



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #47, June 2023

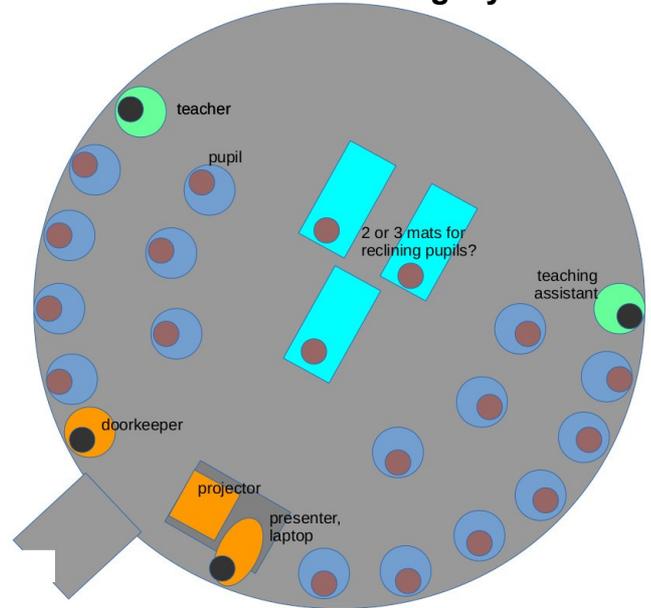
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Redeploying the Dome

We have been testing out the inflatable planetarium after its long period of storage, in the hope of restarting our programme of school visits with it in August this year. We set it up in Penninghame Church Hall, Newton Stewart (it only just fits in there, as you can see from the picture below). Many thanks to all the members who turned out to help and for the many observations and suggestions that they have made.

We were trying out a new seating plan inside the dome, so as to reduce the risk of infection from Covid-19 or other viral agents. Previously we had as many as 25 pupils lying on mats on the floor, together with two or three adults seated, all in a close-contact situation. We hope that the new plan, although it reduces the number of viewers per session, will make the dome a safer place to visit.

The new dome seating layout



The dome during Inflation

Here we can see the dome being inflated inside the church hall. As you can see, the walls of the dome filled nearly the whole width of the hall, leaving just enough room to walk around it. Fortunately there was plenty of room at the dome entrance, so getting in and out was not a problem for our visitors.

We were trying out our new 4K laptop and projector for the first time in the dome and we were keen to find out if the HDMI audio feed from the laptop to the projector would be loud enough to be clearly heard inside the dome. In the event everything worked as expected and visitors found the seating arrangements quite acceptable, a lot better than lying on the floor. There was too much light coming in from the hall windows for best viewing conditions, and the noise from the inflation fan was a problem as usual, making it difficult to hear the audio from the projector clearly. These are problems we will continue to work on.

GFAS Membership

We always welcome new members, especially juniors who join for free. Subs remain at £15.00 Adult, £25.00 Family, £0.00 Junior or in full-time education. Just email members@gf-astro.org for a form.

GSA Biosphere

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere have started some stakeholder meetings on "Re-animating dark skies in Galloway" and with one at Glentrool Hive on June 22nd. We will keep GFAS members informed of developments.

Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

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

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Bags of Help

