



Monthly meetings are held at-
Birnie Village Hall, Thomshill,
Near Elgin, Moray, IV30 8GY.

Friday 10th January 2014
"Equipment Night and Stargazing LIVE"

This is another chance to hold a joint club night and public observing session to link in with BBC Two's Stargazing LIVE series. If the weather is suitable there will also be a chance to observe the local night sky.

Friday 7th February 2014
"Building the International Space Station"
Chris Stradling - SIGMA

Long term SIGMA member Chris Stradling will be looking at the history of manned Space Stations and the International collaboration behind one of the most complex engineering projects in history.

Friday 7th March 2014
"Going Over Galaxies with a Fine Tooth Comb"
Megan Argo - Jodrell Bank

Radio astronomy has been transformed over the last fifty years from large single dishes to arrays of telescopes working together to create images with amazing resolution. Megan will illustrate these fascinating new techniques and show how we are using them to study galaxies at spectacularly high resolution.

Friday 4th April 2014

"Comets and the Amateur Astronomer"
Denis Buczynski - BAA Comet Section

Denis is Secretary of the BAA Comet Section and will be describing what comets are, how they appear in our skies and how astronomers can observe them.

Friday 2nd May 2014

"Runaway Rockets and Other Space Exploration Disasters" *John Davies - RoE*

John will be looking back at failures over 50 years of rocketry and space travel, describing how chance, engineering error and unforeseen circumstances can turn success into failure in the blink of an eye.

Friday 6th June 2014 - AGM

Membership of SIGMA

Another chance to catch up with events within SIGMA over the last year and to elect the new committee. There will also be the usual Space News and a raffle.

Friday 4th July 2014

"SOAKE" Membership of SIGMA

SIGMA will be holding its annual Solar Outdoor Astronomical Kitchen Event again at Lhanbryde. A range of Solar Telescopes will be available with which to observe our nearest star, alongside a delicious BBQ. An indoor programme is planned in the event of poor weather.

Friday 1st August 2014

"The Great Debate"
Robert Hughes - Astronomical Society of Glasgow

Robert specialises in the history of astronomy and will be talking to SIGMA about the controversy around discovering the Sun's position in our galaxy.

Friday 5th September 2014

"Halos and Other Wonders of the Daytime Sky"
Brian Kelly - Discovery Dundee

The combination of daylight and cloud would not seem to be of much interest to the amateur astronomer. However, this interaction can produce some of the most beautiful phenomena. Brian will look at the amazing variety of well-known effects such as rainbows and halos, as well as some rarer 'once-in-a-lifetime' sights that will delight the dedicated skywatcher.

Friday 3rd October 2014

"Aberdeen's Most Famous Astronomer"
John Reid - University of Aberdeen

John will be detailing the life and work of Aberdeen Astronomer David Gill. Gill specialised in the precision measurement of solar parallax and the distance of nearby stars and was a pioneer of stellar photography.

Friday 7th November 2014

"2020 Vision: the Future of Astronomical Observations"
Martin Hendry - University of Glasgow

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.

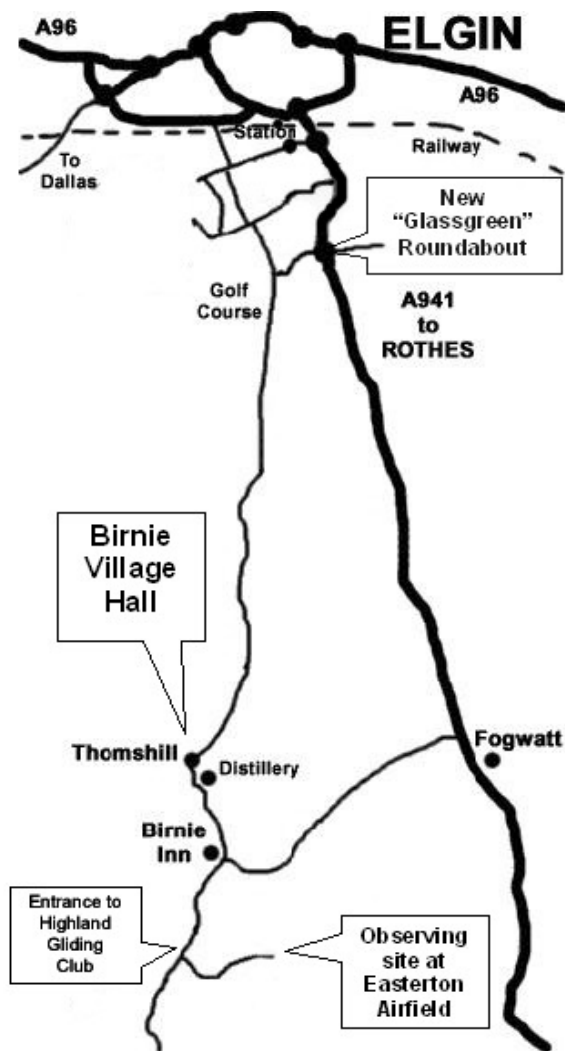
Friday 5th December 2014

"Christmas Quiz"
SIGMA Members and your Families

A chance to bring along the family for a night of fun, questions and mince pies to celebrate the end of the year. There will also be the usual Xmas 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 some space news.

Where to Find Us:



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

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.

SIGMA holds its meetings on the first Friday of every month (with the exception of January and July) 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. We also have a number of Club telescopes available for members' use.

Observing sessions are also held at our dark site 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.

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 2014

www.sigma-astro.co.uk

Presidents

Bill Leslie & Tim Schroder

Committee

Stan Barber (Chairman)
07786 071181

Sam Hampton-Smith (Secretary)
Stewart Argo (Webmaster)
Stuart Brooks (Treasurer)
Pete Sherman (Membership)
Chris Stradling (Events)