



## Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

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### **Newsletter #1 9 November 2013**

Dear Member

Following on from last Saturday's AGM, the new committee has now had its first meeting and we are looking forward to welcoming members and friends to meetings over the winter. The AGM was a great success and the new and renewed members' subscriptions have given us a working balance at the bank.

This is our first members' newsletter and it would be a great help to the secretary if you could take the time to reply briefly to it to reassure him that the lines of communication are open. Also, the committee would like you to choose between two possible dates for our first meeting, see below.

#### **Website, email and facebook**

The Society's website is being worked on and will soon be available. Meanwhile I'll use a temporary gmail address to contact members and friends until we are able to switch over to the website email address. If you don't have email, I'll do my best to keep in touch by other means. We also have a Facebook group, called "Galloway Forest Astronomical Society" for those who enjoy social media. I am also working on a shared calendar for member's use that will show important astronomical events and society meetings and so on - at the moment it is only shared with the committee but I hope to go live to the members soon.

#### **Upcoming meetings**

We will be holding an introductory meeting at the observatory at Glenamour in early December, either on Sunday 1st December or on Saturday 7th December. **Please let me know which of those dates you would prefer.** On either date it might be possible to view comet ISON after its perihelion on the 28th November, if it survives the close brush with the Sun, as it emerges tail first to be viewable in both the evening and morning skies. Weather permitting, of course!

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday 11th January** and will take the form of a "milky way and other galaxies" event with support from the BBC, linked to the Stargazing Live! programmes to be broadcast on 7th, 8th and 9th January. This one would be suitable for young people. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

#### **New members**

We are keen to expand the membership. I have enclosed a copy of the new membership form and if you know anyone who would like to join, please encourage them to fill it in and get it back to me.

Clear skies

Doug Snell, Secretary