



Astronomical Events, Anniversaries and Opportunities

Events on Earth

Walsall Astronomical Society meets every Thursday at 8pm at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

6th: Guest speaker: Dr Sam Walton's talk on Space Weather. 20:30pm onwards at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

2nd - 8th: International Dark Sky Week

22nd: Earth Day 2023

22nd - 23rd: Lyrid Meteor Shower Peaks

25th: *What's Up?* Presentation at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

TV and Radio Events

Radio Astronomy: A podcast by Sky At Night Magazine is available on Spotify.

This Month In History

11th: Apollo 13 is launched in 1970 but is unable to achieve its mission of landing on the moon.

12th: 63rd anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first flight into space.

April Overview

April brings the excitement of the Lyrid Meteor Shower, which peaks between the 22nd and 23rd of this month. With the sun becoming increasingly more active this year, the best time to look out for aurora in April will be during the late evenings after the full moon.



Feature of the Month

Photo credit - Mike Lewis

W.A.S. Helps the Army!

During our latest Star Camp, members of Walsall Astronomical Society were required for a very special mission. The Royal Irish Regiment at Tern Hill asked for our assistance in reviving their disused (and spider infested!) observatory.

After a few hours of work, the observatory was restored to its former glory and will now be used by the regiment to teach children in the local community about space.

Moving Targets

Comets: Look out for 12P/Pons-Brooks comet, visible in the constellation of Pisces.

Meteors: The Lyrid meteors peak between 22nd and morning of the 23rd but begins around the 14th. The Eta Aquarids begin around the 19th but will peak around 6th May.

The Planets

Mercury: Becomes an evening planet best viewed in the evening sky at the start of the month.

Venus: Unlikely to be seen this month as it is too close to the sun.

Mars: Morning planet visible at the end of the month.

Jupiter: Unlikely to be seen this month.

Saturn: Morning planet with low visibility.

Uranus: Lost to the evening glare. In conjunction with Jupiter on the 20th.

Neptune: Not visible this month.

















































The Sun

From January to October this year, the Sun is at Solar Maximum - a period of strong solar activity that occurs around every 11 years. Due to this, we should see an increase in regularity, strength and spread of the Aurora Borealis.

Never look at the sun with a telescope, at worst you might blind yourself, at best you'll melt your telescope!

If you are interested in Solar viewing, speak to our members, we have special equipment to help you!

The Moon

JAN	3		11		17		25	
FEB	2		9		16		24	
MAR	3		10		17		25	
APR	1		8		15		23	
MAY	1		7		15		23	
JUN	6		14		21		28	
JUL	5		13		21		27	
AUG	4		12		19		26	
SEP	2		11		17		24	
OCT	2		10		17		24	
NOV	1		9		15		22	
DEC	1		8		15		22	

Get Involved!

For more information about Walsall Astronomical Society or to get involved in any of the events shown:

Visit our website: www.walsallastronomy.co.uk

Visit our Facebook page: [Walsall Astronomical Society](https://www.facebook.com/WalsallAstronomicalSociety)

Deep Sky

New to astronomy?

The best instrument for beginners is a pair of 7x50 binoculars. A good, cheaper alternative is a pair of 10x50. Both of these will be more useful than a small telescope.

M44 Praesepe, otherwise known as the Beehive Cluster is visible in the heart of the constellation Cancer, about halfway between Regulus and Pollux and is bigger than a full moon.

M35, an open cluster of stars, will be visible in the west of Gemini.

M101, most commonly known as the Pinwheel Galaxy, is easily seen in the constellation of Ursa Major.

M51, the Whirlpool Galaxy, is visible in the constellation Canes Venatici.

M63, the Sunflower Galaxy is also visible in the constellation Canes Venatici.

M1, the Crab Nebula, is visible in the constellation of Taurus.