

Notes from a Flamsteed Astronomy Society Committee Meeting held at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday 1st November 2011 in the Young Education Services Office

- 1. Present:** Lin Potter (Chair), Rob Edwards, Brian Evans, Roger Geeson, Rachel Harrison, Peter Kitcherside, Grey Liple, Deborah McGarvey, Mike Meynell, Sumitra Sribhashyam, David Waugh and Jane Bendall
- 2. Apologies** were received from Mike Dryland who was indisposed
- 3. Matters arising:** there were no matters arising from the meeting held on 15th September

Lin Potter welcomed Brian Evans and Sumitra Sribhashyam who have just joined the committee and thanked them for coming forward.

4. Committee roles and responsibilities

Lin Potter was unanimously re-elected as Chairwoman.

Mike Dryland has decided not to stand as Vice Chairman this year and has given notice that he will step down from the committee next year after the AGM in September 2012. So far nobody has volunteered to stand as Vice Chairman.

Both Lin and Jane feel that they should also make way for other people and plan to resign from the committee in September 2012.

It was agreed that the following roles would be filled:

Information Asset Owner: Mike Meynell agreed to take over this role on behalf of the Society.

Mike Dryland will continue to run the website and Mike Meynell volunteered to take this over when Mike Dryland leaves – they will arrange the handover when convenient to them both

Viewing coordinators: David will continue to run Cudham and Hazelwood

Mike Meynell will continue to run Blackheath and has agreed to take over Romney visits

Grey will continue to lead up the solar team at the observatory

Mike Dryland will continue to run the 28” telescope sessions and Grey has volunteered to take over when Mike leaves.

Jane will continue in her roles orchestrating the Programme, Committee Secretary, and Membership Secretary

Peter, Deborah and Roger will continue to organise all the refreshments at meetings

Brian will now organise the Hare and Billet evenings taking over from David

There will have to be re-evaluation of committee roles when Lin, Mike Dryland and Jane leave and it was agreed that they would prepare job specifications for the committee so that members can see what is entailed. It may be that responsibilities could be shared between more than one person, or that roles be re-defined.

5. MoU and Finance: The only issue that arose was that of the financial reserves. Rachel explained that to date we have been permitted to retain our reserves on a rolling basis from year to year. There is now £9,000 in the kitty and Rachel felt that once this exceeded £10,000 the museum may decide to use the money in different ways. In other words most of it should be spent before the end of this financial year; keeping £1,000 as a reserve. Rachel further cautioned that this may not mean that we shall be allowed to accumulate reserve funds in the future – given cuts and museum priorities.

It was agreed that we spend the money on astronomical related projects or items that have use and relevance to the Flamsteed and Rob Edwards presented a very comprehensive list of proposals (please see attachment).

David felt that committee members may also wish to put forward their own suggestions rather than just reacting to the museum wish list and it was agreed that we should consider all proposals that are tabled whether from the museum or individuals within the committee.

There were no other points from the MoU so it is over to Mike Dryland and the sub committee to finalise with Rosemary Gilbert.

6. Facebook and Flickr: Sumitra has proposed that we consider subscribing to Facebook and Flickr. (Please see the attachment).

The committee felt this was an excellent idea and it was agreed that Sumitra, Mike Meynell and Deborah liaise with Rachel and that they carry this forward with Emma Mcclean the Digital Marketing Manager in the museum.

7. Programming

The visit to the Griffon observatory in Spain will now be in April. Lin will send out notices to the membership with more details of programme, proposed dates and costs shortly.

Very sadly Andy Burn's wife has just died and Lin is sending the Society's condolences.

Grey agreed to meet Carl Murray and act as host for the evening of 14th November.

8. Any Other Business

a. Brian, who is now going to run the Hare and Billet evenings, suggested that we vary the evening alternating between Mondays and other weekdays.

- b. Olympic plans: The observatory will be closed from 24th July until mid August 2012.
- c. Stargazing Live: The society has been approached by the BBC regarding a possible involvement in the BBC Stargazing Live event which is due to be broadcast in January 2012. Mike Meynell has agreed to deal with this on behalf of the society, and will also liaise with the ROG to ensure that any potential events are coordinated".
- d. Members Age Limits: Lin explained that we had already had exhaustive discussions earlier this year about young people under 18 years of age becoming members of the Society and had unanimously decided that at present this was not really feasible.
- e. Brian reported on a very successful encounter over buying and setting up a Skywatch 150 telescope with two delightful members of the public.
- f. Flyers: They have now been printed and Rachel will arrange for them to be distributed round the observatory and to all the astronomy classes. If any committee member would like some copies please let Jane know.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

Appendix

- **Why should we be on Facebook:**
 - Build our internet presence:
 - Other societies are already on Facebook (e.g. Baker Street Irregular Astronomers)
 - Strengthen our community
 - New members can get to know each other before the main events and communicate between events
- **What will we put on Facebook:**
 - General Announcements - Any content already communicated via email, Twitter and SMS can be put in there
 - Committee led events
 - Create events where members can say whether they will be going or not
 - Benefit: New members who do not know every one yet can decide based on who is going whether they want to go
 - Platform for member discussions
- **Why should we be on Flickr:**
 - Build our internet presence
 - Other societies are already on Flickr as well (e.g. Reading Astronomy Society)
 - Encourage involvement in astronomy
 - Promote/Build skills, Promote discussion
- **What will we put on Flickr:**
 - Astronomy Photos, under various themes
 - Discussion Board

- Members can ask questions and more experienced photographers can give tips to other members