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**NEXT MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
**THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF HARINGEY**  
**VOLUME 43 : ISSUE 6 : April 2015**  
**[www.ashastro.co.uk](http://www.ashastro.co.uk)**

# SOCIETY NEWS

## MEETING VENUE

**Music Block, Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14 5RJ.**

The day for meetings is usually the third Thursday of each month. The exceptions are August, when we do not hold a meeting, and this now currently applies to the July and December meetings, though that may alter in the future.

However, in case of changes it is always advisable to double-check the dates below.

**Doors open - 7.30pm : Main speaker - 8.00pm : Finish - 10.00pm sharp!**

For more on this, and general meeting information, also check the website:  
[www.ashastro.co.uk](http://www.ashastro.co.uk). Latest update: March 2014.



More on the re-launched ASH Facebook page, and how to access it - see the next page

## OBSERVING EVENINGS

Regarding any changes to Observing Evening meetings, this is a continuing message to let Observing Officers Jim Webb or Alister Innes know your mobile phone number, and if not already on the list, your email address; emailing to [observing@ashastro.co.uk](mailto:observing@ashastro.co.uk) reaches both of them. The Facebook page will now also be used.

### 2015

**April 16<sup>th</sup> : Mat Irvine : "March 20 - Redux"**

May 21<sup>st</sup> : TBA

June 18<sup>th</sup> : TBA

July and August : no meetings these months

September 17<sup>th</sup> : TBA

October 15<sup>th</sup> : including AGM

November 19<sup>th</sup> : TBA

December : No meeting this month

### **COVER:**

The maximum coverage of the Partial Solar Eclipse, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015, as seen from the Manchester area. Taken at 09.38.

*Photo: Mat Irvine*



Find us on  
**Facebook**

For up-to-date information, we are now using that 'necessary evil' - Facebook. Note as this is an Open Group you do not have to be a member of Facebook to read posts and messages, you just need some form of Internet access.

Go to : [www.facebook.com/groups/ASHastro/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ASHastro/)

However if you want to 'interact' (ie post messages), you have firstly to join Facebook, then on the ASH Facebook page, ask to join our Group, and you will get 'signed up'. So far we don't have that many members - and some of those aren't members of the Society – so a few more would be good!

## SOCIETY NEWS MEETING ROOM

We currently meet on the first floor of the Main Music Block. This is the two-storey



building, next to our original room, the original Music Room. This is marked with the X in the photo on left, (and although it is demolished, the site is currently being redeveloped with a new structure). The route in red is shown from the main gate of the School. We hope a first floor will be suitable for all, as there isn't a lift. If anyone feels they will have difficulty, please let the Chairman know.

Contact details on back page.

### MEETING PREVIEW : 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 : "March 20 - Redux"

March 20 this year saw two astronomical events. It was the last day of Series 5 of Stargazing Live, and it was the only day of 2015's Solar Eclipse. This was not total over the British Isles, though was about as near as you can get - 98% in The Shetlands.

Stargazing Live covered it 'live' using an aircraft flying over the Faroe Islands region, images of course repeated on that night's main show. For those viewing in the UK, results were mixed. Perhaps ironically the further north you were, the clearer the skies. Your Editor was working on SGL, so in the south Manchester area, and set up his projection telescope outside the unit hotel, about 10 miles from Jodrell Bank. In



the end the projection system wasn't necessary - as it was cloudy so that acted as a convenient filter. Other members of the Society had different results - hopefully some examples can also be seen at the Meeting.



Above and left: Colonel Buzz Aldrin demonstrates, to Dara O'Briain and Brian Cox during Stargazing Live, how he and colleague Neil Armstrong had to fly the Apollo Lunar Module during that mission, using a model LM built by your Editor.

Fortunately he performed this task with equal skill as with flying the full size one - ie he didn't drop it.

**MEETING REVIEW**  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
**Observing Evening**  
**(in the warm)**

This meeting had to retreat to the new 'backup' location for inclement weather, The Queen's Arms. This 'virtual observing' session included aurora and some deep-space objects before having a slide show of some very good astronomical photos.



# Sky Views

Top: the Moon, Venus and Mercury taken by Stephen Middleton on 11<sup>th</sup>

December 2012, from Alexandra Palace.

Bottom: Mars, Venus and the 2 day old Moon, taken 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 by Mat Irvine



## THE NIGHT SKY : THE PLANETS April - May 2015

**MERCURY** : The planet was superior conjunction, passing behind the Sun, on the April 10<sup>th</sup> and will not become visible again until mid-month. It should be visible in the low western skies by the 19<sup>th</sup>, at around magnitude -1.4, about 45 minutes after sunset. It will gradually rise higher in the sky until the 7<sup>th</sup> of May when it reaches its greatest elongation east of 21 degrees. This will be the best view this year. On 19<sup>th</sup> there will be the view as right, with Mars and the very new crescent Moon - but difficult to see as all three will be faint! Closet approach of the planets will be on 23<sup>rd</sup>, with Mercury 1.4 degrees north of Mars.



**VENUS** : Shining very brightly in Taurus, having moved from Aries at the beginning of April. At magnitude -4.0 all month, and rising higher in the western sky as the month progresses. A small telescope will show its angular size increasing from 14 to 16 arc seconds, though its illuminated phase shrinks from 78% to 68%.

**MARS** : finalising sinking into the twilight, the planet will be close to Mercury from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, with Mercury being by far the brighter - and that isn't that bright! (See image above.)

**JUPITER** : now two months past opposition and but makes for great observing. It is high in the south-western sky during the evening, though the brightness is falling slightly from magnitude -2.3 to -2.1 whilst its angular size drops from 41.5 to 38 arc seconds. In Cancer and hardly moving in the sky, as it had ended its retrograde motion westwards on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and is now gradually starting moving east towards Leo. Small magnification will show the Great Red Spot, the equatorial bands and varying combinations of the four Galilean moons. Moon to the north on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**SATURN** : In Scorpius rising earlier each evening. By April's end, this will be around 21:30hrs BST. Also increasing in magnitude from +0.3 to +0.1 during the month. By the early morning the planet is due south at an elevation of around 22 degrees. The ring system has now opened out to 25 degrees, about as wide as it ever gets from Earth. Moon to the north on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

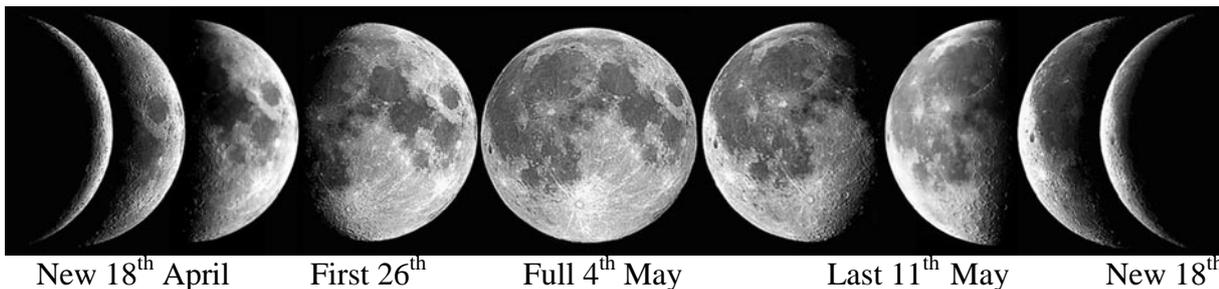
**URANUS** : In conjunction with the Sun on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**NEPTUNE** : Moon to the north on 15<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### METEORS

The Lyrids peak 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The Moon is only a few days old, so the skies should be reasonably dark. Eta Aquarids, active 24<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May. Peak 6<sup>th</sup> May

### THE MOON



New 18<sup>th</sup> April

First 26<sup>th</sup>

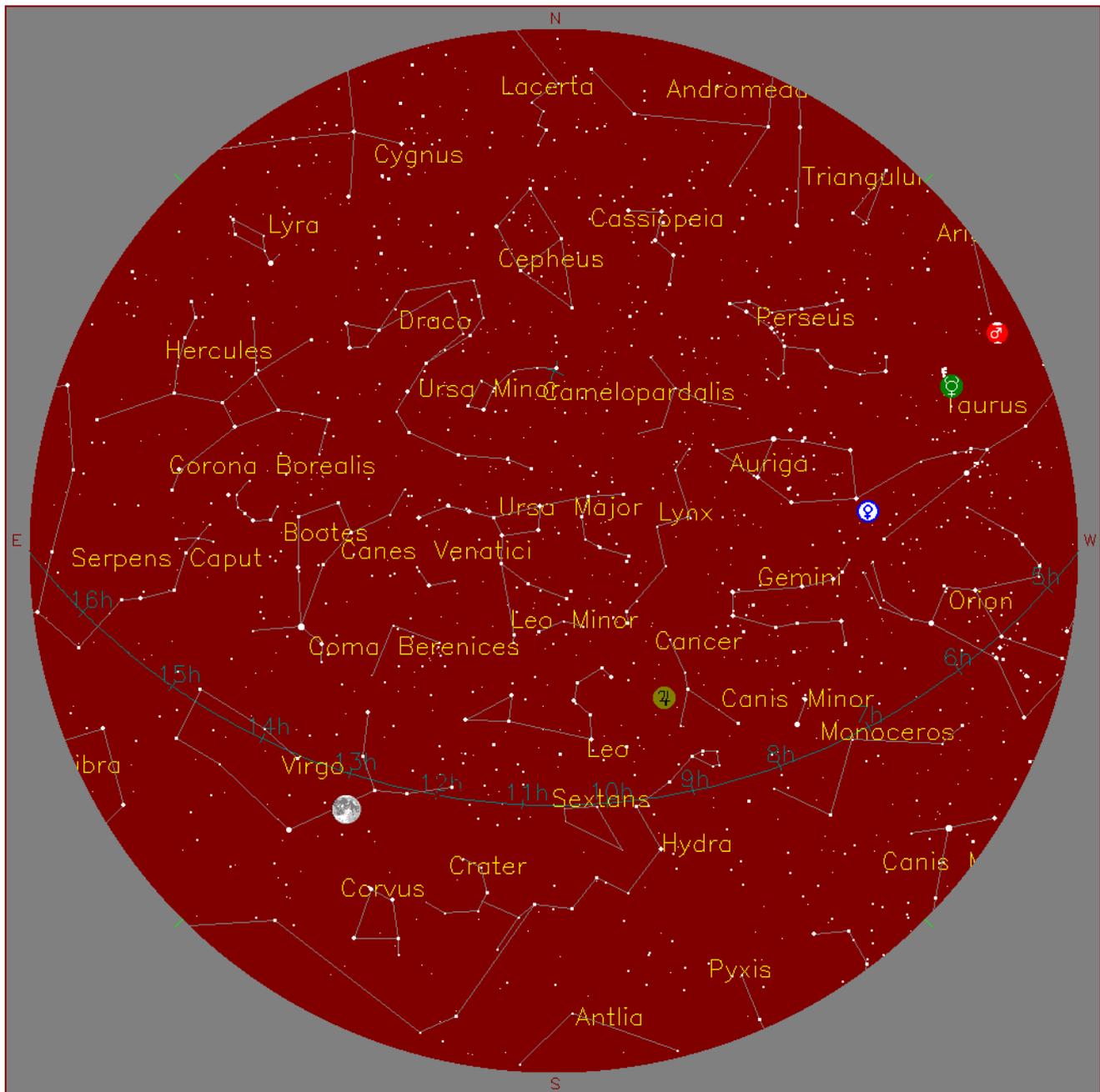
Full 4<sup>th</sup> May

Last 11<sup>th</sup> May

New 18<sup>th</sup>

# THE NIGHT SKY : MAP

1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 : 20.00hrs GMT- UTC / 21.00hrs BST



KEY	
 <b>MERCURY</b>	 <b>SATURN</b>
 <b>VENUS</b>	 <b>URANUS</b>
 <b>MARS</b>	 <b>NEPTUNE</b>
 <b>JUPITER</b>	 <b>PLUTO</b>



# Astronomical Society of Haringey

Patron: *Sir Arthur C. Clarke, C.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.A.S., F.B.I.S.*

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Vice President : *Walter T. Baker*

## ASH COMMITTEE MEMBERS : 2014 – 2015

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