



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #3, December 2013



Clouds 2, Astronomers 0

It will not have escaped your notice that we haven't managed to do any observing yet because we haven't had clear skies. The committee has decided to adopt a more flexible strategy in the hope of getting some observation time in.

Brian and Robin Rice are going to let us all know when there is a weather window coming up that they will be able to use. Members can join in with that session if they're free at that time, and as members get more skills with the equipment we hope that they will be able to host their own sessions and invite others in their turn.

Meanwhile, we hope you will enjoy this image of the Rosette Nebula, a large circular nebula in the Monoceros region of the Milky Way, taken by Brian and Robin.

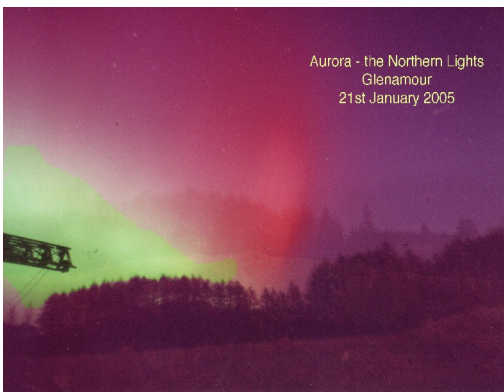
Stargazing Live! Event

We have been doing a bit of planning for the Stargazing Live! Event on **Saturday 11th January**, linked to the Stargazing Live! Series on BBC 2 on 8th, 9th and 10th January. You can find the event on the BBC 2 Stargazing Live! web pages at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/project/stargazing-live> - we're on Page 13 of a huge list of public astronomy events around the country.



The event starts at 6:00 pm on the 11th, based on the Newton Stewart FC Pavilion. We will have a number of attended telescopes arranged around Blairmount Park, imaging whatever we can. If the weather is cloudy we will move indoors to the football pavilion and offer a slideshow illustrating the Milky Way and our neighbouring galaxies, together with a recorded interview with the late Sir Patrick Moore, of the Sky at Night fame.

The Society is very grateful to Newton Stewart FC, for their kind permission to use the pavilion. You can find out more at <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/newtonstewartfc/255455/Home>



GFAS Website

The website is growing slowly, we now have a downloads page, with newsletters, application forms and a copy of the Society's constitution, at www.gallowayforest-astro.org.uk. We will soon be moving onto a new email address linked to the website, members@gallowayforest-astro.org.uk, so our next newsletter should be sent to you from that address.

We will also be putting up a members area on the website for contributions from members. Any suggestions or contributions welcome – send them to gallowayastro@gmail.com, until the new email address is “live”.