

CADAS Chairman's Report 2020

When I went for my telescope servicing trip to Australia in February 2020 I only had the faintest glimmerings of what the year would bring to the world and to CADAS. While we were debating whether to cancel the March 2020 meeting, Australia and continental Europe were closing down, soon to be followed by the UK. By the time I returned from a cancelled Melbourne Grand Prix the supermarket shelves were well nigh empty and the UK was "locked down" by the weekend. At least it made the decision as to whether to cancel the April meeting moot!

Since then, we've gone through hundreds of thousands of deaths across the world and an economic collapse not seen since the Great Winter of 1709. Thankfully, medical science has galloped over the hill on its charger and produced therapies and vaccines which will – I hope – limit the deaths and suffering in the months and years to come.

In the meantime, no meetings of any kind have been possible and I don't think anyone expected the hiatus to go on as long as it has done. Perhaps we may be able to re-start things in the autumn of 2021!

During the year, sadly, Arthur Davies passed away. He will be remembered as a great contributor to CADAS and his gift of the observatory means that we will be able to weather the hiatus of 20-21 – financially at least.

I hope that my next report in 2022(!) will be of more normal and cheerier things and we'll be back to busy meetings and slices of carrot cake.