

THE FLAMSTEED ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

NOTES FROM A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.15 P.M. AT THE YOUNG EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICE

1. **Present:** Lin Potter (Chair) Mike Dryland (Vice Chair) Roger Geeson, Peter Kitcherside, Grey Liple, David Waugh and Jane Bendall. Also Rachel Harrison, Head of Members office.

2. **Apologies:** Deborah McGarvey and Mike Dear

Lin Potter welcomed Rachel Harrison as the new Membership Manager and thanked her for coming to the meeting and also Grey Liple as a new member of the committee

3. **Matters arising** from the minutes of the meeting of 15th September: Lin is still waiting to hear about a visit to the observatory in Essex. She will report back in due course.

4. **Committee roles**

Chair – Lin Potter

Vice Chair & Web Editor– Mike Dryland

Catering –

Deborah McGarvey – for refreshments at the start of the meeting

Peter Kitcherside and Roger Geeson for wine at the conclusion of the meeting

Membership, Programme and General Secretary – Jane Bendall

Viewing Organisers:

Coronado solar viewing – Grey Liple and David Waugh

Romney – Pat Wainwright

Hazelwood – Jane Bendall

Cudham, and Hare and Billet– David Waugh

Blackheath – Jane Bendall

Viewing Co-ordinator: We still would like to call on someone to suggest viewing dates with targets and to show people round the sky also to agree to attend with telescope at the ready, if need be. The organisers can send out the notices and make the arrangement but in some cases e.g. Blackheath and Hazelwood viewing - cannot lead from the front. Grey will approach Mike Meynell and Jane to approach Chris Mann to see if they are willing to get involved.

Roger currently stores the Flamsteed Dobsonian 10” telescope.

5. **Finances:** After much discussion it was agreed to revisit this item and decide whether or not we publish figures showing yearly expenditure for our membership as part of our simplified AGM at another meeting. Mike and Jane will prepare an estimate of expenditure for next financial year for the Membership office. We are bearing in mind the financial pressure which the museum is under, being required to cut its budget by a

significant percentage next year. Therefore everything will be under review including both Flamsteed and Membership subscriptions. Currently we have about 205 members.

Rachel is redesigning the rather ambiguous section in the joining forms to make it clearer that in order to join the Flamsteed people must also become Members of the museum. In addition she has persuaded Retail to pass new members' email addresses when they join online. The online joining charge of £5 has now been cut to £1.50 to cover administration costs. The committee thanked Rachel for both moves which are very welcome.

6. Programming:

- Telescope workshop will be run in house and on a Tuesday to minimise costs. Jane shall arrange a suitable date late Jan/early February.
- Approach from Shrewsbury Park to be turned down as the date clashes with a museum event.
- Blackfen School is on hold as Grey is awaiting a reply and some more details.
- Visit to the Science Museum with David Rooney – Jane to arrange.
- Christmas party well in hand and Jane will announce details very shortly. It was agreed that we serve wine and mince pies at the party. Thanks to be given formally to Steven Richardson for the donation of the filters.
- David to arrange Hare and Billet evenings, normally on the 3rd Monday of each month.

7. Volunteer Observing Assistant – appointments will officially be announced at the end of November.

8. Solar Viewing: Going extremely well and feedback from the public is very enthusiastic. The museum has noted and thanked the team. It was suggested that notices, based on advanced weather forecasts, re Sunday viewing are sent out on Thursdays, to give Flamsteed volunteers time to plan. Grey and David have moved the site to nearer the fence and the Altazimuth Building to maximise winter sunshine.

Banners: Grey showed Rachel one of the proposed banners and assured her that copyright was not an issue. It was agreed that Grey will now talk to the museum and hopefully after the museum logos have been added, we can go ahead. Costs are a very modest £180, plus some minor expenses. Lin moved a vote of thanks to Grey for all his efforts and for donating his expertise and time to this project.

Maintenance of the Hydrogen Alpha telescope: The telescope is now being constantly used and the danger of deterioration and damage is very real. Mike snr, David and Grey to draw up a list of suggestions re storage and care and to arrange a meeting with Rob Edwards to discuss maintenance issues. Fortunately, the Flamsteed has looked after the Coronado over the years and it is in considerably better condition than many of the other telescopes at the ROG.

9. Plaque in memory of John Griffiths – the wording was approved by the committee and Grey will go ahead with producing the plaque. It will be attached to the telescope mount with the help of Flamsteed member Mike Cowan and there should be no problems as it is a flat surface. There will be a simple presentation ceremony at the Christmas party.

10. Any Other Business: ROG Notice Board: Jane mentioned that the ROG are keen to highlight forthcoming events which might be of interest to our members. It was agreed that she announce them at the beginning of our lecture evenings.

Mike is looking for volunteers to take over some of the task of writing up the lectures and taking the photographs for the website reports. Roger and Grey volunteered to assist and it was agreed to trawl for more volunteers at our next lecture evening.

11. Date of Next Meeting: To be arranged later, it was generally agreed that about three committee meetings should be held every year.