



James Webb Space Telescope image of the Crab Nebula (released 30 October 2023) - Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, T. Teram

What to look out for in the night sky

Jupiter will be a bright evening planet throughout December.

Some December constellations you can find: Aries, Fornax, Perseus

4 December - Mercury at Greatest Elongation East The planet appears at its furthest distance from the Sun and so should be clearly visible in the evening sky.

14/15 December (peak) - Geminids Meteor Shower Many consider this to be the best meteor shower as it can produce up to 120 multicoloured meteors per hour, at its peak. The shower runs from 7 -17 December 7-17. The nearly new moon should produce dark skies for an excellent show. Best viewing will be after midnight and meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

15 December - Orion Nebula This will reach its highest point in the sky at around midnight. On the following evenings it will culminate (be at its highest) four minutes earlier each day.

17 December - Close Approach of the Moon and Saturn The pair will be visible from 11:34 until 21:33.

22 December - December (Winter) Solstice

22/23 December - Ursids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower produces about 5-10 meteors per hour, running from 17-25 December. The waxing gibbous moon will block out most of the faintest meteors this year but you should be able to catch a few good ones. Best viewing will be just after midnight.

27 December - Full Moon This full moon is known as the Cold Moon, Long Nights Moon or Moon Before Yule.

Some January constellations you can find: Orion, Taurus, Lepus

3/4 January - Quadrantids Meteor Shower (peak) The Quadrantids Shower produces up to 40 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 1-5 January, meteors appearing anywhere in the sky.

12 January - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation This is the best time to see Mercury as it is at its highest point above the eastern horizon, in the morning sky, just before sunrise.

25 January - Full Moon This full moon is known as the Wolf Moon, Old Moon or Moon After Yule.

Some February constellations you can find: Canis Major, Gemini, Monoceros

15 February - Close Approach of the Moon and Jupiter The pair will be visible from 09:32 until 00:00.

24 February - Full Moon This full moon is known as the Snow Moon or Hunger Moon.

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 5 December: Christmas meal at the Trading Post, 7.30pm – Booking essential

Tuesday 16 January: 7.30pm for 7.45pm Members' presentations *RAFFLE*

Tuesday 23 January: Committee meeting at The Piper 7.30pm

Tuesday 6 February: 7.30pm for 7.45pm Members' presentations

Tuesday 20 February: 7.30pm for 7.45pm Fish and Chips Supper – **booking essential** *RAFFLE*

Meetings with guest speakers: £4 (£5 for non-members) General meetings: £3 (£4 for non-members)

Full membership: £30



Asteroid Dinkinesh, with its satellite, as seen by the Lucy Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager (L'LORRI), on NASA's Lucy spacecraft during its flyby of the asteroid binary. Image taken 1 November 2023.

Credit: NASA/Goddard/SwRI/Johns Hopkins APL/NOIRLab

Club contact details

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Committee Member: Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040

Useful websites

<https://www.space.com>

<https://www.star-gazing.co.uk/WebPage/home-2/dave-eagle/>

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

<https://esa.int>

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

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/sights-to-see.html>

<https://in-the-sky.org/>

Spot the International Space Station:

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom®ion=England&city=Kettering#.Xxl13ihKhPY

www.naastronomy.co.uk

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