

## February 2019 Meeting

February's talk, with 35 in attendance, was simply entitled "Astrobiology" and was given by Steve Hill, who is Chairman of nearby Beckington Astronomical Society. The talk covered the origin and evolution of life on Earth and the possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe – both carbon based and Not Life as We Know it (Jim☺). A thought provoking talk albeit with a slightly gloomy conclusion!

The talk was followed by the annual General Meeting where Ron presented the Chairman's Report and Bud showed the (very healthy) Financial Report. As required, the Committee resigned but was re-elected *en bloc*. I'd like to re-iterate my thanks to Ron and Bud for their careful nurturing of the Society into the friendly and successful group it now is.

Ron reported a successful (though cloudy) session at Redstart school. Discussions continue with Ash Primary for a session in the Autumn, after the clocks go back.

Bob's constellation of the month was Triangulum, majoring on M33 and its star forming areas. This was followed by some spectacular lunar images from Bud, some images of Comet 2018 Y1 Iwamoto by Terry, some pictures of the conjunction of Mars & Uranus from Adrian, Bill's Crab Nebula (via Ron), the Tarantula nebula by Gordon and last (but not least) Pete's images of objects in Gemini (including a rather nice one of M35 and NGC2158).

Thanks as ever to the diligent kitchen team and special thanks for the cakes from Pete (is there nothing this man can't do?) and Sue.

The meeting was reminded of next month's talk on Cassini at Saturn by Prof Carl Murray and that Mercury is visible in the evening sky for the next few days, peaking on the 27<sup>th</sup>.