

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

The Society has had another very good year, with an excellent range of speakers for which we must thank Richard, David, Paul and Myself. We began in January with David Arditti talking about Astro Photography and how Amateur astrophotography has come about as a result of computers and Digital Cameras.

In February we had your own Stephen talking about "From Eyepiece to Journal the Information Journey" and how important it was to get proper notes and observations in Journal etc.

In March we had David Whitehouse, talking about, Journey to the Centre of the Earth. It was based on Jules Verne who died 150 years ago, and it was very interesting to hear about Jack's Hill in Australia as it still holds the oldest rock that was 3.4 billion years old.

In April we welcomed Rachael Livermore who gave one of the best talks so far. It was on Magnifying the distant Universe and the Black hole that was photographed for the first time. From Gamma Ray to Radio waves to Albert Einstein and General Relativity was also covered. I just wish my General theory was that good or any theory would suffice for that matter.

In May we had another of our members, David Fishwick, to talk about Venus, how it was nearly the same as the Earth. 12 Missions went to Venus and in 1761 the Transit of Venus across the Sun told us the size of the Sun and Venus.

Nonsuch Town and Country show was wonderful, the weather was rain and sunshine. 3 of us Paul and Peter and I all got our faces burned, still never mind. We got some new members and lots of interested people who love to look at the night sky. Batman and Spiderman came and looked through one of our telescopes. I would like to thank again Paul Peter and Ron who did both days and organised it.

Ron Johnson was next to speak discussing "Observatories a Grand Tour" for the first Maurice Gavin Lecture. We were whisked away to Australia, Canada, Austria, and Germany and back to the UK. Maurice would have loved it.

It was good to have Ian Morison on the Wonders of the Southern sky and what he gets up to, including going outside and coming back in the wrong apartments. I would like to see lake Tekapo and go star gazing, so many things to see there.

The picnic was a great success with new members and old turning up, we saw the moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Vega and lots of other stars. A good night was had by all, even though it was cold.

In September we welcomed, Colin Stuart who told us "How we'll live on Mars", It was quite a striking start with, "So you want to be an astronaut". I loved the part where Colin mentioned that the characters JPL embossed on the tyres left marks on the tracks belonging to the Mars Rover wherever it went. Also, Olympus Mons the giant volcano, was equal to the size of France, I never knew that.

In October Mike Maunder talked about Eclipses and a funny and amusing story that Mike told of Peter Cattermole and a Pin hole camera made from dried cowpat.

Our last talk of the year was given by Graham Bryant on “One month to Save the Hubble Telescope”, I never knew how much was wrong with the Hubble, and I would not want to be the Wasp Catcher, with a net, in the clean room.

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 Group Evenings where members use the observatory on the school roof and can get help with their scopes etc.

Richard E for keeping our Accounts for last year and Sue for stepping into the Treasurer Role. John Davey for his splendid work on Janus, Stephen for all his help in Data Protection and Safeguarding Policy and for Stepping into the Secretary role. Paul and Peter for developing our new website and for organising our stand at the Town and Country Show at Nonsuch Park for a second successful year. That show generated a lot of interest and some new members.

Thanks to David, Richard, Paul and Peter and I for organising speakers for 2020. Ron Canham for all the sky at night sessions which were most excellent and Paul for organising an increasing number of outreach sessions particularly for scouts and, finally, thanks to David for all the Coffee and Tea that we consume.

I hope you have all enjoyed the year.

Anita King EAS Chairman