



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #52, April 2024

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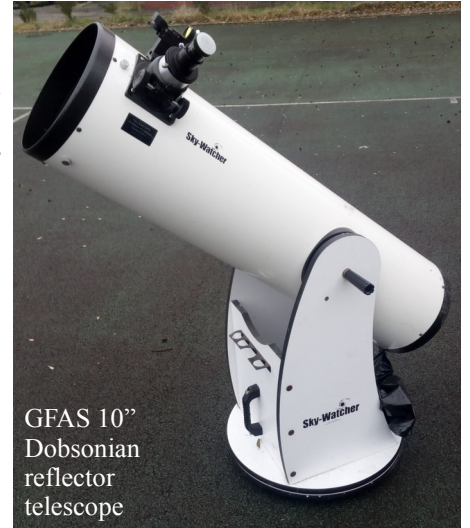
Glentroot observation evening, March 15th

We had quite a clear night on 15th March in Glentroot: four telescopes were in use and some good targets were seen, including a quite detailed view of the terminator on the Moon's crescent through our SkyWatcher 10" Dobsonian reflector (shown here in daylight). Indoors in the Hive we had a screening of "Eyes on the Skies" from the European Space Agency, showing the evolution of the astronomical telescope from Galileo's own refractor in that he built in 1608 AD. Many thanks to the Hive volunteers and staff for organising and supporting the event.

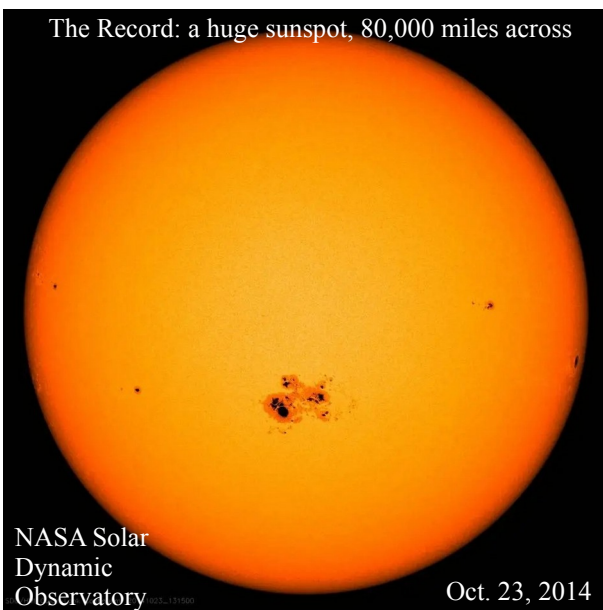
The Glentroot Hive team is making progress in setting up the small observatory.

Spring events upcoming

Saturday April 27th: Penninghame Church Hall, 1 Church Street, Newton Stewart, DG8 6ER, 7:30-9:30 pm: Two-part evening session on total solar eclipses using our 150" screen. **Part I** by our special envoys to the USA, Brian and Robin Rice, with an illustrated account of the total eclipse of 8th April from Texas; **Part II**, a talk by Andy Sawers FRAS on the 1919 eclipse that tested Einstein's new theory of General Relativity. Members free, non-members £5.00



GFAS 10" Dobsonian reflector telescope



The Record: a huge sunspot, 80,000 miles across

NASA Solar Dynamic Observatory

Oct. 23, 2014

Saturday 8th June, in the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre car park, Riverside View, Riverside Rd, Newton Stewart DG8 6NQ, 10:00am -12:00 noon: a solar observing session. Solar telescopes and solar specs will be available and visitors will be invited to view and map any sunspots they can see. This is a free public event, weather-dependent, and will be cancelled in the unlikely event of 100% cloud cover or rain.

Our Sun is at or near its Solar Activity Maximum (about every 11 years) but we won't know if it has reached it until it's over - it could be this year, or it could already be past, or it could be in 2025. The image on the left was taken in 2014 at the peak of the last solar maximum and shows a sunspot ten times as wide as planet Earth!

We use special solar filters when we want to view the face of the sun. You must never look at the sun with a telescope or binoculars without a solar filter fitted - you will damage your eyes if you do.

We are very grateful to the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre for permission to use their car park for this event. The Belted Galloway will of course be happy to sell you refreshments during the event!

Newsletter Contributions: send us your astro news! We are happy to consider all contributions to our newsletters and we will always acknowledge the source of anything we use. Just email anything astronomy-related for inclusion.

GFAS Membership

We always welcome new and returning members, especially juniors who join for free. Subs remain at £15.00 Adult, £25.00 Family, £0.00 Juniors or Students in full-time education. Just email members@gf-astro.org for a form.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

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Fb page: [@GallowayForestAstronomicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GallowayForestAstronomicalSociety/) / Group: [@gfas chat](https://www.facebook.com/gfas.chat/)

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