

Minutes of the William Herschel Society Committee Meeting held at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.15pm

(Note. The next scheduled Meeting is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy commencing 7.15pm)

Present: C Draper (CD), Chairman; R Holbeche (RH), Treasurer; S Holbeche (SH), Membership; F Schlesinger (FS); B Robertson (BR); M Tabb (MT); Claire Dixon (CD2), BPT Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Museums; Joe Middleton (JM), Herschel Museum Administrator and J Foreman (JF), Minutes Secretary.

1. Apologies and Welcome

Prof F Ring (FR), Editor; A Symes (AS); Dr M Spring (MS) and Dr S Davies (SD). CD welcomed those present, especially CD and JM who were attending their first meeting. There followed introductions by members of the Committee.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

CD referred to the minutes and explained that there had been on this occasion email exchanges post the meeting to clarify certain points regarding some issues discussed and these was reflected in the minutes. He asked if there were any amendments required? There were none.

Attention was drawn to the Action Table. Most Actions covered under Agenda items but some require comments here.

AS to access website when JF not available and download WordPress software. JF explained that he pays £72.12 plus £18.78 (payment scheme exchange rate as the software is American), a total of £90.90. JF added that he does use the software for his own website creation. CD commented that nevertheless, there should be part payment by the Society. SH remarked that WordPress is used by Bath Astronomers for free. It was agreed that JF should discuss further with SH and RH. **See Action Table**

JF referred to an Action from a previous meeting regarding making contact with a new member, Saire Herschel, and to ascertain if she was related to the Herschel Family. Saire has eventually made contact with JF through the WHS Facebook Group and has confirmed that she is related. Through Facebook exchanges, Saire added that her degree thesis was on William Herschel and she had some time ago stayed with the Herschel-Shorlands and accessed their Herschel archives. She would have attended the AGM but is unable due to work commitments but hopes to attend next year.

3. Museum

JM opened by talking about the administrative aspect of the Museum. The Museum had opened for the year in February instead of January to be in line with other BPT properties. The top flat has been refurbished and would shortly be put on the market and would be another source of income. The refurbishments would also improve the Museum overall and was also up to Health and Safety standards. The next big event would be "Women in Space" starting on March 24<sup>th</sup>; he added that all Committee members should have received their invites to the private viewing on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Regarding other events he emphasised that the Museum would be collaborating with the Society beginning with the lecture on April 5<sup>th</sup> at BRLSI. There would also be observing nights for the solstice and lunar eclipse.

CD2 followed on by presenting the wider picture. The Museums and Education Committee would be meeting next week and would have a new Chairman. There would be discussion at the Committee regarding Museum Advisory Committees; presently the Herschel Museum and Beckford Tower have one and there was a need to develop such committee for No1 Royal Crescent. CD2 went on to talk about research programmes and student placements. CD asked where the placements came from and she replied that these came from Universities that have placement schemes. The students would be at least 3<sup>rd</sup> year or post grad.

New Museum Strategy and Forward Plans have been written with accreditations.

CD2 spoke of the programme for the years ahead:

2018 – 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

2019 – Photography and the link between Herschel and infra-red discovery and the role of space photography. No 1 Royal Crescent would be covering life before photography (the caricature, the portrait)

2020 – There would continue to be an involvement with the RAS and its anniversary. Also the theme of Enlightenment across the four Museums.

2021 – Music in Bath

2022 – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bath Blitz. CD2 commented that she understood New King was affected so there was a story to be told here.

#### 4. AGM Review

CD commented that the format of having a lecture the evening before and the AGM on the Saturday was the best way to organise even though on this occasion, the bad weather prevented the Friday evening lecture. On the matter of refreshments, BR explained that due to the bad weather, the delivery of the planned refreshments to Marks and Spencers had not been possible and therefore M&S agreed with BR a substitute supply from in store. M&S subsequently offered a full refund as a piece of goodwill. BR added that he would reimburse the Treasurer on receipt of the £79.50 refund. BR suggested that those who paid for the buffet should benefit. This was not agreed. CD2 suggested for next year using the M&S deliver to site arrangement; this could be to either to the Museum or perhaps BRLSI.

Regarding production of the AGM minutes, BR commented that these were underway. As for the future, JF volunteered to take on the role of minutes taker.

BR raised the matter of the committee lists he was preparing as a rhe should be included and the importance of being in compliance with the new legal requirements. JF suggested the use of email forwarders where appropriate and this was agreed. SH emphasised the rule of "need to know" and this needed to be applied to whoever held the lists. CD added that BR should be sent any corrections.

Regarding the AGM papers, CD commented that he considered the Chairman's Report and what it contained plus other reports as sufficient.

CD referred to the talk that Will H-S was going to give on the Herschel Archives. He suggested that it was not necessary to wait until next year's AGM for Will to give the talk. CD2 commented that this could be fitted into the Herschel Museum programme and could be during a weekend. CD agreed to discuss with Will.

Regarding the date for next year's AGM, CD confirmed he would discuss a suitable date with Allan Chapman. **See Action Table**

## 5. Chairman's Report

CD announced that he had two matters to cover under his report.

Preparations for advertising the Caroline Herschel Prize Lectureship was almost complete. JF has set up a page on the website in preparation and it only remains for the RAS to see if their website needs any change. The process will be an advert which will include a link to the WHS Lectureship page that will in turn have links to application forms in either Word or pdf format. Regarding advertising, CD added that he would be asking the RAS how much the charge would be to put an advert in the Institute of Physics Journal and then would refer to RH. Timescale would be for applications to be in by 30<sup>th</sup> April with the lecture being given at the Bath University in November. JM asked if putting an appropriate advert on the Museum would help to which CD replied of course yes.

There had been an interesting development on the Dark Skies initiative. Tom Harper would be putting together an educational film on Dark Skies which would emphasise the importance of this aspect of our environment. CD added that we would be helping with the funding for this project. MT mentioned the Bath Rugby development and the impact this would have on Bath Dark Skies. As reported at the AGM, MT has retired as our Dark Skies Commission representative and a replacement for him was needed.

## 6. Finance Report

RH reported that she is arranging change of cheque signatories with Lloyds Bank. Presently signatories are FS and Richard Philips; the latter has since died and confirmation of that was required by the bank. She added that signatories will now be CD and herself.

## 7. Membership Report

SH explained that "membermojo" was as of the AGM, now fully operational and added that there had been one sign-up during the prior pilot period. All the data held by FS had now been transferred. Under the new process emails would be sent to members in advance of account expiry. There had been contact with PayPal regarding charitable status and this had been followed up with further correspondence regarding a new rate. There were currently 244 members on "membermojo" with 36 either with Honorary or volunteer status and not required to pay. Presently of the 244, 15 are lapsing and he would be contacting these individuals. BR raised the matter of those paying by Standing Order and SH replied that these were early days regarding how those would be dealt with.

SH mentioned that the membership of SD had lapsed. CD agreed to contact Carole Mundell about a University of Bath representative. **See Action Table**

## 8. Journal

In the absence of FR, FS reported that Geoffrey Briggs had no more material he could provide, however there was one outstanding article from him that has not been published yet. FS added that we have until August for the next edition.

## 9. Lecture Programme

CD referred to the programme list that AS had recently sent both him and JF. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Dr Emily Winterburn. "Caroline Herschel and the nearly all male world of eighteenth century science." CD commented that he would have introduced this along with AS but would be away on this occasion. CD asked if CD2 would be introducing to which she replied either her or Amy Frost would be available.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Dr Roger Moses, "The Apprentice"

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Prof Mike Edmunds, "The Great Quasar Debate 1963-1984".

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Dr Daniel Batchelder, "Paler Blue Dots: Technology Developments on ISS for Finding Earth 2.0".

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September, Luke Lucas, "Mars Express, Mission Planning and Spacecraft Operations Engineer".

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October, Terry Ransome, "Beagle 2 or 60 years of Filton in Space".

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Caroline Herschel Lecture, Bath University.

#### 10. Observing Report

SH reported on events of the last two months. There had been one outing to Wellow with four in attendance. Regarding public Outreach, there had been one at Twerton Round Hill, one at Weston village with Brownies and a parents and kids event at Heywood Prep School Corsham. In total over 100 people had attended those events. Additionally, he had given a lesson to 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year students at Heywood Prep on gravity. In addition to Outreach, there had been two Bath Astronomers monthly meetings (as opposed to Workshops). There had also been a trip to Bristol Planetarium. Finally, tomorrow, SH added that he would be speaking at St Mary's Church in Freshford.

#### 11. Music

Due to the absence of MS, there was nothing to report.

#### 12. Website Report and communications update

JF reported that he had updated the website in accordance with the "membermojo" requirements as required by SH.

Regarding enquiries through the Contacts page of the website, a descendant of John Arden, Nicholas McGegan, and also a professional musician, mentioned that he had read FR's work with great interest and was wondering if there was more information about John Arden's time in Bath (he added Arden and Herschel seem to be very influential in the Bath Philosophical Society). This query was referred to the appropriate Committee members and dealt with.

JF referred to a previous enquiry as reported in the minutes of the previous Committee Meeting which MT had investigated regarding the number of telescopes William Herschel had made in his lifetime. As reported, the email address of the enquirer was apparently spurious, but nevertheless, MT's work on the matter was appreciated and could be useful in the future.

Regarding social media, adverts for Carole Mundell's "Big Bangs and Black Holes" lecture rescheduled for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March and Dr Emily Winterburns "Caroline Herschel" lecture had appeared on Facebook and Twitter. There were now 38 Facebook Group members (and increase of 2 since previous meeting) and 200 Twitter followers (an increase of 23 since previous meeting).

#### 13. AOB

BR referred to the rescheduled lecture "Big Bangs and Black Holes" to be given by Carole Mundell at King Edward's School on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. He commented that FR had been in touch with him regarding publicity for the event and emphasising that proceeds from the lecture would be going towards helping disadvantaged children enrol at the school.

JM referred to the imminent birthday celebrations for Caroline Herschel and commented that he would be speaking to SH regarding the use of social media. He added that using Twitter for such occasions resulted in many “likes” from followers.

RH queried which image of Caroline would be used and JM replied that a very generic one would be used with the text “Happy Birthday”.

SH raised the matter of GDPR (enhanced protection for personal data and how it is handled) and how it should be applied to AS’s additional people extended list of non-members. Post Meeting Note. Amy Frost of BPT is investigating GDPR guidance and we will be advised accordingly.

SH stated that FS has supplied a pdf proof of the Journal and that has been stored on “membermojo” and a link has been placed in the welcome email so that a version of the Journal can be viewed.

CD2 raised the subject of the undertaking of the preservation of Beckfords Tower. She referred to the importance of public consultation and added that the next consultation event would be held at Kingswood School on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm to 4pm. She emphasised that the undertaking was at the early stages of planning and it was important to involve as many groups as possible and asked for any ideas as to who should be approached. She added that it was intended to be a big Heritage Lottery Fund project and the Trustees would shortly be considering a formal approach to the HLF.

CD commented that the participation of CD and JM in today’s meeting was very welcome and asked how participation was expected at future meetings. CD and JM agreed that attendance would be on a rota basis.

Date of next meeting  
7 May

Remaining meeting dates 2018  
9 July  
10 September  
12 November

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Meeting raised	Description of action	Placed on	Status
17.7.17	To access website when JF not available. Download WordPress software. See further Action raised 12.3.18	AS	Ongoing
17.7.17	Identify possible speakers for WHS lecture programme when at Astrofest	CD	Ongoing
20.11.17	To source wine for 2018 AGM	CD	Complete
20.11.17	To carry out video/DVD conversions	MT	Ongoing
20.11.17	To investigate cost of producing blanks for 7ft telescope	MT	Ongoing
22.1.18	Proceed with new membership system	SH	Complete
22.1.18	Place copies of AGM papers on website	JF	Complete
22.1.18	Prepare finance report in time for AGM	FS	Complete
22.1.18	To organise refreshment arrangements for AGM	IM/BR	Complete
22.1.18	To collect monies for refreshments at AGM	FS	Complete
22.1.18	To notify Charities Commission regarding Society Trustees	FS	Ongoing
22.1.18	To introduce new Treasurer to Society’s auditor	FS	Complete
22.1.18	Prepare next edition of Journal	AS/FR/FS	Ongoing
22.1.18	To seek permission of those giving lectures for videos to be taken	AS	Ongoing

22.1.18	To send SH required information for a suitable file for 3D printer	MT	Complete
12.3.18	To investigate free access to WordPress software for AS	JF	
12.3.18	To discuss part payment of WordPress software cost accrued by JF with RH	JF	
12.3.18	To discuss date of 2019 AGM Allan Chapman	CD	
12.3.18	To discuss with Carole Mundell a suitable Bath University contact	CD	