**Minutes of the 601st Meeting of**

**The Altrincham and District Astronomical Society**

Held 8pm Friday, 3rd Nov, 2023

At Timperley Village Club.

Apologies for absence: Ingrid Hogan

27 people present.

The meeting was chaired by Chris Suddick as the chairman was still sobering up from his birthday bash. Chris proposed birthday congratulations to the chairman which was soundly seconded by everyone present.

Chris opened the meeting at 8pm by introducing the speaker, David Temperley from West Didsbury Astronomical Society, for tonight’s talk entitled, “We Are Stardust. How Stars Die… and why we live”.

David started his talk with a very short precis of nuclear physics and the internal structure of the atom. From the moment of the Big Bang there was a plentiful supply of hydrogen and helium but where did all the other elements needed for life come from?

David showed the path of nucleosynthesis during the life cycle of stars which generated ample amounts of carbon and oxygen. Some stars go on to build neon, silicon, sulphur and even iron before ‘dying’ as a planetary nebula and becoming a white dwarf star.

For the heavier elements, all the way up to uranium, much larger stars are needed which die much more catastrophically as a type 2 supernova and become a neutron star or even a black hole.

After the break there were a few items for the business. Chris mentioned that we had recently helped a group of scouts with their astronomy badge and he and Richard Bullock were returning next week to help them finish it.

Chris also mentioned that the newly formed observing group had now had two outings but was being dogged by bad weather. There will soon be a Messier list available to the group to record their progress in a shared file.

The next meeting will be on Friday 1st Dec when Dr Steve Barrett will be talking about “The Star of Bethlehem”

The meeting concluded at 9:50.