



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #31, February 2019

Season's greetings

Best wishes to all our readers for 2019. It seems quite astonishing that it's February already, but we've been beavering away on the planetarium project all through January and are at last making some good progress. If you're not yet a GFAS member and feel the need to make a rather belated New Year's resolution, joining the society this year would be a good one.

Planetarium rehearsal

We had 12 adults and 2 juniors in the dome for our "dress rehearsal" in Newton Stewart last Saturday. There was plenty of room on the floor for everyone and we should be able to cope quite well with larger numbers in the upcoming school visits. We ran a 45 minute dome show using Stellarium and learned a lot from the trial. The photos are by Elizabeth Tindal.



The audience volunteers lined up with their mats ready to enter the maw of the beast:

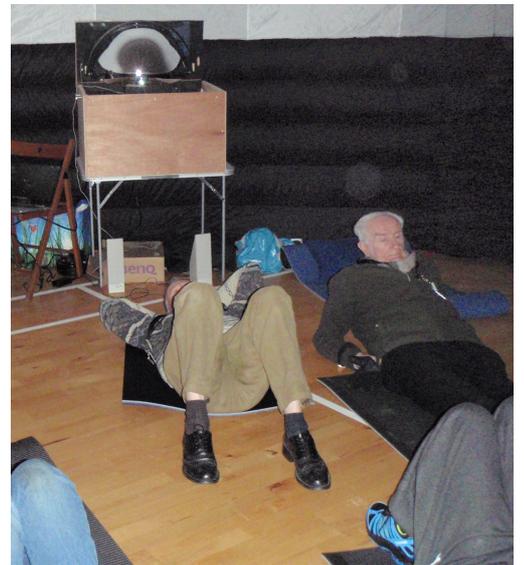


"You really will need a mat!"

We're very glad the rehearsal experience was positive because we've got two school visits lined up in February/March as well as an all-day appearance on Saturday 9th March at the The Wigtown Book Festival Big Bang weekend. We have a distinct "over the top" feeling this month.

Night sky Highlight for February

On the 11th -15th February, evenings after 19:00, looking southwest, Mars (magnitude 1, bright orange) will be seen passing close by the planet Uranus (magnitude 6, faint blue) giving an easy way to locate it with a telescope. Uranus is east of Mars on the 11th moving southwards underneath Mars by the 15th.



"I should have brought a pillow!"

GFAS Membership

Subs for 2018/19 are now overdue, please pay soon. Members can join in our members' meetings for free and can borrow GFAS equipment for their own use. Subs rates: Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

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