

February's meeting included the Society's Annual General Meeting. This consisted of the Chair's report and review of the previous year (posted separately in this blog), The Treasurer's Financial Report (which shows a healthy surplus) [this isn't posted on-line but is available for members to examine], the resignation of the committee and election of a new committee. It was proposed by Pete Adshead, and seconded from the floor, that the committee be re-elected *en-bloc*. All members of the committee were amenable to this and passed unanimously.

It was proposed from the chair that Arthur Davies's position as President be amended to be Life President and approved unanimously.

Many expressions of gratitude to Arthur for his contribution to the society from its inception and a number of suggestions of a tangible form of gratitude were made. The committee will follow this up and report back to the society.

There were a number of announcements:

- A conference at Exeter University is being held on 21st March 2020. Details at spaceexe.org
- Jo Richardson has asked for some help with a school presentation. Ken Honour took this up
- The CPRE Star Count will take place between 21st and 28th February. Details at CPRE.org.uk
- There is a very pretty near conjunction on the morning of the 18th (the morning before our next meeting) with Mars near Jupiter and a crescent moon below them. Low in the SSE at around 5am.

Terry gave a presentation on the dismantling of Arthur's observatory, which was done in record time before Storm Dennis unleashed its full fury on the Somerset countryside! We hope that the new owner, Alan Snook of SEKAS, will be able to make good use of the observatory to house his refurbished 14" Newtonian / Cassegrain.

In the second half, we had a very different talk to the usual fare. Tim Wetherell, of Exmoor Stagazers in Minehead, talked about his building of Victorian style telescopes and an appropriate observatory to host his latest 180mm refractor. The attention to detail required in such an undertaking was obvious and (having been in the observatory) I can vouch for the success of the design and implementation.

Next month's talk will be by Dr Claire Davies from Exeter University on The Formation of Stars and Planetary Systems. This is an area where ideas are changing so it should be very interesting.