



# Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

## Newsletter #27, July 2018

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### MayFayre 2018

Once again we had a stall at the Newton Stewart MayFayre on 26<sup>th</sup> May. A number of visitors turned up at the stand and we welcomed a few new email newsletter correspondents. We took the opportunity to launch our new GDPR Privacy Notice which we hope makes us compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation which came into force at the end of May. If you are a non-member receiving this newsletter you should have signed the form giving us your consent – if not, please let us know!

### New 150mm Telescope

Helen MacDonald, a GFAS Life Member and founder of the former Wigtownshire Astronomical Society, has most kindly given us this 150mm Newtonian reflecting telescope with its Skyscan 2001 tripod mount, a finderscope and a range of objective lenses and balancing weights. The whole offering is in first-class condition, the main mirror is really clean and the mount looks perfect.

The telescope is now in the GFAS store and available for loan to members. If you would like to borrow it, or any other of our collection of telescopes, please get in touch by email and we'll make arrangements.

Many thanks to Helen for this most generous donation.



Our grant of £2000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Community Fund to support the relocation project is now spent and flitting all our gear from Kirroughtree to the Tennis Club is done.

We have sent in the final project completion report to Tesco and it has been accepted. This means we can apply again to the fund, so we are putting together a bid for some more cash for a 3D projector to go with our planned mobile planetarium dome for use with schools and youth groups in Wigtownshire, see below!



The next tranche of cash from the Co-op LocalCommunity fund will arrive soon and will go into the pot for the the purchase of a mobile planetarium dome for use with schools and youth groups around Galloway and South Carrick, in the west and south of the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. We think we are now able to buy a dome and a simple projection system, thanks to a very generous grant from the Kilgallioch Community Fund. See page 2 for more details on this very exciting development.

## Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

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# Planetarium Project Funded



For some years now the Society has wanted to buy a portable planetarium to use in a programme of visits to schools and youth organisations so as to give a gentle introduction to astronomy for as many youngsters as possible. Until now this has seemed beyond our powers but we are delighted to say that, at last, following a successful application to the Kilgallioch Community Fund, we can move on to buy the society a suitable inflatable dome with a simple projection system.



Earlier this year we submitted an application to the Kilgallioch Community Fund for several thousand pounds of capital to finance the purchase. The fund managers were very helpful and we had some clarification meetings with the fund's advisory team. At the end of June we were delighted to learn that the fund's trustees had agreed to meet our bid in full. This is an immense compliment to GFAS from the Kilgallioch Trust but it also puts a great responsibility on our members to see the project through. Any member who feels able to join in to help with any of the planned school visits, please let us know!

Together with other, smaller, grants from the Co-op Community Fund and a little of our own reserves, we think we will be able to reach a decision on ordering a suitable dome and a simple projection system after our next management committee meeting in August. Our first dome event will, of course, be for GFAS members and their guests and after that we will be busy arranging one session per month in schools in Wigtownshire, the Stewartry and South Carrick, the area covered by the Kilgallioch Windfarm Trust. Schools visits will be free and will form a big part of the Society's charitable work.

As well as the programme of visits described in the funding application, the dome will be able to be used by other community groups across Galloway, so long as community groups are willing to meet our expenses.

## Spectacular July Midnight coming up

Mars is at opposition on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Mars and Earth both orbit the sun, but at different distances and different speeds. Every two years or so, Mars, Earth and the sun form a straight line during the course of their orbits, with Earth in the middle, an event known as "opposition". It's as close as Mars gets to us. On 27<sup>th</sup> July, after 11:00 pm, the full moon, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter are all on show in the southern sky. Clear skies!



### GFAS Membership

Now is a very good time to join GFAS! Pay your subs any time from now and stay a member until the October 2019 AGM. Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!



Galloway  
Forest  
Astronomical  
Society