

## **Newbury Astronomical Society Minutes of meeting 15th August 2018**

**Present:** George Sallit, Peter Bendell, Jonathan Saunders, Richard Fleet. Steve Knight, Nicky Fleet, Chris Hooker, Mark Gray, Ann Davies, David Boyd, Tony Hersh, Chris Douglas, Kath Nurse, Steve Harris

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes of last meeting:** Nicky Fleet should have been named on minutes as 'present'

**Matters Arising:** Peter has purchased a lock for his membership box.

Mark has bought a new projector, now insured. Also Mark has looked again at Amazon Smile, it needs the treasurer to deal with it if we are to proceed.

**Forthcoming Speaker meeting:** Dr Grant Miller, Zooniverse

**Forthcoming Beginners meeting:** Subject - Mars and What we did in the summer ie: NLCs, Perseids. Steve H has the idea of describing astronomical terminology for newer members, perhaps covering one at each session and also adding it to monthly magazine.

The format will continue as last year as generally thought to have worked well.

**Website:** We need offers from members to write notes for each meeting to go onto the website, up to now Chris Hooker has done it but it was agreed that it should be shared.

The updated membership form is being finalised to include GDPR requirements by Nicky and will shortly be on the website for members to use.

**Social Media:** Steve K reported that we now have 12.5 thousand followers. Agreed that he is doing a fantastic job. It would be good if more NAS members contributed to it.

Steve K will broadcast the new programme info on Twitter once its on website. Chris D will update Calendar.

**Forthcoming events:** New Scientist Live on 21 - 23rd September. We have once again been invited to attend with a stand which will be a repeat of last year with the addition of a small telescope. Nicky, Richard, David and Tony will attend. David reported that there are also 4 entry tickets ( for any day) which we can hand out to interested members, they will be offered at the September meeting. George will also mention in his Chairman's letter.

Tony has had contact from Greenham re: the use of the new Cafe area for NAS observing . He has asked a few questions of them and committee has advised him to pursue, believing this to be a good idea if they can accommodate us as we wish.

Ann has heard via BAA that the Historical Society would like to meet in Newbury next year, preferably at the Mencap Centre on the 2nd Saturday of June. Ann is making enquiries on

their behalf. Also the BAA have a meeting at RAL on Saturday 22nd June next year and she is planning our Society outing for 29th June A visit to Stone Henge was suggested.

Steve H confirmed that the Thatcham festival starts on 6th October when he will have a stand in the centre as usual. On the 18th of October he will talk at the council Chambers , he is keen to get more interest this year and is looking at ideas. Thatcham council have also offered a free venue if we wish to have a further meeting.

Richard reminded committee that there will be an observing evening at Fawley on 29th September organised by Liz Broomfield. A few people with telescopes will be required.

Chris H confirmed there will be another RAL Astronomy evening at the end of January 2019, he has agreed with them that we will support this with further details to follow.

Steve H will look into further telescope evenings at the Scout Hut in Newbury.

**Finance:** Peter has applied and received gift aid of £335

### **AOB:**

Kath thanked Peter for his agreement to be at the Mencap centre to help Val open up for the first members evening in September. Alan requested that the membership form go onto the website with enough time for people to sign up before the first meeting.

Ann said that Geoff Grayer had been in touch to request that his friend would like to give a talk in the second half, agreed that this would be a good idea.

Chris H has offered to give a second half talk on Mercury at the first meeting, George followed with an offer to show some of his photos.

Nicky explained that there is to be an Astro Boost meeting on 16th September with Jenny Shipway at HAG observatory at Clanfield. 3 volunteers are needed to be present, George has volunteered.

Nicky said that FAS are supposedly putting together policies suitable for astro clubs, George will chase them up to see if anything is completed.

Jonathan has access to Hi Vis jackets and asked if we would like them, agreed that we would.

Peter has had notice that the Charities Committee would like all committee members to become trustees, agreed after short discussion

Steve K asked for a limit to the timing of committee meetings so that they finish before 10pm, agreed by members.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 3rd October at Ann's house