

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

The Society has had a Difficult year with the pandemic, but we did have a few speakers' meetings for which we must thank Richard, Paul and Peter and myself. We began in January with Sarah Hutton talking about 2020 The Year ahead in Space. It seems to be another space race but this time it is between China and the USA. With the Event Horizon Telescope and another 4 missions to Mars plus Space X etc., we are heading in the right direction.

In February we had Rachael Livermore talking about Science in Movies and how important it was to get it correct in movies which is hard to achieve when you are on earth.

In March we had our own David Fishwick, talking about Mercury a Long afternoon, He started off with an Artist Impression of Mercury which looked like a Toasted Cheese on Bread. It had lots of facts and figures about Mercury which was remarkably interesting.

In April, May, June, July, and September we had to cancel our meeting due to Covid. I for one missed the meeting and camaraderie, the friendships that we have all made. It made me incredibly sad and upset as I had to Self-Insolate, thanks to government guidelines. It was hard work for me personally with my Dad also not well.

The Observatory was put on hold as the Scouts at Worcester Park could not accommodate us for several reasons.

Even the Nonsuch Town and Country show was cancelled along with our Picnic at Headley Heath.

But in September after several calls Paul found a possible place for our observatory at Sutton Grammar School. We have been in negotiation as I speak to you today, and Paul will give you an update tonight of how it is all going.

Also, in September I decided I wanted to have a virtual meeting, to keep the society going in a forward direction. I had to do a lot of work in organising speakers to talk to us on Zoom. I also spent some time talking to the school to try and establish when we will be able to hold meetings in the school again subject, of course, to the then current Covid rules and regulations. I am hoping it will be in March 2021, but nothing has yet been agreed.

In October we welcomed Bob Mizon from the Baa Campaign for Dark Skies talking about Astrophotographers. I am afraid to say he was cut off before he completed his talk due to the 40-minute limit on the free version of Zoom. I decided to Purchase Zoom, in order to avoid the time restrictions of the free version and thereby enable plenty of time for the speaker, time to ask questions, and allow for the Night Sky presentation and any notices.

It was wonderful for him to finish his talk Yesterday.

The next Speaker was Peter Doel about the Dark Energy Spectroscope Instrument (DESI). He talks about the Expansion and the history of the Universe and the Baryon Acoustic Oscillation and at that point I got slightly confused about how it all works, and the fact it cost 70 Million dollars! I am glad that I did not pay for it.

We had 31 Members that logged on during that talk. That was so amazing.

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 until Covid hit us, the Viewing Group Evenings where members use the observatory on the school roof and can get help with their scopes etc.

Sue for keeping our Accounts for last year. John Davey for his splendid work on Janus, Stephen for all his help in the Secretary role. Paul and Peter for continuing to develop our website and the Maurice Gavin Observatory along with Ron Johnson.

Thanks to Shirish, Paul and Peter and I for organising speakers for 2021. Ron Canham for all the sky at night sessions which were most excellent and finally, thanks to David for all the Coffee and Tea that we consume.

I hope next year will be different, and we will have a vaccine soon,

Anita King EAS Chairman