

For October's meeting, we were fortunate to welcome author and broadcaster Will Gater to speak on "Dynamic Skies". As astronomers, we normally see most of the sky (solar system excepted perhaps) as static and unchanging. Will's talk was a wide ranging view of how the universe is really very active, from the dynamics of star formation through supernova remnants to interacting galaxies. Will showed some amazing pictures and graphics including a stunning GAIA animation of the movement of stars near Orion. Altogether a very interesting and stimulating talk.

After the break (excellent apple cake this month!), Alan Hall gave us a quick update on the Taunton Country Park and the included observatory. The design has come on in leaps and bounds and the 3D visualisation looks really impressive.

Bob's object of the month was the sky around Orion and followed by a film (produced by his daughter) promoting dark skies.

This was followed by images from Ken, Jan and Terry from the UK, Portugal and Australia,

We have a number of observational "outreach" events with local primary schools coming up and volunteers for these would always be welcome. You don't need to supply a telescope (though that would be great), just being there to shepherd the children in the dark is fine. These would be in the early evening (5:30 to 7:30) after the clocks go back. If anyone has some time to help then could you please drop me an e-mail at terry(dot)evans(at)hotmail(dot)co(dot)uk [Substitute . for (dot) and @ for (at) to get you a sensible e-mail address]

Members were reminded of the upcoming Transit of Mercury on 11<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 12:37 and continuing for us until sunset. Everyone was reminded to use appropriate and safe filtering for any solar observing.

The Exmoor Dark Skies festival is in full swing and all we need now is some clear skies!

Next month's meeting talk will be by Steve Tonkin on "Pseudoastronomy" which should be different!