



Galloway Forest Astronomical Society

Newsletter #7, August 2014

Day of the Region: New Galloway, Sept 20th

The Society's activities restart on 20th September with a stand at the Day of the Region weekend, 19th-21st September, in New Galloway Park, New Galloway, DG7 3RN. We will have our gazebo set up and manned during the day on Saturday 20th with a range of information materials about the society, its activities and its future plans. We are also bringing with us our Coronado solar telescope for observations of the sun's surface during the day. After sunset, given clear skies on the night, we hope to be able to observe the Triangulum Galaxy M33 ("the pinwheel galaxy"), shown here in an image built up of 20 exposures by Brian and Robin Rice last winter. We are grateful for an allowance from the Day of the Region organisers for promotional materials so we hope to be able to offer members and visitors to the stand a small memento of the day.

You can download an information sheet on the New Galloway Day of the Region event at:

<http://www.dayoftheregion.co.uk/media/uploads/cat-5474/New%20Galloway%202014.pdf>

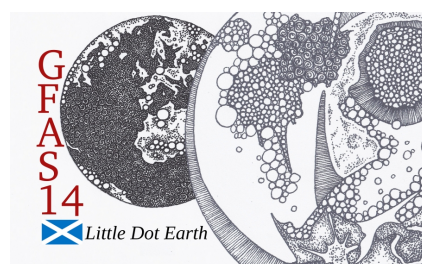


GFAS AGM 2014

We have fixed the date of the 2014 AGM, which will be held on Saturday 11th October 2014 in the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre, Newton Stewart, at 10:30 am. Members will be getting a letter of invitation to the AGM with a detailed agenda shortly, but apart from the "usual suspects" of the management committee reports, presentation of accounts and election of office bearers, we have to consider a minor alteration to the society's constitution and the subscription rates for 2014/2015. *As an inducement to members to renew their membership in good time, we have decided to offer 2014/2015 membership at the current rates (£25 family, £15 senior, £5 junior) to all existing and new members who pay their subs on or before the date of the AGM. After the AGM, the new subscription rates will apply.*

Relocation progress

Over the summer we have been having discussions with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) about our need to remove from the Glenamour site by the end of 2014. FCS have been very helpful and have offered us the use of a secure storage facility for the society's equipment and a range of site options within the Galloway Forest Park, near Newton Stewart, for rebuilding the observatory. The committee have had some preliminary discussions about these and we hope to be able to present a possible relocation plan to members at the AGM. Meanwhile we have started moving the equipment (including PortaPotty!) to the FCS storage site and will be dismantling the observatory itself and storing it at Little Balsier, as previously planned, in due course.



GFAS Stamps

You may have noticed that the Society can now produce its own design of Royal Mail postage stamps. We have been holding a design competition with the Minnigaff Scout Group and now have a range of designs drawn by the Cub Scouts for our 2014 range of stamps. A local artist, Suzi Plunkett of Little Dot Creations, has also kindly contributed a design of her own, called "Little Dot Earth", as you can see here. We hope to be able to show off the selected stamp designs at the Day of the Regions event.



See more of Suzi's artwork at:
<http://littledotcreations.bigcartel.com/>

