

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.



Remember, this is your newsletter! All contributions are welcome! The deadline for publication is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (Your contact details will not be published unless you indicate otherwise).

### BLAS Telescopes Back In Action!

The new dome 2 addition to our observatory, coupled with some relatively clear nights, is starting to yield results from the 80mm telescope.



M27 The Dumbbell Nebula



M42 The Great Nebula in Orion



M57. The Ring Nebula



M51 - The Whirlpool Galaxy

Click [here](#) to go to the BLAS website to see the images and capture details.

Remember you can upload your own images and contribute to the forum.

If you think there is something worthy of note, please forward a link via email to the newsletter editor for reference in future editions of this newsletter.

The Meade LX200 is also performing better than ever after its motor control repairs and latest software updates.

### Last Months Meeting

Last month's meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September covered the Hull time bell; lunar globe; BLAS photographs from club's 80mm scope; photos from York Astronomical Society's 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting and a lecture by Richard Bate covering his tremendous view of the Solar Eclipse from Indonesia.

### Forthcoming Events

As a result of recent visits to local societies, BLAS has re-established links the York Astronomical society and Martin Dawson has kindly offered to visit Blas at some future point.

We have also had contact with Professor Brad Gibson from the University of Hulls A.E. Milne centre for Astrophysics and he has also kindly offered to visit. More details in future news.

George King is also arranging a future visit to the York University Astro Park for an overview of the optical and radio telescopes available to the Astronomy students.

A lecture on potential ventures in Radio Astronomy is also planned soon.

Arrangements are also in place for the BLAS Dinner to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January 2019.

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**New Funding**

BLAS is eternally grateful to the Elloughton cum Brough council from which the society received a £400 donation for new equipment. A decision on where to spend this money will be made at the next club meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

**This Month In Spaceflight**

50 years ago on October 11, 1968, Apollo 7 astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Eisele, and Walt Cunningham blasted off from launch complex 34 at Cape Kennedy to test the Apollo Command and Service Module (CSM) systems including the vital Service Propulsion System (SPS), the engine that would insert the spacecraft into lunar orbit and power its homeward journey. This engine had to work to pave the way for Apollo 8 to orbit the moon. Click [here](#) for further details.



From November, Hull & East Riding Astronomical Society lectures will take place at the Civic Hall, 1 Market Green, Cottingham HU16 5QG.

The next lecture is entitled "The Cradle of the Sun: Did Our Solar System Form in a Star Cluster?" and will be given by Dr Richard Parker from the University of Sheffield on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Contact Helen Marshall or [www.heras.org.uk](http://www.heras.org.uk) for further detail of other forthcoming events and lectures and events from HERAS.



Saturn 5 & Apollo 7 Crew

On the subject of spaceflight, First man, the story of Neil Armstrong and Apollo 11 directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling hit the cinemas on Friday, a must see cinematic experience.