



Arabia Terra taken by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft's [HIRISE](#) instrument on 23 October 2022, showing craters with unusual deposits and distribution, possibly formed by sublimation of ice-rich material *Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona*

April – June 2023

What to look out for in the night sky

6 April - Full Moon This full moon is known traditionally as the Pink Moon, Sprouting Grass Moon, Growing Moon, Fish Moon or Egg Moon.

11 April - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation Mercury reaches its greatest eastern elongation of 19.5 degrees from the Sun. It will be at its highest point above the western horizon, just after sunset.

20 April - Hybrid Solar Eclipse A hybrid solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is almost too close to the Earth to completely block the Sun. This eclipse will appear as a total eclipse in some parts of the world. The eclipse path will begin in the southern Indian Ocean and move across parts of western Australia and southern Indonesia and so remote viewing will be required in the UK.

22, 23 April - Lyrids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower produces about 20 meteors per hour at its peak but runs from 16-25 April. These meteors can produce bright dust trails, lasting for several seconds. A thin crescent moon will leave dark skies for an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight and meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

5 May- Full Moon This full moon is known traditionally as the Flower Moon, Corn Planting Moon or Milk Moon.

6,7 May - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower produces up to 30 meteors per hour at its peak, in the Northern Hemisphere, although it runs from 19 April to 28 May. An almost full moon will block out many

meteors but you should still be able to see a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight, meteors appearing anywhere in the sky.

29 May - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon, in the eastern sky, just before sunrise.

The waxing and waning Crescent Moon phases in April and May are the best time to spot earthshine, where the unlit part of the Moon can be seen, known as Da Vinci glow.

4 June - Full Moon This full moon is known traditionally as the Strawberry Moon, Rose Moon or Honey Moon.

4 June - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation Venus will be at its highest point above the horizon in the western sky, just after sunset.

21 June - Summer Solstice This marks the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

Meetings

Meetings are held in **The Lounge, Geddington Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AZ**
Please visit www.naastronomy.co.uk to check final meeting information.

Tuesday 4 April: 7.30pm – Committee meeting at The Piper

Tuesday 18 April: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Members' presentations

Tuesday 2 May: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Members' presentations

Tuesday 16 May: 7.30pm for 7.45pm Visiting speaker – John McEvoy, Anatomy of the Milky Way

Tuesday 6 June: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Members' presentations

Tuesday 13 June: 7.30pm for 7.45pm Visiting speaker – Bob Forrest, James Webb Telescope

Tuesday 20 June: 7.30pm – Committee meeting at The Piper

Meetings with guest speakers: £4 (£5 for non-members)

General meetings: £3 (£4 for non-members)

Full membership: £30



Japanese Aerospace Exploration astronaut during his spacewalk, 2 February 2023

Credit: Image Credit: NASA/Nicole Mann

Club contact details

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You can also contact us via the website: www.naastronomy.co.uk or www.naastronomy.com

Useful websites

<https://www.space.com>

<https://www.nasa.gov/>

<https://esa.int>

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/astronomy-guide-viewing-planets-night-sky/>

<https://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html>

Spot the International Space Station:

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom®ion=England&city=Kettering#.XxI13ihKhPY