



# Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

## Newsletter #6, April 2014

### Members and Guests night March 12th

We had a good turnout of members and guests to our hands-on introduction to the use of the society's telescopes and digital photography equipment, at the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre in Riverside Road, Newton Stewart, DG8 6NQ. Robin and Brian brought along some of their most recent images, which were shown at the start, then the group went outside into the car park and began observing. Conditions were good, even right in the middle of town.

The evening finished with a presentation on the constellations and cosmography – you can see the presentation on the website.

Our thanks to Gordon Andrews of the Belted Galloway for agreeing to make the visitor centre available to us out-of-hours.



Whirlpool Galaxy M51A (NGC 5194) 10 Mar 2014 Brian & Robin Rice



**SATURN - Hubble Space Telescope 22 March 2004**  
NASA, ESA and E Karkoschka (University of Arizona)

### Saturn in opposition, 10th May

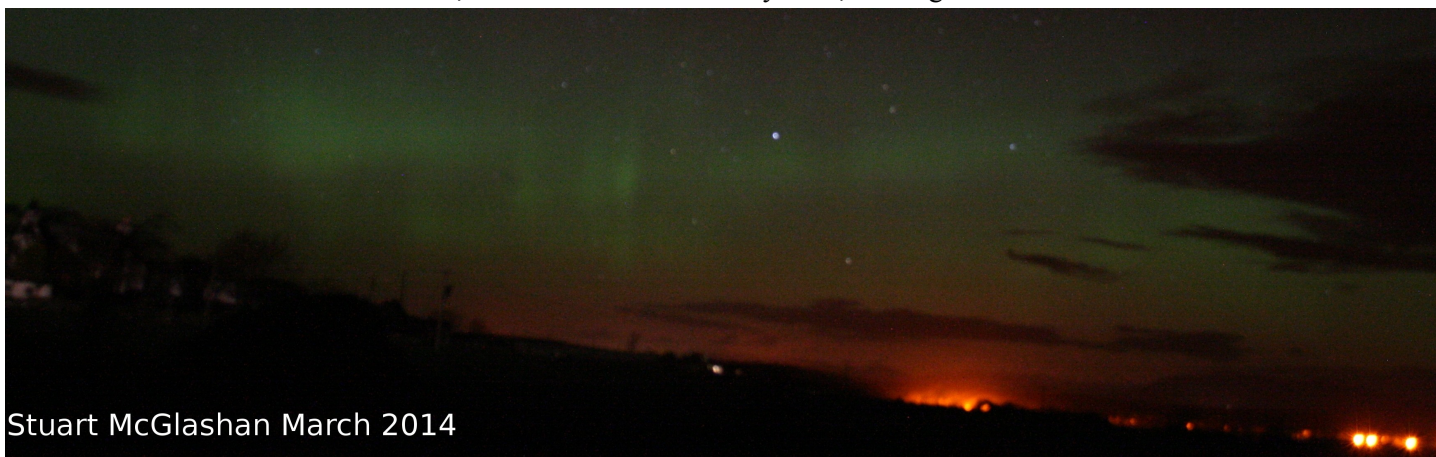
Join us at the Creebridge House Hotel, Minnigaff on Saturday 10th May, starting at 9:30 pm, to observe Saturn at his closest approach – with the entire face of the planet lit up by the sun – view the rings, the moons, the Cassini Division, everything.

We will be observing from the back of the hotel gardens, looking south over Minnigaff. The hotel has generously offered us the use of the dining room and if the weather is against us we plan to take the telescopes indoors and provide a hands-on session on digital astrophotography, the nuts and bolts of taking pictures with a digital camera and a telescope.

Members free: Guests £5.00: Bar, teas, coffees and toilet facilities from the hotel.

### Aurora Borealis in Galloway

It's not often we get a display of the northern lights this far south in Scotland, and even less often that we get a photo of them. This one was taken from a location south of Sorbie, well outside the Dark Sky Park, looking north-east over Sorbie.



Stuart McGlashan March 2014



The Holywood Trust

The picture was taken for 10 secs at ISO1600, f4, with a Canon 400D unguided. Time was ~10:15 pm. The street lights in the lower right are those of Sorbie village and Reiffer Park. In time they will be replaced by white LED street lighting, and that will greatly improve the south Machars dark skies.



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