



NASA's Europa Clipper at the Agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 19 January 2024. Credit: NASA

What to look out for in the night sky

10 March - New Moon No moonlight to interfere with viewing the night sky so an excellent opportunity to spot celestial bodies.

13 March - Jupiter lies near a waxing crescent Moon (pm)

20 March - Vernal Equinox Equinox The Sun will shine directly over the Equator and this will be the first day of spring in the northern Hemisphere and the first day of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

24 March - Mercury at Greatest Elongation East The planet will be at its furthest distance from the Sun. This is a good time to view the planet as it will be at its highest point above the western horizon, just after sunset.

25 March - Full Moon (Micromoon) This full moon was known as the Worm Moon, Crow Moon, Crust Moon, Sap Moon or Lenten Moon. A Micromoon is when a Full Moon or a New Moon coincides with apogee, the point in the Moon's orbit farthest away from Earth.

8 April - New Moon A good night for viewing.

8 April - Total Solar Eclipse You need to travel to Mexico, USA or Canada to catch the total eclipse but in the west of the UK you could see a partial eclipse, starting at 19:52 and ending at 20:51

10 April - Mars and Saturn in conjunction

20 April - Jupiter and Uranus in conjunction

22, 23 April - Lyrids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower usually produces about 20 meteors per hour at its peak, with some meteors producing bright dust trails. The shower runs annually from 16-25 April. The full moon will block out all but the brightest meteors and so you need to find a very dark area and have patience, to spot some. The meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

23 April - Full Moon This full moon was known as the Pink Moon, Breaking Ice Moon, Budding Moon, Awakening Moon or Egg Moon.

29 April - Mars and Neptune in close conjunction

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 March: Committee meeting at The Piper, 7.30pm

Tuesday 19 March: AGM, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Tuesday 2 April: Members' presentations, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Tuesday 16 April: Members' presentations, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

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

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

Full membership: £30 (please note, this may increase following the AGM)

Club contact details

President: Nick Freville Tel: 01536 723211 email: nefrev2020@gmail.com

Chair and Speaker Co-ordinator: Sue Yendell Tel: 01536 515976 email: susan-yendell@sky.com

Treasurer: Neil Wilson email: nwilson@thermalissues.com

Joint Secretaries: Jane Napier Tel: 07960 262401, Anne Douglas email: adouglas2@sky.com

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>

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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