

Coordinator's Report April 2022

Another year has passed without members being able to meet in person. However, it seems that the long wait is over. We are opening the doors again for our AGM meeting on April 9th.

After two years of the Covid pandemic and restrictions, it will be good to see people in person. Not that Covid has completely disappeared, but at least the severity of it seems to be waning and we are having to learn to live with it.

It has not been an easy year for the Society, but our membership numbers seem to be holding up pretty well, even though activities have been curtailed. I do thank you all for sticking with us throughout these difficult times.

We have managed to continue our monthly meetings with a variety of interesting speakers, conducting their talks via Zoom. Attendances have typically been similar to attendances in the hall. We did exceed fifty when Chris Lintott gave the talk.

I look forward to a renewed and invigorated membership who are keen to take part in astronomical activities in the year ahead.

We are sad to be losing some committee members at this AGM. Some of these, like Callum Potter and Malcolm Mitchell have served the Society for a great many years and we must all thank them for the long and loyal service they have given. They will be sorely missed. Callum, who has acted in several committee positions over the years is, as many of you will know, planning on moving to Orkney this year. We wish him every happiness there, dark skies and plenty of aurorae. I do hope he will continue to send us some photos from his new base.

Malcolm has been membership secretary for as long as I can remember and we are very much indebted to him for all his efforts. It is also sad that we are losing Rachel Coburn as our Events Organiser and I would like to thank her for the great and efficient work she has done in obtaining speakers over the last couple of years.

I am deeply indebted to all of the committee for the help and support they have given me throughout these difficult times. I do hope other members are prepared to step up and help us at this time. Without the vacant roles being filled, we won't have a fully functioning committee. This could seriously impact on the future progress and running of the Society. So, for the future of CAS, please let me know how you can help.

We have made a number of small changes to the Constitution to account for the way Society now operates. The impact of Covid has hastened the need to do this. We will no longer produce paper copies of Mercury and articles previously published in Mercury will be available on the website. This will make them easier to access and allow them to be archived for future reference in a simpler way.

As we resume our monthly meetings in the hall, members will be able to enjoy improved audio-visual facilities with a very large screen. I do hope the year ahead will see a return to normality, at least to some degree, and I look forward to meeting you all again in person.

Neil Havard (Coordinator)