

Minutes of Newbury Astronomical Society Committee Meeting 15th January 2019

Present: Kath Nurse, Jonathan Saunders, Mark Gray, Alan Wyles, Peter, Bendall, David Boyd, Chris Hooker, Steve Harris, Nicky Fleet, Steve Knight, Chris Douglas, George Sallit, Tony Hersh, Richard Fleet

Apologies: Ann Davies

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted

Matters Arising: Doubts expressed about using Greenham Common Tower as a venue for Astronomy. Cost is £40 and numbers are limited inside the building which would impact on Public sessions. The Village Hall at Hamstead Marshall is a good option due to dark skies and cost of £5 per hour.

The Photographic workshop was good, some people found the information was a little out of their depth, need to make it very basic to start with. Overall though it was successful.

Newbury Weekly News printed a very good article by Tony last week, hopefully this can continue each month

Feed back from Christmas meal was that it was very successful

Nicky and Richard will aim to get to the next SAGAS meeting . The group contains members from FAS which offers an opportunity for a discussion on an update of FAS matters

Logo - Ann has discussed with the printers who prefer the Pegasus Logo with our name on, Tony to pursue

Main Meeting: Went very well, lots of positive feedback from members.

The next meeting has a change of speaker. It will be Lucinda Offer talking on "Interplanetary Migration of humans to Mars"

Beginners: December meeting was also successful, the next one is on "Speed of Light" Steve H, Steve K and Nicky have agreed to give talks.

Forthcoming Events: January 25th is outreach at RAL. This is a ticketed event for the public. Helpers to use the same car park as previously, venue is in the new Visitors Centre. Those bringing telescopes can use the car park to the Visitors Centre. Discussion took place on where talks to be given and where display boards will be best placed. It was decided against doing a telescope clinic this year. Sophie (Organiser) suggested a short talk on an introduction to telescopes, title" Fantastic Telescopes and how to Align them " Start time 5.30 - 8.30pm, volunteers to get there for 5pm

Wilcot Village Hall - Friday 8th Feb and Friday 8th March Observing event from 7 - 9pm, NAS members welcome.

Burbage - Saturday 9th March Helpers needed with telescopes, they aim for >100 people.

Telescope Event - Steve H interested in doing a workshop at Hamstead Marshall , no date set yet.

Morlands School in Reading - have asked for help with their Astronomy evening on 17th January. Steve H, Peter Bendall, George Sallit have agreed to attend. There is likely to be a large audience but rather late notice for us to get more helpers. Reading AS may have one of two members turn up.

History Section of BAA - Meeting arranged at Mencap. Ann has asked that NAS members help with Tea and Coffee and a lunchtime buffet for £5 per head. Ann will organise

Membership: Activity collected by Tony for calendar year 2018

Publications 25

Events hosted 30

Members of the public attending our events 975

Meeting trends and Membership

May 16 - May 17 88 Members, Main Mtg Av Attendance 45, Beg Mtg Av Attendance 33

May 17 - May 18 93 Members, Main Mtg Av Attendance 51, Beg Mtg Av Attendance 40

Tony was complemented on his work, this is very useful information for the society

Finances: Quiet since Christmas. Peter had paid the £60 cost for Allan and Rachel Chapman meals at the Christmas dinner.

It was mentioned again that if people are buying items through Amazon Smile and click on the donation option it will help increase the NAS funds.

Richard expressed the need for a new laptop, the existing one is showing damage to the screen and could stop working very soon. Mark will look in to options for a new one within the price range of £300 - £400 Agreed by Committee.

AOB: Astroboost... Richard and Nicky did a presentation at Stuart Eves evening class, Dr Jenny Shipway (the Coordinator) was present, the evening went well but Jenny would like to see the presentation with young children too. Steve H and Kath both said they would try to organise school events, Steve H to contact Francis Bailey and Kath to contact ex head of Hungerford Primary School,

David asked about Sidewalk Astronomy, perhaps in February. Kath will discuss with BID. (*since done and told to contact Bob Boseley from Highways department for permissions, email given*)

Peter - Annual report sent in for Trustees to be updated. 11 of the Voting members now trustees.

Next Meeting: 5th March