

CADAS October 2018 meeting notes.

It was nice to welcome Abby, Andy and Ian who were visiting for the first time and joining about 30 'regulars'. We hope they enjoyed the evening and look forward to seeing them again.

Ken, Pete, Bob and Ron supported Chard Library's Astronomy Evening on 5th October, meeting between 50 and 60 visitors. Five days later Ron met with the children of East Coker pre-school for a chat about space. Lots of budding astronauts!

Manor Court Community Primary School have asked us to help with an astronomy evening on a date in December to be arranged.

Instead of a panel for our 'Ask the panel' evening, questions were thrown to the whole meeting for answers. With all that brainpower to call on, it was not surprising that most of the varied questions received answers. That said, more questions than answers seem to have been generated by the more cosmological queries. 'What is time' remained unclear!

Iain Torrance's homemade cakes went down a treat as usual and contributed to a longer than usual break. Many thanks Iain, and thanks too to Annabelle and the washing up volunteers who did a great job.

Following the break, Arthur Davis chose Pegasus for his Constellation of the Month slot and identified some of the objects associated with it. Many thanks to Arthur for producing our monthly Sky notes, Sky chart and Dark Sky diagram.

Coincidentally, Bob Mizon also chose M15 in Pegasus as his object of the month, describing its discovery and characteristics. Just before that though, he talked about the Hyabusa 2 Mission to the small asteroid Ryugu and showed the latest images from the probe which had recently landed on the surface. Thanks Bob.

Our 'members' images' slot followed and a rich collection it was too!

Ken Honour shared a collection of nebulae comprising the Iris, Fish, Lagoon, Eagle, Dumbell and Angel nebulae. Ken was not too happy that his Angel did not quite live up to the Hubble one but I think that would be described as being just a tad ambitious! Great work Ken.

Ken was followed by Gordon McKenzie who shared IC 5146 (Cocoon Nebula) taken with a robotic 'scope. He also shared shots of the full moon, M27 (Dumbell nebula) and NGC 7538, noting the need for a large amount of data when imaging in narrowband. Keep them coming Gordon!

Bill Reed had had to miss the last couple of meetings which meant that there was something of a backlog of images we hadn't seen. Bill didn't disappoint. Bill's nebula count included the Bubble, Eastern Veil, Butterfly, Heart and Fish head nebulae, plus the Soul, Pelican, Dumbell, California, Crescent and North American nebulae. His 'upside down' image of the Rosette nebula looked startlingly like a skull!

Martyn Spice finished the evening with his wide field view of the Cocoon nebula and a great time-lapse video he'd taken of a transit of the International Space Station. A great little video.

This was another full, varied and lively meeting.

Next month on Wednesday 21st Bob Mizon and Pete Adshead will be doing a joint presentation on 'Astrophotography old and new. It should be another cracking meeting.