



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #30, December 2018

Members meeting 9th December

The weather finally relented a bit on Sunday 9th and we had a reasonably clear evening with low cloud gathering from the south. Seven members turned out at Newton Stewart Tennis Club and we set up four telescopes to view Mars (clearly showing its gibbous disc), the Andromeda galaxy, the Pleiades and a number of other galaxies and nebulae. Brian and Robin's 12" reflector with its newly-recoated mirror got its first outing since they put it back together and it performed very well. By 8:00 pm, though, the dropping temperature and high humidity began to cause dew to gather on the optics, making it steadily more difficult to focus.



Planetarium progress report

The picture shows the inside of the planetarium dome, looking up at the grey projection screen onto which the dome shows will be projected once we get the projection system sorted out. At our last trial of the system, in November, the new projector worked well with the hemispherical mirror system, but we needed a new laptop capable of mirroring the full-HD resolution of the projector. So, reluctantly, we postponed the December visit to Portpatrick Primary until February while the new laptop is ordered and delivered. We hope to run a full trial, early in January, inside the dome with the new laptop and the projector system, so that we can go "live" with pupils for the first time later in January.

Meanwhile we are building up our collections of dome shows so that we can match our offerings to the ages and abilities of the youngsters we'll be working with.

Co-Op Fund Award

GFAS members, Co-Op staff, Co-op customers and a telescope at the final presentation, 24th Nov, of the year's cash award from the Co-Op Community Fund. Many thanks to all our friends at the Co-Op.



GFAS Membership

Subs for 2018/19 are now overdue, please pay soon. Members can join in our members' meetings for free and can borrow GFAS equipment for their own use.

Subs rates: Adults £15.00,
Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

Hon President: Prof. John Brown D.Sc., Astronomer Royal for Scotland

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