

Minutes of the William Herschel Society Committee Meeting held at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy commencing 7.30pm

(Note. The next scheduled meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy commencing 7.30pm)

Present: C Draper (CDr), Chairman; R Holbeche (RH), Treasurer; S Holbeche (SH), Membership and Observing; A Symes (AS), Editor; F Schlesinger (FS); M Tabb (MT); C Dixon (CDi), BPT Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Museums; and Jim Foreman (JF), Secretary, Minutes Secretary and website manager.

1. Apologies and Welcome

CDr welcomed those present. Apologies received from Prof F Ring (FR) and J Middleton (JM), Herschel Museum Administrator.

CDr mentioned that during a recent visit to FR, he had been given several boxes of Herschel related stuff that FR considered may be of interest. CDr added that he had passed on to JM to look through. MT commented there might be items of particular interest to him. CDr suggested that he could also come along and examine the contents. MT added that he held a copy of Herschel's treatise on Harmony including an English translation and planned to digitise. FS wondered if there were any Bath University recordings held by FR (he only had No.1). CDr replied he would be visiting FR tomorrow. See Action Table.

CDr commented that Brian Robertson had left the committee and this was an opportunity to record our gratitude and appreciation of his sterling work over the years. This was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

CDr referred to the minutes and asked if there were to be any amendments. There were none. CDr took this opportunity to suggest that JF become officially recognised as the Secretary to the committee as several of his present duties were of a secretarial nature. This was agreed.

Attention was drawn to the Action Table. Actions requiring comments as follows (otherwise covered under the Agenda).

SH to let FS know how many members require Journal hard copies. SH commented that with the present arrangement, there were thirty plus spare copies which was quite an overspend as each copy cost approximately £3. He added that he would be happier if the surplus was five. AS commented that he would use three copies for sending to Journal contributors who were not members. CDr suggested maybe ten spare copies and this was agreed. See Action Table

AS draft letter for CDr to contact David Haywood re BRLSI copyright issues. AS commented that the situation regarding copyright and BRLSI was for the moment much less of an issue but would watch out for any future disagreements.

JM to forward "Museums Journal" link (regarding Caroline Herschel appearing front page). In the absence of JM, CDi commented that the magazine was a "members only" content and thus were not allowed to scan the page.

Committee to consider future custody of Society archives. CDr volunteered to store the boxes of archives but added that as they would be kept in the attic, would not be readily available for inspection.

### 3. Chairman's Report

A new Caroline Herschel Prize Lectureship was launched beginning of March with applications required by 30<sup>th</sup> April. So far there have been some enquiries and these are being dealt with. The new Chair of the panel, Diana Worrall, will decide how to deal with responses.

On the matter of Starlit Skies, preparations are in hand for the big event to be held at BRLSI on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 7.00pm, involving the main players and will decide on what can be done and what are the possibilities. CDr added that there was a need to decide how the cost of the event should be divided and this would have to be discussed with RH. Regarding the AGM, CDr thanked those who had helped make it a success. He asked if the committee was happy with the format. There was no dissent. The chosen AGM topic was well received and CDr remarked that we would need to choose another good topic for next year. CDr suggested Starlit Skies and CDi suggested RAS 200 as 2020 was the anniversary year. AS commented that Mike Edmunds had a lecture prepared on RAS 200 and was keen on giving it but added this would probably be a full lecture rather than a topic for the AGM. AS was asked to establish with Mike Edmunds the suitability for the AGM. See Action Table. On the matter of room cost, RH suggested finding a cheaper room. AS commented that Duncan room would be cheaper. There followed discussion on the most suitable date for the 2020 AGM. It was decided to go for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March with the lecture being held the evening before, 6<sup>th</sup> March. CDr agreed to check with Allan Chapman his availability and AS to check the availability of Duncan room. See Action Table. SH commented that starting the AGM at 11.30 would presumably incur paying additionally for the morning whereas starting at 1200, for example, would only incur paying for the afternoon. AS was asked to investigate the sessions arrangements with BRLSI. See Action Table.

Finally, CDr mentioned that Bob Fosbury, who had attended the AGM, indicated he would be happy to join the committee. CDr put this to the committee and it was agreed that he should join. JF was asked to include him on the revised committee list. See Action Table.

### 4. Finance Report

RH to her report. See Appendix. Accounts signed off by auditor. CDi asked who the auditor was as such a contact would be useful. RH agreed to forward details. See Action Table. RH emphasised that expense was greater than income due to cost of Journal and also, because of plans to spend on two projects this year, it would be necessary to move another £2k from the savings account to the current account. The committee agreed to the transfer.

RH asked JF for a copy of the invoice regarding his M&S AGM expenses for her records. See Action Table.

### 5. Membership Report

SH referred to his report. See Appendix. SH commented that there had been no "hard sells". There was an event this coming Wednesday at the Museum at which people would not be specifically asked to join.

### 6. Journal

AS reported that he would shortly be starting on the Autumn edition. He would be contacting Deepali Gaskell regarding a piece on the lecture she and Peter Ford gave. This and some other items would be a start plus the AGM minutes and reports.

## 7. Lecture Programme

AS apologised for not providing a report in advance but would circulate one shortly after the meeting. He commented that we are in a relatively good position and listed the lectures so far planned. For report, see Appendix.

AS expressed his concern that the title of the April lecture was not exciting enough to attract a good sized attendance and asked that committee members give some publicity to it if and when an opportunity arose.

There had been some suggestions from JM regarding three speakers who could talk on “moon” related topics. As these talks would be very similar, AS commented that he would have to make a choice. CDr suggested that SH could help with the selection to which SH agreed. See Action Table.

It had emerged that there was a requirement stipulated by BRLSI that each lecture should have two convenors, for example one taking the money and the other introducing the speaker. He added that there were a number of responsibilities following the end of a lecture, for example, check room is empty and projector switched off. AS was asked to provide a list of responsibilities. See Action Table.

SH referred to the requirement for a “float”. AS replied that BRLSI normally provided a “float” of £20 in coins; this to be returned after the lecture, also as coins.

CDr suggested that convenor/co-convenor arrangements could be sensibly decided on the night. This was agreed.

## 8. Museum

CDi gave an update. February had been the best ever with just over 1000 visitors that included school groups and stargazing events and generated £1000 in income. Sian Prosser, RAS Librarian, has offered details of potential speakers including Robert Massey who could talk on lunar landings and Chris Lee, Chief Scientist British Space Agency. CDi reminded the committee of the private view of the 2019 Exhibition that would be taking place at the Museum on Thursday March 21 commencing 6pm. She took the opportunity to formally thank the Society for the invitation extended to her and Amy Frost to speak at the AGM.

The Herschel Museum has been shortlisted for the Museums and Heritage Awards. The panel would be meeting mid-May. Regarding RAS 2020, Carole Mundell was the University contact and has put CDi in touch with those at the University who would be leading on the anniversary (and also the RAS). The Museum had a new sponsor, Space Flight magazine, and this would result in some money for the Museum. There had been a meeting with Chris Lee that could lead to financial support. Chris Lee’s team had made equipment for the Herschel Telescope and there was a great potential for future speakers and items the Museum could borrow. There was a future space programme, “Ice Giants”, that would involve missions to Uranus and Neptune. There was a possibility that the Museum, would be involved.

## 9. Observing Report

SH stated that there had been no observing sessions since the last meeting. There had been two BRLSI “Young Astronomers” sessions, both of which had been sold out and added that there was one every month now. There had also been a Bath Taps into Science event organised with Bath University. This coming Wednesday there would be an event at the Museum, “Getting to Grips with the Night Sky”. Bath Astronomers monthly meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and a telescope workshop at Tunley on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

CDr commented that Mike Edmunds had approached him regarding observing at Stonehenge at around 16<sup>th</sup> July and asked if we would be interested. SH agreed to reply to Mike Edmunds. See Action Table.

#### 10. Music

In the absence of MS, CDr commented that there was nothing to report. CDr asked RH if he had been in contact with her regarding any of the HMAP funding required. RH replied, no. RH added that MS would be aware of her email address as it would be included in email circulations. CDr agreed to contact to MS. See Action Table.

#### 11. Website Report and communications update

JF reported that there had been contact via the website Contacts page from a woman who lives in South Africa who has announced she is a direct descendant of the Herschels. She has emailed copies of her family tree that provides evidence of her lineage and these have been passed on to Will H-S for information and corroboration. With regard to social media, JF reported that the Facebook Group now had 53 members, and increase of 2 since the previous meeting, and the Twitter blog now had 282 followers, an increase of 10 since the last meeting.

#### 12. AOB

RH referred to the email circulated to the committee regarding the invitation from the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) to join their society mailing list so as to be informed of significant events, opportunities etc. There was some discussion as to whom should be point of contact. CDr suggested JF as he was now recognised as the Secretary for our Society. This was agreed. See Action Table.

MT mentioned that there had been two enquiries regarding building Herschel telescopes, one through CDi and the other through JM.

#### Future Meeting Dates 2019

13<sup>th</sup> May  
 15<sup>th</sup> July  
 9<sup>th</sup> September  
 11<sup>th</sup> November

Meeting raised	Description of action	Placed on	Status
10.9.18	To continue contact with Brad Elder re production blanks	MT	Ongoing
10.9.18	To take forward HFMP (see also Actions 14.1.19 below)	MS	Ongoing
12.11.18	To take on responsibilities for obtaining various reports for 2019 AGM and arrange refreshments	JF	Complete
14.1.19	To provide Journal key production dates	AS/FS	Ongoing
14.1.19	To let FS know how many members require Journal hard copies	SH	Complete
14.1.19	To meet to discuss production of Spring 2019 Journal	AS/FS	Complete
14.1.19	To write to Dr Brian May's publisher re possible speakers	AS	Complete
14.1.19	To draft letter for CDr to contact David Haywood re BRLSI copyright issues.	AS	Complete
14.1.19	To forward "Museums Journal" link (regarding Caroline Herschel appearing front page)	JM	Unable to do
14.1.19	To make proposal regarding HFMP maintenance (see Action 10.9.18 above)	MS	Ongoing
14.1.19	To investigate terms and conditions re HFMP scan sources (See Action 10.9.18 above)	MS	Ongoing
14.1.19	To contact Bob Draper of BRLSI re supply tea and coffee for AGM (further to 12.11.18 Action)	JF	Complete
14.1.19	To contact Japan Herschel Society re report for AGM	BR	Complete

14.1.19	To consider future custody of Society archives	Committee	Complete
14.1.19	To notify Committee of plans for Museum Herschel finds	JM	Ongoing
18.3.19	To enquire with FR if he held any University recordings	CDr	
18.3.19	To adjust number of spare Journals required	FS	
18.3.19	To investigate session arrangements with BRLSI for AGM 2020	AS	
18.3.19	To include Bob Fosbury on revised committee list	JF	
18.3.19	To provide RH with copy of invoice M&S AGM expenses	JF	
18.3.19	To assist AS with selection "moon" related topics	SH	
18.3.19	To provide list of BRLSI convenor responsibilities	AS	
18.3.19	To reply to Mike Edmunds regarding observing at Stonehenge	SH	
18.3.19	To contact MS regarding HMAP funding	CDr	
18.3.19	To inform FAS of Society point of contact	JF	

## Appendix

### Finance Report to Date 28/02/2018

Since last Committee Meeting:

- Accounts signed off by Auditor
- Expense greater than Income due to Journal
- Due to plans to spend in the two project this year plan to move another £2K from Savings to Current Account following agreement at meeting

### Main Accounts

Since last Committee Meeting: 31/12/2018 –28/02/2019

#### **INCOME**

<b>SUBSCRIPTION</b>	£499.00
<b>DONATION</b>	£63.00
<b>BATH ASTRO</b>	£28.00
<b>INTEREST</b>	£38.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	£628.68

#### **EXPENSE**

<b>JOURNAL (PRINT)</b>	£690.00	
<b>POSTAGE</b>	£130.52	Journal
<b>AGM</b>	£120.00	The Chapman's Expenses
<b>MISC.</b>	£66.37	Audit & Book for Review
<b>ONLINE PAYMENT</b>	£65.29	14 Transactions + Yearly Charge
<b>FED OF ASTRO SOC</b>	£58.00	Yearly Sub
<b>TOTAL</b>	£1130.18	

Reserves stand at (approx.): £14,371.65 as of 28/02/2018

*Caroline Herschel Prize Lectureship Funds*

**Expense:** none in this period

**Reserves:** £9507.47

## Membership Report to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019

37 expired memberships in last 12 months of which 17 since January.

	7 <sup>th</sup> July	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2018	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2019	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Total Membership	253	257	252	257	247	<b>243</b>

Expiry Year	Membership Type					Grand Total
	Individual (UK)	European Individual	Overseas Individual	Honorary	Volunteer HMoA (Hon)	
2019	134	5	12			151
2020	45	4	3			52
2021		1	1			2
2022			1			1
2023		1				1
2026	1					1
Unlimited				21	14	35
Grand Total	180	11	17	21	14	243

## Lecture Report to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Lectures since the report to the last committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January:

### **Fri 1 Feb 19 Dr Victoria Scowcroft**

Beacons in the Night: Mapping the Universe with Variable Stars. This lecture was rescheduled because of heavy snow. See below.

### **Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 19: Dr Chris North**

The WHS Annual Lecture – Herschel: A Space Observatory’s legacy.

This lecture echoed the theme of the Herschel Museum which is “Invisible Light” or infrared. Chris North took us through the development and positioning of the Herschel Space Observatory, its remarkable images which demonstrated the ability of infrared to penetrate clouds of dust and show us the star forming regions which are hidden from visible light. He finished by discussing the proposed successor – SPICA which is currently in competition for funding.

Attendance 45 (32M, 1S, 12V). Takings £126.

Coming soon:

### **Fri 5 Apr 19 Professor Mark Birkinshaw**

Variety in Astronomical Orbits

### **Fri 10 May 19 Dr Victoria Scowcroft**

Beacons in the Night: Mapping the Universe with Variable Stars (rescheduled from February)

### **Fri 6 Sep 19 Dr David Tsang – Gravitational Waves (provisional title)**

**Fri 5 Oct 19 Stuart Eves – William Herschel and the Rings of Uranus**