



Rules for Members and Visitors attending the Norman Fisher Observatory

February 2022

We welcome members and visitors to our Observatory openings. Please note that visitors under the age of 16 are required to be accompanied by a responsible adult (such as a parent / carer / guardian or group leader).

Visitors should be aware that our constitution says that the society is open to all who have an interest in furthering the purposes of the Society. This means that no one will be treated less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, impairment, political or religious beliefs, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, language, HIV status, age or any other conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justified.

We ask you to follow the following rules. They are designed a) for your safety b) to protect our equipment c) to promote the enjoyment of astronomy for all.

1. **Parking** – There is no car parking at the observatory. Designated parking at the owner's risk is available on Hayes Lane near the RAF Tribute memorial, a short walk from the observatory. Please note that Croydon Council may ticket you if your car is deemed to be inappropriately parked.
2. **Disabled access** - Please note that the site is mainly unsuitable for people with limited mobility and there is no access to the main dome other than up the stairs. We will do our best to accommodate disabled visitors. Please contact us in advance if your disability means you would like us to try to arrange special access to the site by car.
3. **Trespass**. Note that, apart from the small plot of land that our observatory stands on, we do not own the land. Please do not wander beyond the immediate surrounds of the observatory. Our observatory is located next to a riding school stables. Please do not attempt to approach or feed the horses or approach the stable buildings.
4. **Sign in and Out** - All visitors to the observatory, whether a member or a guest, must sign in when they arrive and sign out when they leave.
5. **Toilets**. Please note that we have no running water and no access to toilets.
6. **Use of Sky Laser Pointers** - Visitors may not use laser pointers at the Observatory. Members must acquaint themselves with the CAS laser policy.
7. **Equipment** – Please note that some of the equipment is the personal property of members. Some may be trying to image deep sky objects which requires long exposures, and so the equipment must be left to run undisturbed. Always ask the owner's permission before trying to look through their telescope.
8. **Children** – Children are the responsibility of their parents and parents should remain with them and supervise them at all times.
9. **Night-time Observing**
 - a. **Respectful Use of torches** – Don't use white lights. It takes a few minutes for your eyes to become dark adapted – and as this happens gradually more and more stars become visible. LED white light torches such as you would find on your mobile phone can be very bright and, if shone towards a person,

can damage their night vision for up to 30 minutes. If possible, bring a low power red light torch (even LED bicycle rear lamps can be too bright).

- b. **Location of Observing equipment** – Members and visitors must take care to identify the locations of equipment which may be set up around the observatory
- c. **Alignment of telescopes** – Many telescopes are accurately aligned on the night sky so that we can easily find stellar objects. The slightest knock to a telescope or its mount can destroy this alignment. Please don't touch the telescope at all other than under the direction of a club member.
- d. **Respect for others.** All visitors are asked to show courtesy and respect to members of the Society and to members of the public. Members are reminded that they shall not act in a way that might cause the name of the Society to fall into disrepute

10. Day time Observing

- a. **The Sun is Dangerous** - Looking at the Sun can be dangerous and, if done incorrectly, will result in permanent damage to your eyes or blindness or worse.
- b. **Solar Safe Equipment** - The society will use equipment which is either specifically designed or modified for safe use on the Sun. Pointing an unmodified telescope at the Sun will almost certainly destroy the telescope. Never touch or view through any solar telescope without permission.
- c. **Equipment authorisation** – Only equipment which has been authorised by a committee member can be used to view the sun.

11. **Group visits** – For specially organised group visits (normally held during the week) we charge £3 per visitor (minimum £30).