

Forthcoming CAWAS Meetings		
Friday 11th January	Mark Edwards	Turner's Astronomy
Friday 8th February	Martin Braddock	The Rise and Fall and Renaissance of Artificial Gravity
Friday 8th March	Mary McIntire	Star Trails

**BAA** Saturday 26th January 14:30-18:00      Ordinary Meeting  
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.W1J 0DU.

**European Astro Fest** Friday 8th - Saturday 9th February 09:00-18:00  
Kensington Conference & Events Centre, The Town Hall, Hornton St, London. W8 7NX

**Observing sessions** take place at 19:00 (clock time) with RADAS members at Barby Cricket Club

January 2019	February 2019	March 2019
Saturday 5th	Friday 1st	Friday 8th
Saturday 26th	Saturday 9th	Saturday 30th

January	Event	
Saturday 12th	Moon near Mars	
Monday 14th	Moon - first quarter	☾
Monday 21st	Moon - full, total eclipse	☉
Wednesday 23rd	Venus near Jupiter	
Sunday 27th	Moon - last quarter	☾
Wednesday 30th	Mercury superior conjunction	
Thursday 31st	Moon between Jupiter and Venus	
February		
Saturday 2nd	Saturn occultation	
Monday 4th	Moon - new	●

**Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society**  
The society usually meets on the second Friday in the month, at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. The meetings begin at 19:15 and end at 21:30.

**Web Site:** <http://www.covastro.org.uk>  
**Mailing list**

Join the CAWAS mailing list and receive irregular information of astronomical events and CAWAS news.  
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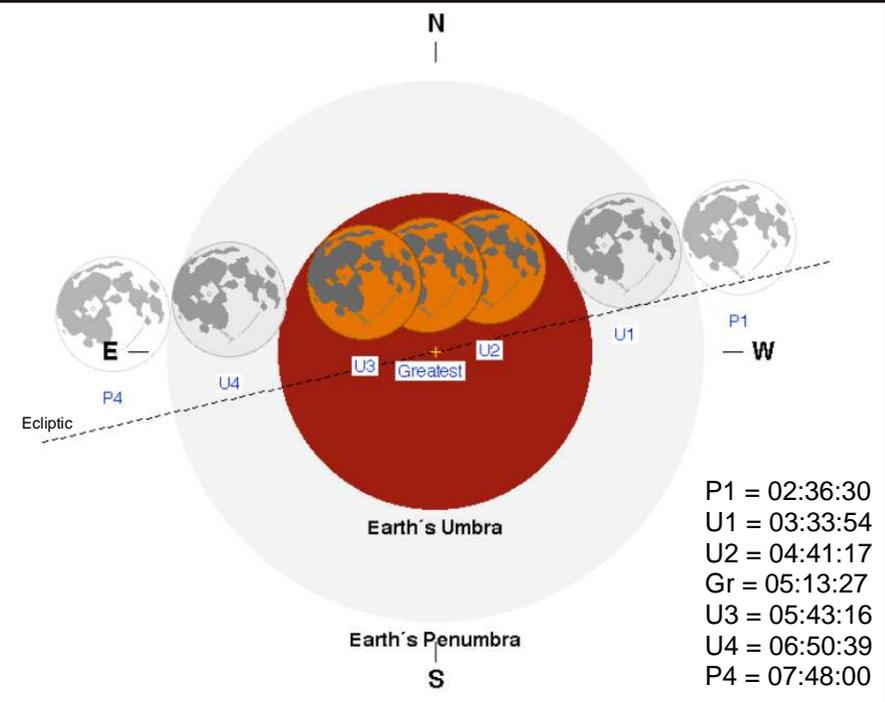
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# Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

## Sky Notes

January 11th to February 8th 2019 No. 256



### Red Moon at Night - Astronomer's Delight!

After the disappointment of last July's lunar eclipse at moonrise, let's hope for better views of this month's. This time the whole eclipse is visible on the morning of 21st January, finishing just before moonset. With the time of greatest eclipse being 05:13 you will have to get up early to see it. The Moon passes through perigee some 15 hours later so this is the second largest full Moon of the year and will no doubt attract the usual media hype of being called a mega-moon. Also don't forget to look behind you during maximum eclipse to see Venus and Jupiter rise together in the south-east.

**Time** given in these skynotes is Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) known as GMT here in the UK.

**Sun** after the solstice last month moves north from Sagittarius into Capricornus.

January 11th	Rise 08:12	Set 16:16	Dec $-21^{\circ} 32'$
February 8th	Rise 07:36	Set 17:05	Dec $-14^{\circ} 56'$

**Mercury** ( $-0.6 4.8''$  to  $-1.3 5.0''$ ) moves from Sagittarius into Capricornus and as it passes through superior conjunction on January 30 it is not visible this month.

**Venus** ( $-4.5 23.2''$  to  $-4.2 18.0''$ ) moves from Scorpius, through Ophiuchus into Sagittarius and is visible low in the SSE in the early hours of the morning, rising at 04:30 at the beginning of the month and 05:15 at the end. Throughout the beginning of the month it draws ever closer to Jupiter, passing just  $2.5^{\circ}$  above it on the morning of Jan 23, then on Jan 31 the crescent Moon joins in the fun, lying mid-way between the two planets ( $4^{\circ}$  to the east of Jupiter and  $4.5^{\circ}$  to the west of Venus).

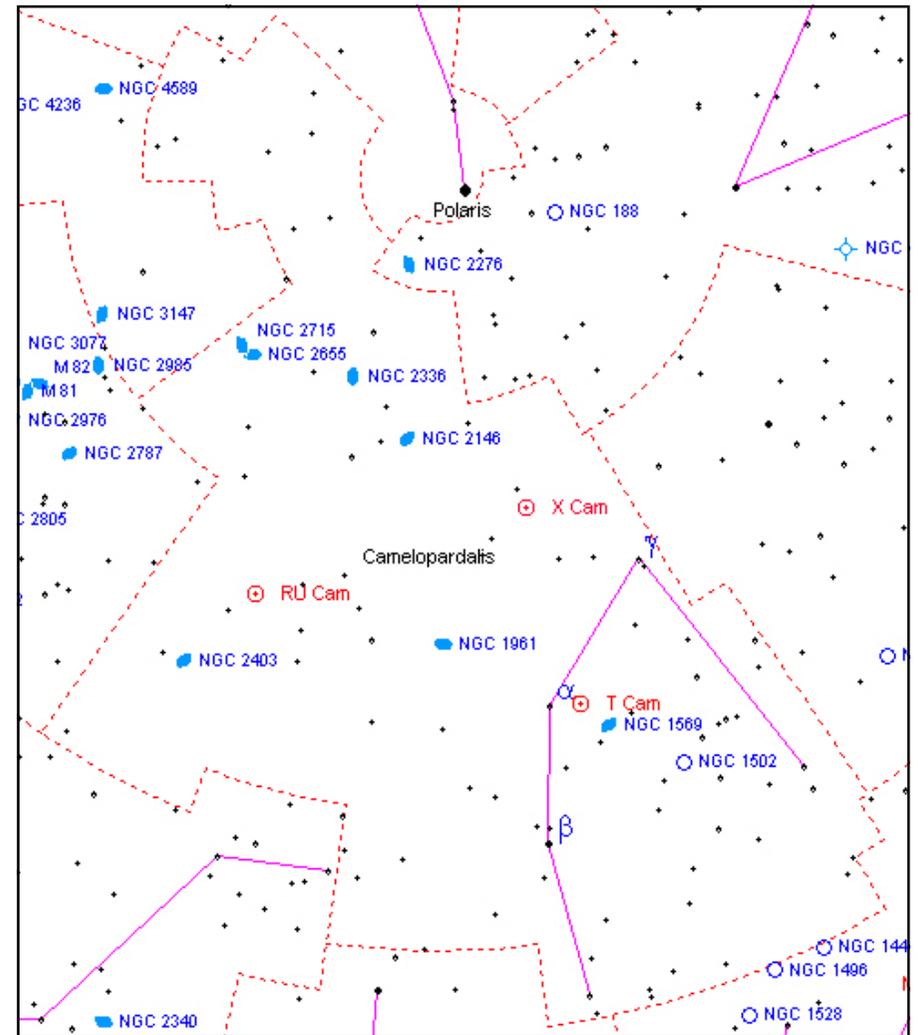
**Mars** ( $+0.6 6.9''$  to  $+1.0 5.9''$ ) lies in Pisces and although fading, its increasing declination helps in its visibility. It can be seen in the evening SW sky setting at 23:30 throughout the month. On Jan 12 the Moon lies  $6^{\circ}$  to the south.

**Jupiter** ( $-1.8 32.3''$  to  $-1.9 34.2''$ ) lies in Ophiuchus and is visible low in the SSE in the early hours of the morning, rising at 05:40 at the beginning of the month and 04:13 at the end.

**Saturn** ( $+0.5 15.0''$  to  $+0.6 15.2''$ ) lies in Sagittarius and as it passed through conjunction last month might be glimpsed at the end of the month very low down in the SE just before dawn. Locating it will be helped by the fact that on Feb 2 just as a thin crescent Moon rises at 06:25 in the SE, Saturn will appear from behind its north pole. To see the re-emergence though from Coventry will require a view of the horizon and a reliance on refraction!

**Uranus** ( $+5.8 3.5''$  to  $+5.9 3.5''$ ) lies in Pisces to the east of Mars (just  $1^{\circ}$  at the end of the month) and is visible high in the SW for the first half of the night.

**Neptune** ( $+7.8 2.2''$ ) lies in Aquarius and is visible in the SW in the early evening, gradually being lost in the Sun's glare towards the end of the month as it sets ever earlier, 21:00 at the beginning of the month and 19:00 at the end.



**Camelopardalis** (the Giraffe) is a faint constellation filling the space between Auriga and the pole. Despite its unspectacular nature (its brightest star,  $\beta$  is only mag.  $+4.03$ ) it contains some interesting variable stars. RU is a Cepheid varying between  $+8.1$  &  $9.1$  in 22.06 days, T is a red Mira star that varies between  $+8.0$  &  $13.8$  mag with a period of 373 days and X is a short period Mira star that varies between  $+8.1$  &  $12.6$  in 143 days. Camelopardalis is also home to a number of faint galaxies, NGC2403 being the exception as it is an intermediate spiral galaxy shining brightly at mag.  $+8.9$ . The most well know object though is Kemble's Cascade - a straight line of over 20 stars that ends at the open cluster NGC1502.