

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. All contributions are welcome ! The deadline for publication is the 3rd Monday of each month (one week before the monthly meeting). Please use the email address below and use title BLASNEWS. Please also indicate if you are happy to have your name published. (Your contact details will not be published unless you indicate otherwise).

The BLAS observatory is open all year round on Tuesday and Friday evenings and any other by arrangement. Daylight sun observation with special safe white light filters & Hydrogen Alpha filter is also available. 'If it's clear we'll be here !'

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting covered :-

News that two British spaceports are to open in Cornwall & Scotland; Picture of Sundogs at Brough and security camera footage of the Dome 2 mods under completion; The forthcoming lunar eclipse; Amateur Radio operations at Fort Paul followed by a lecture on "Climbing British Peaks" by BLAS member Graham Bate.

National Spaceflight Centre Visit

The National Spaceflight centre visit took place as planned on the 8th August. Members saw Soyuz & Gemini space vehicles, Blue Steel and Thor missiles as well as an array of interactive exhibitions including a visit to the Sir Patrick Moore planetarium experience showing a film about the birth of the universe from the big bang to life as we know it. A full roundup will be provided at this months meeting.



Lunar Eclipse July 27th

The Lunar Eclipse event from BLAS on the 27th of this month was quite literally a washout ! The evening saw the worst storms to hit Brough in many years. Torrential rain began to fall around 8PM where approximately 2 months rainfall landed in approximately 30 minutes and left the area with dense cloud cover. On a positive note, both domes and the main building were unaffected by the torrential rainfall thanks to the protection built in by the committee who have worked tirelessly to provide the facility we enjoy today.

As the rest of the world saw a lunar eclipse however; the Brough membership could only watch the live feed pictures from around the world. Live cameras aboard the ISS showed a high elevation ISS pass over the UK was covered in cloud. Such is Astronomy in the UK! We will have to wait until 2019 for the next attempt. Fortunately our friends in South Africa have sent us some wonderful images. See The Pretoria Centre newsletter for more detail.

[A partial Solar Eclipse was also visible this month on 11th August in Norway].

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Website Re-vamp !

It was noted recently that the BLAS website had become corrupt. Julian Robinson has now undertaken repairs and the re-hosted the website is back up and running. . The site now hosts back copies of these newsletters for you to download or print from [here](#). Members are reminded that they can login and upload their own images, subject to size limitations, if they wish to do so; better resolution images than those found on this newsletter can be viewed in the Photo section of the website.

After last months news, I was contacted to provide better resolution of my 2007 eclipse pictures which I have now hosted [here](#). Click the thumb nail sized images for larger size.

Interesting Articles

Richard Davies has sent in two articles of interest this month which have grabbed the editors attention. The first entitled 'Earth Moons' discusses some interesting near earth objects discovered in the past and little mentioned today. The second discusses star number KIC8462852 and is entitled 'The Most Mysterious Star in the Universe' Both of these are observable objects which science has yet to explain. The articles can be found in the new Members Publications section of the website located [here](#). Contact the editor if you would like your work published !

New door

Dome 1 was modified in 2009 with a [modification](#) to the sky viewing door to allow better telescope travel. Although the door proved the concept; the steel used in the construction was quite heavy and made it difficult to open and close. Thanks to George, a new aluminium lightweight sky door has now been constructed and is ready for fitment soon.



Picture - G.J.King

Did You Know ?

On the subject of storms, members may be interested to visit www.blitzortung.org. The link provides a map of the world indicating the location of electrical storms in near real time gathered by 100s of electronic receivers constructed by hobbyists and schools to detect the low frequency the radio emissions given off during a lightning strike. Click the links at the left hand side of the website to enable strikes, detectors and sound for full effect. The site also details how you can purchase and construct your own detector.