



U3A Wigtownshire Astronomy Group

We held a joint meeting with the U3A Astronomy Group in Wigtown County Buildings on 5th December, with a presentation from Andy Sawers FRAS, called “Apollo 8: First to the Moon”, followed by the Flamsteed AS video using the 4K projector and our 150-inch screen. Andy took us through the terrific story of the first time humans left Earth's gravity and headed for another celestial world - but some of the grim details made you wonder about the 'glamour' of being an astronaut! The crew's Christmas Eve 'Genesis' reading and the 'Earthrise' photo were extraordinary moments in a mission that, as Andy said, was a giant leap for mankind, paving the way for Neil Armstrong's “small step” in Apollo 11.

Planetarium Visit to Ballantrae

We made our second school visit with the inflatable dome to Ballantrae Primary School on Thursday 7th December. We did three sessions, covering the whole school from P1 right up to P7, then had a short session with the nursery class as an extra. Once again, the P5-P7 group were very well-informed, so well done to the school staff! We had a team of three volunteers for this visit.

The dome turned out to be a tight fit in the school hall, with the roof of the dome flattened a bit by the ceiling lights. This meant that the image at the apex of the dome was a bit distorted, but the presentations went well enough nevertheless.

Our next school visit is on Wednesday 17th January, to Kirkcolm Primary School, with Leswalt Primary joining in. We have room for another volunteer, so if you think you'd like to join us, please just email!



Season's Greetings - Best wishes for the holiday season to all.

GFAS Membership

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



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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