

September 2023

Astronomical Events, Anniversaries and

Events on Earth

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

7th: Guest speaker: Nigel Bradbury's talk; Northern Lights. 19:30pm onwards at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

16th - 18th: Crickhowel (Brecon) starcamp.

23rd: Autumn Equinox occurs at 7:49 BST.

28th: OSIRIS-REx asteroid return mission will land in the Utah Desert, containing material from the asteroid Bennu.

29th: *What's Up?* Presentation at Rushall Olympic Football Club.

TV, Radio and Podcasts

The Sky at Night: The Very Large Telescope. Monday 11th, 10pm, BBC2.

This Month In History

3rd: Nasa's Viking 2 successfully lands on the surface of Mars in 1976.

13th: The first man-made object, Luna 2, reaches the moon in 1959.

September Overview

September brings about the start of Autumn, arguably the best time for observing, with dark skies by nine and weather that keeps you warm enough for hours of viewing. Highlights for this month include Pleiades and Orion emerging



Feature of the Month

W.A.S. Perseid Astro Camp

An impromptu and exciting weekend of sky gazing for the club in Market Drayton. The photos below are just some of the amazing sights from our trip.

Photo by Michael Lewis



Photo by Keith Thompson



Photo by Tom Gormley





Moving Targets

Comets: Newly discovered comet, Nishimura, is becoming increasingly bright as it heads from Leo across to Virgo throughout the month.

Meteors: The Alpha Aurigids peak on the 1st, the Piscids peak on the 8th and again on the 21st, and the Delta Aurigids peak on the 29th.



The Planets

Mercury: Tricky viewing, but best on the 22nd..

Venus: Getting higher each morning, best viewed on the 30th.

Mars: Too close to the sun for viewing this month.

Jupiter: Rises around 10pm and is visible all night.

Saturn: Visible all night in Capricorn.

Uranus: Visible all night with binoculars, magnitude 5.9.

Neptune: Visible all night, magnitude 7.8

Pluto: Visible all night, between Sagittarius and Capricorn



The Sun

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	6	15	21	28
FEB	5	13	20	27
MAR	7	15	21	28
APR	6	13	20	27
MAY	5	12	19	27
JUN	4	10	18	26

JUL	3	10	17	25	
AUG	1	8	16	24	31
SEP	6	15	22	29	
OCT	6	14	22	28	
NOV	5	13	20	27	
DEC	5	12	19	27	



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.

Earlier in the evening, search in the West to catch these before they set; M3, M10, M12, M63, M51, M101.

In the South you will find; M55, M8 - The Lagoon Nebula, M20 - The Triffid Nebula, M22, M23, M25, M17 - The Omega Nebula, M16 - The Eagle Nebula and M11 - The Wild Duck Cluster.

In the North, circumpolar objects include M103 and M81. Overhead look for M52, M39, M29, M27 - The Dumbbell Nebula, M71, M56, and M57 - The Ring Nebula,

In the East objects are rising, such as M33, M34, M74, M45 - The Pleiades, M36, 37 and 38 - The Auriga Triplet.

Later in the evening, M1 - The Crab Nebula and M35 will rise.

Lots to see now the nights are darker!

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)