Nicky will each give an half hour talk and George, Steve H, Peter and Kath will take telescopes to show inside if weather inclement.

Steve H suggested a telescope evening on 9th March, he will make enquiries

Shaw cum Donnington primary School have asked for someone to talk to them, Steve H and George have offered.

Xmas meal was overall a good venue but there were some complaints about the time it took to get served at the bar. Kath explained that next year is likely to be more money as prices were kept down this year due to problems with car parking last year. Agreed that it would be useful to look at other venues, Tony will ask at Chequers.

**Membership and Publicity review:** Alan said that we have 91 members at present. Tony had produced statistics of membership numbers in recent times. He has also sent out letters to schools offering our services. He has had some response with a school from Didcot wanting our involvement during their Science week in March. Tony will pursue with offers of help from Chris H and Steve H. He also requires more leaflets, Kath will send original to him. Library is Showing NAS photos on their boards and Town Hall has said they will advertise for us. Nicky pointed out that social media will help, any info should go through Steve K or Nicky.

**AOB:** RAL event was very successful, Sophie had emailed Chris to thank him for NAS help. Various points were discussed on how we could improve our input for next time, Chris has suggested that telescopes be somewhere inside RAL site rather than the tennis court.. Telescope clinic was very successful as was the viewing, unfortunately this meant that some people that had signed up to help at the clinic had been too busy to leave their scopes. Discussion on how this can be improved.

Nicky suggested a Stargazing 'Etiquette' guide and to provide red cellophane with elastic bands to cover the many lights that were used by the public to find their way around the scopes. Chris will feed back our thoughts.

Steve H has not yet progressed Thatcham event, he will email updates

Mark enquired about a new projector. It was agreed that he should go ahead if he spots a bargain after getting the OK from George.

Ann will look into the Leicester Space Centre for summer trip. She would also like suggestions for speakers for next seasons meetings.

Ann had been asked if we would be interested in covering the Excel exhibition again this year and it was agreed that we should once day was known. We also agreed to show the project from the last one at Winchester W/E .

Ann had visited Peter Chalon an old member who is now in an OAPs home in Western Avenue, The manager there has asked if we could give a talk. George has volunteered. BAA have asked to run a day's event at RAL. Agreed to pursue for May 2019

**Next Meeting:** March 7th at Ann's