

Issue: November 2017



>>> **Ayrshire Astronomical Society Newsletter**

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DON'T FORGET:

Christmas Meal

11th December 2017, No 22 Bar & Grill, Ayr.

If you would like to join but have not signed up yet, check with Derrick as spaces are limited. A £10 deposit is needed to secure the booking.



Next Meeting:

27th November

At the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory

(Members only)

Please arrive BEFORE 7pm – the meeting starts at 7pm. Enter the site from Loch Doon side.

The visit will include the 20" plane wave, the 14" Celestron and also the new planetarium. Hopefully we will have some clear skies and we will be able to do some observing.

You can bring your own scope and use it on the hardstanding after the meeting if you wish, although there may be a small charge for this.

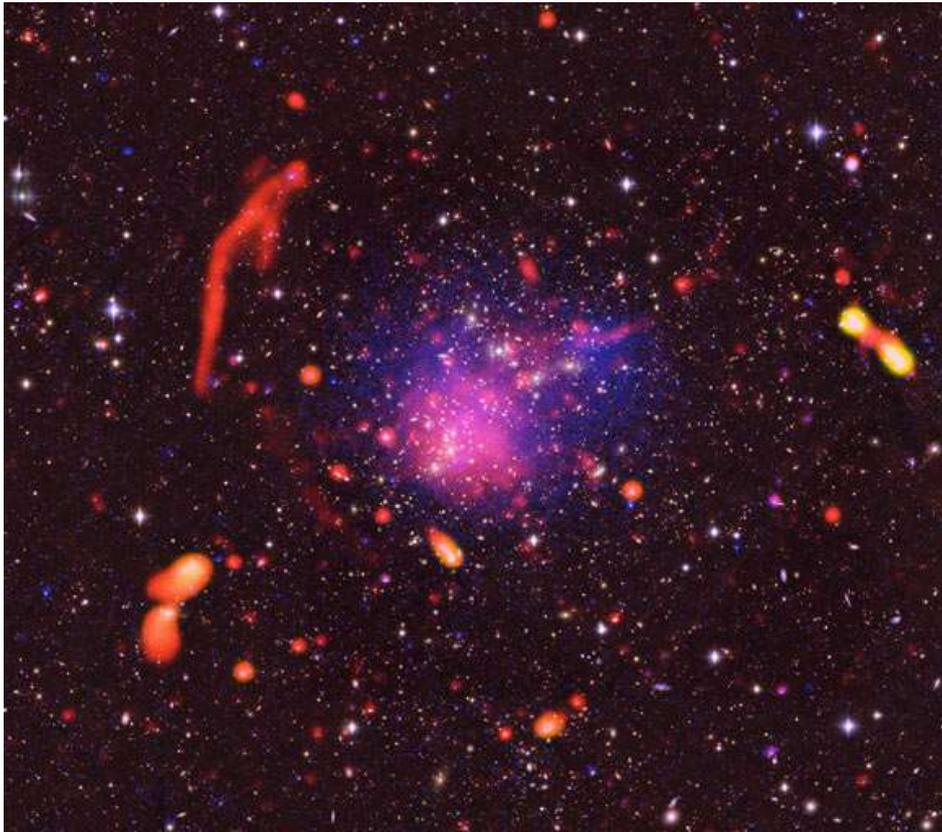
If you bring a torch, please make sure it has a red light or red filter.

Directions are in the October Newsletter or on the SDSO website

<https://scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk/directions/>



Events and News



Have you heard of the **Abell 2744**?

Here is a beautiful multi wavelength composite image taken by ground based and orbiting telescopes. Abell 2744 is about 4 billion light-years away and shows an ongoing cosmic collision between at least 4 galaxy clusters, each containing hundreds of galaxies.

The shock waves of the collisions create a bright radio emission, seen as red and orange. The purple at the centre of the image are X-rays created by extreme heating.

The images were taken by the Very Large Array (Radio emission), Chandras X-ray observatory (X-ray) and visible light image taken by Subaru telescope and the Very Large Telescope.



Update on Tiangong 1

Tiangong – 1 is out of control and on collision course with Earth. It could come crashing down anytime between now and April 2018.

The space station is experiencing drag from Earth's outer atmosphere and has no onboard thrusters to lift it higher. It currently loses about 530ft altitude per day.

The rate it loses altitude depends on the drag it experiences in the outer atmosphere which in return depends on the solar activity.

31st October 2017

Dave Hancox visited Girvan Primary School on Halloween. He included a fun quiz for the kids to guess some spooky names of Nebulas imaged by Hubble.



7th November

Ongoing Art project with KESS

Isabelle is working with 12 kids from St. Sophia School in Galston, on an astronomy themed art project which will be exhibited in March 2018.



President's Word

Report on Joint lecture AAS-KESS

The joint lecture, held at the new Kilmarnock college on 7th November, was well attended by both groups. The talk by Laura Thomas was excellent, giving a history of manned activity in space leading up to how our journey to Mars will be accomplished via the Moon and why. The meeting was chaired by your very own President, with the vote of thanks being proposed by KESS Chairman, Graham Short. The raffle was won by our Secretary, Angela, who walked off with a book on astroimaging. A good night out all round. The next joint lecture is in March 2018.



AAS Observing Group Activities

Unconfirmed rumours based on social media sources (could be false news) suggest that the Group was active over the weekend 16th November in the Galloway forest area. The reports suggest that at least two or more intrepid astro imagers visited Clatteringshaw's Loch and then based themselves in a nearby cabin purportedly taking astro images but more likely drinking beer and talking camera gobbledegook.

Other, even more uncertain information, suggest that a well known luxury caravan was seen in the nearby area. The same source suggests that a certain AAS celebrity was seen outside the caravan staring heavenward through binoculars. Unfortunately this latter sighting cannot be confirmed and, considering night time temperatures were below 24 degrees C, it is considered highly dubious.

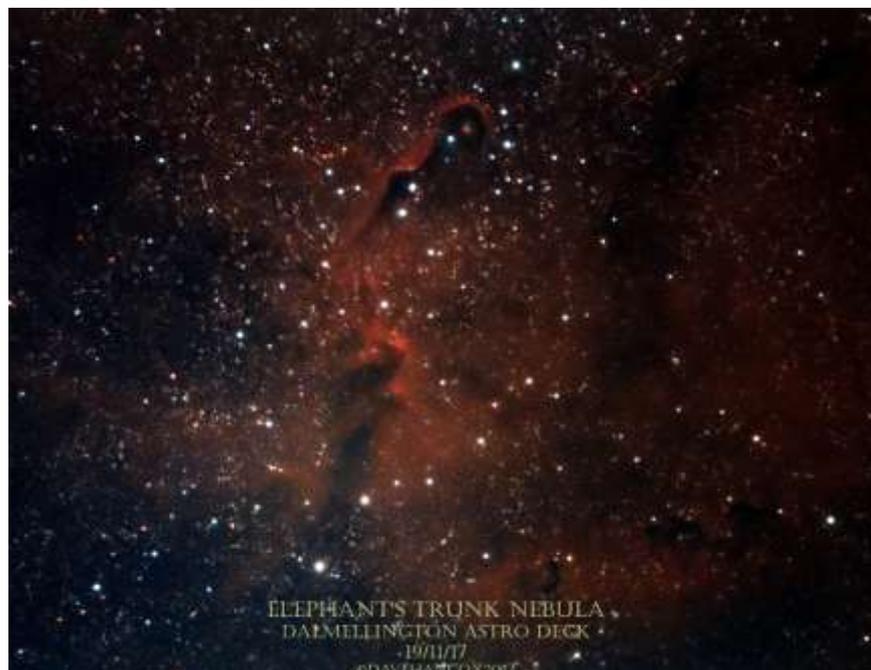
However other information and, perhaps, verifiable photographic evidence may come forward to verify some, if not all, of this initial report.

Report phoned in by Anon.



Some other images taken by members of the AAS

Image
taken
by Dave
Hancox





M45 Pleiades. Image by Marc Charron



Images taken by Marc Charron with his 70mm f6, SW CLS filter, but no flattener. Stacked 20 images and 34 images at 10 sec each at ISO 25,600 for M42 and M45 respectively. There was some faint haze or cloud present that affected the imaging.

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@ayraastro.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

Isabelle

