

To: Members of Shropshire Astronomical Society

Dear Friends

There are only a few times in life that are both happy and sad at the same moment. Such is the case for me now that I have actually retired as your chairman. My last night with you all, sitting in the chair to take the AGM and vacating it for Richard, is one I shall always remember. Thank you so much for making me feel appreciated, listening patiently to my deliberations and continuing to turn up to share your hobby at our meetings both at Rodington and Shrewsbury! That appreciation was finely marked by the presentation of the box of precious meteorites from various parts of the world. They are quite fascinating and I suspect I shall be collecting more as I learn about these visitors from the Sun's large family. I am thrilled to have a fragment of rock from Mars in my bedroom. I gazed upon the planet when I got home from the meeting – the sky being brilliantly clear – and felt quite awestruck. I want to take this opportunity of telling you how much it has meant to me to have had the support and dedication of my committee. I could not wish for more except, perhaps, that it is a pity that there is no woman on it at present! I shall write to your new Chairman, Richard Pearce, with my grateful thanks for his lively interest in the society and his willingness to carry on the good work and achieve things I did not. He takes over with my blessing and promise of whatever help or advice he may ask for! I am sure he'll do a great job without needing me and my hopeless memory for names.

Once again, thank you for the meteorites and all the good times we have had over many years. Never stop looking up at the night sky to stargaze, no matter what your circumstances are. The stars are like old friends – they may move about but they are always there, constant in a changing world.

With highest regards and best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

David Woodward