

# Newbury Astronomical Society 3rd October 2018

**Apologies:** Peter Bendell, Chris Hooker

**Present:** Alan Wyles, Richard Fleet, Jonathan Saunders, Steve Harris, Nicky Fleet, Ann Davis, David Boyd, Tony Hersh, Chris Douglas, Kath Nurse, George Sallit, Steve Knight

**Minutes:** Accepted

**Matters arising:** Include Alan Wyles on those present. Steve Harris confirmed that Thatcham festival day is on 13th October. Peter Bendell has now got Amazon Smile working, it now needs publicising. Nobody has volunteered to do the notes for Friday meeting, agreed to not have notes this month. FAS policies have not been completed yet. Steve Harris telescope evening will be in November sometime, date not confirmed.

**Review of last meeting:** agreed that it was an interesting evening.

**Beginners Meeting:** Our new format is working well, the first meeting of the season was well attended with 12 new people.

**Next meeting:** All set, Kath to send out request for 2nd half speakers.

**Next Beginners:** Nicky will do 'Whats up' Steve H and Richard will give short talks. The hands on material that Nicky has organised will be tried out.

**Forthcoming events:** Steve H is organising the Thatcham event, he will also talk at the Thatcham Town Chambers on 18th October and would like some publicity beforehand. Tony is organising an observing and astrophotography evening on the first clear evening of 7th / 9th November or 5th December. Whatever the weather it was agreed that 5th December would be booked. Tony will text the group attending on the day to confirm. Discussion on the best way to plan the evening, Tony will contact the interested people and ask them what they would like to get from the evening.

Greenham Tower, Tony has arranged a meeting on 31st October with Andy Kemp, committee member of the tower to see if the tower is suitable for our use.

BAA Historical meeting to be held on 8th June '19 at Mencap , open to anybody wishing to attend. Ann will have application forms .

**Membership:** Tony is looking at ways to encourage new members and best ways to get information out to the public about Astronomy. To the end of Sept 55 paid up members, 44 attendees at beginners meeting & 41 attendees at main meeting (compared to same time last year 50 members, 34 and 31 attendees respectively)

Nic to add details of topics & dates of NAS meetings to her Out & About Article

Steve H to ask Penny Post if they will write a paragraph on NAS on the email they send out (rather than having to click on the link to Steve's article) Kath is meeting with the Editor of NWN tomorrow and will discuss with them the possibility of a monthly 'whats up' article

Finances: Peter was not at the meeting but sent an email with the following:

1/ Last year I did not receive an invoice from BAA. As a result our membership lapsed. I will give George a form to reapply at the meeting on Friday.

2/ Income from subscriptions and visitors so far is £882.00 during August and September (£937.00 last year)

AOB: The New Scientist event at Excel went well for NAS on the day although agreed that a Thursday would be better as more children would be there.

Fawley Astro evening was a success with roughly 20 people and 12 children. There was good feedback from the visitors.

Tea and coffee at the main meeting, a rota was suggested for committee members to help in the kitchen when needed.

David will advertise the Winchester weekend at the next meeting and Kath will start a board for the Xmas dinner at that meeting.

There will be a BAA summer meeting entitled 'Astrophysics Today' at RAL on 22nd June 2019

Nicky has had emails 1: A lady from Ramsbury Press asking for advice on Astro books, George will respond to this. 2: A chap wanting info on a telescope, Steve H will respond. 3: someone wants to donate a TAL2 telescope to the club.

Jonathan has acquired 6 Hi Vis vests which he has donated to the club.

Nicky and Richard have various hands on items including an IR camera and a preliminary talk associated with the James Webb Telescope. All given by Jenny Shipway as part of her project into outreach work for Astronomy clubs, Newbury is part of the trial run. She will need feedback in 6 months time. The idea is to educate the public and can be used by any members doing outreach for the club. Nicky is keen that we use this exciting opportunity to enthuse and educate, particularly to youngsters. It will be demonstrated at the next beginners and main meeting.

Next Meeting: 6th November