



M42 – The Orion Nebula – imaged by Brian and Robin Rice

This image of the Orion Nebula, M42, was taken over 2 nights of 3 minute exposures with their modified Canon 600D camera on their Starwave 110 APO refractor telescope. The twins created a luminance (black and white) image then used that with Noel Carboni's "Actions Set" astronomy tools set to make a false H-alpha image which was blended to the luminance image and red channel. It is not finished (they say) because they could not get any core images, which is why the core is blown out. It's still an amazing image from a terrestrial telescope!



Move to Tennis Club site – update We have now moved all the society's kit to our new storage cabin beside the tennis club pavilion in York Road. The picture on the left was taken near the end of January during the build of the log cabin which is now wind-and-watertight and very nearly completely finished. We have had some donations of equipment from benefactors lately, including a very impressive 10" Cassegrain reflector telescope with its own observatory dome! (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassegrain_reflector for details). Our collection of astronomy gear is growing so we need to make sure the log cabin storage is carefully arranged so that we can get at the equipment fairly efficiently. Thanks to all members who gave their time and expertise, and to Tesco and the Co-op Community fund for financial support for the move, and to Newton Stewart Tennis Club.





Equipment review April 2018

Now we have got the equipment moved into the log cabin, we have been able to check our telescopes over and set them up as they would be when in use. Here they are, clockwise from top left: Evostar 100HE refractor on Skywatcher HEQ5 mount; Meade 10" Cassegrain with Losmandy G11 mount and guidance system; Meade LX-200 EMC 10" Cassegrain on tripod with wedge mount and guidance system; Skywatcher 10" Dobsonian; Ortus reflector with finderscope, mount and tripod; Tasco 302003 reflector with tripod; a very old Meade 10" Newtonian on its mount; Meade 114mm reflector with mount and tripod.

We also have (not shown) two Coronado solar telescopes, a 5-inch Meade reflector, a pair of large astronomical binoculars and even a domed observatory capable of housing a 10" reflector on its mount! All of the equipment is available to members to borrow, on request.



Members' and Friends' meeting 15th December 2017

A few members met in the Newton Stewart Centre, Church Street, Newton Stewart. Mike Alexander of the Galloway Astronomy Centre (<http://www.gallowayastro.com/>), gave a talk on comets and their discovery and observation. Brian and Robin Rice showed their video of the total solar eclipse 2017 that they took in the USA. The night being cloudy, we were not able to have an observing session.

Planned visit to SDSO, March 2018

We cancelled the planned visit to the Scottish Dark Skies Observatory in March, partly because of severe weather during the "beast from the east" and partly because we had too few members willing to go to make up the SDSO's minimum size of visit party. We'll try to set up another visit in early May.



International Dark Sky Week, April 15th-21st 2018

The International Dark Sky Association has called its annual week of action on dark skies for this month. You can find out more on the IDS website at

<http://www.darksky.org/dark-sky-week-2018-2/>

There is a range of useful free downloadable resources on the website and a free downloadable video about light pollution, called "Losing the Dark", which both flat-screen and full-dome versions available. Needless to say, GFAS has now downloaded the flat-screen version and we hope in future to be able to make use of the full-dome version.

GFAS Membership

Now is a very good time to join GFAS! Pay your subs any time from now and stay a member until the October 2019 AGM. Adults £15.00, Family £25.00, Juniors FREE!



**Galloway
Forest
Astronomical
Society**