

Newsletter #35, November 2019

Page 1 of 1

Prof. John Campbell Brown BSc, PhD, DSc, FRSE, OBE, 1947-2019

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of our honorary president, Professor John Campbell Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland. John was a long-standing supporter of GFAS and our work and was a frequent visitor to the Galloway Forest dark sky park.

As Regius Professor of Astronomy at the University of Glasgow, his work focused on theoretical modelling of solar and stellar plasmas. John also spent much of his life in public engagement, giving astronomical talks, magically illustrated, to diverse audiences.



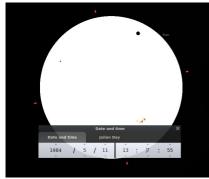
Glenluce Primary: a big day out

We took the planetarium to Glenluce early in November and delivered six presentations during the day to classes from Glenluce and Castle Kennedy primary schools. We covered the whole age range from the nursery group (3-5 year olds) all the way to primary 7 (rising 12) and it was quite a challenge to adapt the presentations to suit the audiences, especially the nursery tots. We were paid a huge compliment, though - one of the teachers sacrificed her non-teaching day to come into school and join in the fun, saying she wouldn't want to have missed the show! We really hope we didn't disappoint her.

Our next gig is another long one, next week in Creetown with Creetown Primary and Minnigaff Primary. Then we'll finish the term with a short session at Sandhead Primary, in the Rhins, on the 18th December.

AGM report

Our AGM was held as planned on 9th November. Many thanks to those who turned up. The office bearers' reports were accepted, the audited accounts to 31st August were presented, all the existing trustees were re-elected to serve again for 2019-2020, and the membership subscription remains unchanged. Richard Lewington was welcomed on to the committee, which now has 8 members. A draft minute of the meeting will be circulated to members soon.



Stellarium challenge!

At left is an image showing a solar system event that could not be observed by us at the time it happened. Email us if you can work out from the image what the event was and from where it was (virtually) observed - winners to be acknowledged next newsletter!

GFAS Membership

Subs for 2019/20 are now due, please pay soon. Members can join in our members' meetings for free and can borrow GFAS telescopes and other equipment for their own use.

Subscription rates remain at: Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!



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