

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 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 (Your contact details will not be published unless you indicate otherwise).

Dome 1 Upgrade !

A new Skywatcher ST80 telescope with a 400mm focal length has been mounted on the top of the Meade LX200 as a permanent guide scope. This can be seen top left of the picture below.



This is coupled with a ZWO ASI-120 MC-S colour Guide/Planetary camera.

The system now comprises of 3 telescopes, one dedicated telescope providing the guiding feedback to improve tracking accuracy; allowing the other two telescopes (Meade 350mm & Orion 80mm, pictured top right) to be used for imaging and manual viewing simultaneously.

Operating instructions are now attached to the telescope and the main white lights in dome 1 have also now been repaired.

The images below were taken by the 80mm Orion telescope earlier this month prior to the guide scope installation.



M38 & NGC 1907



Uranus

Stay tuned for guided images from the new system for which **Allan** Frame is compiling a list of potential targets and details for future imaging. See Allan for further details and potential additions to the list. The BLAS committee and membership would like to thank Elloughton cum Brough council for their donation to the club which enabled this upgrade.

For publication in this newsletter and general feedback, please contact Bob@5150time.co.uk
www.broughastronomy.co.uk *Providing a window on the Universe for all !*

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General

Andy Russell MSc, CEng, MIET, will be visiting this month to discuss plans for a forthcoming Radio Astronomy lecture which is hoped will generate interest on what could be achieved by Radio Astronomy at BLAS.

As the 4th Monday in December falls on Christmas eve this year; the December BLAS meeting, will take place on Friday 21st December. Meetings will return to the normal 4th Monday of each month in January 2019.

On Dec 7th BLAS will host Swanland and North Ferriby Beavers. This educational visit will be followed by a visit from the Withernsea Camera club.

Louth born NASA Astronaut [Michael Foale](#) CBE, PHD, will be giving a lecture at Hull Universities Middleton Hall on January the 18th.

Christmas Dinner

The annual BLAS/HERAS Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday 1st February 2019 at the Blackburn Leisure club.

HERAS News



A reminder that Hull & East Riding Astronomical Society lectures will now take place at the Civic Hall, 1 Market Green, Cottingham HU16 5QG.

Contact Helen Marshall or visit www.heras.org.uk for further detail of other forthcoming events.

Spaceflight News

Modern Astronomy is reliant on ever emerging technology and the last few years have seen an explosion of unmanned mission launches to probe the solar system which are now bearing fruit.

Launched in 2014, Japan's [Hyabusa 2](#) is due to return samples from asteroid Ryugu lander in December.



In the quest to put a man on our nearest neighbour Mars, Private venture, Space X is planning tests for its 100 Ton heavy lift Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) and has aspirations to deliver cargo in preparation for manned missions by 2022. [Space-X](#) also announced in September, that the first paying passenger to the moon will fly aboard its Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) for a lunar fly by.

