

★ NAA 35th Anniversary - March 2018 ★

February - March 2018

What to look out for in the night sky

7 February - Conjunction of the Moon and Jupiter The 2 will make a close approach called an *appulse*, visible in the morning sky from 02:48 - 06:11, rising in the south east.

9 February - Moon and Mars in close approach This pair should be visible in the dawn sky, between 03:05 and 07:06, low over the southern horizon.

11 February - Moon and Saturn in close approach This pair should be visible between 05:05 and 07:03, in a south easterly direction.

19 February - Bode's Galaxy (M81, NGC 3031) The galaxy can be found in Ursa Major, its highest point being at midnight. It is near to the celestial north pole and so will be high in the sky all night. You will need binoculars or a small telescope to view it. *The photo on the left shows Bode's Galaxy.*

2 March - Full Moon This is the third full moon for 2018 and is called a Lenten Moon.

7 March - Close approach of Moon and Jupiter This occurs from 01:05 and is at its highest at 04:27, over the southern horizon, before it fades at 06:13. Both bodies can be found in the constellation Libra.

10 March - Moon and Mars in close approach These two bodies will be very low in the sky above the southern horizon (14°), between 02:39 and 06:06.

11 March - Moon and Saturn in close approach The pair will be only 13° above the western

horizon but may be visible between 03:23 and 06:04.

14 March - Mercury at Dichotomy Mercury will be shining brightly from 18:30, setting after the sun in the west, around 19:54.

20 March - March Equinox This is the first day of spring in the Northern hemisphere, giving 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness.

Mars and NGC 6530 in close approach NGC 6530 is a young open cluster, visible between 02:33 and 05:24 with binoculars. Both bodies can be found in the constellation Sagittarius. An open cluster is a group of stars that were formed from the same giant molecular cloud and have approximately the same age. *The picture to the right shows the Lagoon cluster on the left and NGC 6530 on the right.*

31 March - Full Moon This is the first full moon of spring and is known as the Egg Moon.



Giant Magellan Telescope The photo to the right shows what the telescope will look like when it comes online. The fifth of its seven mirror segments is being cast now.

Forthcoming Club Events

Meetings are held at **Geddington Cricket Club, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AS.**

Please visit www.naastronomy.com to check final meeting information. Visit the NAAS Facebook pages for discussion, photos and events.



Tuesday 6 February

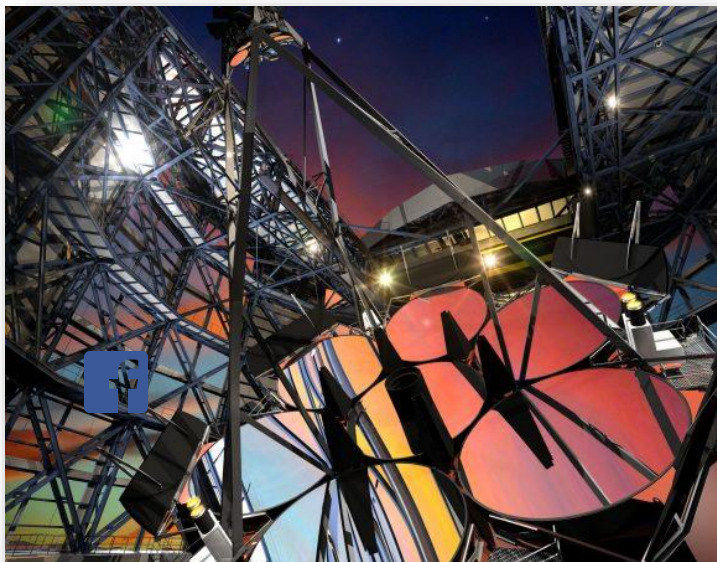
Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - What's Up and Constellation of the month. If the skies are clear, bring along your telescopes and binoculars.

Tuesday 13 February

Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering at 7.30pm

Tuesday 20 February

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Speakers TBC.



SATURDAY 3 MARCH - Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Club. This will be held at Geddington Cricket Club from 2.00pm. There will be presentations from guest speakers and Club members and an evening meal. Booking is essential.

Tuesday 6 March

Annual General Meeting at Geddington Cricket Club, 7.30pm

Tuesday 13 March

Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering at 7.30pm

Tuesday 20 March

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Speaker TBC.

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

General meetings: £2 (£3 for non-members)

Full membership: £30 (Concessions £19)

Club contact details

President Nick Freville Tel: 01536 723211 email: astro2002astro@yahoo.co.uk

Chair and Secretary Jane Mills Tel: 07753501280

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Treasurer Eleanor Patrick Tel: 01536 521488

Committee Members Mervyn Lloyd Tel: 01536 521581, Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040, Jane Napier Tel: 07960262401, Anne Douglas email: adouglas2@sky.com

Maps to show what you can see in the sky each month:



Other useful websites:

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

<https://www.space.com/>

<https://in-the-sky.org/newscap.php?month=1&year=2018&maxdiff=3#datesel>

<http://www.seasky.org/constellations/constellation-auriga.html>

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