
Journal

of the

Nottingham Astronomical Society

October 2026



In this issue

- A Message from the Chairman
- Sky Notes for October
- e-Services
- Diary Dates
- Social and Practical Astronomy, meeting report
- The Small Rosette Nebula
- Advertisements
- Society Information

Thursday, October 1st

**Nottingham Emmanuel School
Gresham Park Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7YF**

7:45pm (doors open at 7:15pm)

This evening we welcome

Dr Mike Provost

who will be speaking on

Racing the Moon's Shadow

Chairman's Message, October 2026

Dear members,

It is starting to feel like autumn now, especially as we have passed the equinox. We had some fabulous memories of the eclipse as related by the members at the Plumtree meeting, all brought together by Richard. Some amazing shots and some great stories, thanks to all. We had our talk on 10 things you probably didn't know about the Milky way - that was certainly true for me.

Coming up we hope to have some observing sessions at the observatory, and we are also hoping to develop that more to allow more access particularly through the winter. Coming up we have another talk about a solar eclipse that was chased down by Concorde to get many minutes of totality. We also have a historical talk coming up too.

See you next time, and clear skies,

Julian

NAS Chair

Sky Notes

October 2026



Compiled by Roy Gretton

Unless otherwise stated, all times given below are in British Summer Time

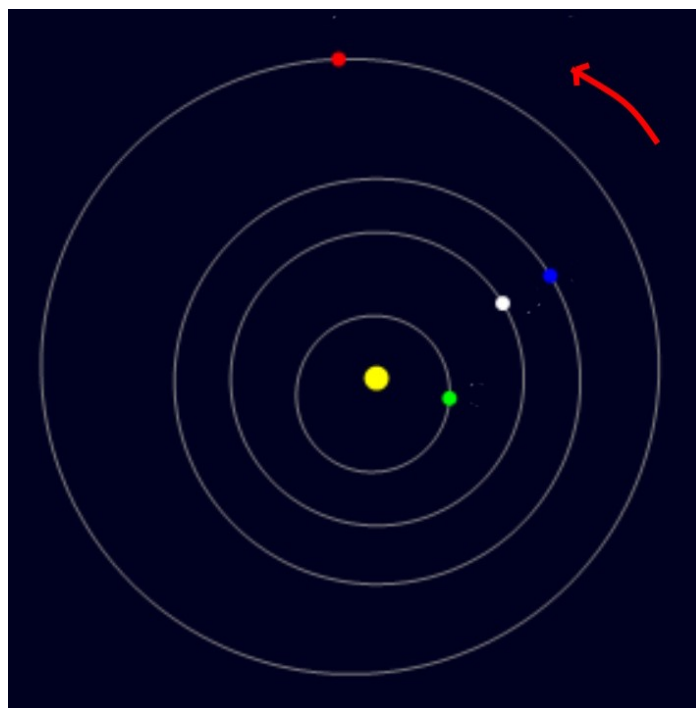
British Summer Time ends on October 25th. Clocks should be put back one hour at 2 am on this date.

PHASES OF THE MOON

Phase	Date
Last Quarter	October 3 rd
New Moon	October 10 th
First Quarter	October 18 th
Full Moon	October 26 th

This month the Moon is closest to Earth on the 28th, and furthest on the 16th.

The Inner Solar System on October 24th



***Venus** (white dot) is at inferior conjunction, while **Mercury** (green dot) is an evening object and **Mars** (red dot) is a morning object. The red arrow indicates the direction of rotation.*

Note that Mercury has the most elliptical orbit, followed by those of Mars and Earth (blue dot), with Venus having the most circular orbit of all the planets.

THE PLANETS

Mercury will be an evening object throughout this month but very difficult to observe.

Venus begins the month as an evening object more than 20 degrees south of the celestial equator, and passes through inferior conjunction on October 24th.

Mars spends most of October in Cancer, arriving in Leo at the close of the month, by which time its angular diameter will have reached 6.5 arcseconds.

Jupiter spends the whole of this month in Leo, where it will be rising in the early morning hours. By the end of the month it will be brighter than magnitude -2, and its equatorial diameter will be 36 arcseconds.

Saturn spends the whole of this month in the constellation of Cetus, a degree or two north of the celestial equator. It reaches opposition on October 2nd, when its equatorial diameter will be 19.7 arcseconds and the length of the major axis of the ring system will 44.7 arcseconds.

Uranus, about midway between Aldebaran and the Pleiades, will be rising in mid-evening in October.

Neptune is close to the celestial equator in the constellation of Pisces, and approximately due south at midnight in mid-October.

METEORS

The Orionids reach peak activity on the night of October 21st - 22nd with a 10-day-old Moon, so conditions will be improving after midnight. Twenty or so meteors may be seen per hour under ideal conditions.

The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E - SERVICES

Whether or not you are a NAS member, you can keep up to date with details of the Society's

NAS on Facebook

You are welcome to connect with other members and friends of the NAS on Facebook by going to:
<http://www.facebook.com/nas.org.uk>

NAS on X

The Society has an X account at <https://twitter.com/NottinghamAstro>

NAS Journal e-mailing list

To register for your monthly e-mailed link to the NAS Journal, just e-mail
membership@nottinghamastro.org.uk

You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

If you happen to change your email address, please remember to inform the Society by emailing us at membership@nottinghamastro.org.uk

DIARY DATES 2026

Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

1. Meetings at
Nottingham Emmanuel School
Gresham Park Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7YF

Held on the **FIRST Thursday** of each month **(unless otherwise stated)**
except **August**

Doors open at 7:15pm for 7:45pm start.

*These events are normally centred around a talk by a visiting speaker,
except Quiz Nights, etc, when NAS members provide the activities.
Normally we have a **Helpdesk** open at each meeting.*

Date	Topic	Speaker
1 st October	Racing the Moon's Shadow	Mike Provost
5 th November	<i>To be confirmed</i>	Mike Frost Systems Engineer

2. Social and Practical Astronomy Meetings at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree

Church Hill, Plumtree, Nottingham, NG12 5ND

Held on the **THIRD Thursday** of each month from **7:30pm**

*These meetings are of a more informal nature, providing opportunity for
members and guests to share their hobby over a cup of tea or coffee,
as well as listening to a short talk or discussion*

The next meeting will be on **October 15th**

Social and Practical Astronomy, Plumtree, September 2026

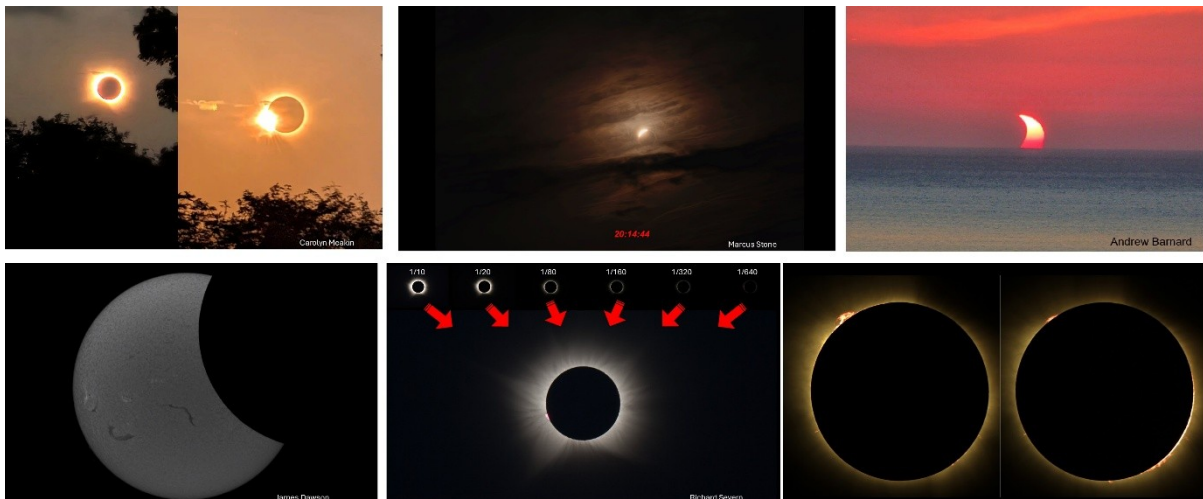
The September meeting was a celebration of members images from the August 12th solar eclipse presented by Ricard and Julian. 16 members showed their images of the eclipse, including several photographs of the total eclipse from Spain. Below is a map showing where members were positioned along the path of totality, we had the track well covered!



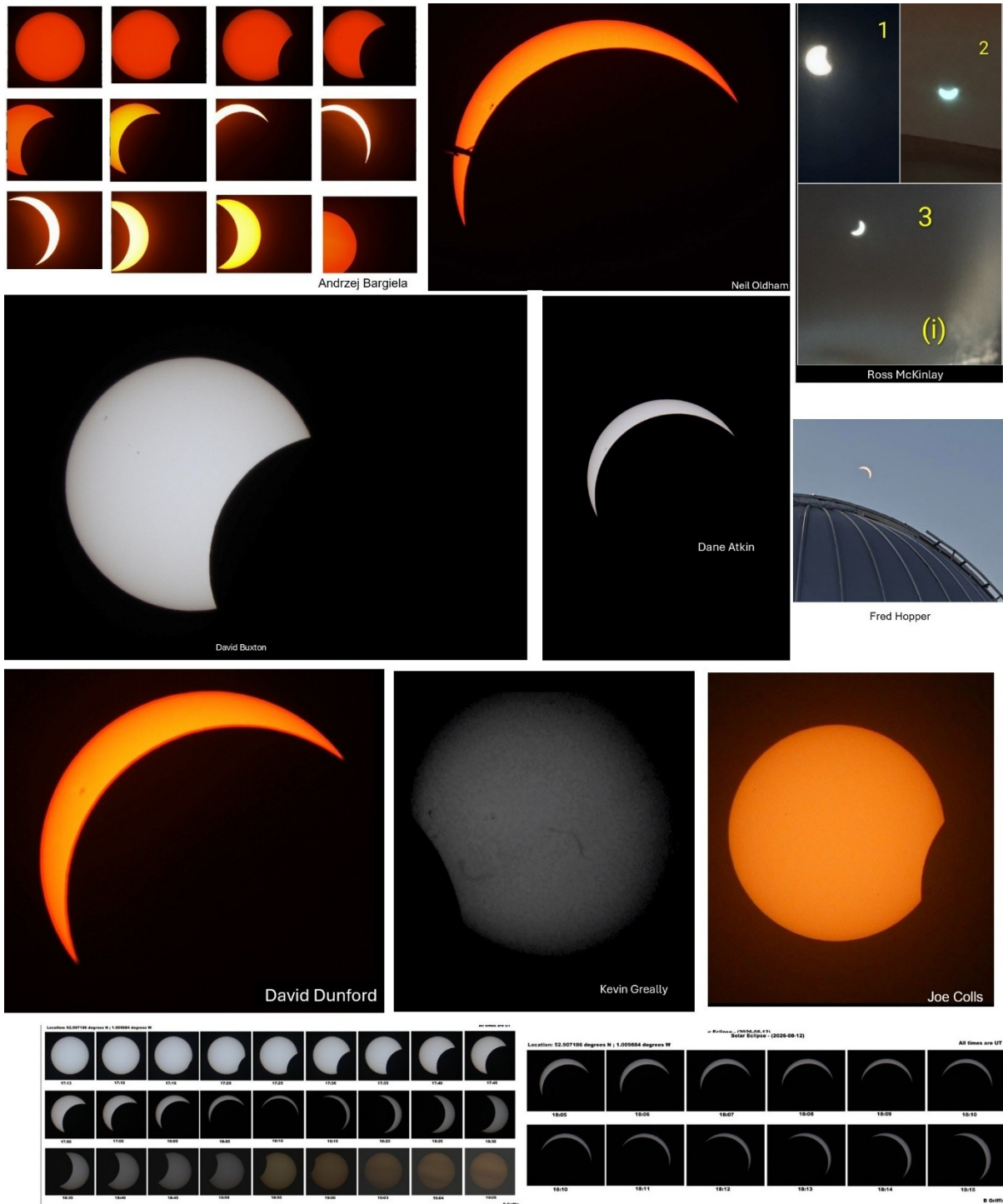
Richard and Julian provided a short introduction to the geometry of a solar eclipse, followed by an explanation of how eclipses are grouped into Saros cycles.



These fabulous images were taken by our members located along the path of totality in Spain.



Below are the images of the partial eclipse taken by members based in the UK. The eclipse was the deepest partial eclipse from Nottingham since the 11th August 1999 solar eclipse which was total in Cornwall.



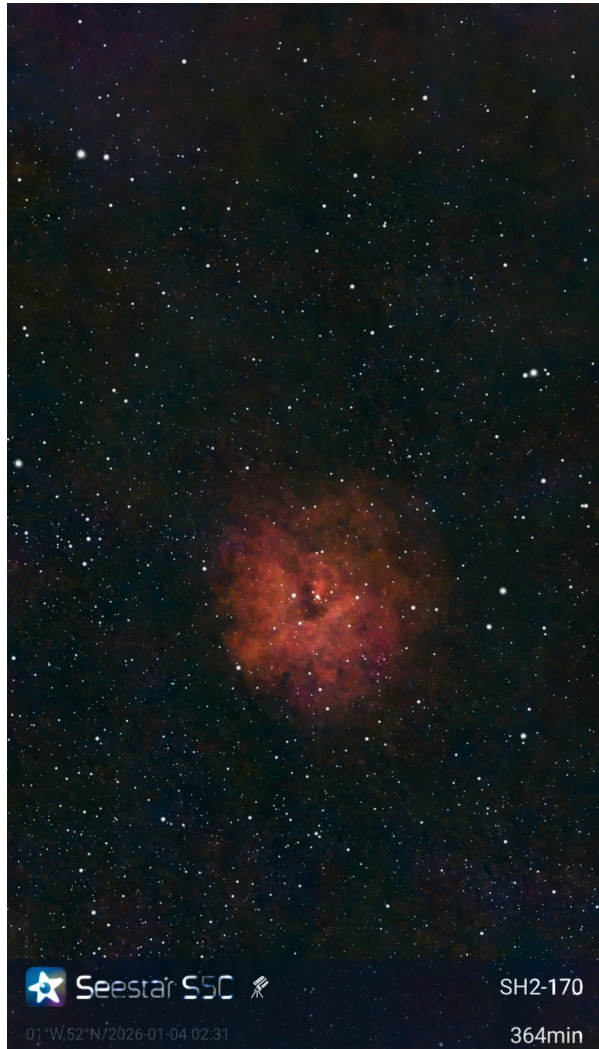
The next Plumtree meeting is on 15th October. **Brian Griffin** will be giving a talk on the history of the NAS Observatory.

Richard Severn

The Small Rosette Nebula imaged with a Seestar S50

The first image is a de-noised output from the Seestar (JPG file)

The second file is a stretched image of the nebula with superimposed stars.



The technical specification of the image:

Object: Sh2-170

Date/time: 04/01/2026, 02:04

Telescope: SeeStar S50 in EQ mode

Filter: Light pollution filter (dual bandpass Oiii/Ha)

Subframe Exposure: 10sec

Number of subframes: 2192

Total exposure: 364min

Andrzej Bargiela

Advertisements

For sale

Celestron NexStar 6SE SCT and accessories

The following standard accessories are included:

- visual back
- star diagonal
- 25 mm Plossl eyepiece
- red-dot finder
- tripod
- full instructions
- original cardboard boxes (if you want them)

The following additional accessories are included in this package:

- Bob's Knobs collimation aid (already fitted)
- Celestron dew heater band (already fitted)
- Celestron aluminium dew shield with cover
- Farpoint Bahtinov mask
- Geoptik pack-in bag for transporting the scope and mount

Price £750

More photos available. Inspection welcomed. Free delivery within a reasonable distance.

Sam Boote sam@boote.myzen.co.uk or at Society meetings



Pulsar Observatory for sale

I've had this full height (2.7m) observatory from new and it's in good working order. As I'm moving house it's for sale at £1,500 (new it would cost £7,499).



Purchaser to dismantle and remove before the 2nd of October.

Contact r.j.stewart@me.com

For Sale

SeeStar S50 all-in-one smart APO telescope from ZWO

(Just over 2 years old and in excellent condition)

50mm aperture, 250mm focal length, f/5 triplet apochromatic refractor

Filter-switching device (built-in LP filter for dual-band imaging)

3kg or 5kg including the tripod & case

Alt-Azimuth mount

Battery life 6hrs and memory 64GB

Image formats MP4/AVI/TIFF/JPEG

Wi-Fi & Bluetooth and control via SeeStar app

5 modes - Stargazing, Solar, Lunar, Planetary & Scenery

*Complete with white light Solar filter, charging cable, case, dew shield, lens cap, quick release plate & guides

Price: £299

Contact: **Mark Fairfax** at fairf77@btinternet.com

Nottingham Astronomical Society

Affiliated to the **British Astronomical Association**
Member of the **Federation of Astronomical Societies**
Supporters of the **Commission for Dark Skies**

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Meetings

Our formal meetings, often with an illustrated talk by a guest speaker, **normally** are held on the first Thursday of each month (except in August) at:

**Nottingham Emmanuel School
Gresham Park Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7YF**

Doors open	7:15pm
Meetings start	7:45pm
Meetings end	9:15 pm

These meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome to attend, subject to a charge of £5 per meeting for adults (£1 for concessions).

Annual subscriptions 2026

Individual	£40
Family (maximum of two adults, and children/students living at the same address)	£55
Under-18s and full-time students	£5

Subscriptions become due on 1st January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 30th June (minimum subscription £5).

Please make cheques payable to:
Nottingham Astronomical Society.

If you would like more information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact membership@nottinghamastro.org.uk or speak to any NAS committee member at one of our regular monthly meetings.

The Nottingham Astronomical Society

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