



Monthly meetings are held at:-

Birnie Village Hall,
Thomshill,
Near Elgin,
Moray, IV30 8GY.

Friday 11th January 2013

"Equipment Night and Stargazing LIVE" ***Lhanbryde Community Centre***

This is now a joint club night and public observing session at **Lhanbryde Community Centre**, to link in with BBC Two's Stargazing LIVE series set to run from 7-9th January

If the weather is suitable there will be the opportunity to observe the night sky over Moray.

Friday 1st February 2013

"A Stargazing Tour of the Southern Hemisphere" ***Tania Johnston - ROE***

Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow Tania Johnston will take you on a guided tour of some of the celestial highlights of the Southern Hemisphere, as seen from some of the best telescopes in the world which she had the privilege of visiting in Chile last year.

Friday 1st March 2013

"A Star Star and a Star Computer" ***Bill Leslie - SIGMA***

SIGMA President and accomplished speaker Bill Leslie will be telling the story of how a computer used a star to solve one of the greatest mysteries of the Universe. This is definitely one not to be missed.

Friday 5th April 2013

"Mercury Through the Eyes of Messenger" ***Pauline Macrae - HAS***

Mercury has been seen by comparatively few because of its proximity to the Sun. Pauline will talk about NASA's Messenger mission, which is providing startling insights to this rocky world.

Friday 3rd May 2013

"2020: The Future of Observational Astronomy" ***Prof Martin Hendry - Glasgow University***

The next 10 to 15 years should see some dramatic developments in how we observe the universe. Martin will examine this exciting science that will open entirely new windows on our universe.

Friday 7th June 2013 "Annual General Meeting"

Membership of SIGMA

A chance to catch up with Club activities over the last 12 months and to elect committee members. There will also be a free raffle (*attendees and postal voters only*) for a mystery prize.

Friday 5th July 2013

"SOAKE" ***Membership of SIGMA*** *(Venue tbc)*

SIGMA will be holding its annual **Solar Outdoor Astronomical Kitchen Event**. A range of solar telescopes will be available to observe our nearest star, as well as a BBQ. An indoor programme is planned in the event of poor weather.

Friday 2nd August 2013

"Oddball Stars" ***Maarten de Vries - HAS***

Maarten will be exploring some of the most extreme objects in the universe, the remnants of stars that have come to the end of their lives. What are these objects like and what are they made of and how are we able to observe these dim and distant objects?

Friday 6th September 2013

"DIY Observatories" ***Pete Sherman - SIGMA***

Pete will be taking a look at the planning, construction and pitfalls of building your own astronomical observatory, as he did in 2012. He will also look at how other amateurs have built observatories to make their observing sessions easier and more comfortable.

Friday 4th October 2013

"Seas and Tickling Gods: How Space Got Its Names" ***Michael Marrett Crosby - HAS***

Ever wondered how space objects got their names? From features on planets to the muddle of stars, we have exported heroes, villains, gods and dreams onto other worlds. Michael explores who named space, how they did it, what the conventions mean and asks what the naming of space tells us about ourselves.

Friday 1st November 2013

"Supercool Astronomy" ***Prof Ian Robson - ROE***

Professor Robson will be looking at the study of the cold universe using sub-millimetre astronomy and discussing the techniques used by the telescopes at Mauna Kea in Hawaii.

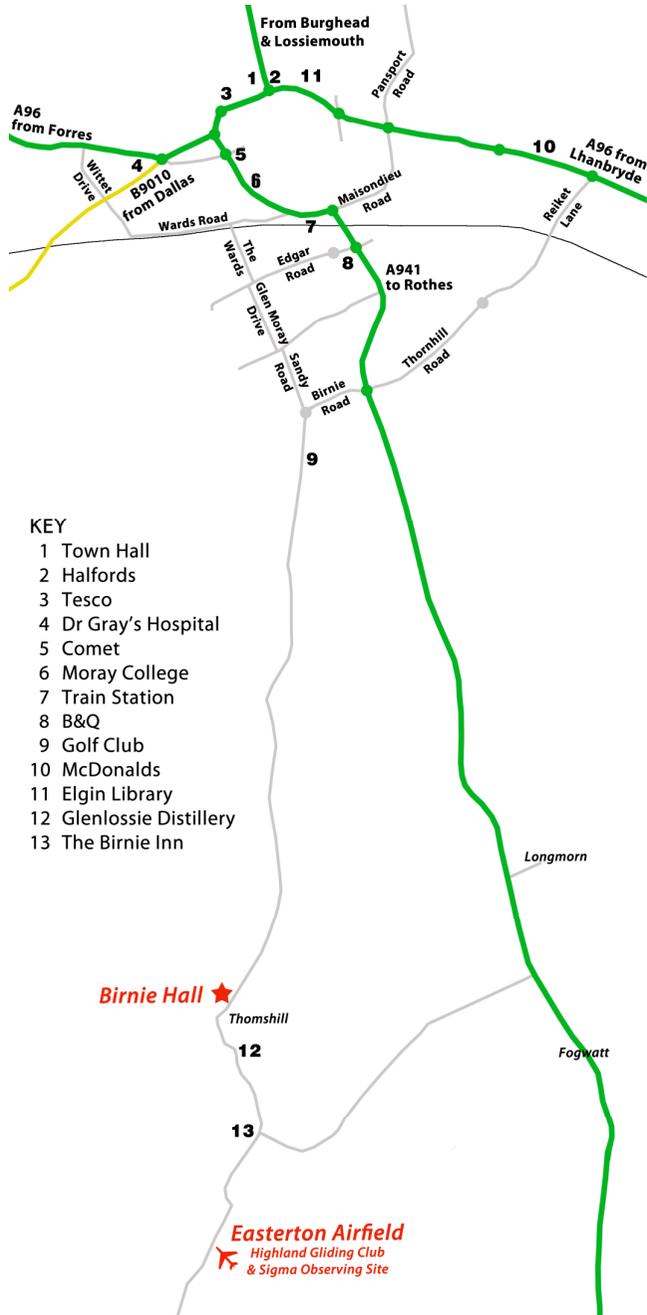
Friday 6th December 2013

"Christmas Quiz and Prize Draw" ***SIGMA Members and your families***

A chance to bring along the family for a night of fun, questions and mince pies to end the year. There will also be the usual SIGMA Christmas raffle.

The second half of each meeting is an in-depth look into what you can see in the night sky for the coming month, as well as a roundup of space and club news.

Where to Find Us:



KEY

- 1 Town Hall
- 2 Halfords
- 3 Tesco
- 4 Dr Gray's Hospital
- 5 Comet
- 6 Moray College
- 7 Train Station
- 8 B&Q
- 9 Golf Club
- 10 McDonalds
- 11 Elgin Library
- 12 Glenlossie Distillery
- 13 The Birnie Inn

Membership is open to everyone and children's membership is free, but a parent or guardian must accompany them if they're under 16 years of age.

You can 'try before you buy' as the first meeting is free. So do come along and join us. Membership details are available on our website.

SIGMA holds its meetings on the first Friday of every month at Birnie Village Hall, Thomshill, just south of Elgin as depicted on the map. From the hall it's a short hop to our dark site at Easterton Airfield, which allows us to hold observing sessions immediately after meetings when conditions are suitable.

Observing sessions are also held at Easterton on Friday and Saturday evenings, conditions permitting. Site opening is advised by email but those without this service can be advised by telephone on request. The site is Well worth visiting as many deep sky objects can be seen, that would otherwise be obscured by light pollution.

We've also started '**Moray Astro Meets**' where we gather at a nominated location when conditions are suitable and members with telescopes available, notified via Facebook plus the email alert system.

Additionally, SIGMA has an active 'outreach' programme to bring astronomy to schools, groups, clubs and societies. Full details on how to 'Rent an Astronomer' can be found on our website, or by contacting the SIGMA Chairman, Stan Barber.



Club Meetings and Information Leaflet - 2013

www.sigma-astro.co.uk

Presidents:

Bill Leslie & Tim Schroder

Committee

Stan Barber (*Chairman*)

07786 071181

Brian Young (*Membership/Vice
Chairman*)

Sam Hampton-Smith (*Secretary*)

Stuart Brooks (*Treasurer*)

Chris Stradling (*Events*)

Stewart Argo (*Webmaster*)

Pete Sherman (*Bothy*)

Bill Ford (*Committee Member*)

****Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start****
Come along and join us. Your first meeting is free.