

The next meeting of the 2017 season is on Monday 6th March, it starts at 8pm sharp in our usual venue of Ballyclare High School Lecture Theatre. [Directions can be found here.](#)



Our speaker for March is Dr. Morgan Fraser from University College Dublin. The title of his talk is 'Gaia: Mapping the Milky Way and Beyond from Space'.

His talk is going to cover everything about ESA's Gaia mission, how the satellite works and the latest data received from it. If you were with us last month to see Prof. Stephen Smartt talking about supernovae, this talk will carry on nicely as Morgan will also tell us how the Gaia mission detects them.

We are delighted to have Morgan with us for the first time to give us this talk and I'm sure you will all make him very welcome.

About Morgan: Dr. Morgan Fraser is a Royal Society - Science Foundation Ireland University Research Fellow at University College Dublin. He obtained his PhD from Queens University Belfast, where he worked on identifying stars in nearby galaxies which had exploded as

supernovae. After this, he spent time as a post-doctoral researcher at Queens, before moving to the University of Cambridge to work on transients found as part of the European Space Agency's Gaia mission. At present his research focusses on whether some stars can collapse to form black holes without a bright supernova explosion, and what drives the outbursts and eruptions seen from the most massive stars.

Please note: Under 16's are very welcome but due to our child protection policy, we ask that they are accompanied by an adult.

As always the talk is free, a donation bucket is available at the door if you wish to support us in our work! Refreshments are available (also free) after the meeting and so is some good chat!

Hope to see you all there!