



Lunar eclipse, 27 July 2018

Credit: ESA

What to look out for in the night sky

3,4 May - Earthshine night The unlit part of the Moon becomes visible, known as the Da Vinci glow.

5,6 May - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower This shower produces up to 30 meteors per hour in the Northern Hemisphere. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley and runs annually from 19 April to 28 May but peaks on the night of 5 May. The waxing crescent moon will set early, leaving dark skies for a good show. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

16 May - Total Lunar Eclipse (Full Moon) A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes completely through the Earth's dark shadow (umbra). During this type of eclipse, the Moon will gradually get darker and then take on a rusty/red colour. The whole eclipse will not be visible from the UK but we will still be able to see the Moon at totality for a brief period. The eclipse starts at 2.32am, when the Moon enters the Earth's shadow (the penumbra) and totality will start at 4.29am, with the Moon setting at 5.10am. If you have a clear view of the SW horizon and are happy to be up between 4.30 and 5.00am, you could see a wonderful sight.

Throughout June, noctilucent clouds may be visible. They occur in the mesosphere, after sunset, at an altitude of 76-85km. Sunlight reflects off ice crystals, making the clouds look blue or silver in colour.

14 June - Supermoon This full moon was known as the Strawberry Moon because it coincided with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season (in time for Wimbledon). This is also the first of three supermoons for 2022. A Supermoon occurs when the Moon is at perigee (nearest the Earth).

16 June - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation Mercury will be at its highest point above the horizon, in the eastern early morning sky.

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

29 June - Micromoon The New Moon this month is also a Micromoon which is when a Full Moon or a New Moon coincides with its apogee, the point in the Moon's orbit furthest away from Earth.

Meetings

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

Please visit www.naastronomy.com to check final meeting information.

Tuesday 3 May 7.30pm for 7.45pm Club member presentations

Tuesday 17 May 7.30pm for 7.45pm Visiting speaker – Martin Braddock

Tuesday 7 June 7.30pm for 7.45pm Club member presentations

Tuesday 14 June 7.30pm Committee meeting at The Piper

Tuesday 21 June 7.30pm for 7.45pm Club member presentations

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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Noctilucent clouds

Credit: myownweather.com

You can also contact us via the website: www.naastronomy.com

Useful websites

<https://www.space.com>

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

<https://astronomynow.com/uk-sky-chart/>

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

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html>

Spot the International Space Station:

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

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