

ERA AGM 4th May 2026

Chairs Introduction

Welcome all to this years AGM, and thank you all for your attendance. This years AGM will follow the normal tried and tested format.

I would first like to thank all those involved with running our club, not only the elected officers, but also those in supporting roles, without whom it wouldn't run as smoothly as it does. I would also like to thank Chris & Lorraine for acting as our voice on the Village Hall Committee. They keep us both informed of committee business but also keep us visible in that forum. I know from speaking to Chris, this can often be quite a "testing" experience.

Our club numbers have increased slightly this year, we now have 28 fully paid up members which I believe is an increase of two on the previous year. In addition, we have a number of members who pay on a visit by visit basis. Whilst the increase may be small, it is still an increase which is always a good thing for any club or society.

This last year has seen us increase our usable equipment portfolio. Lee's sterling work on the two donated mounts to get them into a serviceable condition as well as the purchase of the Celestron EQ5 mount.

The astro photographers amongst us have moved into high gear this last year as well. There is now a dedicated WhatsApp group page which is very well used by the group, and it's fair to say that we have seen some stunning images posted there on a regular basis. The group also uses the page for sharing of advice, so it's also good for anyone keen to learn.

We managed one “club” visit within the last year, a trip to Sherwood Observatory which I think was enjoyed by all who went. For me it was great to return to a club I had been a member of over 20 years ago and to see the huge changes that have taken place in that time. There was also a visit to York Astronomical society by a smaller group of club members.

Whilst it looked that we may have been hosting several Outreach events in the last year, in the end only one materialised. We had a visit from a small group from the Beverley Lions club which they enjoyed. Whilst there was lots of communication between Phil and other potential groups, in the end none materialised, though not for lack of effort on Phil’s part.

We have also been sharing our monthly Monday meetings with the Scouts, and although on some occasions, this has been a little noisy, on the whole it has not caused us any real issues. On several of the Monday’s we have managed to get the hall to ourselves when the Scouts have been on holidays.

Mark Garratt

Chair