

AAS : AGM 2016

Webmaster

The ownership of the website and account have now been passed over from John Mallett, who has moved to Sussex, to KCH.

Many thanks to John for setting up and looking after the website for us and also for being willing to provide ongoing advise if necessary.

We currently have a total of 79 valid email addresses registered as "Public Subscribers".

Earlier this year there were 173 email addresses added to the "Registered Subscribers" list. This list are those persons that can post on the site and there should only be 5 names on it. Of the 173 some 58 were from Russian accounts and 109 from .com accounts. The company who host our account, daily.co.uk, could not explain what had happened but it is presumed that these additions were a mistake or an attack and they were all deleted.

In the last 12 months there have been on average, according to the site statistics, 50 website visits per day, equivalent to over 18,000 for a full year. Currently we are getting around 50/90 visits and 100/300 page views per day.

Cosmology

There were a total of 8 Cosmology Group meetings since the 2015 AGM. Topics covered were:-

- Black Holes : Do they mark the edge of Space? – Basics plus a look at Polchinski's theory
- How did we end up here? : a brief look at the evolution of, and possible futures for the cosmos.
- The Biocentric Universe : looking at the alternative cosmology theories of Robert Lanza MD.
- Gravitons : What are they & do they exist? – a quick look at the development of gravitational theory.
- Current & Near future Propulsion Technologies
- Spectroscopy for beginners : Looking at the theory, practice and interpretation of astronomical spectra.
- Telescopes – ALMA to Fermi : why do we need all these different types of telescope and what can they tell us about the origins, evolution and structure of the cosmos?
- The Cosmological Principle : Is it broken?

In addition we have introduced a "News" item at the start of the meeting picking up half a dozen recent Cosmology/Astronomy stories that may be of interest.

Ideas for topics members would like to see discussed in the future always welcome.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: AGM 2016

We have had a variety of Guest Speakers this year, starting off with:

September: Andy Burns and Herschel

October: Jonathan Davies was supposed to be giving us a talk but went to Namibia – so Nick very kindly stepped in.

November: Rhodri Evans on SOFIA (not Lauren) Airborne Astronomy.

December: Xmas Party at Plas Derwen – great Quiz, great company, food excellent and a fun night.

January: Paul Roach on Gaia – the Billion Star Surveyor.

February: Ray Cassaar on Measuring the Universe.

March: AGM & Nick on how to photograph the Moon

April: Keith Mosley MARS subject to be confirmed.

May: Mike Edmunds on Great Quasar Debate

June: Helen Usher to be confirmed.

End of Year

We had a very unsettled time with regard to a “home” for Abergavenny Society.

The Kings Arms were going to charge £30 a meeting for the use of their room which I and the rest of the committee thought was excessive. Thus starting the search for a new “base”.

The Hen and Chicks were very accommodating and did everything in their power to make our time with them a very pleasant one. However, the access to the top room via a very narrow spiral stair case was very dangerous and this was highlighted when a member lost their footing and had a small tumble down the stairs. This meant a new venue needed to be found asap.

Quite a few locations were approached, visited and found to be unsuitable as having no private rooms or again charging for the space.

We have found the Kings Arms who at the present time have been very obliging to us and our needs with **no room hire fee**. All they want is members to participate with a few drinks from the bar. All feedback on this venue would be appreciated.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

AS AT 21 MARCH 2016

Opening Balance FEB 2016	1830.32		
Income: Attendance Fee		Expenditure	
12 October	10.00		
26	20.00		
9 November	8.00	Travel Expenses 23 Nov	25.00
23	16.00		
11 January '16	13.00		
25	10.00		
8 February	10.00		
22	14.00		
7 March	<u>8.00</u>		
	109.00		
Late Xmas Party	<u>45.00</u>		
TOTAL CASH	154.00		
LESS TRAVEL EXP.	<u>25.00</u>		
TOTAL CASH IN HAND	129.00		
TOTAL INCOME	1959.32		

- Please note last 5 months accounts from OCTOBER 2015

Summary of Major Income & Expenditure 2015

- Income received from Waitrose Appeal £330.00
- Expenditure on Projector 7/8/15 £189.99
- Expenditure on Screen 24/8/15 £ 39.96
- LOSS Christmas Party £ 40.00

