

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

The Society has had another difficult year, but we did have a few speakers' meetings for which we must thank Shirish, Paul, Peter, and myself for organising. It started with a Zoom meeting with the wonderful speaker Dr Mathew Bothwell, He was so clear and concise and explained the Sub Millimetre wavelength so well, even I understood it! We can now see dead galaxies, no matter how far away they are, that were previously hidden away from optical instruments. Distance is no longer an issue.

In February we listened to Dr Mike Leggett talking about the Search of Extra-terrestrial Intelligence, He went through the Origin and evolution of life outside of the Earth. Also explaining the Drake equation and how liquid Water ice and Atmosphere cloud was as crucial for life to appear, but sadly no intelligent life yet. So, ET cannot phone home.

In March we had our Patron of the Society Prof Ian Morison Talk about Astro Imaging with DSLR or Mirrorless Camera. He went through all the Software that you can get online e.g. Deep Sky Stacker, Affinity Photo and Star Stax as well as the Numerous Camera's you can get. It was remarkably interesting to say the least. I learnt a lot from that meeting.

In April we had the Pleasure of Owen Brazell, President of the Webb Deep Sky Society, talking about Observing Galaxy Clusters. He went through all the Classification from Elliptical to Spiral. It was a fascinating subject. The Virgo Cluster was the most interesting one, as well as 2712 Galaxies Classified by George Abell in 1958.

In May we were supposed to have Peter Bull, but unfortunately, he thought the Society meeting was cancelled, but I stepped in with a talk about Nasa and the time I went there, a few years ago, to see the Shuttle mission that was then cancelled.

In June we welcomed Neil Phillipson. It was a wonderful talk with lots about Artemis and BFR capsules and the Space Probes. How Perseverance space rover drives itself around, which I find incredible, as well as the Helicopter that it has on it.

In July we welcomed Anna Nash from Mullard Space Science Lab, she was a wonderful speaker, she explained all that goes on in a clean room to get a Space craft out into Space. How they build five different space probes and the procedures which include clean room, Vacuum, Vibration and Thermal, as well as complying with the Un space treaty 1967, where it has to be so clean that no microbes are on it.

In Sept we welcomed Prof Christopher Owen to our First Meeting back at School, it was wonderful to see most of the member's back. We had Technical Issues with the zoom meeting at the time, where it was overexposed, but other than that it was a brilliant talk on the Solar Orbiter.

The next Speaker was Nigel Bradbury about Astro Tourism, He talked about the expansion and the history of tourism as well as lots of photos of the Northern Aurora, and where you can see it. It was mesmerizing.

The last Speaker, also most enjoyable was John Axtell about Sputnik, The Eagle, Sergel Korolyov Chief Designer and his Contribution. John's rendition from the Goons was just fantastic.

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.

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, Shirish and I for organising speakers for 2022.

Ron Canham for all the sky at night sessions which were most informative.

Finally may I wish you a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Anita King EAS Chairman