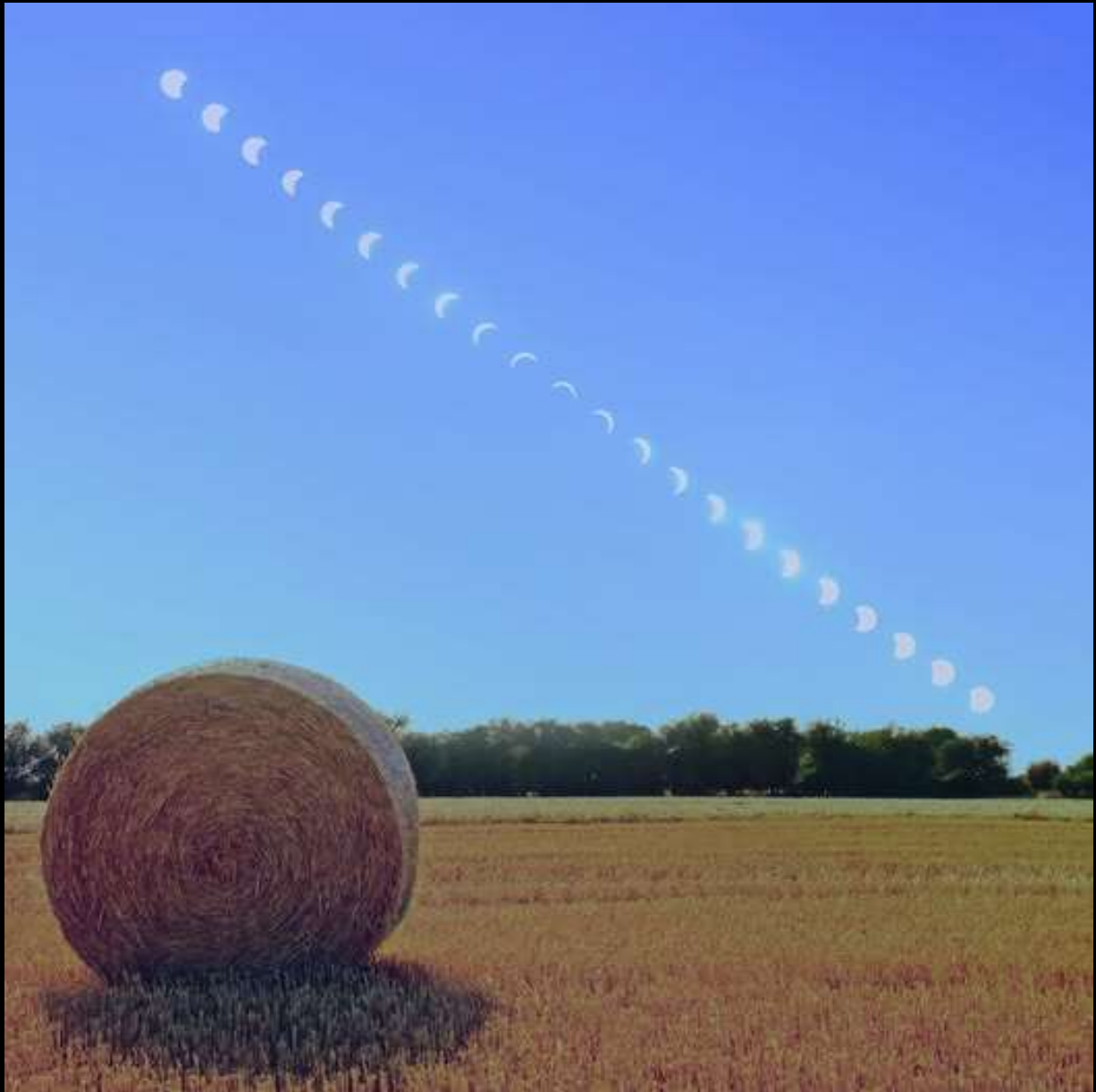


Nene Valley Astronomical Society

STARGAZER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Views Of The Partial Solar Eclipse

Taken By David Bryant

www.neneastro.org.uk

Forthcoming Meetings

All meetings held at Chelveston Village Hall, Caldecott Road, Chelveston NN9 5AT at start at 8pm. Doors open from 7.45pm. Please use the entrance doors at the rear of the building (the front door is locked for security purposes).

Monday 7th September

Club Night Meeting
The September Night Sky and
Astronomical Discussion
Admission £3.

Monday 21st September

'Erwin Freundlich' by Mike Frost
Admission £6.

Monday 5th October

Club Night Meeting
Admission £3.

Monday 19th October

'Astro-Photography Update & Smart
Telescopes' by Dave Eagle
Admission £6.

Committee Members

Chair

Vacant

Vice Chair

Steve Williams

Secretary

Kevin Burton
enquiries@neneastro.org.uk

Events Co-Ordinator

John Wynn-Wernick

Membership Secretary

Paul Blackman
members@neneastro.org.uk

Treasurer

David Jones

Newsletter/Website

Steve Williams
newsletter@neneastro.org.uk

Committee Member

Paul Jamison

NVAS Social Media

Just to remind you, that the NVAS is active on social media. In addition to our accounts on Facebook and X, we have recently added Instagram (Nene Valley Astronomy) where we will be posting meeting notices and updates. We also have our Whatsapp group, if you'd like to join this then please speak to Paul Jamison at one of our meetings.

Observing Evenings

We were hoping to re-introduce our regular Friday evening observing sessions at Chelveston Village Hall from this month, however due to bookings by other organisations it is not possible to re-start these until the 2nd October. As we do not pay to use the car park on these evenings, we have to give way to other paying organisations using the hall (it also means that we have no control over the building or external lighting). Details of October dates will be confirmed and publicised on our website and in next month's newsletter. If any member has a suggestion for an alternative venue that could be used on evenings that Chelveston is not available, then please let us know.

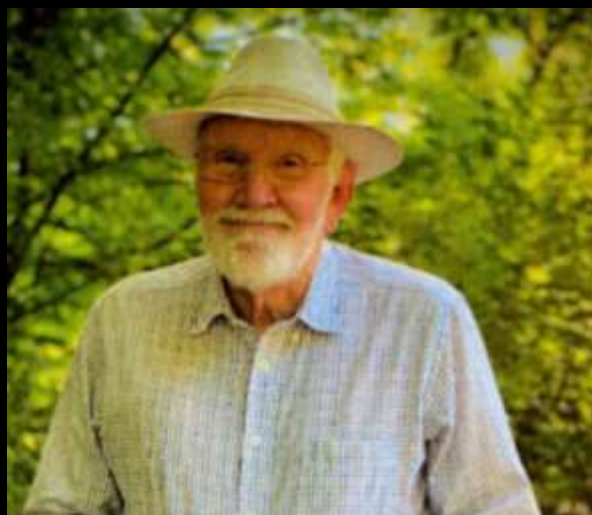
Tony Verney 1940-2025

Unfortunately, we've recently learned of the passing at the end of last year of NVAS member, Tony Verney.

Tony was a long standing group member and was very innovative in producing home made accessories for use with his telescope as well as being an enthusiastic observer. He was always willing to help out newcomers at our observing sessions and provide advice. A familiar face to many members at the Chelveston meetings.

If any member would like to leave a message in remembrance of Tony then the link is anthonyverney.muchloved.com/

(Thanks to George Cheeseman for passing this information on)



The Solar System This Month

New Moon 11th September
Full Moon 26th September

The Sun remains worthwhile monitoring on a regular basis although sunspot activity level at the end of August was quite low. Observe using either the projection method or with a certified 'White Light' solar filter. As ever, please take the usual precautions when observing the Sun.

Mercury is lost from view throughout September following it's superior conjunction at the end of August.

Venus is also not visible this month as it lies too close to the Sun in the sky for observation.

Mars is now starting to become a much more accessible object rising above the north-eastern horizon around 1.30am by mid-September. It is best observed a couple of hours later once it has risen higher into the sky. At magnitude 1, it's disc size (although still tiny through a telescope) is starting to gradually increase.

Jupiter clears the north-eastern horizon by around 4am mid-September. It just about breaks 20 degrees elevation by the onset of morning twilight. The very thin waning crescent Moon lies nearby on the mornings of 8th & 9th September.

Saturn is rising above the eastern horizon at the onset of evening twilight. It is best observed a couple of hours later, once it's climbed higher into the sky. Brightens to magnitude 0.3 this month, with the Full Moon to it's upper right on the night of 26th September.

Uranus rises before mid-night and can be found in the constellation of Taurus, roughly mid-way between the star Aldebaran and the Pleiades Star Cluster.

Neptune reaches opposition on 26th September in Pisces. At magnitude 8, a pair of binoculars or a telescope will be needed to observe it.

The Evening Sky This Month



The above chart from Stellarium shows how the evening sky looks on September 1st

Our evening sky chart shows the summer constellations descending towards the western horizon, with Sagittarius already having set. Cygnus, Lyra and Aquila remain at a good altitude and offer plenty of objects to explore.

Towards the south, the faint zodiacal constellations of Capricornus and Aquarius pass across the meridian. Capricornus contains the globular cluster M30 (magnitude 7) as well as NGC 6907 a face on spiral galaxy (magnitude 11). In Aquarius you'll find NGC 7293 the famed Helix, a planetary nebula which can be imaged well with Smart Scopes. Other targets in Aquarius include NGC 7009 the Saturn nebula along with the globular cluster M2 one of the richest of the Milky Way's globulars containing around 150,000 stars.

The south-eastern aspect is dominated by the square of Pegasus along with Andromeda. Beneath Pegasus, lies the fainter constellation of Pisces (currently playing host to Saturn), whilst another faint constellation, Cetus is rising above the eastern horizon.

Round to the north-east, Taurus is just clearing the horizon, bringing with it the eternal favourites of the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters.

Ursa Major lies low to the north, with the circumpolar constellations of Cassiopeia and Cepheus passing high overhead. Cassiopeia contains a number of star clusters to explore, whilst Cepheus hosts a number of nebulae and the famed Fireworks Galaxy (NGC 6946) which is known for it's high rate of supernovae.

Meteors –there are no major meteor showers active during September. The Alpha Aurigids and Epsilon Perseids do produce a very low rate at the start of the month, so if you are patient you may get lucky! Additionally, the background or sporadic meteor rate is often at it's highest at this time of year, so meteor watches may be worthwhile, particularly later in the night.

Contributions for the next edition of Stargazer are welcome from all members and can be sent to Steve Williams via newsletter@neneastro.org.uk

Update On The NVAS Journal

The new society journal is currently in the process of being compiled, with a publication date planned for October.

Contributions for this are welcome from all members and can be in the form of observations, articles or even hints and tips that you wish to share with your fellow members.

A final deadline for contributions for this inaugural issue is 30th September.

Contributions can be sent to Steve Williams at newsletter@neneastro.org.uk

Members Observations



Paul Blackman's View Of The Partial Lunar Eclipse on 28th August. Taken with a Dwarf III Smart Telescope.



M11 The Wild Duck Cluster In Scutum.
Imaged By Steve Williams using a Seestar S30 on 7th August.