

## Minutes of Bath Astronomers Coordination Team Meeting

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at Herschel Museum



- 1) Bath Astronomers (BA) Coordination Team Members present were:  
Martin Farrell (MF), Meyrick Williams (MW), Primula Pike (PP), Simon Holbeche (SH), Julia Matthews (JM)  
Apologies: None. All present
- 2) The minutes of coordination team meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved.
- 3) Prior actions.
  - a) **No Progress:** The two proposed quiz nights previously discussed will now be merged into a single proposed event to be explored. **Action PP**
- 4) Team discussion:
  - a) Current balance is £4,792.37 with outstanding invoices of £1,060.00.
  - b) Membership now stands at 121
  - c) Members and Public observing: The weather has beaten us recently on planned events. There is an appetite for ad hoc observing sessions instigated through WhatsApp. This is to be encouraged
  - d) We agreed that we would not do a star count this year as CPRE are not running a national count.
  - e) We have no volunteers yet for presentation at the members night. We need around 5 people. MW thinking about "Weather on Earth and other planets", PP thinking about "Meteorite, types and fakes".
  - f) Messier Marathon. We decided to keep the event agile, so no booking a formal venue – use Monkton instead. Planned for 8<sup>th</sup> March. If weather forecast is not good then use WhatsApp (and email as only 30 members on WhatsApp) to delay to the 9<sup>th</sup> or the 10<sup>th</sup> as weather forecasts permit. **Action SH**
  - g) Agreed to reimburse SH for £825 for astro kit purchased last year for solar equipment which exists as a liability on current accounts. **Action SH**
  - h) It was agreed we should fund a storage shed at Monkton to make the 16" Mitch more accessible. About £1,000 until Monkton School reimburse us. **Action SH**
  - i) Insurance – mobile kit. No progress made. **Action SH**
  - j) It was agreed to stick with membermojo even with their price increase and not change the way cards are produced and distributed.
  - k) We need ideas for speakers as last booking is in June. Members need to think about candidates from interaction at: Astrofest, Blogs, Podcasts etc. **Action ALL**
  - l) It was agreed to consider/switch to Ticketpass instead of Eventbrite for ticketing. **Action SH**
- 5) Outreach:
  - a) For British Science Week 2024: **Action PP**
    - a. We should plan for a social and quiz night (roll in point 3. Above).
    - b. Dates are from 8-17 March 2024.
    - c. Free event
    - d. We could run the event at BRLSI, BA will fund the event.
  - b) Investigate running a Solar observing event in Queen Square and have an BA Member art exhibition and potentially sale in the BRLSI. **Action ALL**
- 6) AOB
  - a) Shall we have a social event with the BRLSI? Marks & Sparks do sandwiches!!!
  - b) Wells and Mendip Astronomers are planning a trip to Greenwich, should we do a similar event? Greenwich, Jodrell Bank. Coord Team to think of ideas using existing transport routes to get to astronomy sites of interest. **Action ALL**
  - c) We could update the image used on our membership cards. Members could submit their images via WhatsApp or the BA email account and then have a vote on which to use. **Action SH**
  - d) Welcome to our new Treasurer Julia Matthews.

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- e) Julia Matthews (newly appointed Treasurer) is to be added as a signatory to the Bath Astronomers' current(43766236) and savings(43766228) Metro Bank accounts. Julia is to be given online access to these accounts. Simon Holbeche's and Martin Farrell's access to the Metro Bank accounts remains unchanged. The practices of not issuing bank cards and allowing just one signatory per transaction remain unchanged.

**Action SH JM**

- f) Bath Astronomers accounts use Zoho, a free online accounts package. JM needs to be trained on its use.

**Action SH JM**

7) **Next meeting – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at 7.00pm at PP's house.