

Newbury Astronomical Society.

Minutes of meeting 22nd January 2020

Apologies: Julie Armstrong

Present: George Sallit, Tony Hirsh, Steve Knight, David Boyd, Ann Davis, Chris Hooker, Steve Harris, Nicky Fleet, Richard Fleet, Tony Hirsh, Alan Wyle, Peter Bendell, Kath Nurse. Jonathan Saunders, Chris Douglas

Minutes: Accepted

Matters Arising: Agreed that our new venue at Greenham Church Hall is very suitable for our needs. It is £8 per hour. The Meeting summaries was discussed and it was confirmed that they get a good number of hits on the website.

The Bring and Buy sale before Xmas was not very successful, what was exhibited was not what members required.

Winchester Weekend is sold out. All of our members that planned to come have got tickets. Ann requested that we have a stand once again. Nicky and Richard felt we need new material.

The xmas dinner was suited to most people but some were not very happy with the food. Agreed to look elsewhere. (*Update: have now booked the Deanwood Golf Club for this coming year at less cost*)

Our Gazebo is not as good as it should be but as there is not much use for it this coming year (so far) Steve H felt we should hang on to it for now.

Main Meeting: December - Mark Kidger, he was well received, a good lecture.

Members Meeting: The Music of the Spheres, few volunteers to talk although John Napper, with his Ukelele gave a short musical sing song which went down well

Beginners: The Voyager was the main topic, good audience. There was a discussion on whether to change the layout within the hall as we are getting more people coming along. It was agreed that the meetings are going well.

Next Main Meeting: Paul Abel - Observing Venus

Beginners: Large Scale Structure of the Universe. Once again volunteers are needed. George and Steve H agreed to talk.

George and Steve H agreed to run the March Beginners whilst some members are away.

Forthcoming events: Open evening at RAL on 31st. Chris requested that Astroboost demonstration given again. Telescopes will be inside to discuss with the public.

Mary Hare School, 6 weekly lectures with observing organised by George now underway. First lesson went very well, students very interested and well behaved.

Membership: We now have more than 100 members, Tony introduced a new member via his write up in the NWN

Warranty on lap top due for renewal but was agreed that would not do so.

AOB: Steve H Is organising a Telescope evening on Weds 26th February 7.30pm at Hamstead Marshall

We have received an enquiry from Hungerford Primary school who would like us to talk to some of their pupils. Richard has agreed to look into it.

Kath will organise the summer outing to the Royal Society Summer Exhibition for Thursday 9th July

Alan was concerned that not everybody signs in for various reasons. It wa agreed that this can be difficult when there is a jam in the doorway. To cover fire risk Alan agreed to sweep the building before we leave.

Chris Hooker thought we should have a Sidewalk Astronomy event in the town centre. He suggested 3 nights to choose from during the week and 3 - 5th March was the chosen dates. Ann will contact the council

Nicky has heard from Jenny to start phase 2, next talk will be in Edinburgh. Nicky and Richard will not be available to attend. George suggested that a Skype connection might work.

Ann said she would like to get started on next years programme, it was agreed for her to go ahead.

Tony reminded us that it is National Astronomy Week 14- 22nd November.

Steve H said that NAS at STEM event 7th March, Steve is organising

We finished with a discussion on the size of the committee, however, it was agreed that as we now have more space the group seems to be working well so it would be left at is for now.

Next Meeting: 6th May