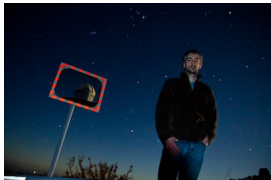


The next meeting of the NIAAS is on **Monday 7th March**, starting at 8pm sharp in Ballyclare High School lecture theatre. Directions can be found

[here](#)

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Space weather is a subject which has become very prominent in recent years, and the study of the activity of the Sun and its effects on Earth and the rest of the solar system is now very popular. Many different spacecraft have been launched in recent years to complement ground based observations. **Dr Chris Watson** from Queens University will be our speaker in **March**, and will provide the very latest up-to-date information on this fascinating area of research!

About Chris: I was awarded a 1st class degree in Astronomy and Astrophysics at St.Andrews University before undertaking a PhD at the University of Sheffield. My early work was on developing indirect imaging methods for mapping surface features in interacting binaries, and studying accretion and magnetic activity in these objects (starspots!). I completed my PhD in 2002 and continued as a postdoc where I became the first person to image starspots on the surface of the star in a system known as a Cataclysmic Variable. From this I was awarded 1 of four personal fellowships in the UK to carry on the research until I moved to Queen's to take up a lectureship position at the end of 2008 - where I now study the impact of stellar activity on the nature and detection of extra-solar planets.

Admission:

Members: Free

Non-Members: £3

Associate Members: £2

As usual, tea, coffee, biscuits and craic will be available after the meeting!