

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Held on Friday, November 11th, 2011 at 1930hrs
in Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium

Chairman, Barry Hetherington, welcomed approximately 40 members and opened the meeting at 1930 hours.

1. Notices

i) Ed announced that a lecture would be given by Sir Arnold Wolfendale at Teesside University this coming Thursday, 17th November, 2011. Although it's free (as is parking), booking is required via the website link and all of the information can be found at http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/whats_on/events_details.cfm?event_id=3937

Parking is available free of charge in the Sage car park (~~P9 on the attached map~~).

ii) Alex reported on a recent Committee meeting when the annual subscription was discussed. Following the mandate at the last AGM, the Committee is recommending that the subs for 2011 should be £12 senior, £20 Family and £8 Student and Junior. This will be applied as from January, 2012. A form for paying the sub before January will be sent out by email or in Transit, to mitigate the usual rush at the January meeting. Members were asked to return the forms and subs as soon as possible.

iii) Neil handed an information pack to one new member. He announced that CaDAS had won the Thomas Wright Trophy at the October meeting at Durham University Students Union. He also gave (short!) notice of a meeting in Leeds tomorrow, when a series of lectures would be given through the day, including one by Dr Alan Chapman.

2 Lecture for the Evening - Martin Dawson, of York AS, 'How to Restore a Telescope'.

Martin gave a very informal and amusing talk on his adventures in restoring a Prinz 660 3 ins refractor on an EQ4 mount. His philosophy is that optics, even at this advanced level, should be fun and enjoyable. A project that began as an economical, self-financed, hands-on, minor engineering project started with the purchase of a metal-working lathe at £750! Using various parts from motor cycles, jacuzzi pumps and other unlikely sources, Martin described and illustrated how an apparently new refracting telescope and mount emerged from items which would have been disposed of in other circumstances.

This magnificent effort, and its impressive results, obviously touched the urge to make optical things in other people in the audience and there was a lively discussion and question session.

3. Vote of Thanks and Closure of the Meeting

Reluctantly, the Chairman ended the exchanges and proposed the vote of thanks to Martin Dawson, closing the meeting at 2030.

13/11/2011

AM