



Solar Eclipse Special

The eclipse of the sun on Wednesday 12th August 2026 gave GFAS members and friends a rare observation opportunity. Although we only had a partial (92%) eclipse visible from Galloway, we had a large turnout at our meet at Seconds Sands, Port William. At least 60 people showed up near the start at 6:00 pm, and about 9 solar-equipped telescopes, ranging from Seestar instruments to large telescopes with solar filters, were in use.

This was our best chance to see an eclipse for some time. There will be another partial eclipse on Monday 2nd August 2027, with only about 30% of the Sun obscured, while our next total eclipse is due on Friday 7 October 2135 at 7:28 am, 109 years ahead, so good luck to all those alive to see it.

Second Sands has a clear view across Luce Bay to the west and north-west, so we could have had the best viewing conditions possible. Sadly, there was a lot of cloud cover to the west, so we only got a view of the eclipse through breaks in the cloud. We were able to see the start, the maximum and the end of the eclipse. A selection of the images made can be seen on page 2.

One GFAS member was taken off by surprise to Burgos in Spain for the total eclipse. There are some pictures from him on page 2 also.

On Thursday 13th we got a very pleasant surprise - an email from the **Astronomer Royal for Scotland, professor Catherine Heymans FRSE**, congratulating us on the event. In it she said "By organising your wonderful event, you've connected with people that scientists would never normally encounter and reach." If amateur astronomical societies like ours do any good at all, it's just that, and it's quite amazing and heartwarming that Catherine and her colleagues are aware of what we do.



The eclipse at 7:13 pm,
just after the maximum,
from Dane Carty.

Upcoming Events

- **School visits** The new school session is nearly upon us and we are working on a new programme of visits to schools in Wigtownshire and South Carrick using either our inflatable planetarium or our 150 inch projection screen, whichever is best for the school. We always need volunteers to help with these visits, so if any members can make themselves available during the school day, please let us know. Travel expenses from home to the school and back are available.
- **Astronomical Quiz Night** Thursday 10th September, **Newton Stewart Golf Club, 7:00 pm**. A fun Quiz Night covering both astronomical and general knowledge areas. Everyone is encouraged to come along and take part - bring a quiz team if you can, especially including youngsters – prizes will be available.
- **Dr Louise Devoy** Thursday 22 October, 7pm, by Zoom. Royal Observatory Greenwich senior curator and author **Dr Louise Devoy** will talk about the **history of the ROG**. Her recently-published book is quite marvellous! After the talk, weather permitting, we will be outdoors observing the Moon, Saturn and other targets. – Venue: **Newton Stewart Golf Club**
- **GFAS AGM 2026** will be held in November, date and venue to be advised. All members are encouraged to attend!

Newsletter Articles Please send us your astro news! We consider all contributions to our newsletters and we always acknowledge the source of anything we use. Please email us any original astronomy items for consideration.

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 or download a form from the website.



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Registered Scottish Charity SC035033.

Chair: Andy Sawers FRAS Secretary: Jayne Davis

W: www.gf-astro.org E: members@gf-astro.org

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

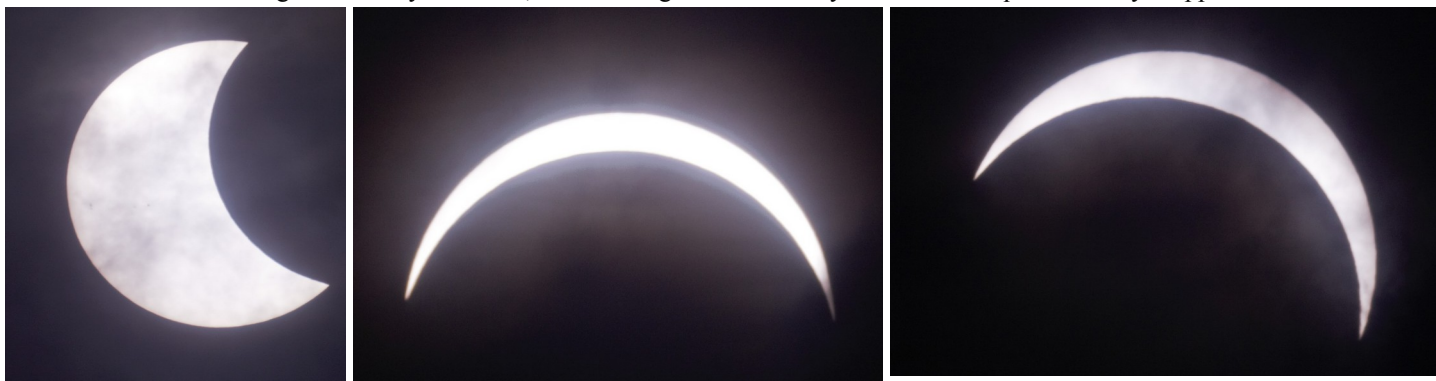
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Images from the Eclipse

Here are some of the images sent in by members, taken during the event. They have all been quite severely cropped.



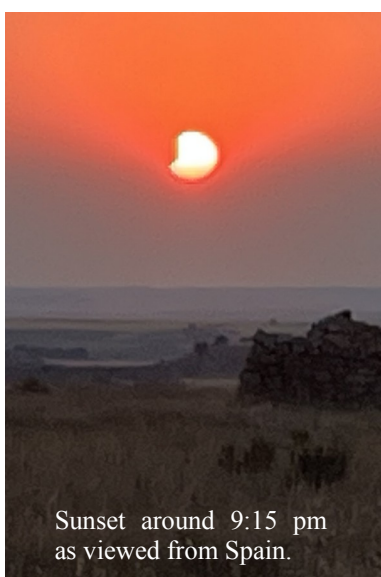
The ones above are from Robin and Brian Rice. We can see the clouds, so these were shot when the clouds had thinned enough.



Dane Carty brought three telescopes to the meet. The images are from his Seestar S50 (on the left, above). In the first pic, at 6:18 pm, we can see some sunspots as well as the moon at the eclipse start.



This was as close to the eclipse maximum as we got, at 7:10 pm.



Sunset around 9:15 pm as viewed from Spain.



The "diamond ring" during totality, shot by Lynda Blackwell, from near Burgos in Spain.

From our Foreign Correspondent ...

While we were struggling with the clouds in partial-eclipse Galloway, our chairman Andy Sawers had been wheeled off to Spain to view the total eclipse in all its glory.

He had a totally clear view of the event, in 34°C, from a location about 30 km south of Burgos. He was kind enough to send some mobile phone shots of the event. The diamond ring is really striking, while the sunset shot shows something of the surroundings at around 9:15 pm. Hopefully Andy will update us when he gets home.

**DO NOT
USE BINOCULARS OR AN
UNPROTECTED TELESCOPE TO
LOOK AT THE SUN
NOT EVEN WITH
SOLAR SPECS!!!**



**Stay safe. Follow the advice from
Galloway Forest Astronomical Society**

Safety First

We gave our visitors an illustrated guide to using solar specs safely, put together by Andy Sawers

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