



### Film night, Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>

We had a good turnout of members and friends to our special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of “**Interstellar**”. Quite a few of us missed it the first time round in 2014, and it seems fair to say it was partly stunning and mostly baffling - if we ever do find or open up a wormhole in spacetime, let’s just look the other way shall we?

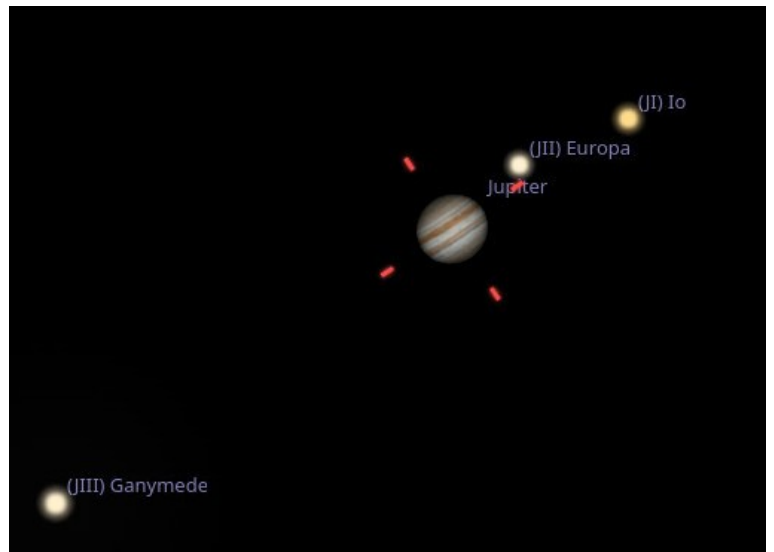
Once again, many thanks to Newton Stewart Cinema staff for handling all the arrangements, acquiring the movie, dealing with the licensing, all the rest of it. All we had to do was turn up and buy the popcorn!

### Jupiter Challenge

Planet Jupiter comes to opposition (when the Sun, Earth and Jupiter are all in a line) on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, so it is a brilliant object all night in the southern sky all this month. It’s above Orion just now and going to be moving towards Taurus in the coming days. The next time Jupiter is in opposition to Earth will be early in January 2026.

The challenge is (we hope) a simple one - take a picture or pictures of Jupiter and the four Galilean moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, something like this one from Stellarium but better. You might need two pictures, one showing Jupiter and another showing all four moons, because Callisto is a long way out from Jupiter right now.

Email us a copy or copies with some details of how and when you took the pictures, and we’ll put it into the next newsletter! May the clouds stay away from your lenses ...



### GFAS AGM 2024

Our AGM was held on November 16<sup>th</sup> in the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre in Newton Stewart. Attendance was good, with a full quorum of members, so the Society can continue in good standing until November 2025. There were some changes in the board of trustees: Rena McLeary resigned from the board with the members’ thanks for her great support; Jayne Store (known professionally as Jayne Davis) was elected Secretary and will take up that position in due course; and Doug Snell was elected as an ordinary trustee, acting Secretary until Jayne takes over. The remaining trustees are Antony Berretti (Chair), Andy Sawers FRAS (Treasurer), Robin Rice, Brian Rice and Hunter McCall.

### Visit to Douglas-Ewart High School

We joined in with the schools’ Charities Fayre last week and met the students of year group 2, who were trying to decide which of the many local charities they would pick for their bid to the Youth Philanthropy Initiative in a competition with a prize of £3000! We took a small telescope, a laptop with Stellarium on display and some paper materials. The afternoon went very well, we talked to lots of young people. We also met a number of old friends on the many charity stands in the hall, and have so far gained one new member as a result!



**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](mailto:members@gf-astro.org) for a form or download a form from the website.



## Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

Chairman: Antony Berretti;

Acting Secretary: Doug Snell, 5 Elm Grove, Newton Stewart, DG8 6JT

W: [www.gf-astro.org](http://www.gf-astro.org) E: [members@gf-astro.org](mailto:members@gf-astro.org)

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

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## **Scottish Dark Sky Observatory**

This week we got the great news that the SDSO Trust has at last managed to acquire a site to rebuild their observatory, at the former Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre on the A712 beside Clatteringshaws Loch, about half-way between Newton Stewart and New Galloway.

The old SDSO observatory, located near the west side of Loch Doon, was destroyed completely by fire some years ago and they have been looking for a new site ever since. The rebuild might take another two years.

The new site is arguably much better than the former one on the Craigengillan Estate, not least because it is much more accessible, being just off the A712, the famous Queen's Way between Edinburgh and Whithorn and reasonably well serviced with adequate parking space. The SDSO now has to get planning consent and funding before building can start. GFAS hopes to be at least some help, but anyway they would be very happy if members and friends were to visit their Facebook page at "Scottish Dark Sky Observatory" and/or their website at <https://scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk>



## **Into 2025**

We are working on our programme of events for 2025, which we hope will include taking part in National Astronomy Week, 1st-9th February, see <https://astronomyweek.org.uk/>, a visit to the Kirkcudbright Planetarium, <https://www.darkspaceplanetarium.org/> perhaps a fundraising quiz night, whatever observation sessions we can put together as and when conditions permit, and of course visits to schools in our catchment area with the mobile planetarium. We always need volunteers to join in school visits, for which expenses are payable, so please let us know if you would like to be a part of this. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for events, please email them to [members@gf-astro.org](mailto:members@gf-astro.org) and we'll consider them at our next board meeting, but please be aware that if you offer us a suggestion we'll hope that you will also be willing to take a share in organising it.

## **Season's Greetings**

Compliments of the holiday season to all our members and friends and may 2025 be as good for you all as you could wish it to be.



## **Newsletter Articles**

Please 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 us any original astronomy-related items for inclusion.

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