

Minutes of 25 <sup>th</sup> AGM		FAS	
<b>Date:</b>	23 Sep 2024	<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Bobby Manoo</b>
<b>Time:</b>	19:00 GMT	<b>Secretary:</b>	Asra Jilani
<b>Venue:</b>	NMM Lecture Theatre	<b>Author:</b>	Bobby Manoo

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## Introduction

- Bobby welcomed participants in the theatre.
- There was confirmation that a quorum had been reached with at least 85 members in attendance and the AGM was called to order by the Chair.
- Apologies for absence were sent in by Christopher Sutcliffe, Adrian Challinor, Roger Geeson and Mark Jeffery.
- There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the previous AGM which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There was agreement by show of hands to accept the minutes.
- Bobby made reference to the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM Address Video which was shared to the membership previously. He urged members to view this to get all the relevant updates to our events and activities. The full set of slides are provided in the appendix.
- The link to the video is provided here: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/1008194605>

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## Lectures and Talks Team

- Bobby indicated that all 10 Main Lectures for this season are already planned and scheduled. A list of all the speakers and most of the titles can be found on the website.
- Over 5 History of Astronomy speakers have also been scheduled and these have also been updated on the website.
- A list of all the speakers for the Main Lectures and History of Astronomy talks were presented to the audience.

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## Observing Sessions

Bobby reported the following in terms of plans for Observing sessions:

- Blackheath
  - After successfully trialing two sessions per month with backup dates for the Blackheath observing sessions, we will continue with this format for this season.
- Solar Observing
  - We will continue members' observing and also public sessions

- ROG Observing  
Dates and schedules are being worked on and to be published

Bobby thanked all the Volunteers who have helped across all the observing sessions over the past season and look forward to continued interests in the next season. The responses to the call for volunteers have been excellent this season with over 30 volunteers being registered across all the observing events.

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## Workshops and Events Team

The following was reported for Workshops, the dates and venues to be confirmed:

- Astrophotography Workshop
- Telescope Workshop
- Electronically Assisted Astronomy (EAA) using Raspberry Pi.
- Other interesting ideas coming ...

Consideration will be given to host a few Trips for members

- Visit to UK Observatories etc will continue this season

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## FAS Committee

Bobby indicated that some of the committee members will be standing down this season and thanked all of them for their hard work and commitment to FAS over the years.

### Adrian Challinor

Joined the Committee in 2020 and has managed the email and social media duties in FAS. He was also the membership secretary and worked with the museum to organise all of the membership details. Adrian has now taken up a new professional role which is partly based overseas.

### Tom Riley

Joined the Committee in 2023 and is now off to University. During his short time on the committee, Tom has helped to draw up an outreach program for young adults and made suggestion for our social media presence. We wish Tom the very best in his academic pursuits.

The following persons will therefore be proposed for Election:

#### Officers for Election:

Bobby Manoo – Chair  
Simon Hurst – Vice Chair

#### New Members for Election:

##### Richard Summerfield

Richard has been a co-opted member on the Flamsteed committee for just over a year. He has been very much involved with Blackheath observing sessions and assistant organiser for our Solar Observing sessions. He has also assisted on our workshops on telescopes, astrophotography and EAA.

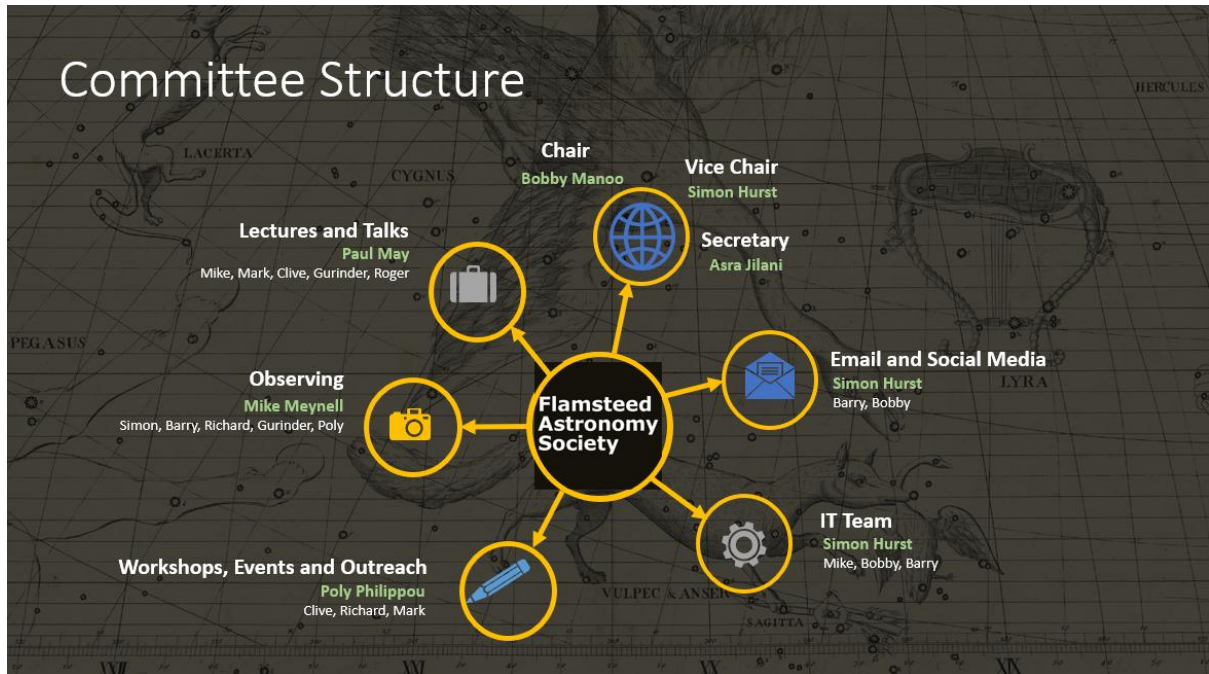
##### Phil Benson

Phil is a recently retired university academic specialising in Geophysics and Seismology and has a PhD in Rock Physics (UCL). He is also a Chartered Physicist and a Fellow of the RAS. Phil has a working career spanning posts in Canada, Germany and Switzerland. He returned to the UK about 14 years ago and re-discovered a 40 year old 8" Newtonian in his Dad's attic. His interest in astronomy was therefore

rebooted and he is now focusing a lot of attention into narrowband imaging of emission nebulae - with modern equipment of course.

Bobby presented a photo gallery of pictures taken across all the main events over the last 12 months. This included all the talks, trips, observing sessions including public engagements, workshops and social events. The photo gallery was well received by the membership.

The Overall Committee Structure was presented as shown below:



- The structure consists of five coordinators working together with the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Bobby thanked the Committee for the work done over the past year.

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## ELECTIONS

Bobby passed back to the host, Paul May to moderate the election of officers and new committee members.

### Election of Officer - Chair

- The election of the Chair was proposed by Helen Edwards and was seconded by Bill O'Brien
- The vote was unanimous and there were no objections.

### Election of Officer – Vice Chair

- The election of the Vice Chair was proposed by Tej Dyal and was seconded by Malcolm Beckford.
- The vote was unanimous and there were no objections.

### Election of new Committee Members

- The election of the Committee was proposed by Helen Edwards and was seconded by Tej Dyal.

- The vote was unanimous and there were no objections.

The new committee and officers were congratulated and best wishes extended.

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**AOB**

- There were no AOB's recorded for this meeting.

Bobby congratulated the Committee members and thanked the members for the confidence placed in managing the affairs of the Society.

The AGM was brought to a close at 19:30

## Appendix – Presentation from AGM Video

# 25<sup>th</sup> AGM Chair's Statement




**Flamsteed  
Astronomy  
Society**

**Bobby Manoo**  
Chair  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

## Contents

- Flamsteed Events
  - Lectures and Talks
  - Observing Events
  - Workshops and Trips
  - Outreach
- Administration Items
- Committee Members
  - Outgoing Members
  - New Members to be elected



## Lectures and Talks

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024 Season	Planned	Completed
Main Lectures - (Paul May, Mike Meynell)	10	10
History of Astronomy - (Mark Jeffery)	6	6
Special Talk –Members Book Evening - (Mark Jeffery)	1	1

- Excellent season of main lectures with attendance nearing full capacity for many of these events. The shift in venue from Lecture Theatre to Queen's House was smooth with attendance continuing to reach over 80.
- Good feedback from members who presented short talks (Sky this month / Astronomy News) at the start of each of the main lectures.
- We have had the most HoA speakers this season in the history of FAS.
- Book evening was encouraging and we will continue to explore options to build on members' interest.

## Speakers last Season

**Main Lectures:**  
*Dr Stuart Clark*  
*Dr Emma Curtis-Lake*  
*Prof Gareth Collins*

**HoA:**  
*Dr Jane Clark*      *Prof Sarah Matthews*  
*Dr Wolfgang Steinckle*      *Prof Michele Dougherty*  
*Charles Draper*      *Dr Tim Davis*  
*Richard Westwood*      *Prof Chris Lintott*  
*Paul Wright*      *Prof Stephen Smartt*  
*Bill Barton*      *Prof Cathryn Mitchell*



## Lectures and Talks

### • Sep 2024 – Aug 2025 Season

- Main Lectures
  - 10 Talks planned
- HOA Sessions
  - 5+ Talks planned
- Special Talks
  - Astro News and Sky this Month talk will be continued and members can continue to register their interests.
  - Member's Talk will be held this year.

## Speakers proposed for this season:

### HoA:

Mary Dooley

Simon Nosworthy

Rob Peeling

Frank Dutton

Prof Ofer Lahav

Dr Sanchez Jannsen

Dr Ingrid Pelisoli

Prof Lewis Dartnell

Curator Louise Devoy

### Main Lectures:

Dr Megan Argo

Dr Matt Bothwell

Prof Andy Bunker

Prof Andrew Coates

Prof Sanjeev Gupta

## Observing Sessions

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024 Season	Planned	Completed
Blackheath Observing (Sep – Apr) - (Mike Meynell)	10	9
Great Equatorial Telescope (GET) Observing - (Gurinder Lall, Barry Cassels)	5	5
Public Solar Observing (May – Aug) - (Mike Meynell)	12	9

### • Blackheath Sessions:

- Planned to run a total of 10 sessions (2 for Sep and Oct; 1 each for the other 6 months) with 20 backup dates over this period. As such, we actually organised and resourced volunteers for 30 potential dates.
- January was the only month where none of the dates were possible.
- Over the 9 completed sessions, we had an estimate of around 400 visitors.

### • GET Sessions:

- Out of the 5 GET sessions at the ROG, 4 of them had reverted to plan B with a planetarium show as viewings through the GET was not possible due to bad weather. The average attendance was over 20 members.

### • Public Solar Observing (at the ROG):

- We have planned 12 sessions with 12 backup dates and have successfully ran 9 of them with 3 cancellations.
- Response for volunteers have been fantastic with 33 members registering to volunteer and we have had at least 10 volunteers per session.
- Feedback from the public has been fantastic with over 3,500 visitors over all the sessions.

## Special thanks to our Observing Volunteers

Alec Knox	Katie Meynell	Riya Gujarathi
Bobby Manoo	Leslie Stephens	Simon Hurst
Catherine Kimmel	Manish Patel	Stanley Payne
Clive Inglis	Mark Seaton	Steve James
David Frank	Matthew Ayres	Tej Dyal
Delia Coggan	Mike Meynell	Thomas Morris
Eddie Cantello	Paul May	Thomas Obitz
Helen Edwards	Paul Wright	Tim Rickard
Helena Murphy	Phil Benson	Tom Riley
Joannis Frangoullides	Poly Philippou	Tony Milon
John Harries	Richard Summerfield	Yvonne Jacobs

## Observing Sessions

### Sep 2024 – Aug 2025 Season

- Blackheath Observing
  - 2 sessions per month for Sep and Oct; 1 session per month from Nov to Apr
  - Total of 10 sessions with sufficient backup
  - Target Saturday evenings with Sunday (or following weekend) as backups
  - We will use a volunteer schedule for members as was done with Solar Viewings.
- Solar Observing
  - We will continue public solar observing sessions from next summer (May to Aug)
- GET Observing
  - Dates and schedules are being worked on and to be published
- Other Observing Sessions
  - Observing opportunities to other sites are being planned

## Workshops

Sep 2022 – Aug 2023 Season	Presenters	Attendance
Introduction to Telescopes	Mike Meynell	22
Astrophotography – a beginners guide	Mike Meynell	19
Citizen Science	Mark Jeffery	22
Electronically Assisted Astronomy with a R-Pi	Bobby Manoo, Richard Summerfield	18

- Organised by Clive Inglis
- Special thanks to all the members who have assisted in these workshops by bringing equipment and assisting with demonstrations and discussions. The interactions in all the workshops have been noted as being very helpful to participants.

## Events

Sep 2022 – Aug 2023 Season	Attendance
Trip to UCL Observatory	32
Trip to Jodrell Bank	34
Special members' evening for the Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition	50+
Christmas Social Event at the Trafalgar Pub	34
Summer Social Event at the Old Brewery	25

- Organised by Poly Philippou

## Outreach Events

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024 Season – Youth Organisations Outreach	Attendance
Bromley Girl Guides	30
1 <sup>st</sup> Plaistow Rangers	12
Bromley Scouts	40
Sep 2022 – Aug 2023 Season – Senior Citizens / Public Outreach	Attendance
Astrofest 2024 with RMG	1000+
Morden College (for senior citizens)	40
Archaeological Festival at ROG	500+

- Organised by Poly Philippou, Richard Summerfield
- For Astrofest and the Archaeological Festival, we worked with and represented the ROG.



## Workshops and Events

- **Sep 2024 – Aug 2025 Season**
  - Workshops with dates and venues to be confirmed
    - Astrophotography Workshop
    - Telescope Workshop
    - EAA using Raspberry Pi.
    - Other interesting ideas coming ...
  - More exciting Trips for members
    - Including visits to other UK Observatories

## IT Team

- **Managed by Simon Hurst:**
  - Team Effort continues between FAS and RMG to improve on the experience at the Lecture Theatre / Queen's House and recordings of our talk!

### FAS TEAM :

- Simon Hurst
- Bobby Manoo
- Mike Meynell
- Barry Cassels
- Adrian Challinor

### ROG TEAM :

- Richard Shields
- Chris Kruger
- Sarah Foster

## Administration - Membership

- **Managed by Adrian Challinor:**
  - Overall increase in active membership from last year
    - 476 to 484 exlapsed
  - We have had consistent increases in Single and Joint membership over the last 5 years.
  - Thanks to the ROG membership team: Chloe Shepherd, Sarah Foster, Charlotte Geary (Charlie), Lorena Munoz Ratia.



## Administration

- **Contributions for Sep 2023-Aug 2024**
  - FAS has made an overall positive financial contribution to the Museum and we have managed to keep our costs under budget.
- **Contributions for Sep 2024 – Aug 2025**
  - Funding will be directed more towards Main Lecture costs, Workshops, Observing events and continuation of trips and remote observing opportunities.



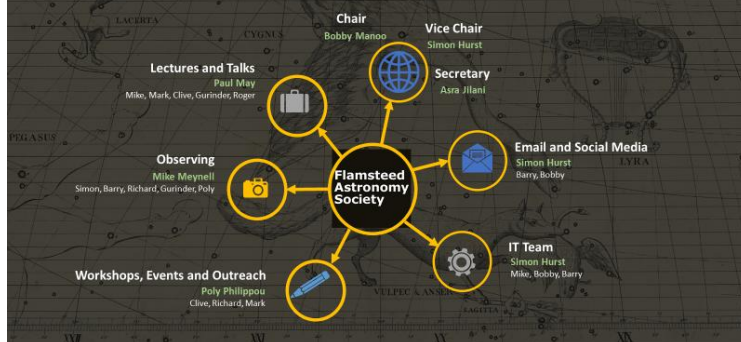
## Outgoing Committee Members

- **Adrian Challinor**
  - Joined the Committee in 2020 and has managed the email and social media duties in FAS. He was also the membership secretary and worked with the museum to organise all of the membership details. Adrian has now taken up a new professional role which is partly based overseas.
- **Tom Riley**
  - Joined the Committee in 2023 and is now off to University. During his short time on the committee, Tom has helped to draw up an outreach program for young adults and made suggestion for our social media presence. We wish Tom the very best in his academic pursuits.

## Committee Members for election

- **Officers for Election**
  - Bobby Manoo – Chair
  - Simon Hurst – Vice Chair
- **New Members for Election**
  - Richard Summerfield
  - Phil Benson

## New Committee Structure



Thank you for watching!

