

Due to unforeseen circumstances this podcast for March 2022 is rather shorter than normal.

Spring Equinox

This is the month of the Spring Equinox. The Sun, which has been steadily moving north since the Winter Solstice last December, will cross the Celestial Equator on March 20th. This will happen at 3.33 GMT.

Equinox, meaning equal night, means there will be 12 hours daylight and 12 hours of night right across the Earth.

From March 20th until the Autumnal Equinox in September, the UK will experience days which are longer than nights.

The Sun

On March 1st at the Greenwich meridian, the Sun will rise at 7.03 GMT and will set at 17.40 GMT, giving a day length of 10 hours 36 minutes.

On March 31st the Sun will rise at 6.41 GMT and will set at 19.45 GMT giving a day length of 13 hours and 3 minutes

The Moon

In March the Moon will be new on the 2nd, will be at first quarter on the 10th, will be full on the 18th and will reach last quarter on the 25th.

The Planets

Most of the planets are clustered close to the Sun this month.

Jupiter is in conjunction with the Sun on March 5th and is effectively out of view for the whole of the month.

Neptune will be in conjunction with the Sun ten days later and similarly will not be visible this month.

Saturn was in conjunction with the Sun during February and will not be in view until late March when it will be visible low in the pre-dawn sky close to Mars.

Mercury is also in the pre-dawn sky but poorly placed as it heads towards superior solar conjunction in April.

Venus reaches greatest western elongation from the Sun on March 20th. Although shining brightly it remains at low altitude.

Uranus is the only planet presenting as a morning object this month. It is visible for about an hour after sunset among the stars of Aries.