

May to July 2024



Artist's impression of a possible Artemis Moon Base *Credit: ESA – P. Carril*

What to look out for in the night sky

4/5 May - Earthshine Mornings The Crescent Moon phases are the best time to see Earthshine (Da Vinci Glow), where the part of the Moon which is unlit becomes visible.

4/5 May - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower can produce up to 30 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 19 April to 28 May, peaking on the night of 4 May. The nearly new moon should allow for great viewing this year. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

8 May - New Moon

9 May - Mercury at Greatest Elongation West

Mercury appears at its furthest distance from the Sun and so this is the best time to view the planet. It will be visible low in the eastern sky, just before sunrise.

11/12 May - Earthshine Nights The Crescent Moon phases are the best time to see Earthshine or Da Vinci Glow, where the unlit part of the Moon becomes visible.

23 May - Full Moon This full moon has been known as the Flower Moon, Corn Planting Moon and Milk Moon. **Noctilucent clouds** have their peak season in **June and July**. The clouds appear to glow silver or blue during the late evening, around 40 minutes after sunset or in the early morning, just before sunrise, when the Sun is below the horizon but still illuminates the clouds from below.

6 June - New Moon

20 June - June Solstice This is the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

22 June - Full Moon This full moon has been known as the Strawberry Moon, Rose Moon and Honey Moon.

5 July - Earth's Aphelion This is the point at which the Earth is at its furthest distance from the Sun.

5 July - New Moon

21 July - Full Moon This full moon has been known as the Buck Moon, Thunder Moon and Hay Moon.

22 July - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation This is a good time to view Mercury as it will be at its highest point above the horizon. Find the planet low in the western sky, just after sunset.

30 July - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower (peak)

This shower can produce up to 25 meteors per hour. It runs from 12 July to 23 August but peaks on the night of 30 July. View from a dark location after midnight and meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

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 7 May: Members' presentations, 7.30pm for 7.45pm RAFFLE

Tuesday 28 May: University of Leicester visiting speaker, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Tuesday 4 June: Visiting speaker, Mike Frost, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Tuesday 11 June: Committee meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 18 June: Members' presentations, 7.30pm for 7.45pm RAFFLE

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

Tuesday 16 July: Members' presentations, 7.30pm for 7.45pm RAFFLE

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

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

Full annual membership: £40

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



Supernova remnant Cassiopeia A using combined data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the JWS Telescope

Credit: NASA/CXC/SAO/ESA/STScI/CSA/Milisavljevic/JPL/CalTech/J. Schmidt/K. Arcand

