CADAS monthly meeting February 21st 2018

Despite the fact that it was also our AGM, the promise of Bill Read’s talk had the effect of bringing out 30 other members to our February meeting and they were not disappointed. An interactive presentation on ‘Misconceptions in Astronomy’ was the title. It should have been reassuring to learn that you wouldn’t instantly freeze if suddenly exposed to space but as Bill pointed out that would probably be the least of your problems. Another popular misconception is that Polaris is a particularly bright star. Some even think it’s the brightest one! Several other such common misconceptions were covered. The talk was wittily illustrated and was a big hit. Thanks Bill.

Bob Mizon’s ‘Object of the month’ included NGC 1999 the ‘Keyhole’ nebula and h3945 Canis Majoris a colourful double. We can always rely on Bob for interesting items in this slot.

Iain Torrance supplied the cakes for our break so it was tricky to get everyone back to start the next session which was kicked off with Arthur Davis’ Constellation of the month Gemini, which is now well placed for exploring.

Following this, Gordon McKenzie showed how much astro-imaging had progressed, by comparing an image of M1 he’d taken 10 years ago with a superb more recent one. The difference was astonishing.

Pete Adshead gave a short presentation in which he gave a critique on the Synscan EQ5 mount and how he had modified his to improve its function. Pete also described his method for finding deep sky objects and some of the trials and tribulations of deep sky imaging. Given the weather conditions we have, Pete has to be congratulated on his persistence, determination and stamina in managing to produce such great images without an observatory!

Thanks to Sarah and Iain we were able to open our library for members this month. Thanks are also due to members who contributed books for our stock.

Thanks also to Adrian Zielonka for making copies of his Space Notes available. A copy can be found on our website.

Another great meeting! Thanks to all who helped and as usual, the kitchen volunteers who did a sterling job. (Zena would be proud of you).

Next month our speaker will be Bill Coombes who‘s talk is on the International Space Station. It should be a treat, so see you on Wednesday 21st March.