



Orpington Astronomical Society

# Observing Officer's report for March 2025



# Sky chart

1/3/2025

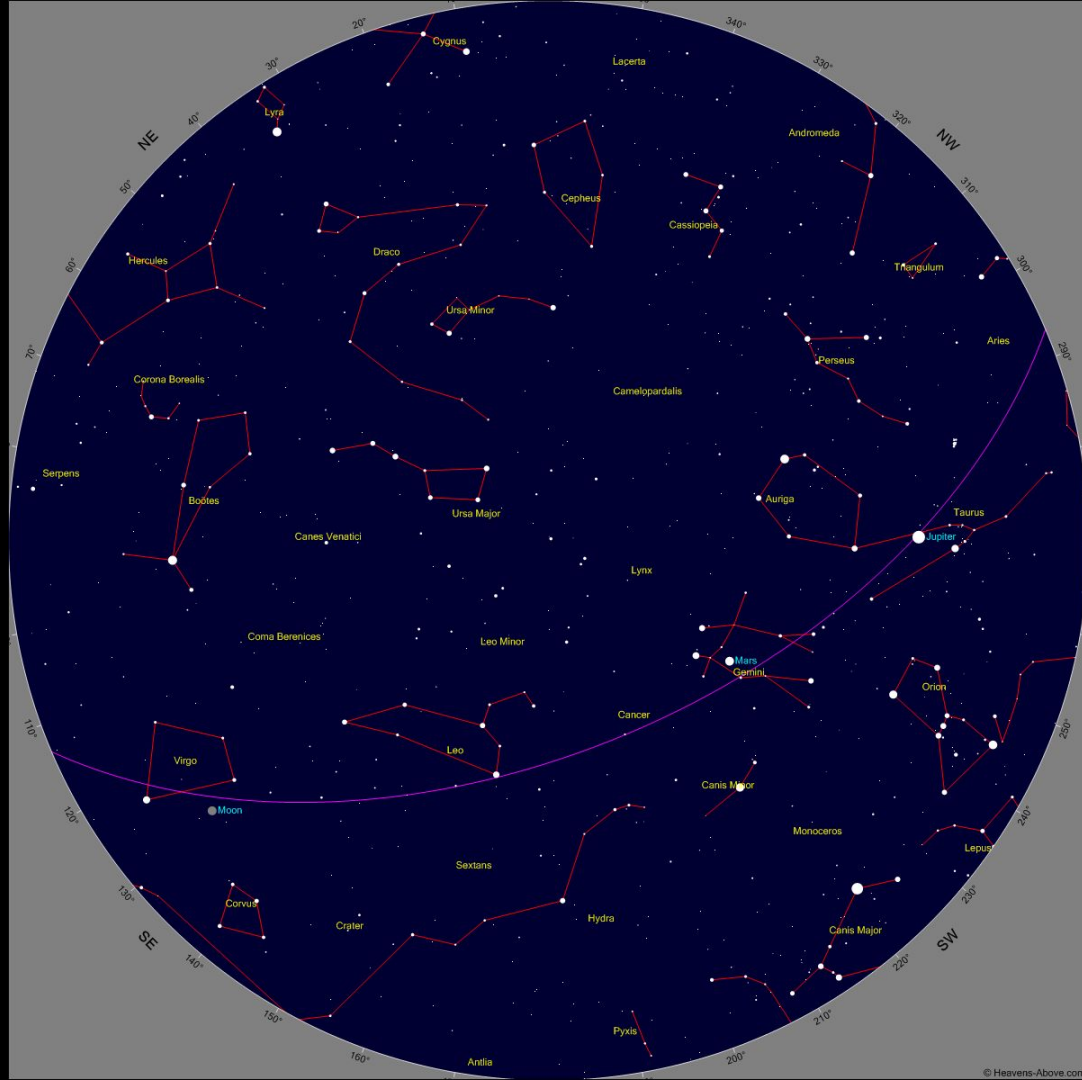
23:00

15/3/2025

22:00

28/3/2025

21:00



Source

<https://heavens-above.com/>

# Phases of the Moon

1<sup>st</sup> quarter



6<sup>th</sup> Mar  
16:31

Full Moon



14<sup>th</sup> Mar  
06:54

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter



22<sup>nd</sup> Mar  
11:29

New Moon



29<sup>th</sup> Mar  
10:57

# Sun phenomena in March

March Equinox 20<sup>th</sup> March 09:01

Date	Twilight starts *)	Rise	Set	Twilight ends *)	Day length
1 <sup>st</sup>	4:53	6:44	17:40	19:31	10:56
15 <sup>th</sup>	4:21	6:13	18:04	19:56	11:51
28 <sup>th</sup>	3:44	5:41	18:28	20:25	12:46

\*) Astronomical twilight

# Planets in March

M - Morning sky, before sunrise, E - evening sky, after sunset

Mercury - difficult to see (E) becoming not visible

Venus - fairly good visibility (E) @-4.2 mag becoming not visible

Mars - perfect visibility (E) @-0.35 mag, later good @0.6 mag

Jupiter - fairly good visibility @-2.0 mag

Saturn - extremely difficult to see to not visible

Uranus - difficult to see (E), 6.0 mag

Neptune - extremely difficult to see, 8.8 mag

## Selected events:

1 Mar 21:15 - Lunar perigee, Moon-Mercury conjunction,  
Moon-Venus conjunction

5 Mar - Moon-Pleiades conjunction

6 Mar - Moon-Jupiter conjunction

7 Mar - Mercury-Sun-Earth dichotomy

8 March 05h - Mercury greatest eastern elongation

9 Mar - Moon-Mars conjunction

11 Mar 22:58 - Mercury-Venus conjunction

12 Mar 10h - Saturn-Sun conjunction

14 Mar 06:58 - Total lunar eclipse

## Selected events:

17 Mar 16:27 - Lunar apogee

19 Mar 23h - Neptune-Sun conjunction

23 Mar 00h - Venus inferior conjunction

24 Mar - Mercury inferior conjunction

29 Mar 11:03 - Partial solar eclipse

30 Mar 05:19 - Lunar perigee

# 14 Mar 06:58 - Total lunar eclipse

3:57:23 Penumbral phase begins altitude  $21^\circ$

5:09:32 Partial phase begins altitude  $10.5^\circ$

6:22 Moon set

6:26 Total phase begins

6:58 Maximum eclipse

7:31 Total phase ends

8:48 Partial phase ends

10:00 Penumbral phase ends



# 29 Mar 11:03 GMT - Partial solar eclipse - 30.6%

London (United Kingdom)

Saturday, 29 March 2025

Greenwich Mean Time

Magnitude: 0.417

Obscuration (%): 30.6

Start of eclipse: 10h 07m 23s

Azi: 142.6° Alt: 36.1°

P: 268° V: 291°

Greatest: 11h 03m 25s

Azi: 159.6° Alt: 40.4°

P: 321° V: 334°

End of eclipse: 12h 00m 48s

Azi: 178.5° Alt: 42.1°

P: 15° V: 16°



# $\gamma$ -Normids meteor shower

Period: 25/02 - 28/03

Peak: 14/03

Zenithal hourly rate: 6

Velocity: 68 km/s

Parent: unknown

The Gamma Normids ( $\gamma$ -Normids) is a weak meteor stream with an uncertain activity period. Its parent body is also unknown... and its radiant is in constellation Norma (Carpenter's square) so visible only from Southern Hemisphere.



**The next Observing evening will be at the OVMH on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.**

# At the observing evening we will be observing:

- Leo, Leo Triplet
- M44 Beehive cluster
- several multiple stars
- Mars @0.4 mag
- Jupiter @-2.0 mag

Sunset 18:12

Astronomical twilight: 20:06

Moon 20 days old rising 1:40 the following day



Earth, Orpington, 62 m

FOV 142° 13.01 FPS 2025-03-20 20:00:00 UTC+00:00

Date and time

2025 - 3 - 20 20 : 0 : 0

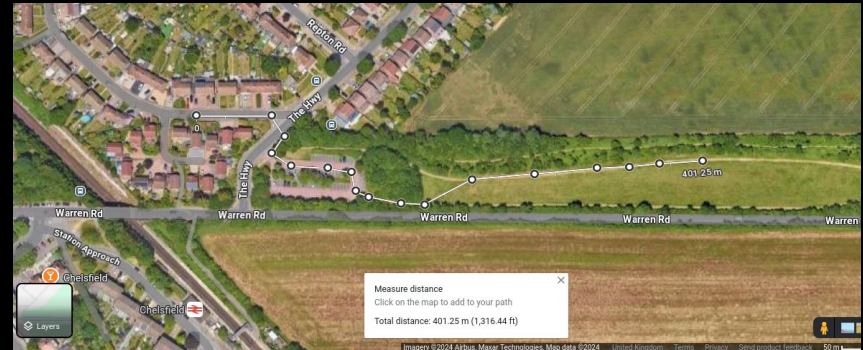
Julian Day



# Informal meetings

The next informal meeting will be on Saturday, 1st March at 8:30pm on Chelsfield Green. Free parking on single yellow lines at Stirling Drive or in Chelsfield car park off The Highway (£4.60).

The viewing spot is located some 400 m away on the green.



Thank you

