

Minutes from a meeting of the Flamsteed Astronomy Society held on Thursday 12th February in the Young Education Services office

Present: Lin Potter (Chair), Mike Dear, Mike Dryland, Mark Duwe, Roger Geeson, Peter Kitcherside, Pat Wainwright, Jane Bendall, and Kate Bishop of the Members office, NMM

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence
2. **Matters arising** from the meeting on 20th November: Training on 28" telescope – Roger to suggest early training sessions before the EWTS starts during March to Tony Sizer.
3. **Membership numbers.** It was agreed:
 - That we did not wish to have the sort of set up where all events had to be pre-booked by members.
 - That we would cap the numbers of members at 175, because the lecture theatre can only hold a maximum of 120 people and that we should continue to grow towards that number organically and gently rather than launching a big publicity campaign
 - That we would only operate occasional booking in advance for special events/speakers which are very popular (or for sessions with the 28-inch where space is physically limited).
4. **Publicity:** It was agreed:
 - Kate would obtain business cards as soon as possible
 - That she would send her draft information/joining leaflet to Mike for circulation and the committee would work out a joint response within the next month getting back to Kate with an agreed format.
5. **Programming**

Autumn programme was decided as follows: A lecture and AGM in September

A special 10th birthday party in early October (noting it is also the birthday of the Meridian Line) when we would invite Flamsteed "special" lecturers to join us. We would invite Simon Singh as guest speaker.

Phil Plait will also be in London in October and Kate may plan a Members event for his visit.

IYA launch is a media event with Lord Rees and Kevin Fewster. There will be planetarium shows, robotic telescope and hopefully solar viewing if the weather is good. So far 15 FAS volunteers have signed up.

Flamsteed AS trip may be to Edinburgh either early July or mid September. Jane to examine with the Members office.

6. Feedback from:

Young astronomer's society: Following a preliminary meeting with Sarah Roots and others Lin is in talks with Rob Edwards and Kate. The proposed club for young astronomers would be completely separate from the Flamsteed

EWTS: going well with no major problems. Popular with Flamsteed members

Family Events: not so good (7 tickets sold in January) the museum is rethinking the arrangements for next winter season.

She's An Astronomer: good evening, but again not enough tickets sold. Possibly 11 Flamsteed volunteers are too many.

A common theme running through these events appears to be the lack of the right kind of publicity to attract public.

7. Donations: Jane and Kate to arrange a meeting with David Philip to discuss Flamsteed finances and particularly the status of the reserve funds and donations. Jane will circulate date to committee members.

- Altar Astro view finder was bought at Astrofest for £90 and we shall arrange a long term loan to the museum
- Jane will let David Waugh and Howard Hardiman know that their request for funds to buy the ZyFuze machine must wait until after the finance meeting. If the outcome of the finance meeting is positive we shall set up meetings to discuss the way forward with Sarah Lockwood Head of Learning, David and Mr Hardiman to be invited.

8. BAA Exhibition in Greenwich: We are waiting to see what input the museum intends and hopefully will volunteer to help out rather in the manner of Astrofest. The Flamsteed will not seek to have a stand itself.

9. Blackheath observing:

Pat will be away for a month from 14th February: It was decided that our next **Hare and Billet** evening would be on Monday 16th March and Jane would send out the publicity before Pat's return.

Romney Marsh and the Males observatory: Jane to liaise with Males and circulate details to members – participants can arrange their own car shares.

Comet: Mark to email members about the arrival of the comet – as there is nobody available to arrange a viewing that evening.

Any Other Business:

- Flamsteed AS to arrange a lunch in the Members meeting room to mark Ron Deane's retirement – when we shall make Ron an honorary member of the Flamsteed.
- Kate to let Jane have the signing in lists from our meetings

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 18th June 2009