



The next meeting of the current season will be held on **Monday 7th November 2016**, starting at **8pm** in

**Ballyclare High School Lecture Theater**

. Directions can be found

[here](#)

We are really pleased to have a good friend to the NIAAS along to give us a talk. **Mr John Flannery** from SDAS Dublin will be coming up to give us a talk titled **'The Sky By Eye'**.

**About the talk:** Arthur C. Clarke once described the Universe as a device contrived for the perpetual astonishment of astronomers. Anyone can discover that sense of wonder. You just have to look up. It's a common belief you need some form of optical equipment to witness those astonishing sights but that is not the case.

The Sky by Eye is a list that encourages people to observe the Universe with the unaided eye. It comprises objects and phenomena ranging from the whimsical to challenging. Examples include studying the colours of the Moon, tracking a planet through its opposition loop, observing the broad spectrum of atmospheric optics, and much.

The beauty of the Sky by Eye list is that you can delve deeper into areas such as meteor observing or revisit some aspects as your awareness grows. You may take a lifetime to tick off all the sights but the goal is to open your eyes to understanding and appreciating the rhythms of the sky, as well as build a foundation to enhance your enjoyment of astronomy. The list draws on the work of others including Joe Orman ([joeorman.shutterace.com/100.pdf](http://joeorman.shutterace.com/100.pdf)), Fred Schaaf, and Chet Raymo, who all touch the soul of why we are naturalists of the night.

**About John:** John is a software developer for a Dublin-based company. He is a long-time member of the Irish Astronomical Society and edits their journal. John also contributes the monthly solar system notes for Whitaker's Almanac and compiles a widely-used annual calendar for the Irish Federation of Astronomical Societies. His main interests in astronomy are world sky lore, history, binocular observing, atmospheric phenomena, and outreach.

We are really excited to have John up with us and we hope you will join us for this meeting as it's one not to miss!

As usual, free refreshments will be available after the meeting along with good chat and a chance to catch up after our break.

Under 16's are welcome to come along, but we ask that they are accompanied by an adult.

A donation bucket will be available at the door, if any non members wish to support us!

Hope to see you all there!