



# EAST RIDING ASTRONOMERS

*Let us guide you around the East  
Yorkshire's skies*

ERA is a friendly and informal astronomical society. We are a small observing group with members of all ages. Our main purpose is to observe the night sky and to help others get into this absorbing hobby.

Our usual meeting and observing site is Woodmansey Village Hall, a surprisingly dark site between Beverley and north Hull with easy road access and ample parking. After the end of the pandemic we will again meet here on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month excluding June and July.



Woodmansey Village Hall January 2021 (not used during the pandemic)

Since the start of the pandemic we have met weekly via Zoom each Monday evening from 19:45 to 21:00 hrs.

If you would like to join our zoom meetings then please email [erastrosec@hotmail.com](mailto:erastrosec@hotmail.com) for the zoom link. If you have not used Zoom before then the secretary will be happy to talk you through the relatively simple set up process. Zoom is available free of charge and does not use much of your broadband data.

## Frequently asked questions

### Who is the club for?

The club provides an opportunity to talk about astronomy with like-minded individuals and to observe the night sky in the company of others. The club welcomes visitors and potential new members, anyone interested in astronomy is welcome to join us online or when possible in person at a club meeting. Membership is only available for those aged 16+. Under 14s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### Do I need to be experienced in astronomy to come along?

No experience necessary, just an interest in learning more. The level of experience of our current club members is very varied and everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the discussions that are common at every club meeting.

### Do I need my own equipment to join?

Some form of equipment such as binoculars or a small telescope is all that is needed to enjoy the night sky as an astronomer. But you do not need to have such equipment before joining us.

If you are thinking about buying equipment then why not take advantage of our experience first. Joining us at a Woodmansey meeting, or at one of our observing sites will give you a chance to see first-hand some of the scopes owned by members. And on a Zoom call we can easily discuss the pros and cons of a “bargain” on eBay or which scope qualifies as a best buy.

### What kind of things do you do?

Woodmansey club nights used to consist of discussions and possibly a quiz when the sky was overcast, and when clear we would all be outside looking up. One night we were so engrossed in star gazing that we forgot to call the raffle.

Our Zoom calls usually see the conversation moving from topic to topic and we are always ready for a member to choose a topic to talk about. As our zoom calls are weekly it's easy to miss a week and still catch up with everyone.

### Where do we observe ?

Apart from the Village Hall we have other sites in the region that we will use for observing.

- Arras Hill above Sancton: An exposed hill top with roadside parking for a few cars and excellent views to the East, South and West.



Village hall by “night vision”

- Kiplingcoates: A carpark area adjacent to the disused railway and signal station in Kiplingcoates. Ample parking for up to 8 vehicles, this is one of our newer sites.
- Beeford sports field: With permission of the groundskeeper we have occasionally used this site to great effect.

There are many other potential observing sites in and around the East Riding that we have yet to explore.

## How do we observe?

The club members have a wide range of equipment ranging from small and medium sized dobsonian telescopes to larger Newtonians on equatorial mounts and several SCTs up to 9.25"

The Club owns a small solar scope and a much larger dobsonian telescope, possibly the largest such scope in Yorkshire.

We have a number of members who are developing their interest in astrophotography, while others are keen to view the skies with their own eyes, with the aid of binoculars or a 12" scope.



Comet Neowise photographed by Lee in early 2020 with a simple digital camera and "barn door" set up.

This image of the Herschel Garnet star in Cepheus was taken by Mark using a Mallincam Xterminator camera mounted on a Celestron 9.25 inch telescope



## Why join ERA?

- We're friendly;
- We're a small club;
- Our passion is looking up at the night sky to see what's there;
- And of course talking about it to others;
- Our annual subscription is under £20.00 a year (during the pandemic we have suspended membership fees).
- Thinking of buying a telescope? Talk to us first for expert, unbiased guidance.



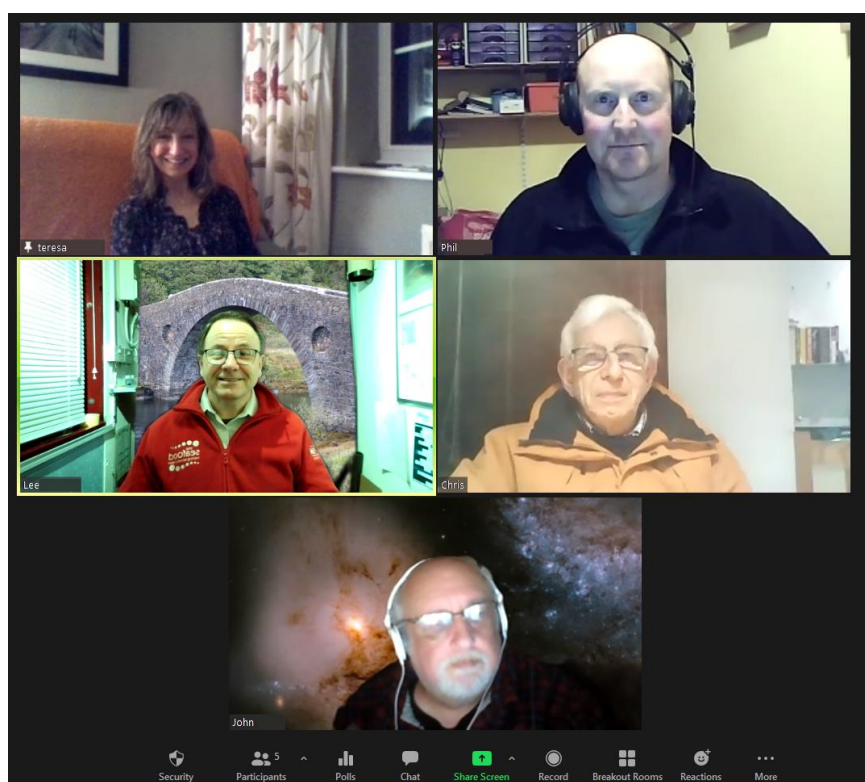
## How do I contact the club?

Please email [erastrosec@hotmail.com](mailto:erastrosec@hotmail.com) using as your subject line "East Riding Astronomers enquiry" and a club member will be in touch as soon as possible.

If you want to join a Zoom meeting to get to know us better than we'll be happy to provide the joining details and make you very welcome when you sign in.

And if you simply have questions about astronomy then email that in too and we'll try and answer it for you.

## Join us on Zoom



Since April 2020 ERA members have been meeting regularly on Zoom from 7:45 to 9:00 each Monday.

If you would like to join us please email the Club Secretary for an invitation - [erastrosec@hotmail.com](mailto:erastrosec@hotmail.com)