



# Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

## Newsletter #12, July 2015

### Sunspot Hunt 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015

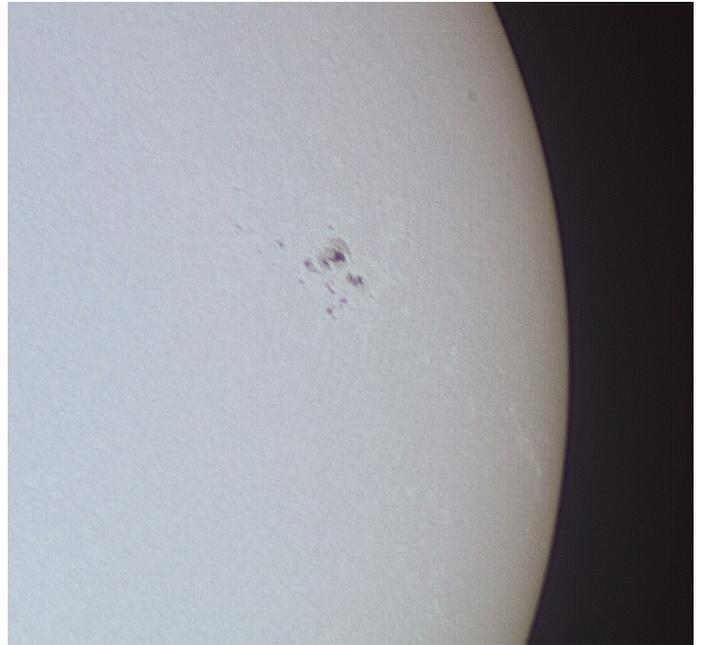
We met as planned in the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre car park on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> to observe and image sunspots and solar flares using our Coronado solar telescope and another telescope fitted with a solar filter and a TVV5000 telescope webcam. The TVV5000 is a 5 megapixel webcam and it lets us take some quite detailed images.

It was cloudy (as usual) at the start but some clearer weather later on allowed us to record a video of the sunspot cluster shown in the picture. It seems to have around 20 sunspots in it and some of them are very big indeed.

We didn't see any solar flares.

About a dozen visitors joined in during the event and were able to view the sun safely using either solar specs or the telescopes. Some of the visitors were juniors and we are delighted to welcome them as junior members of GFAS.

A time-lapse video of this sunspot cluster was put together and a compressed version of that will be on the website soon.



Left to Right: Telescope used for imaging; the two telescopes with some sun to look at; the TVV5000 webcam; the homemade solar filter.

### Next meet: Late-night event in September: Total Lunar Eclipse September 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00 AM

Given suitable weather, we plan to time-lapse record the total lunar eclipse on Monday/Tuesday 27/28th September. – total eclipse starts at 02:06, moon is completely in the umbra by 03:11, starts to emerge at 04:22 and eclipse ends at 05:17. Full details of where and when we'll be meeting will be posted in August.

### Hollywood Trust Meeting

Three of the society trustees met with officials of the Hollywood Trust ahead of the funding roadshow in Newton Stewart on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. We discussed various funding strategies and the putting together of a strategic roadmap for the future of GFAS. More about this in our next newsletter.