

FLAMSTEED ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

Notes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2009 at 7.15 p.m. at the offices of Young Education Services, Greenwich.

Present: Lin Potter (Chair), Mike Dryland (Vice Chair), Kate Bishop (Membership office) Mike Dear, Roger Geeson, Peter Kitcherside, Pat Wainwright, Jane Bendall

Apologies: were received from Mark Duwe

Kate is leaving the Museum having accepted a post in Trinity School of Music. The committee congratulated her on her new position and thanked her for her hard work and professionalism as Membership Manager. She will be a hard act to follow and we have very much enjoyed working with her and appreciate her efforts on our behalf.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2009

- **Reserve funds and the ZyFuse:** Kate confirmed that our reserve fund was still ring fenced and proposals for donations should go through her office. It was decided that we should have an in-house meeting with Louise Simkiss, Head of Adult Learning, to draw up a proposal for considering the purchase of the ZyFuse.

4. **Membership office:** As part of a Museum reorganisation the Membership office is to be moved from Communications Division to Development Division under Rosemary Gilbert. Kate leaves on 16th September and Helen Walton will act as interim manager until the post is filled.

5. **AGM – it was agreed**

That access should be through the park as per normal and pedestrians must be offered lifts to convenient stations/bus stops after the meeting. We shall not need the shuttle bus.

That the AGM would be held in the planetarium, not the foyer, and we should keep the meeting as short as possible, concentrating on election of committee members. Jane will send out the AGM notice soon with the financial report and a short agenda. This will be followed by the Chairman's report, which will be circulated beforehand. Copies of the report will be available on the night to those people who are not on e-mail.

The Committee Sadly Pat Wainwright is standing down from the committee, but we are very glad to hear that she might consider helping with specific projects as a co-opted member. Jane will invite nominations from the membership.

6. **Programming and outings**

Jane appealed to the committee for ideas for the Christmas party as so far her efforts have drawn blanks.

Outing: It was decided that we should plan a day-long visit to the Radcliffe Observatory and Museum of the History of Science in Oxford next winter (possibly taking in Hanwell Community Observatory as well).

7. **Co-operation with the Museum re joint events:** Mike and Jane are to meet Louise Simkiss and Rob Edwards on Friday 4th September to discuss among other items – Evenings with the Stars, Telescope workshop, the ZyFuse project and the proposed Young Astronomers club. Mike and Jane will report back to the committee.

8. There has been some positive feedback about the idea of having separate viewing evenings on Blackheath instead of trying to roll them into a H&B evening. The first evening viewing on Blackheath is Friday 11th September near the donkey walk in front of the Blackheath Gates of the park. Pat is arranging.

9. **Membership** –holding up and gently expanding, probably due to the excellent leaflet which is being displayed throughout the museum, for which thanks are due to Kate. Currently we have 162 paid up members.

10. **Any other Business**

- a) Arrangements for the anniversary celebrations: Mike, Lin and Jane will form a subcommittee to plan the evening. So far the Director and Sarah Roots have both accepted our invitation to attend. Jane has sent invitations to all previous committee members and Eddie has written an introduction to the short talk. There has been a disappointing response to Mike's request for material from the early days. Kate volunteered to ask the Photographic Studio for any material they may have.
- b) Mike will be away from 20th Jan to 25th Feb.
- c) There will be no bookmart this year.
- d) Celebrations are being arranged by the museum to mark the 125 year anniversary of the adoption of the meridian line in mid October. We shall find out more details.
- e) Galilean nights: So far the museum has not planned any celebrations but Marek is on the case and will report back when he returns from his holiday on 10th September.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th October in the YES offices at 7.15 p.m.