



Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society

Annual General Meeting 2020

Report of the Secretary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This past year has been an interesting one, ranging from the busiest public night at Dalby for years to absolutely no meetings, outreach or members events at all.

2. Member events

- 2.1 Thanks to Howard Watson for organising another event at Ravenscar National Trust. Despite a rather breezy event it remained mostly cloud free and a good bit of observing was done.
- 2.2 In November a number of members set up scopes at Oliver's Mount to observe the transit of Mercury. Cloud was present for over half the transit but it cleared towards the end and everyone was able to get a good view as well as take some pictures and videos.

3 Membership numbers

- 3.1 At the end of last season the number of members was approximately 60. Some members chose not to renew as happens each year. With the latter half of the year being without a programme we have not taken on as many new members as usual but we are still finishing the year with 46 current members

4 Outreach

- 4.1 Four public observing sessions were scheduled at Dalby between October and March. The majority of these were clouded out and reverted to indoor presentations, but we had a steady number of visitors across the 4 events. Our final event in March came as a bit of surprise, 4 members assisted, expecting the usual 20 or so attendees and were a little surprised when approximately 150 people turned up. Thankfully the moon and Orion Nebula were visible and the 2 telescopes we put out remained on those all night so everyone could get a look after queuing for quite some time. At the end of the night we had taken £79 in donations.

Thank you to these who assisted with talks during the inclement weather as well as driving telescopes and keeping the queuing crowd engaged on the final event.

- 4.2 Neil Graham and Mark Tissington conducted a number of outreach talks for local Cub and Brownie groups throughout the year. We were quite impressed with the level of knowledge and questions which came from the children.
- 4.2 Howard Watson conducted a talk at Northstead School for the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Assisted by his Lego Saturn V model, the talk was received well.

5 StarFest

- 5.1 2019's Starfest was once again a popular event, with slightly reduced numbers likely due to the closeness to the end of the school holidays but overall was another good event for the society.
- 5.2 2020's Starfest was understandably cancelled due to COVID and tonight would have been the 1st official night of the event. Feedback has been that of disappointment but also understanding and looking forward to 2021.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 It has certainly been a different year for the society, busy public nights and guest speakers to no programme at all.
- 6.2 I would like to thank Sheila Anderson for the work she has put in as Treasurer in the last few years.
- 6.3 I am looking forward to resuming the normal functioning of the society soon and hope you are too, thank you.