

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. Please send your details to me for publication. Can I please ask that when you submit news or suggestions, you use the title BLASNEWS for me to make it easier to search my emails. 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 !'

Please remember that your newsletter is only as good as your contributions!

### Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting covered :-

A chance for members to familiarise themselves with the new Televue 80mm scope; News that the Royal Observatory at Greenwich are to re-open to astronomers after 60 years; The Chinese are de-orbiting their space lab for burn up; Pictures of Nocti-lucent clouds, Sunspots, the Moon & Jupiter.



The Moon - 26<sup>th</sup> June - G.J. King

Helen Marshall also gave an overview of a visit to Tim Peak's spacecraft in York as well as a visit to Pontefract Astronomical Society's open day and their outreach with Sheffield University. A film was also shown on life aboard the space shuttle and MIR space station.

BLAS meetings are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month all year round. This club night will feature a lecture on "Eclipses from the Southern Hemisphere" by BLAS member Graham Bates.

### Forthcoming Events

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month, there will be a full lunar eclipse expected to be at its optimum between 9-30 & 10-30 GMT. Hopefully we will have clear skies. Here are two of my first ventures into digital astrophotography with a Fuji Finepix from an untracked tripod in 2007. In full eclipse the moon takes on a red glow and coming out of eclipse the camera is overwhelmed by sunlight to give that truly Gerry Anderson Space 1999 episode one breakaway feel !



Lunar Eclipse - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 - R. Shanks

### Last Call For National Spaceflight Centre Visit

A final reminder for the visit to the National Space Centre in Leicestershire on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The cost is £26 to cover a coach and the entrance fees. Final numbers are needed to arrange transport. Please book your place with Helen Marshall or George King at Monday's meeting to avoid disappointment. A £10 deposit secures your place.

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### Facilities

The improved access to dome 1 is now complete. There is now extra headroom in the access doorway. Please ensure you push the dome around to the access point and take care on entry.



New Dome 1 Access

Work has also begun on a much lighter skylight door for dome 1 which will make the opening and closing much easier.



New Skylight Door

### Useful Link

A full moon makes a great photograph as above; but bright moonlight can be a serious problem for astrophotographers looking for dark skies. Check out the 2018 moon phase calendar recommended by Brian Davies at :-

<https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/phases/uk/london>

Jul	6:☉, 13:☿, 19:☽, 27:☾
Aug	4:☉, 11:☿, 18:☽, 26:☾
Sep	3:☉, 9:☿, 17:☽, 25:☾
Oct	2:☉, 9:☿, 16:☽, 24:☾, 31:☾
Nov	7:☿, 15:☽, 23:☾, 30:☾
Dec	7:☿, 15:☽, 22:☾, 29:☾

### Sister Organisation In South Africa

During working visits to South Africa in the mid 2000's, one of our members, Doug Sharpe made acquaintance with the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa and has kept a long standing friendship. As a result BLAS and the Pretoria Centre have now agreed to share each other's newsletters amongst their respective membership. Together with our members in France & Spain, this will extend BLAS's international outreach into the Southern hemisphere. BLAS looks forward to potential future collaboration and visits. Proposals are also being mooted to twin a BLAS dome with the Pretoria Centre in honour and recognition of a sister organisation with similar objectives.



### Sun Viewing

We are also open on request for daylight sun observation with special safe white light filters. Remember we also have a Hydrogen Alpha filter. A clear day at this time of year can be a great reward !

### Missing Budgie

AWOL from the author's house in Gilberdyke as I write this on 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. Please contact me if you find her.



For publication in this newsletter and general feedback, please contact [Bob@5150time.co.uk](mailto:Bob@5150time.co.uk).  
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