



# Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

**Newsletter #55, October 2024**

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## **Our very first movie night**

We've managed to arrange a special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of the Oscar-winning blockbuster "**Interstellar**", a 2014 epic science fiction drama film directed by Christopher Nolan. It stars Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Bill Irwin, Ellen Burstyn, Matt Damon, and Michael Caine. Set in a dystopian future where Earth is suffering from catastrophic blight and famine, the film follows a group of astronauts who travel through a wormhole near Saturn in search of a new home for mankind. Theoretical physicist Kip Thorne was an executive producer and scientific consultant on the film. Thorne went on to win the Nobel prize for Physics in 2017.

Newton Stewart Cinema are presenting this screening in association with Galloway Forest Astronomical Society and the Wigtownshire U3A Astronomy Group. The Cinema is offering members of either organisation, together with a guest each, a discount on the standard ticket price (£7.50). All the usual cinema facilities are available, including popcorn.

This means that if you join GFAS before the screening, you could get a savings refund of up to £4.00 off your subscription fee on the 11th of November! See the foot of this page for how to join.

You can view the screening details on the Newton Stewart Cinema webpage, just scroll down to 11<sup>th</sup> November on:

<https://newtonstewartcinema.savoysystems.co.uk/NewtonStewartCinema.dll/>



## **GFAS Annual General Meeting 2024**

We will be holding this year's AGM on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November** in the **Belted Galloway Visitor Centre**, Riverside road, Newton Stewart DG8 6NQ, starting at **2:30pm**. Members will be getting the usual invitation email, agenda, statement of accounts, reports and so on during October.

All office bearer positions fall to be elected at each AGM. We encourage members to email nominations for office bearers, suggestions for amendments to our constitution and additional business items for the agenda well in advance of the date. Office bearer notifications must be made by the proposer and a seconder (both members) and approved by the person (also a member) being nominated.

Member subscriptions, unchanged from 2023-24, are as shown below. Subs can be paid in cash at the AGM or by bank transfer beforehand.

Many thanks to the Belted Galloway for giving us the use of their meeting room without charge. They will, of course, be delighted to sell you teas, coffees, snacks, lunch, whatever, before, during and after the meeting.

## **See Overleaf!**

We're working on our programme of events for 2024-2025, one of our members has done some more sunspotting since our July event and there's a comet about. See Page 2 for details.

### **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](mailto:members@gf-astro.org) for a form.



## **Galloway Forest Astronomical Society**

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

Chairman: Antony Berretti;

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

W: [www.gf-astro.org](http://www.gf-astro.org) E: [members@gf-astro.org](mailto:members@gf-astro.org)

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

**Supported by Kilgallioch Community Fund**

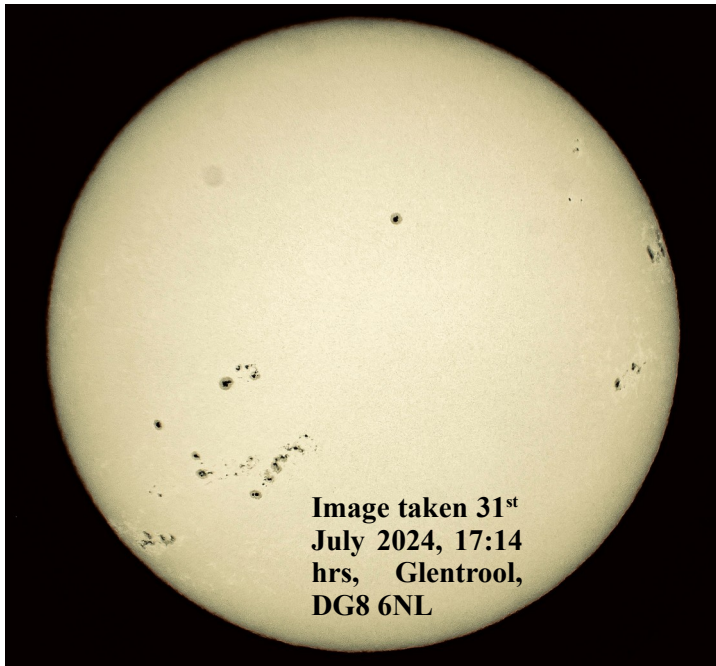
**with funding from ScottishPower Renewables' Kilgallioch Wind Farm**



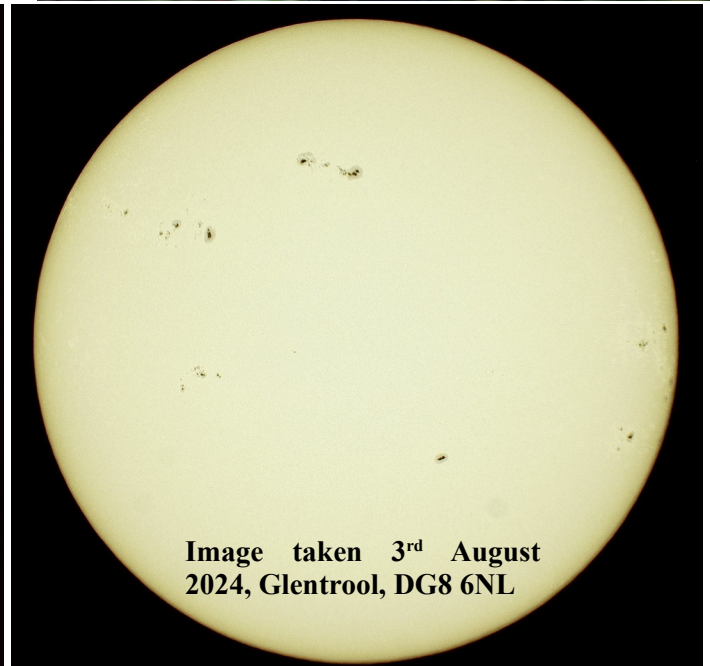
**More sunspots - Hunter McCall**

Here is the set up Hunter uses when either viewing sunspots or imaging them. Hunter says: For this kind of shot I would tend to use my Televue Ethos 13mm. My refractor, an Altair Astro 80mm F6, is designed for wide field astrophotography, so I've added a Televue 2.5x Powermate which in effect converts the refractor into an F15, more suitable for solar system targets. This image shows the Olympus OMD EM1 camera body taking the place of the Ethos eyepiece but with the 2.5 Powermate still in place to get a better image size.

In addition, my iPad can make a WiFi connection with Olympus camera, giving a live view of what the camera is seeing. My camera parameters can be changed on the iPad (iso and shutter speed) and the shutter release can be activated from the iPad, which eliminates vibration in the imaging rig.



**Image taken 31<sup>st</sup>  
July 2024, 17:14  
hrs, Glentrool,  
DG8 6NL**



**Image taken 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
2024, Glentrool, DG8 6NL**

**Upcoming events**

We are working on a programme of events for the winter season 2024-25, to include indoor events, nighttime observation sessions and school / youth group planetarium visits. We'll post a timetable as soon as we have it firmed up. As always in Galloway, outdoor events will have to be flexible to suit weather conditions. Thanks to the generosity of the Wigtown Community Shop who have provided a grant for the purpose, we will soon have a full Zoom licence and a Vimeo licence to make meetings easier to record for future use and to access remotely.

**Watch out - there's a Comet about!**

Comet A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) is near us and there is a chance it could be visible with the naked eye, or with binoculars. The best chance to spot it will be between the 12 and 30 October if you look to the west just after sunset.

**Newsletter Articles:** send us your astro news! We are happy to consider all contributions to our newsletters and we will always acknowledge the source of anything we use. Just email us any original astronomy-related items for inclusion.

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