



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #44, September 2022

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A New Beginning

It's been a long time, thanks to Covid-19, since the society last did anything very constructive, but we finally made a new start this month with a visit to Girvan Academy. We had decided that we couldn't use the planetarium safely yet, so instead we offered the school a flat-screen presentation using our new 4K laptop and the 4K projector we bought last year.

It turns out that Girvan Academy has its own theatre! So we were able to set up in there and use their large projection screen (not quite cinema standard, but good enough), with our 4K projector, to give our solar system presentation to all 80 pupils of the school's new first year intake all at one go. It worked quite well for the youngsters but rather lacked the magical impact of the planetarium. The school staff were happy with the outcome but hoped that we could bring the planetarium back next year.



Telescope Loan Scheme

We are still happy to lend telescopes to members who want to get some practical observation experience. We currently have three telescopes out on loan to members in Leswalt, Stranraer and Gatehouse of Fleet. Just email if you fancy one! We'll be reviewing the loan scheme ahead of this year's AGM at the end of October.



James Webb Space Telescope

NASA are releasing some spectacular images from the JWST - the latest is of the Tarantula nebula, shown in the picture on the left. We are downloading them in 4K as they come out and we hope to have a rolling slideshow available at the AGM. You can see them all for yourself at the NASA website:

https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/webb/main/index.html

The JWST has also been able to image an exoplanet, called HIP 65426 b, which is about six to 12 times the mass of Jupiter, and only around 15-20 million years old

Storage shed at Tennis Club

Our log cabin at the Newton Stewart tennis club has stood up to the last four winters very well and everything stored in it has kept clean and dry. Earlier this month it got some minor woodwork repairs, some of the surrounding shrubbery trimmed back, and a new coat of green timber preservative so we hope it will carry on serving us well for years yet.

GFAS Membership

We always welcome new members, especially juniors who join for free. Member subscriptions will be due by the AGM in October 2022. Subs remain at £15.00 Adult, £25.00 Family, £0.00 Junior or in full-time education. Just email for an application form!

Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

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Supported by Kilgallioch Community Fund

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