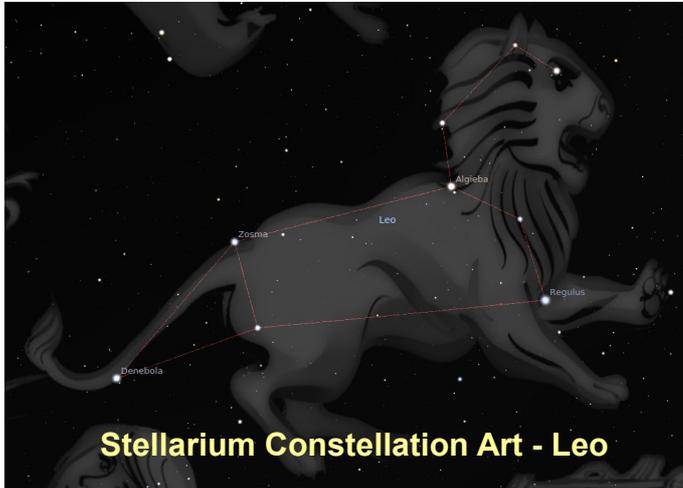




Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #36, January 2020

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Stellarium Constellation Art - Leo

End-of-year Planetarium Visits

Our presentations to Creetown and Minnigaff Primary schools, in the Creetown Primary hall, took place at the end of November 2019 and were very well received. Then, near the end of the school term, we went back to the Rhins, to Sandhead Primary, and welcomed the whole school from the nursery up. We have always been a bit doubtful about how much the nursery gets out of it (sun, moon and stars with constellation art). This time the nursery teacher asked the kids what they remembered and wrote it down for us. Among the feedback we got were “giraffe” (camelopardus), “lion” (leo), “bear and a wee bear” (ursa major & minor) and “we went to the moon”, so even the youngest ones are taking something in as well as enjoying the experience.

Fundraising - Tesco Stranraer

We have a “Tesco Bags of Help” fundraiser ongoing in Tesco Stranraer, at Port Rodie opposite the bus station. Depending on customers’ votes, we will be awarded either £500, £1,000 or £2,000 to be put towards a professional projection system for the dome. If you are shopping in Tesco Stranraer any time from now until May, it would be a great help if you could drop a token into the GFAS collection box.

A Busy Spring

After a break over January, bookings are coming in for February and March, and not just from schools. In February, as a complete contrast with the schools work, we will be visiting the University of the Third Age (U3A)

in Wigtown and, later on, Borgue Primary Parent Teacher Council to introduce their film night on the Apollo moonshots. Both these events will be with the projector only, not the dome. Then in March we have Girvan Academy Science Fayre and two days at Park Primary in Stranraer, finishing the term early in April with Drummore Primary, the school that is the farthest south in the whole of Scotland.



GFAS Membership

Subs for 2019/20 are now due, please pay soon. Members can join in our members’ meetings for free and can borrow GFAS telescopes and other equipment for their own use.

Subscription rates remain at: Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!

November’s Stellarium Challenge

In the last issue we showed you a Stellarium screenshot and asked you to tell us what Solar System event it displayed, and where it was (virtually) viewed from. The event was a transit of the Earth/Moon system across the sun, viewed from the surface of Mars, on the 11th May 1984. One member got it exactly right, very well done indeed. If anyone, member or friend, would like to suggest a similar puzzle for a future newsletter, please don’t hesitate to email it to us.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

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