



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #18, September 2016

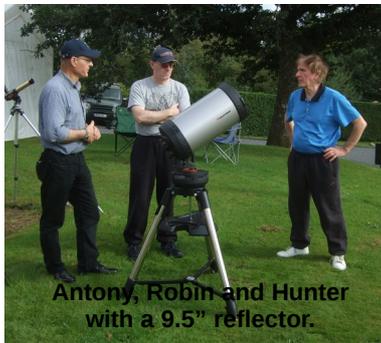
Perseid meteor shower, 12th – 13th August

Observing conditions were impossible on the night of the 12th August with full overcast so the meet was abandoned.



Day of the Region, Glentool, 3-4 September

We had a good turnout of members on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September. For the first time we had virtual reality headsets on hand that give a 3D view of the sky on a mobile phone and these got a lot of interest from visitors. The headsets can be used with a mobile phone and the app "Star Tracker VR" to let you see the sky as it would appear from your current location, date and time: and it updates itself in real-time using GPS. Really clever! You need Android 4 and upwards to use the app.



Antony, Robin and Hunter with a 9.5" reflector.

On Sunday 4th we had some sunshine and were able to use the Coronado solar telescope to have a look at the sun's surface: two big groups of sunspots in the north-east quadrant along with two unusual linear features were present but we didn't manage to get a clear image in the partly cloudy conditions.



Using StarTracker VR with the mobile headset



Using the Coronado

Planetarium: 28 September

The Holywood Trust have generously given funding to bring the Scottish Dark Skies Observatory's mobile planetarium to Newton Stewart on **Wednesday 28th September**. The planetarium is a 6m diameter inflatable dome with a projector at the centre giving a projection of the night sky.

SDSO staff will set up the planetarium in the assembly hall of Douglas-Ewart High School (Corsbie Road, DG8 6JQ) and will run eight 40-minute sessions throughout the day for pupils from Newton Stewart schools, plus one session starting at 3:20 pm for adults and accompanied children. We hope to be able to give up to 330 visitors the experience during the day.

Admission to the adults' session is free but only 30 places are available. To book your place, please email us – first come, first served!



AGM 2016: Saturday 3rd November

The Annual General Meeting of Galloway Forest Astronomical Society will be held on the morning of Saturday 3rd November 2016 at a time and place to be advised in a few weeks. As always, all six trustees fall to be elected. Nominations, with the names of proposer and seconder, who must be adult members of the society, for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to four members of the management committee, should be forwarded to the Secretary with a statement from the nominee of willingness to serve. Nominations may also be made during the AGM.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

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