

Issue: October 2017



>>> **Ayrshire Astronomical Society Newsletter**

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**DON'T FORGET:**

**Christmas Meal**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Please let Derrick know if you are able to join at the next meeting. That will give us an idea of numbers.



**Next Meeting:**

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**23<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Prestwick Academy at 7pm**

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Speakers this month are

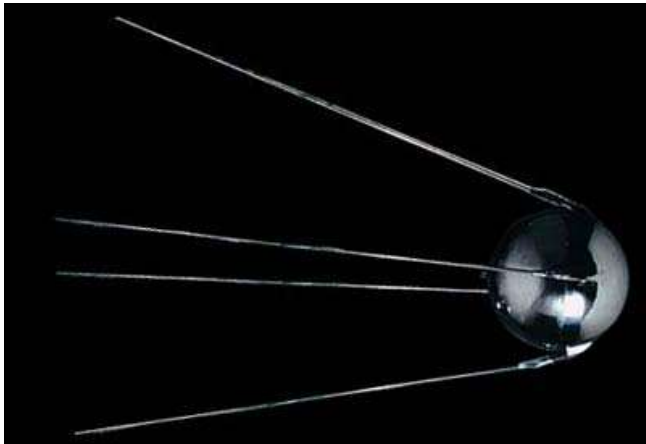
**Dr Iain G Hannah**

Royal Society Research Fellow, University of Glasgow

**“New Views of the Sun's Hot Corona”**



## Events and News



### Celebrating 60 years of Spaceflight Sputnik 1

The launch of Sputnik 1 on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957, Earth's first artificial satellite, paved the way for Moonwalking astronauts, robotic exploration of the planets, and space tourism

### Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Supersonic Flight 14<sup>th</sup> October 1947

Charles Elwood “Chuck” Yeager became the first pilot confirmed to have exceeded the speed of sound in level flight. After the war, Yeager became a test pilot of many different aircraft types, including the rocket powered Bell X-1 (Picture opposite) in which succeeded to fly greater than Mach 1



### Mapping the Far Side of our Galaxy

Astronomers have started mapping the far side of the galaxy. In about 10 years time we could have a detailed map available.

It's difficult to observe anything on that side of the galaxy because of the dense, frenetic swarm of dust and gas at its centre. Scientists got around this by looking at a jet of radio waves that can outshine any emissions coming from that mess of stars.

To do this, they used parallax measurements, which take into account differences in measurements from two points in space. If you hold a finger up at arm's length and close one eye, then the other, your finger will appear to move over slightly – that small discrepancy is called parallax.

## Don't Forget !!

The November Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> November, is at the Scottish Dark Skies Observatory.

There will be **no meeting** at our usual venue at Prestwick Academy.

Please arrive at the SDSO for 7pm sharp with attire suitable for the location. **NO WHITE LIGHT TORCHES !!!!!**

The main focus of the visit is a tour of the observatory with the opportunity to observe using the 20" Plainwave and the 14" Celestron. The newly installed planetarium is also part of the visit. If you wish you may bring your own telescope for use on the hardstanding.

If you have not yet put your name down for the visit please do so at the October meeting or email [president@ayrastro.com](mailto:president@ayrastro.com).

Directions to the SDSO are shown on the map below and assume that you are arriving from Dalmellington.

1. Leave the A713 at the Loch Doon turn off (there is an SDSO sign here)
2. Follow the road until the cross roads at which you turn right
3. Continue and cross the small bridge go straight on
4. At the cross roads turn left and follow the winding road up to the Observatory
5. Park in the car park and go into the reception/meeting room



## President's Word

### Kilmarnock Engineering and Science Society

As you know we join with KESS in their schools outreach programme and also joint lectures. This year we have two joint lectures with KESS, the first is on **Tuesday 7th November 2017** by Laura Thomas – “The Moon: Our next step in the Journey to Mars” and the second is **Tuesday 27th March 2018** by Dr Maire Gorman – “Are we alone in the Universe? :Studying Exoplanet Atmospheres” AAS members may attend these talk free of charge. (see Links page on AAS website for full details of the KESS lecture programme).

The KESS adopted schools this year are Galston Primary and St Sophias Pimary. If you would like to help, please speak to Graham, or Isabelle who is already in action.

AAS is already active doing outreach this year. Isabelle has undertaken a number of visits, Dave Hancox is presenting a day at Girvan Primary and Roger Harman is taking at day at Kilwinning. If you would like to help at either of the school see Dave or Roger.

We have also been asked to help at Wellington School in Ayr with an international astronomy/science based project they will undertake in September next year - watch this space.

Graham

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## AAS Library

### Open for business!

## THE LIBRARY IS A RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS -PLEASE SUPPORT IT AND MAKE USE OF IT

The Library list is also available on the website under “links” and can be downloaded



The library is now full up - if you would like to obtain a list or borrow an item

– contact Alex at the next meeting or give him a call on 01563 520887.

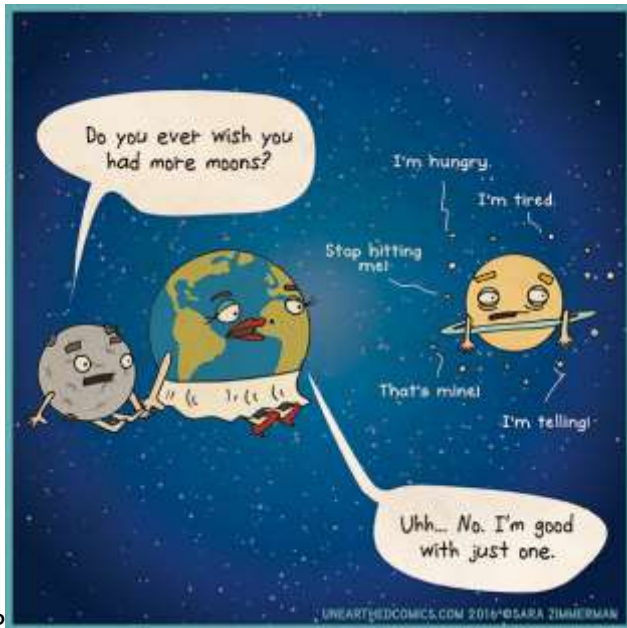
Unfortunately Alex does not have email, however messages via [library@ayrastros.com](mailto:library@ayrastros.com) will reach him the old fashioned way after a short delay but please contact him directly if at all possible.

THE LIBRARY IS WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!! There are a lot of interesting items to borrow

## Miscellaneous

If you would like to publish an article or photos you have taken and wish to share, please email me [isagrogg@hotmail.com](mailto:isagrogg@hotmail.com)

Isabelle



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