

East Riding Astronomers: Secretary's report up to end of April 2026

How's your observing year been? Mine's not been brilliant, but there have been some spells of clear through a basically very wet, cloudy & long winter. We haven't actually held any off-site observing sessions this year, have we? The predicted forecasts have made that a real challenge – we must do better!

We continue with great feelings for using Woodmansey village hall. We still have the ok to use the hall and grounds as we need, with the understanding that we'll work around who is paying to be on-site & with a few dates that a caravan club etc, want sole access.

Zoom meetings continue, pretty much weekly, for a catch up and tickling away at thoughts and problem solving. Held on Mondays, other than when HERAS or Brough meet, when we swap to Tuesday.

We have occasionally met on the same night as the Woodmansey Scout group, though not very often and no real hardship.

We've had a few planned nights at the hall pre-planned but ready to be called off if cloudy, which was in the main 😞 not surprising with the winter we've had.

We've held:

Lunar observing at WVH last June.

The gifted 'scope 8" Meade needed a worn computer board repairing, for £48, still great value.

Sherwood observatory trip. February. 14 people went. What a special club that has become, amazing planetarium, enormous scope – still couldn't see through the clouds though.

Beverley Saturday market stall 26th July 2025

HERAS & Bev camera club to Fimber Halt. Milky way visible!

No outside talkers at WVH this year, I assume we should have the occasional one, I'll ask members and push a little, if we want that. Mark G has provided a couple of talks / presentations for us though.

There have been a few inquiries about outreach. But we've pretty much failed to actually help and/or visit. Most instances their interest seems to fade away after our/my first reply! Only managing the WVH scouts, this year.

There are approx. 30 years of the magazine Sky & Telescope available to members on-line through the website. Index is on a spreadsheet.

TS20 has had some improvements. A proper lazy-susan bearing installed for azimuth, which arguably needs some friction adding? Lee got a better azimuth scale printed. The TS20 has been taken apart and measured to give guidance for us to adjust the altitude bearings, which will mean the balancing weights can be removed. Ultimately planning for taking the scope out on tour, should we want to. This will mean some more modifications and pondering, to make sure it is portable, I think it would be nice to organise a star party night for us, somewhere.

Lee is collaborating with a national group trying improve upon night sky light pollution.

Phill has managed to almost always produce a monthly compilation of astro events to keep an eye out for.

We have an ERA market stall, planned for Beverley again.

We renewed affiliation to Federation of Astronomical Societies, this gives us a great price for our Public Liability Insurance.

We still have the container and major contents insured. Though this might be up for debate come next November or so.

Don't be silent if you have any thoughts on how to help the club continue / evolve. Just ticking away really means gradually fading into a smaller less useful version of what we ought to be.

A little effort each will earn a big difference. Take care and only do what you can though.

Thank-you for turning up & thank-you for any efforts that you have given to make things happen & keep us from 'fading away'; we are a great help to each other, thanks for that ethos! 😊