

Wiltshire Astronomical Society Public Observing Dates for the 2023-2024 Season.

The observing site is normally in the Picnic Area beside the Red Lion Pub car park, in Lacock but can change, so sign up for email confirmation at <https://wasnet.org.uk/observing/>

The WAS Observing team have provided at least two opportunities for observing evenings each month. If the first is cancelled due to weather then we normally have a second chance the following week. A reminder email is sent out on the Tuesday before the day and a 'Go, No-Go' email sent by 16:00 on the observing day which based on various weather Apps and looking out of the window at work.

Opportunity	Day	Date	Month	set-up	Observe	Moon Phase and Rise/Set Times			Suggested Observing Targets
First	Friday	08th	September	20:00	20:30	Cres	Rising	0:10	Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus are very late risers only just getting above the horizon as it gets dark but things improve as the month progresses. The summer triangle is high above a full of faint fuzzies.
Second	Friday	15th	September	20:00	20:30	New	Setting	19:15	
First	Friday	06th	October	19:00	19:30	Qtr	Rising	23:00	Orionid Meteor Shower on the 21st and the Usual planets throughout the month along with the Pleiades open cluster rising around 9pm.
Second	Friday	13th	October	19:00	19:00	New	Rising	7:15	
October Special	Saturday	28th	October	19:30	20:00	Full	Rising	7:15	A Partial Eclipse of the Moon starting around 20:30 if anybody would like to observe - let me know!
First	Friday	10th	November	18:30	19:00	Cres	Rising	5:00	Saturn heads for the horizon but Jupiter burns brightly ,and the normally quiet Leonid meteor shower makes an appearance with the occassional bright display.
Second	Friday	17th	November	18:30	19:00	Cres	Setting	18:30	
First	Friday	08th	December	18:30	19:00	Cres	Rising	13:15	Orion makes an appearance above the horizon much earlier and we catch the end of the Geminid Meteor shower on the 16th, bring your binoculars and comfy chair!
Second	Friday	15th	December	18:30	19:00	Cres	Setting	17:45	
Third	Friday	29th	December	18:30	19:00	Gibb	Rising	18:45	New Equipment Practical session with nearly full moon
First	Friday	5th	January	18:30	19:00	Cres	Rising	3:00	Saturn has now gone but the remaining outer planets are still on deplay. Worth observing and photographing the Andromeda Galaxy as it is high in the sky now.
Second	Friday	12th	January	18:30	19:00	Cres	Setting	16:45	
First	Friday	2nd	February	18:30	19:00	Cres	Rising	1:45	Jupiter is still observable but is starting to head to the horizon at the start of the month and becomes less favourable.
Second	Friday	9th	February	19:00	19:30	New	Rising	!7:30	
First	Friday	01st	March	19:00	19:30	Qtr	Rising	1:00	The outer planets are becoming less favourable and Orion is at his heighest at the very beginning of the night. Galaxy season is beginning with as Leo Coma Berenices and Ursa Major rising.
Second	Friday	08th	March	19:30	20:00	Cres	Rising	6:45	
First	Friday	05th	April	20:00	20:30	Cres	Rising	6:00	With Virgo rising the Galaxy observing season is well underway. We are also graced by the Great Star Clust M13 in Hercules with Venus and Mars only obserable in the morning skies
Second	Friday	12th	April	20:30	21:00	Cres	Setting	1:00	
First	Friday	03rd	May	20:30	21:00	Cres	Rising	4:30	The nights are short and the rise of Vega, Deneb and Altair, mark the rise of the summer triangle and the final few weeks of the Wiltshire Astronomical Societies observing season.
Second	Friday	10th	May	20:30	21:00	Cres	Setting	23:45	

Always feel free to contact the observing team for advice on what to see in the night sky.

Also if members want to see a particular event the observing team can look into setting up ad-hoc sessions where possible.

Wiltshire Astronomical Society Observing Team