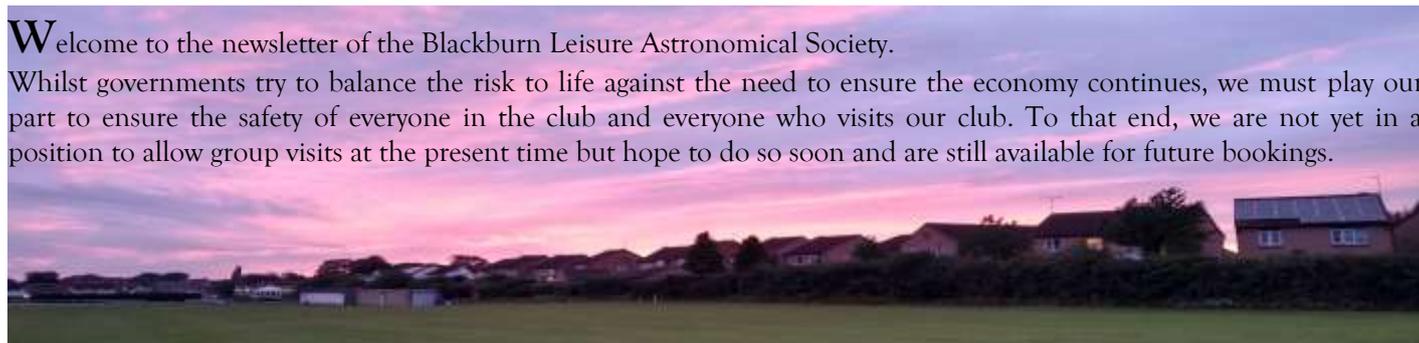


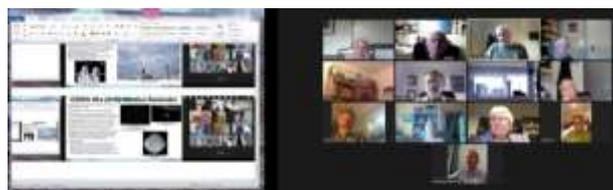
Edited by Robert Shanks

Welcome to the newsletter of the Blackburn Leisure Astronomical Society.

Whilst governments try to balance the risk to life against the need to ensure the economy continues, we must play our part to ensure the safety of everyone in the club and everyone who visits our club. To that end, we are not yet in a position to allow group visits at the present time but hope to do so soon and are still available for future bookings.



It's easy to forget that what connects us all is a basic need of humanity to understand its place and purpose amongst the vast cosmos and of course we wouldn't be human without the need to socialise. Although this virus denies us the latter to some extent, our on-line meetings have allowed us to remain connected as members and share our observations (more on page 2) and will continue to be used as a tool in our arsenal until the pandemic is defeated. Our Friday night social natter nights will continue this way for the foreseeable future. Assuming you have either a PC, an iPhone or iPad or an Android phone/tablet with a webcam and an internet connection, you can follow this [link](#) to join us on Friday evenings from 8PM or any club night for monthly meetings and share screens.



Next Months Meeting in 3D!

Moving from the two dimensional world into three, the committee has however taken the balanced decision to hold the next meeting in the open air outside the observatory on Monday 27th July weather permitting. We must not forget that we and our loved ones remain vulnerable in this and therefore strict social distancing will remain at 2 meters (6Ft) and only 5 people will be allowed inside the observatory at any one time. In terms of the weather we are planning to send confirmation of the meeting on the day itself via email, website and Facebook. Seating will be arranged to be socially distant throughout the presentations, refreshments will be provided and if there is a suitable viewing opportunity, we will allow one observer and one operator in the main dome at any one time. We encourage you to wear face covering which will be available at the club if you do not have one. Hand sanitiser will be provided. Please park your car in the main club car park and walk to the club unless you are unable to do so. It will be great to see you all again in 3 dimensions rather than two but fully understandable if you feel you can't be with us yet. Don't forget your hat and mosquito repellent!

HERAS member Ray Taylor has sent this interesting [link](#) from Cornell University here. Download the PDF at the link for an explanation of how meteor observations are contributing to mainstream Astronomical data on Comets.

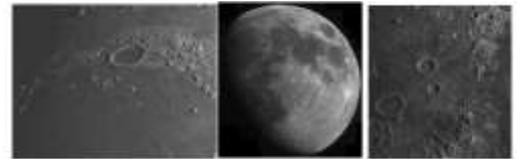


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Members Observations...



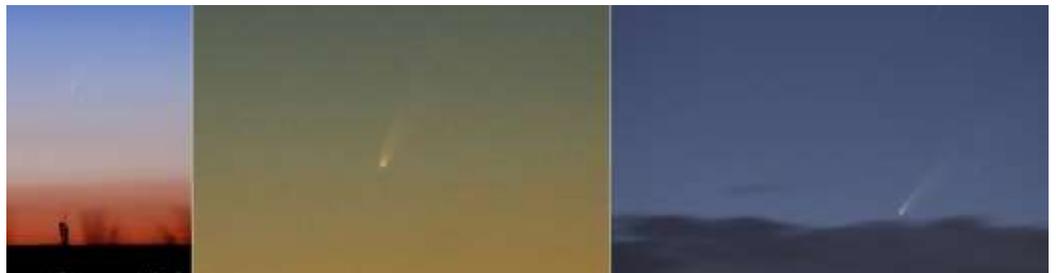
June saw Doug Sharpe head for his equipment with some Lunar image capture (right) whilst the author attempted to image the next chapter in spaceflight as the Space-X crew dragon was seen over the UK after a delayed launch to the ISS. Despite the low elevation, the crew dragon was visible between trees from the foot bridge of Gilberdyke railway station but images taken did not yield good results. Graham Bate spotted Noctilucent cloud from Newport however (left) at the end of May.



Comet Neowise imaged from Spain & the UK!

Hot news of course is the current visit of [Comet Neowise](#) which can be seen with the naked eye to the North in the late evening early morning skies at the moment and with the aid of telescopes binoculars and cameras its tail is readily visible and provides a spectacular site. The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted our Spanish ex pat Paul Read in the Zoom photographs overleaf. Paul has kindly provided the two images below left, whilst David Kitching has provided the right hand image from his home location in Hessele.

Higher resolution images of all photographs published here can be found on the BLAS website under the respective members links [here](#).



It has come to my attention that a lot of you are struggling to upload your pictures to the BLAS website because the Upload Photos command box (shown left) is simply not visible. This is noted an issue with the site which appears to need Adobe Flash installed in order to make the box visible. If you cannot upload your pictures or articles, please send them to the site owner [here](#) until we resolve the issue.

Thanks to the [CCD](#) Array, we have had digital cameas now for some 20 years. For the keen Astrophotographers amongst us that would like to understand what we may have in the next generation of camera, here is an [IEEE article](#) on Quantum Dot technology currently under development which is likely to replace the CCD Array.

New Optical Technology!