

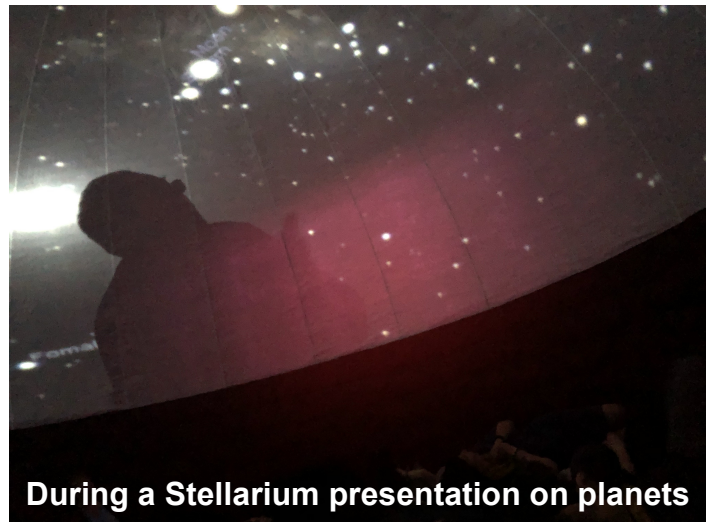
### 2 down, 68 to go

We have now completed two school planetarium visits, to Douglas-Ewart High School in Newton Stewart and to Portpatrick Primary School to meet the pupils of Portpatrick, Kirkcolm and Leswalt primaries, the North Rhinns schools network. So over the next six-and-a-half years of the project, we only have a further 68 school and/or youth group visits to make! Isn't that encouraging, now?

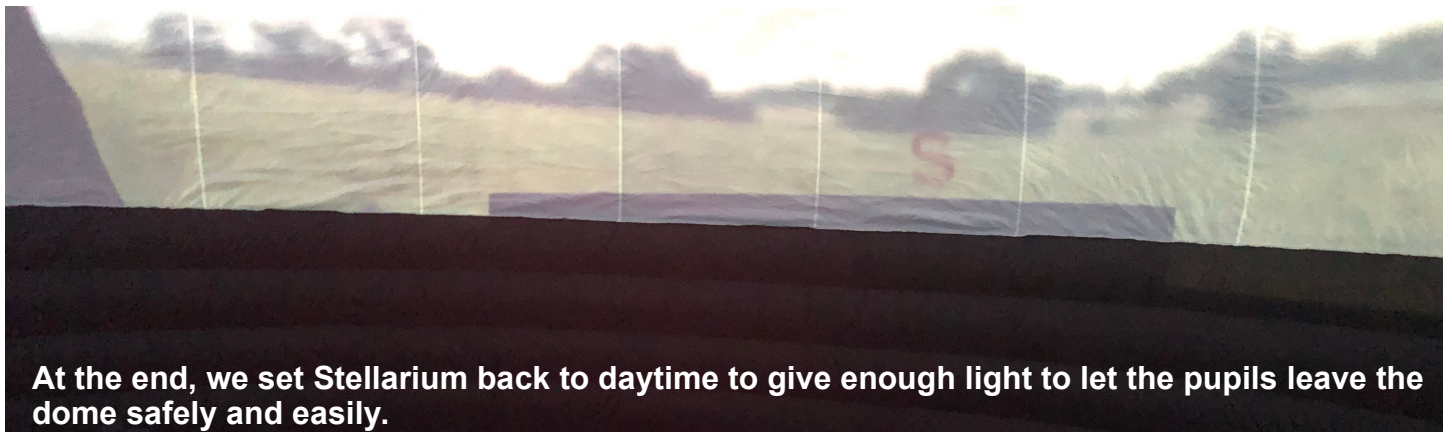
The pictures below are from Portpatrick Primary, from outside and outside the dome during the day. We had just enough room to get set up safely.



The dome expands to fit the space!



During a Stellarium presentation on planets



At the end, we set Stellarium back to daytime to give enough light to let the pupils leave the dome safely and easily.

### Girvan Academy Science Fayre 14<sup>th</sup> March

Our next school visit is to Girvan Academy Science Fayre on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It means a 7:30 start from Newton Stewart to be able to get set up in time for the first of five short sessions with S3 pupils. These are supposed to be "hands-on" sessions – not easy, but we'll see what can be done.



### Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

Hon President: Prof. John Brown D.Sc., Astronomer Royal for Scotland

Chairman: Antony Berretti;

Secretary: Doug Snell, 5 Elm Grove, Newton Stewart, DG8 6JT

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with funding from ScottishPower Renewables



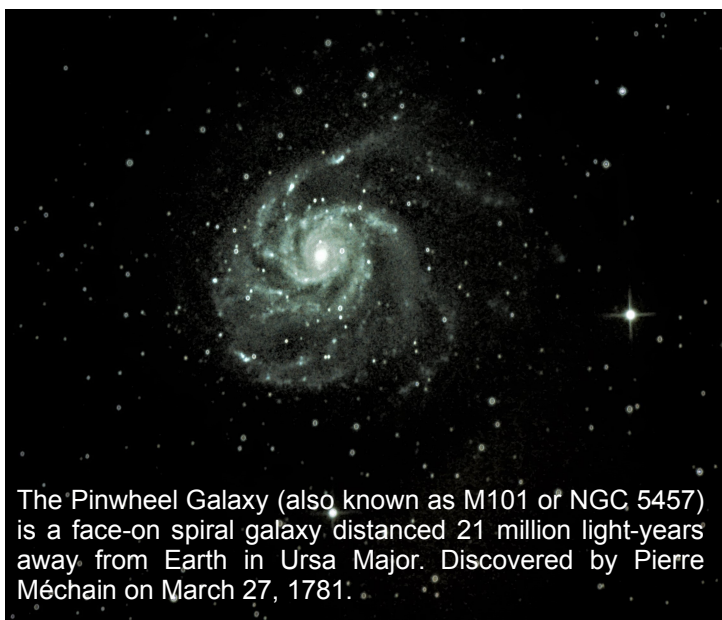


## Brian Leighton's Page

Brian is one of our "out of town" members – his home is in Newcastle, but he spends a lot of time out at the Three Lochs, on the back road between Newton Stewart and Glenluce, where the skies are as dark as he could wish (when they're not cloudy at least). He recently dropped in on me on his way home, left me lots of tantalising photographs taken, I understand, by camera without any telescope, employing on-the-fly image stacking to sharpen the images, and said "do what you like with them". So I have chosen a few for this page. I hope you like them – if you have any technical questions, email them to GFAS and I'll pass them on to Brian.



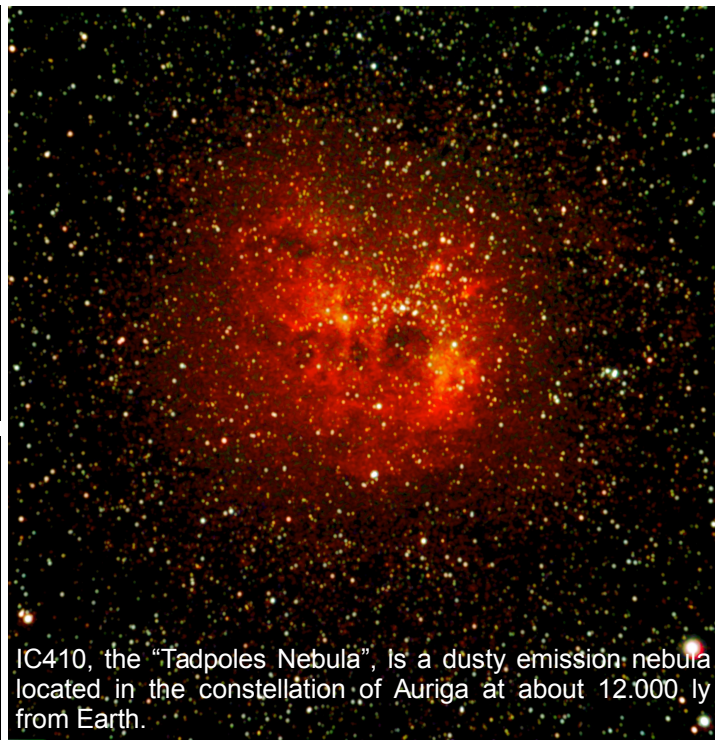
NGC 2683 (the "UFO" galaxy) is a spiral galaxy seen almost edge-on, giving it the shape of a spaceship. It was discovered by William Herschel in 1788.



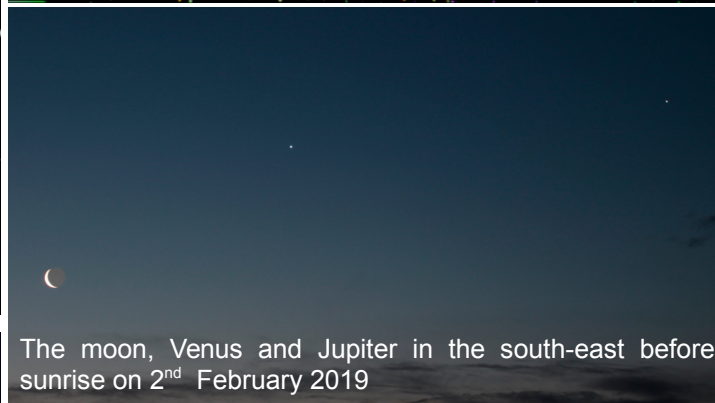
The Pinwheel Galaxy (also known as M101 or NGC 5457) is a face-on spiral galaxy distanced 21 million light-years away from Earth in Ursa Major. Discovered by Pierre Méchain on March 27, 1781.



Jupiter, showing the Great Red Spot and one of the Galilean moons in transit at right of the Jovian equator.



IC410, the "Tadpoles Nebula", is a dusty emission nebula located in the constellation of Auriga at about 12,000 ly from Earth.



The moon, Venus and Jupiter in the south-east before sunrise on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019



Orion



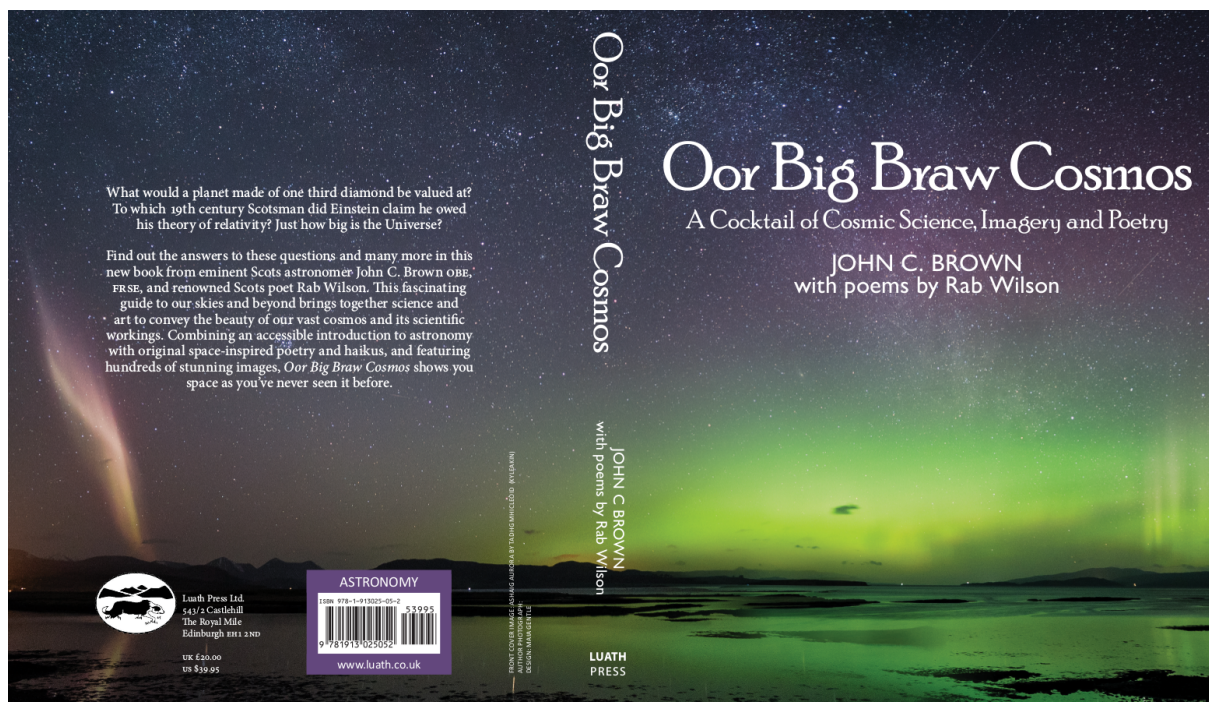
## Wigtown Book Festival Big Bang Events 8th -10th March

Visit <http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/programme> to book.

**GFAS Mobile Planetarium: Saturday 9th 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00**

**Prof John  
Brown &  
Rab  
Wilson**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup>  
12:00**



### Glentrool & Bargrennan Community Trust – Free Event – Darkness & Stars at Glentrool Village

**Glentrool and Bargrennan Community Trust**

**Darkness and Stars at Glentrool Village**



Glentrool is the only village in the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park and our community is proud of its dark skies. You are invited to celebrate the start of British Science Week under the stars with us. Biosphere Dark Sky Ranger, Elizabeth Tindal, leads the way with artist and Dark Sky researcher Natalie Marr. On this FREE darkness and stargazing event. We will be talking about the stars and Darkness Tourism.

Please wrap up warm, there will be soup and hot drinks afterwards with lots of time to chat.

Contact Elizabeth Tindal for details

[Elizabeth.Tindal@FreelanceRanger.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Tindal@FreelanceRanger.com) or call 07842241141

**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!

