

Edited by Robert Shanks



Welcome to the newsletter of the Blackburn Leisure Astronomical Society, the one stop shop for news, future projects, events, visits, lectures and general communications.

Don't forget that the observatory is open all year round on Tuesday and Friday evenings and any other by arrangement. In general as per the BLAS moto 'If it's clear we'll be here !'

### Last meeting

The last BLAS meeting was held Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. George King gave a brief club history and an overview of the funding wall of fame which has given rise to the self help / self build society we have today for the benefit of new members. A re-cap of the 2019 objectives was also discussed. Andy Russell gave his thoughts on the Leicester spaceflight centre and Graham Bate gave an overview of this years London Astrofest at Kensington where he was privileged to meet Stephen Hawking's daughter and Brian May.

### BLAS Outreach

The first of the BLAS Astronomy for Beginners learning sessions intended for members and non-members took place on Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by some 15 adults and 5 children ranging from 7 to 70 years old. Positive feedback has already been received by email. After the first session a Friday session was held where people brought their telescopes in for advice on use.

### 2019 Membership Subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please download and print your Membership subscription form from the link [here](#) and bring it along with payment to next meeting or send payment with a visiting member. Your club needs your funding to thrive!

### Letters from Spain

With all the hysteria surrounding the word 'Supermoon' in recent years, Paul Reed has kindly sent the following Images from Spain. These images were taken with the same equipment, Judge for yourself. Click [here](#) for larger image.



Full Moon Imagery comparisons from Paul Read.

<b>Astronomy for (Complete) Beginners</b>		<i>BLAS 2019</i>
1 General Introduction <i>March 14th</i>	2 The Night Sky <i>March 28th</i>	
3 Cosmic Scales <i>April 11th</i>	4 The Ever Changing Sky <i>April 25th</i>	
5 The Lives of Stars <i>May 9th</i>	6 Telescopes and Binoculars <i>May 23rd</i>	
7 Space Missions <i>June 6th</i>	8 Resources <i>June 20th</i>	
9 Solar Astronomy, Radio Astronomy <i>July 4th</i>	10 The age of the universe: cosmology <i>July 18th</i>	
11 Making pictures (extension project?) <i>August 1st</i>		

BLAS Learning Sessions

For publication in this newsletter and general feedback, please contact [Bob@5150time.co.uk](mailto:Bob@5150time.co.uk)  
[www.broughastronomy.co.uk](http://www.broughastronomy.co.uk) Providing a window on the Universe for all !

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### Photographic Exhibition Update

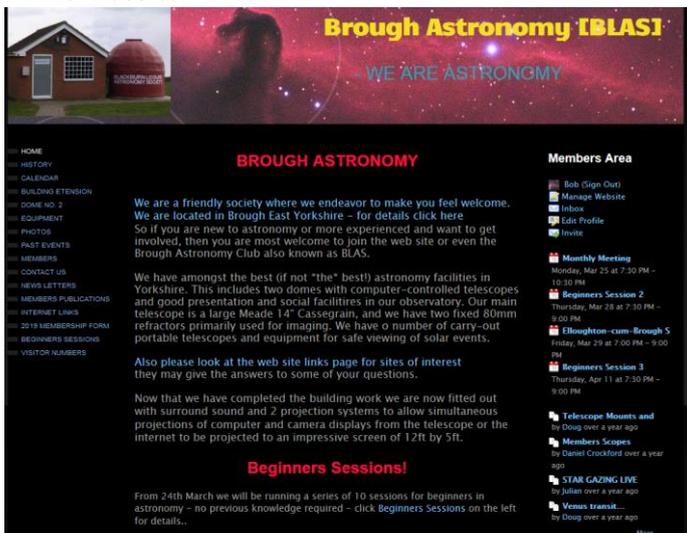
Don't miss your 2019 entry the Petuaria Library in Brough photographic display. Click [here](#) for details of submissions so far.



Please speak to George King for your chance to enter on behalf of BLAS.

### Website & Newsletter Submissions

Please contact the editor at the email address below. All active members are also encouraged to use the BLAS website.



Please register for use of the website and feel free to upload your photographs or contribute to the members Publications section with articles or presentations you have made to the group or are happy to share. All contributions are worthy of note and if you would like to share the link to your work via this newsletter please contact the editor.

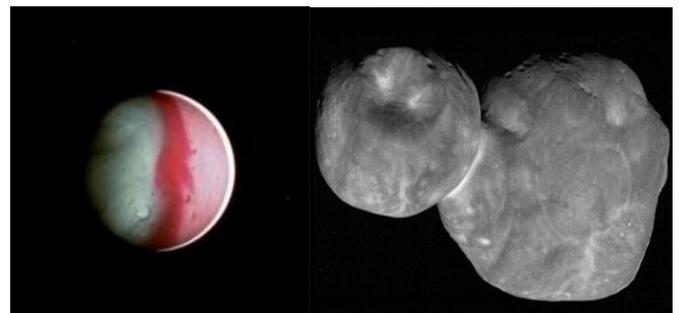
Most of the problems encountered with the website in recent years have now been ironed out, so if you are struggling, the chances are someone else is also struggling ! so please talk to your website owners Julian Robinson, Brian Davies or myself.

### When Science Fiction becomes Science Fact !

In 1975 the Geri Anderson's cult classic Sci-Fi series entitled "Space 1999" was released. In episode 5 from series 1, "Deaths Other Dominion", the people of moonbase Alpha discover an icy world called 'Ultima Thule' where they find the survivors of the Uranus Probe mission, launched in 1986 and lost in a proton storm beyond Neptune. Sound Familiar ?

Possibly because, in 2018, Kuiper Belt Object (486958) designated 2014 MU69 became named 'Ultima Thule' and became the subject of the New Horizons mission after its visit to Pluto. So how did a fictional world on the edge of our solar system become a real place 44 years later ? Were Anthony Terpiloff & Elizabeth Barrows (the writers of Space 1999 episode 5) and Mark Showalter, (the planetary astronomer at the SETI Institute, who led the naming process of 2014 MU69); all lovers of classical and medieval literature metaphorically describing "a distant place located beyond the borders of the known world" when they named their respective Ultima Thule's ?

Or was Mark Showalter a Space 1999 fan ?



The fictional and real Ultima Thule

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