

Edited by Robert Shanks



## Whats Up?..

Seasons greetings astronomers, I hope this newsletter finds you gazing at the stars and marvelling at the wonders of the universe. Here are some important updates and exciting events happening in our astronomy community. As November unfolds, the night sky continues to offer us celestial delights. Look out for the Orionid meteor shower, which will peak around November 18th. Additionally, the bright planets Jupiter and Saturn will be visible in the early evening sky. Six planets – Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus – will line up in the sky from December 28 to January 3, shortly after sunset. Venus and Jupiter are more luminous than the brightest stars, so they can be easily seen with the naked eye; Saturn and Mercury are also within the unaided eye visibility; Neptune and Uranus require a pair of binoculars or a telescope. Don't miss the chance to observe these celestial wonders. As always, keep your eyes on the skies, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. See Stargazing in December for [more..](#)

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 27th. We encourage all members to attend as we have exciting plans for the evening. Hedon Cubs will be joining us for a special talk next Tuesday, November 28th. Let's share our passion for astronomy with the younger generation!

## Club News...

The club has been bequeathed a donation from the family of the late David Lidster, a founder member who sadly passed earlier this year. In remembrance of Dave, and his tremendous passion for sharing what we do, the club has purchased a new Windows 11 laptop computer to enable better screen sharing and video display at the observatory.

Please note that our last meeting of the year will be on Monday, December 18th. We'll resume our regular schedule on the 4th Monday of each month starting in 2024.

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## Christmas Meal

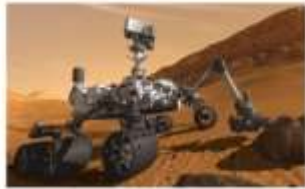
This year's Christmas meal will be in collaboration with the Hull and East Riding Astronomical

Society. The event will take place at The Fair Maid Pub, Baynard Avenue, Cottingham HU16 5AB, on Thursday, December 14th, 2023, at 7 pm. No deposits are required, but please confirm your attendance with [Helen](#) before November 30th. The pub offers a diverse menu similar to those found in many pubs.



November 2011 saw NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission successfully landed the Curiosity rover on the Martian surface. It has now clocked up

## Space Exploration



Four Science Goals for Mars Exploration



over 4000 days on Mars and continues to deliver beyond all expectation. Celebrate this achievement as we [reflect on the ongoing](#)

[exploration of the Red Planet.](#)

As humanity recognises the ultimate goals of such missions, let's look ahead to 2024, SpaceX has ambitious plans for launches, including continued work on the Starship project and potential crewed missions. Stay updated on upcoming SpaceX launches by visiting [SpaceX's official website](#).

Thinking about holiday telescope trackers available enhance your stargazing

## Astronomy Equipment and Christmas Gift Ideas

gifts? Consider exploring in the UK. These devices can experience. BLAS recommends

that people wishing to start in Astronomy come along to our Friday open evenings first. Don't be put off by the astronomical prices. Knowing what you can achieve before you take the plunge is time well spent and there a growing number of trackers available for those with cameras wishing to take the plunge into astrophotography. For those seeking astronomical equipment gift ideas, [here](#) are some ideas from the BBC's Sky at Night..

