

I thought your committee might like a report from us about our activity. About 10 society members participated. over the two dates and I think it went pretty well.

John

Peebles Common Good Committee

Last November, the Common Good Committee gave its approval for Tweeddale Astronomical Society to run some 'sidewalk astronomy' sessions on Tweed Green with the aim of giving passers-by the opportunity to do some stargazing at astronomical objects.

In practice, the weather during December was awful and the proximity to the holidays made holding a viewing session impractical. We did, however, run two sessions with clear skies on Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th January with a variety of telescopes and special binoculars. Despite sub-zero temperatures, around 25-30 passers-by had a look at Saturn's rings; Jupiter and its moons and craters on our own Moon. Included in this number were representatives from the local Scouts and U3A who have asked us to speak to their groups when this can be arranged. The reactions from young and old were great – lots of "wow"s and "oh yes, I can see it" – and everyone was grateful to be given the opportunity to see things that they hadn't seen before.

Hopefully, we can try again in a month or so and give more local residents the chance to go stargazing. Weather permitting, our next opportunity will be a day or two either side of February 15th.