

Ewell Astronomical Society AGM 2025

Secretary's Report

"The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it."

Neil deGrasse Tyson

2025 has been another great year for the Society.

Again we hosted 9 exceptional guest speakers who all gave us great talks with subjects ranging from explaining the different types of Stars, the New Space Race, Pioneering Women Astronomers, Dark Energy Surveys, NASA's Curiosity Rover, the Evolution of the Milky Way and more.

Our very own Martin Howe also gave us a great talk on the Formation of Planetary Systems.

Thanks to Anita, Ron, Martin and Shirish for tirelessly working to find and arrange all our great speakers for the year.

The weather in the first part of the year was very favourable and we had the opportunity to hold a number of viewing sessions. The second half unfortunately, has not been as good and hence a number of planned sessions were cancelled as a result.

Interest in our organised viewing sessions from various Scout groups has been good this year, however as with last year, they all sadly had to be postponed due to bad weather. We are now looking to host these Scout sessions in the new Year so, fingers crossed the weather plays ball.

At the start of May, we again hosted a stand at the Nonsuch Town and Country Show. Attendance was good and the weather, for the most part, allowed some great views of several large sunspot groups on the Sun. We even had a comedian Elvis to keep us entertained during the quieter periods.

My thanks to all of our volunteers who attended and helped throughout the weekend.

Committee

The committee members for 2025 have remained the same this year as last year and were as follows:

Anita King (Chairperson), Peter Scott (Secretary/Webmaster), Steve Roebuck, (Treasurer), Shirish Phade (Registrar), John Davey (Newsletter), Ron Johnson (MGO), Martin Howe (Nonsuch Walk) and Suzanne Fox(Website BU)

The committee itself met ten times during 2025, with all our meetings taking place via Zoom. The meetings were held on the following dates:

21st Jan, 25th Feb, 26th Mar, 14th May, 30th Apr, 30th Jun, 6th Oct, 12th Nov, 6th Aug and 8th Dec.

Additionally, there have been a series of extra meetings held for the Solar System Walk Working Group members. These were held by Martin and were necessary to manage and deliver the Solar System Walk within the stipulated time required for the Grant.

The SSW Working Group meetings were held on the following dates:

27th May, 17th Jun, 1st Jul, 16th Jul, 29th Jul, 12th Aug, 2nd Sep, 7th Oct, 20th Oct.

My thanks to all the hard work of the members of the SSW Working Group:

Martin, Shirish, Suzanne and Srikala Iyengar

Thanks to Martin Howe for championing this project and leading it through to a very successful completion.

I'd also like to give a special thanks to Suzanne for stepping in and taking meeting minutes whenever I was unable to.

I'd like to also thank Anita King for the leadership, hard work and the dedication she has provided to the Society and committee over the past year as Chairperson.

Online presence

The Society continued to maintain it's Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp accounts as well as hosting the ewellastronomy.org website.

The website now hosts the additional content for the Solar System Walk detail pages. Whistle Stop Arts host the Trail Map, Information boards and fun content pages, and we will be looking to host additional video content for the walk soon.

WhatsApp continues to prove particularly popular with a lot of good chat, notifications and sharing of some really stunning Astro images. It has also continues to be used for exchanging information about online courses and publicly available talks and events between members.

The monthly copy of Janus, available via the website, continues to be an excellent source of information and interesting articles and very popular with members.

I'd like to give my thanks John Davey for all his hard work ensuring the newsletter continues to remain a valuable asset. I'd like to also thank all our contributors for all of their great article submissions.

Finally I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and wish everyone clear skies for 2026.

Peter.