

Astronomical Events, Anniversaries and Opportunities

Events on Earth

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

4th: Guest speaker: Rod Wine. 20:00 onwards at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

5th: The Earth's aphelion. This is where it is at its furthest point from the Sun for the year (94,510,538 miles away)

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

TV, Radio and Podcasts

Radio Astronomy: *Sky at Night Magazine's* very own weekly podcast available on Spotify.

Sky At Night: Subject "The James Webb Telescope" A Journey of Discovery" on 8th July at 10pm, BBC4.

This Month In History

14th: NASA's New Horizon spacecraft makes its closest approach to Pluto providing the first ever detailed images and data of the dwarf planet(2015)

16th: Astronomers at the Harvard observatory took the first photo of a star, other than the sun (1850)

20th: Viking 1 landed on Mars and returned the first images taken of the surface(1976)

21st: Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon's

July Overview

July isn't the best month for stargazing, as the nights are still quite short. However, the celestial show must go on! After midnight, the Moon, along with Jupiter and Saturn, make their grand appearance, lighting up the sky with their brilliance along with great clusters. In the southern skies, the magnificent star cloud in Sagittarius offers a breathtaking view through binoculars, though it's regrettably obscured by the bright lights of Walsall. Adding to the nocturnal spectacle, noctilucent clouds shimmer in the twilight, creating a rare and beautiful sight. For a truly stellar experience, consider a trip to the south coast, where the darker skies provide the perfect backdrop for an astronomical adventure.



Feature of the Month

Photo credit: Various WAS Members using the SeesStar S50

SeeStar S50

Over the last few months a few variations of 'smart telescopes' have been released. One of the most popular of these scopes has been the SeeStar by ZWO. Sporting a f/5 50mm lens it is a very versatile piece of equipment that can be used for a range of astronomical targets, including the Sun, Moon and Deep Sky objects. Due to the lightweight nature of it and all being controlled from a mobile phone or tablet, it allows the user to take it to various dark sky locations. If you have any questions about a SeeStar or would like to see one in action, please ask at the club.



Moving Targets

Asteroids: Ceres is low in the south of Sagittarius.

Meteors: The August Perseids start in July towards the end of the month. The Delta Aquarids also peak around the 30th.



The Planets

Mercury: A bright evening object near the moon on the 7th.

Venus: Unseen in July due to close proximity to the Sun.

Mars: At magnitude 0.9 rising in Aries around 1am.

Jupiter: At magnitude -2 in Aries, rising around 3am near Pleiades.

Saturn: Visible in Aquarius, rising in the east around 1am on the 1st.

Uranus: At magnitude 5.8 in Aries, moving into Taurus, not far from Jupiter.

Neptune: Raises in Pisces around midnight.

Pluto: Is at opposition on the 23rd between Capricornus and Sagittarius, requiring at least a 12" scope to be viewed.



The Sun

Summer is great for Solar viewing. Remember to 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		30
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		30



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.

Albireo is a beautiful blue and orange double star in the constellation of Cygnus (the Swan).

M5 is a globular cluster, visible in the constellation Serpens.

M13 is also a globular cluster, visible in Herucles.

The Coma Cluster is visible easily with the naked eye but is viewed best with binoculars in Coma Berenices.

M10 and M12 are two more globulars that are visible in Ophiuchus but may be difficult to view due to their lowness.

M57, The Ring Nebula, is visible in Lyra between Gamma and Beta Lyrae.

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)