

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

The Society has had another very good year, with an excellent range of speakers for which we must thank Richard, David and Myself. We began in January with David Arditti talking about Andrew Ainsle Common who was a Golfing man who created great Astro photography for his time. In February Graham Bryant spoke about Moon Landing Hoaxes and in March David Fishwick gave a fascinating talk on Weighing the Stars. In April Colin Stuart told us about his book of 13 Journeys though space and time, at the royal intuition in the Faraday lecture room. In May, Caroline Beevis told us about Laika and the Space Dogs and the History behind them. How they got 48 dogs to comply is beyond me when I cannot do that with my one dog. John Murrell was next to speak about Gaia and in July we had Neil Philipson with His updated version of the Space Race and the amount of money Nasa Contributed to each various mission, one example being the Starliner at 35 billion dollars.

In August some of us went to Herstmonceux. We arrived at 5.30pm and hoped that the sky would clear so we could look through the Meade 16". In the meantime, we saw a wide range of telescopes including a 34" Hewitt Camera which was used to Record the track of artificial Satellites passing over Herstmonceux. Also, a 30-inch Thompson reflector for researching the nature of stars. Its function was to collect light from individual stars and beam it into a high-resolution spectrograph installed on the lower levels of the dome. Alas the sky did not clear, (silly English weather) but we all had a good time. I would like to thank Richard G for setting up this outing for us.

The picnic was cancelled in Sept due to the weather, I know I didn't want to get wet in that rain and wind. In September we welcomed Dr Sarah Bosnam who spoke on the early history of the Universe. In October Dr David Evans talked about Schiaparelli and the last speaker this year was Carolin Crawford talking about Dark Energy and the Ever-Expanding Cosmos. Paul also did a talk to the Hinchley Wood Brownies in February. Kingswood Cubs have approached us to do something similar in January next year.

I must thank all my fellow committee members for all their work and support and who make my job such a joy to do. David F for all his help with the use of the school facilities and the Viewing Evenings where members use the observatory on the school roof. He also provides coffee and the chocolate biscuits at committee meetings!

Richard E for keeping our Accounts in order and Sue for stepping into the registrar's shoes. Stephen for his splendid work on Janus, Data Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Paul for developing our new website and for stepping in and organising the Town and Country Show at Nonsuch Park with much help from Peter. The show generated a lot of interest and some new members. Thanks to David, Richard and Paul for organising speakers for 2019, Ron Canham for all the sky at night sessions, which were excellent and, finally, thanks to Edna for all the Coffee and Tea that we consume.

I hope you have all enjoyed the year.

Anita King EAS Chairman