

A New Year and, possibly, a lot more confidence that the worst of the Covid epidemic is behind us. Certainly a good turnout for January's meeting where we were very much entertained by Kate Earl talking about "Stowaways" on spacecraft. She mentioned a large number of strange little (and not so little) artefacts that people have put on their spacecraft with nothing to do with the main mission. These ranged from the well known (like the famous Voyager record) to the less well publicised (like some objects taken to the moon and returned for sale!). A very different talk to our usual fare but very well presented and received.

After the break we had some images including a series of Comet Leonard and of the JWST on its way to its station at the Sun-Earth L2 point. Stuart did the monthly "what's to see in the sky" talk followed by the welcome return of Bob Mizon who looked at some of the interesting objects visible in the winter sky.

A couple of points to note:

Somerset Levels Stargazers are running a special meeting as part of Dark Sky Week on Sunday April 24th at Othery (speakers to include Bob Mizon and Jo Richardson)

The CPRE Star Count will take place at the end of February to try to get data on the levels of light pollution. Full details at <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/> .