

FLAMSTEED ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

Notes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 18th June at 7.15 p.m. at the offices of Young Education Services, Greenwich.

Present: Lin Potter (Chair), Mike Dryland (Vice Chair), Kate Bishop, Mike Dear, Roger Geeson, Peter Kitcherside, Pat Wainwright, Jane Bendall

Apologies: were received from Mark Duwe

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th Feb 2009

- **Training on the 28” telescope:** Roger had spoken to Tony Sizer who had suggested training sessions after the Evenings with the Stars. Roger to arrange with Tony from October onwards.
- **Reserve funds and the ZyFuse:** It was agreed that a short, getting-to-know-you meeting with David Philip would be useful, Kate and Jane to arrange. Kate confirmed that our reserve fund was still ring fenced and proposals for donations should go through her office. It was decided that we should have an in-house meeting with Louise Simkiss, Head of Adult Learning, David Waugh, Terry Goodman, Kate and committee members to draw up a proposal for considering the purchase of the Zy Fuse. Jane to arrange.

Programme and events

The programme for 2009 – 2010 was tabled. Jane is looking for suggestions for a “history” lecture for next February.

AGM arrangements: the AGM will be in the Planetarium foyer. The committee is to look out for likely recruits.

Anniversary celebrations: It was agreed that a sub-committee (composition not yet decided) should look at the best way to celebrate our tenth anniversary and have an early pub meeting to discuss further. Amongst suggestions:

- We should have “bubbly” to welcome people to the meeting
- Robert Massey, who gave the first talk ever, is returning to lecture that evening.
- Eddie and Jane to give a short 10 minute talk about the history of the Flamsteed.
- Jane to invite Kevin Fewster and Sarah Roots
- Roger to bring the Flamsteed Telescope to the October meeting

- Jane will copy the first year's programme and will also look up the committee members of 1999 and invite as many as possible to attend. We should cast around for photographs of the old Discovery Room and any outings we went on and do a small display.

Picnic on Hampstead Heath: A schedule was drawn up and Jane will circulate to the 30 odd people who are interested in coming along.

British Astronomical Society Exhibition in Greenwich University Old Royal Naval college campus. The ROG is not having a stand and therefore we decided not to participate other than publicising the event to our members.

ROG's Telescope seminar 16/17 July has been poorly subscribed. Janet Norton had contacted Lin to ask her to drum up support and remind Flamsteed members they are entitled to the concessionary rates of £50. Mike will circulate details to the membership.

Telescope400 – event at Syon House on 27th July: Jane suggested a daytime visit from the Flamsteed and will circulate members to gauge interest.

Goose Green School had asked for Flamsteed help for their fete, but due to lack of volunteers Mike has declined. We thought that on the whole, there is not enough interest from members to undertake outside commitments.

Membership status and publicity; there are currently 155 members, but some will not renew. Mike felt that membership had peaked and was in danger of contracting. Much to everyone's delight Kate tabled the excellent, new and well designed leaflet (there is a slight delay with business cards). The leaflets will be handed out to people who attend the Cassini lectures next week. Posters will be on permanent display at the ROG's new entrance desk. We shall do a leaflet campaign at the start of the GCSE classes in the autumn. Lin is in constant touch with the editor of the Meridian magazine and can generate good local publicity. Jane has also written a short article for a local magazine.

Finances: end of year figures were circulated showing a healthy credit balance.

Observing events and Hare and Billet evenings:

It was agreed to separate out the two events treating the H&B evenings as a purely social get together and removing all mention of observing at the same time.

We would arrange separate evenings on Blackheath specifically for observing and Pat volunteered to look up some possible dates for circulation to the committee; they do not have to be "big" astronomical events. A rota could then be drawn up for a committee member to act as an anchor; looking up advance forecasts, sending out early notices and also deciding on the evening whether to go ahead or not dependant on the weather.

It was agreed that observing at Romney and Hazelwood are totally different experiences not to be confused with the more casual Blackheath evenings.

Day time observing: Mike Dear will continue to drive the programme giving 24 hours notice and keeping an eye on weather forecasts. He had arranged a successful Sunday viewing two weeks ago when some 200 members of the public enjoyed looking through the Coronado Hydrogen Alpha. It is difficult with no sunspots and few flares and prominences. The cone is not a very suitable area, but unfortunately the newly laid out astronomer's garden is not an option. The museum can do tannoy announcements to publicise solar viewing sessions. It was agreed that viewing bright stars during the daytime was not very interesting.

Volunteer status: There is a slight revolt against time sheets although Kate did point out that it was useful to know the extent of volunteer involvement in the museum's activities.

Any Other Business: There was no other business.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 3rd September at 7.15 in the YES offices.