

CADAS June 2018 meeting.

David Strange was our main speaker this month. His talk was 'Gilgamesh and the bull of heaven: the oldest story ever told'. And so it proved to be. David set the scene with a picture of a Babylonian view of the cosmos and then related the Epic of Gilgamesh –thought to be the earliest piece of great literature yet found and written about 2000 CE. What was so interesting were the many connections David pointed out between this tale and parts of the Old Testament e.g the flood and also some of our constellations characters like Taurus. It was a great evening of storytelling with a fascinating and thought- provoking theme. Many thanks for a great talk David.

For his 'Object of the month' Bob Mizon chose Sagittarius and reminded us that the galactic centre was positioned near the spout of the 'teapot'. Bob also mentioned that the star Sigma Sag or Nunki was close to the ecliptic, so could be occulted by the moon or some planets and that Lambda Sag was occulted by Mercury in 1865. Bob also reminded us to look out for noctilucent clouds in the coming weeks.

After the break, Arthur Davis talked us through his 'Constellation of the month' which, by coincidence, was also Sagittarius. Arthur identified the 15 Messier and 3 NGC objects in this constellation and described the features of the stars Epsilon, Delta and Gamma Sagitarii. There are also 39 NGC objects in this constellation which Arthur kindly chose not to identify individually. The evening was rounded off by images from Terry Evans and Ken Honour.

Terry Evans shared two great animated gifs he'd made of Pluto's movement over 7 nights which also picked an asteroid and Vesta over 5 nights. He also showed a series of Mars images from April to June, the last one clearly showing the current large dust storm on the planet. His final image was a stunning shot of the Helix nebula in all its glory.

Ken Honour treated us to his superb images of the Whale galaxy, (Messier 25 in Serpens) and M13 in Hercules. Ken also caught IC2177 the Seagull nebula. Also shown were images of the moon that Ken at taken at our evening at Redstart School in Chard and one of the moon in colour. To end, Ken said that the website of Jim Misti had files which could be downloaded for practicing processing.

Thanks to Ken and Terry for sharing their images.

As always, many thanks too to Zena and all who helped to provide our refreshments and helped with clearing up afterwards.

Another thoroughly enjoyable and informative evening.