



COVID-19: All events postponed

It is with great regret that we have had to suspend all our visits, meetings and events during the Coronavirus emergency. We are now, along with nearly every volunteer group in Scotland, in “lockdown” and our members are in social isolation while our fantastic essential service workers and other volunteers struggle to contain the outbreak. Especial praise is due to NHS workers everywhere, but particularly in our general hospitals and intensive care units. Our thoughts are with them and we offer them our best hopes for their own safety and continued good health. Meanwhile, we are doing what they need us to do - staying at home and not spreading the virus.

We were booked up to visit Girvan Academy and Park Primary School, Stranraer, during the second week of March; and Drummore Primary in the first week of April. All three visits have had to be postponed, but we will go back when we can. We had also hoped to join in once again with the Dumfries and Galloway Science and Environment Festival at the end of May 2020 but that has now been postponed, perhaps until the autumn.

The GFAS committee is still available on-line, of course and the Facebook group, the Facebook page and the website are all still open for business. If you have anything astronomical you'd like to contribute, especially photographs, please don't hold back, but email it to me or post it on GFAS chat.

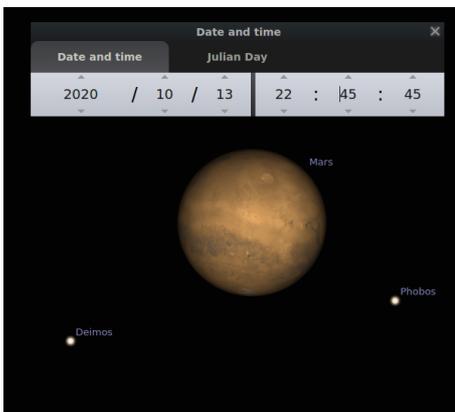


Before the pandemic, we did manage two events, the U3A Astronomy Group in Wigtown and the Borgue Primary PTC film night. These were without the dome, using flat screens, and both were well received. The Borgue screen was 4 metres wide and our projector coped well with that.

Fundraising - Tesco Stranraer

Our “Tesco Bags of Help” fundraiser in Tesco Stranraer has also been a coronavirus casualty: the customer voting process has been stopped, to avoid unnecessary handling of tokens by staff and customers, and the funds have been equally split between the three competing charities. We have now been offered £1,333.00 to put towards a professional standard projector for the dome, and we will be working on that while we're in isolation.

Stellarium Challenge



A nice easy one this time: this screenshot shows something worth looking out for this coming October. What exactly is it, and when will it happen next after that?

With luck, we'll be able to see this one for ourselves - a good excuse for a meeting in October if we're back to normal?

GFAS Membership

Subs for 2019/20 are now OVERDUE, please pay up pronto. Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!

We welcome new members and hope that they can help in our outreach work to schools and youth groups. Members can join in our society meetings for free (when they resume, at least) and can borrow GFAS telescopes and other equipment for their own use.

You can email for a membership application form or download one from the website.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

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