



# Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

## Newsletter #16, March 2016

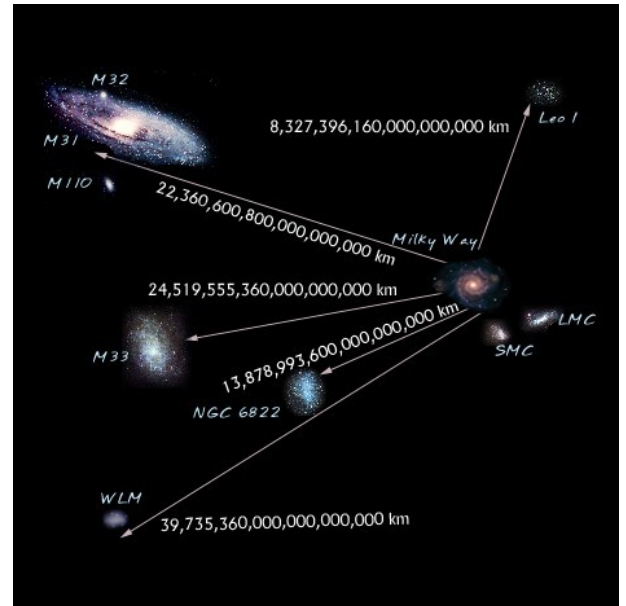
### A Rough Winter

All our planned meetings so far in 2016 have had to be cancelled because of the weather – storms, floods, rain, zero visibility, you know it yourself! We're hoping for better luck in the Spring.

### Members and friends: the Local Group

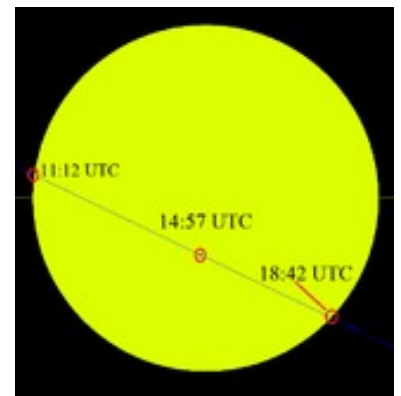
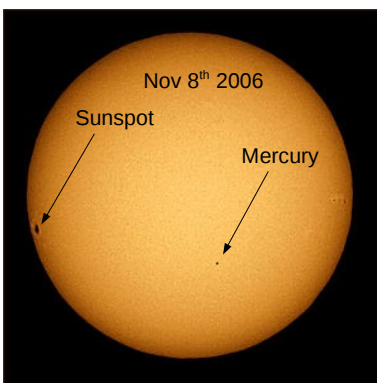
We plan to try looking deep again on **Saturday 9th April**, 2 days after new moon, in Blairmount Park, Newton Stewart, near the football pavilion. Sunset is at 8:15pm, so we will get together at 8:30pm. If the weather is clear we hope to be able to observe the brighter northern hemisphere galaxies of the local group.

We will have as many telescopes as we can mount available at this meet (see last newsletter) and we will have the help of Brian and Robin with setting up and imaging. We will also have a slideshow on the local group on display in the football pavilion.



### Public event: Transit of Mercury

Mercury crosses the face of the sun on **Monday 9th May**. This is the third transit of Mercury this century and we hope to record the event using our solar telescopes. We also have a few sets of solar safety specs available for visitors to the event. We will be set up in the car park of the **Belted Galloway Visitor centre** on **Monday 9th May from 11:00am**. The transit starts at 11:12am, reaches its mid-point at 2:57pm and ends at 18:42pm. Members and visitors welcome at any time during the day. The next transit of Mercury is not until 11th November 2019.



### Mobile Planetarium: volunteers needed

We have not yet made funding bids for our mobile planetarium project, as outlined in previous newsletters. Although this project looks very feasible, and although the Holywood Trust are keen to see us put funding applications forward, we have held back so far because we don't have enough volunteers willing to join in and to commit to a few school visits during the school year. If you think you could give up three or four weekdays between August 2016 and June 2017 to join in school planetarium visits, please email or write to let us know! We won't take this forward until we have a credible team of volunteers available.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society  
Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.  
Chairman: Antony Berretti;  
Secretary: Doug Snell, 5 Elm Grove, Newton Stewart, DG8 6JT  
W: [www.gf-astro.org](http://www.gf-astro.org) E: [members@gf-astro.org](mailto:members@gf-astro.org)

