



The Eagle Nebula with 'Pillars of Creation' (Messier 16) - Credit: NASA/Chandra

What to look out for in the night sky

All these events are visible with the naked eye but the use of binoculars will enhance them

- **11 March - Conjunction of the Moon and Mars** The pair will become visible at around 18:17 as the dusk sky fades, 44° above the horizon in the south west, then will sink towards the horizon, setting at 23:20.
- **20 March - March Equinox** This is the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of autumn (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **21 March - Full Moon, Supermoon** This full moon has also been known as the Full Worm Moon, Full Crow Moon, Full Crust Moon, Full Sap Moon and Full Lenten Moon. It is the last of three supermoons for 2019. The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and should look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

- **9 April - Close Approach of the Moon and Mars** The pair will become visible at around 20:06, 35° above the western horizon, setting at 00:19.
- **11 April - 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 morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky, just before sunrise.
- **12 April - Virginid meteor shower** This will reach its maximum rate of activity on 12 April but some shooting stars associated with the shower should be visible from 7 to 18 April. Around 5 meteors per hour may be visible above the southern horizon, around midnight.
- **19 April - Full Moon** This full moon is also known as the Full Pink Moon because it announced the appearance of the moss pink or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. It has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, Growing Moon, Full Fish Moon and Egg Moon.
- **22-23 April - Lyrids Meteor Shower** The shower produces around 20 meteors per hour at its peak and runs from 16-25 April, peaking on the night of 22/23 April. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Forthcoming Club Events



Meetings are held in **The Lounge, Geddington Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AZ.**

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

Tuesday 5 March 7.30pm - AGM (Geddington Village Hall)

Tuesday 12 March 7.30pm Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 19 March 7.30 for 7.45pm - Members' talks and skywatching, weather permitting (Geddington Village Hall)

Tuesday 2 April 7.30 for 7.45pm – Starwatch, weather permitting or presentations (Geddington Village Hall)

Tuesday 9 April 7.30pm Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 16 April 7.30 for 7.45pm – Visiting speaker, **Jerry Workman: Mercury and Venus** (Geddington Village Hall)



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

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

Full membership: £30 (Concessions £19)

Club Contact Details

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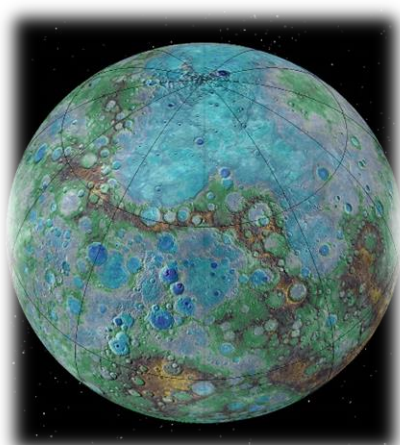
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Useful websites:

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

<https://in-the-sky.org/newscal.php?month=3&year=2019&maxdiff=2>

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



MESSENGER'S image of Mercury - Credit: NASA

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