



If you're interested in stargazing, come join us. Everyone is welcome. We have group stargazing sessions, workshops, talks, and other events
BathAstronomers.org.uk
 BathAstronomers



Daylight information for the month is:

Sunrise: 04:57 (1st) 05:31 (31st)
 Sunset: 21:29 (1st) 20:58 (31st)

For two months each year, the Sun doesn't dip low enough below the horizon at night for it to get truly dark. This period comes to an end on 20th July and the sky will appear progressively darker each night as the weeks go by. This darkening will help you observe fainter or more diffuse celestial objects and bring out the contrast in the Milky Way.



Last Quarter: 6th July
 New Moon: 13th July
 First Quarter: 19th July
 Full Moon: 27th July



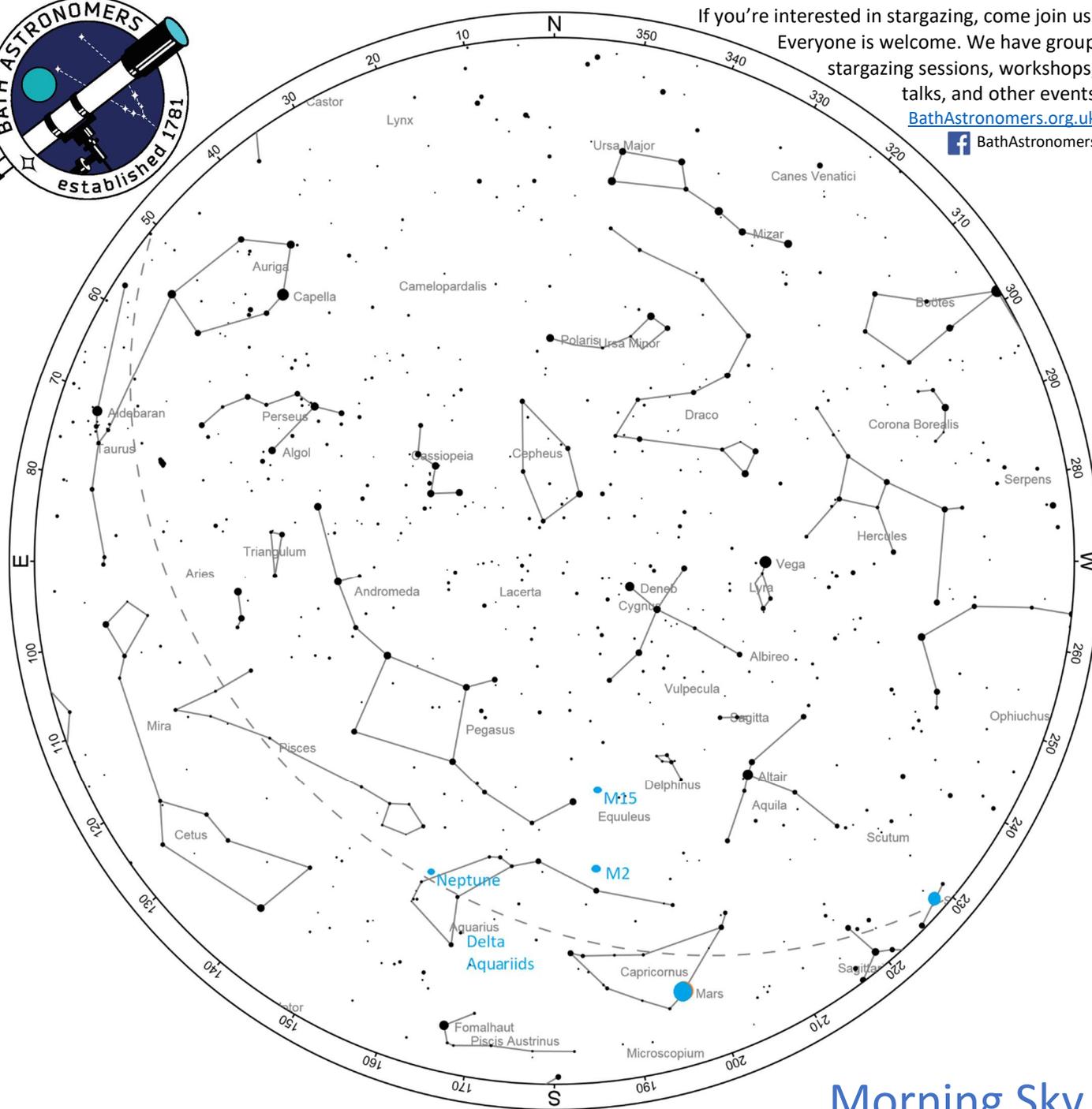
After midnight and into the early hours, the Milky Way can be seen stretching from the southwestern horizon over your head to the northeastern one. When your eyes are dark adapted, after 20 minutes without lights, you may be able to make out the dark dust lane which runs from Deneb in Cygnus to Altair in Aquila and down to Sagittarius. Here you'll find yourself looking towards the centre of our Galaxy. As a guide, Saturn is the bright 'star' shining in this area of the sky in the south. The Delta Aquariids meteor shower peak between 27-30th July and the 'origin' of these meteors can be found in Aquarius which is how they got their name.



Mars reaches its brightest on 27th July and is closest to the Earth on 31st July. It hasn't been this bright since 2003. It is yellow-orange in colour and will be brighter than Saturn.

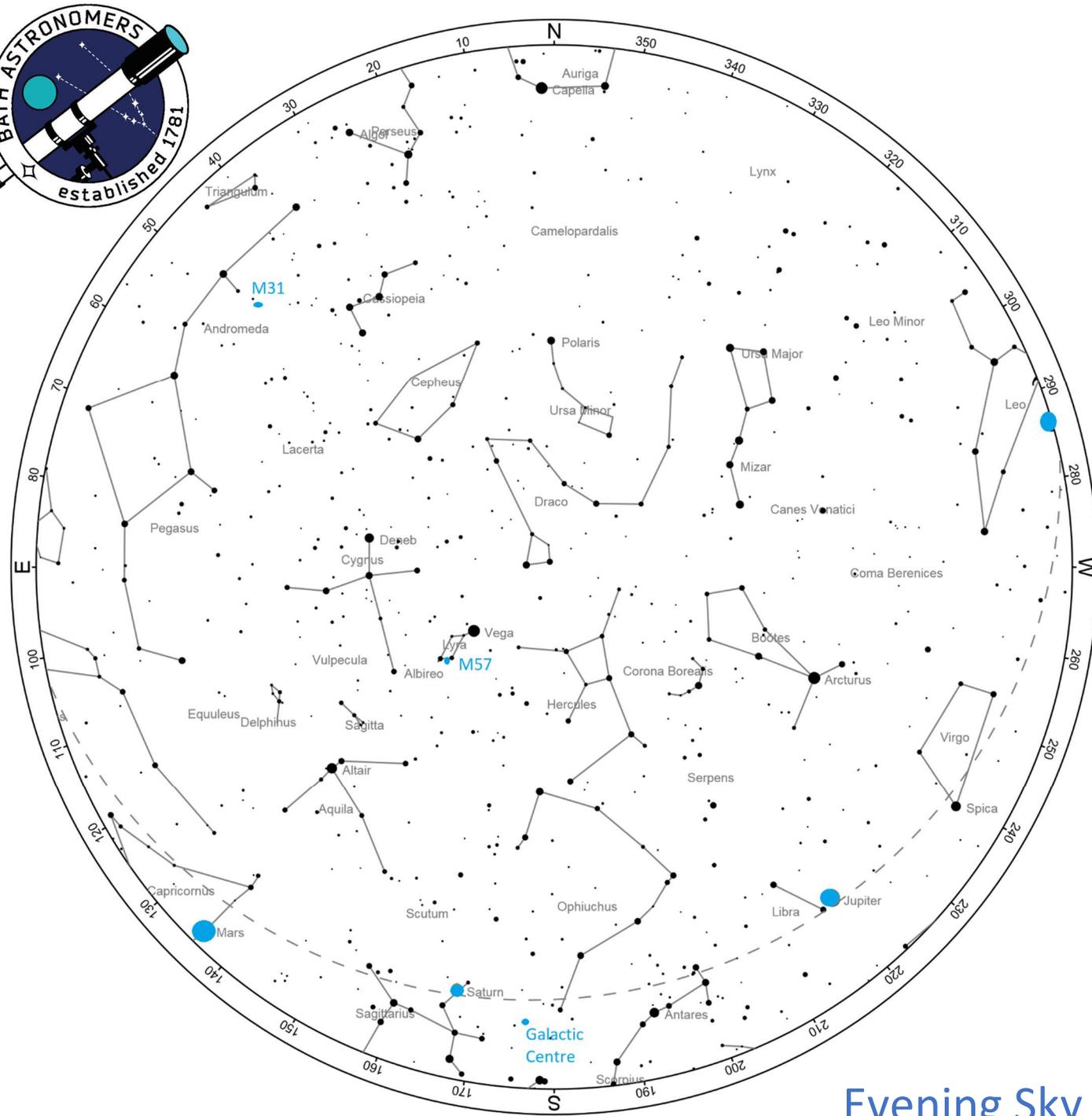


Neptune is visible in the early hours to the northeast of Aquarius in the south. A green/blue disc should be visible at higher magnifications in a telescope. 35,000 light years or so further away we find M2 and M15; globular clusters orbiting our galaxy and comprising 150,000 and 100,000 individual stars respectively.



Morning Sky in July 2018

Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
 Time: 16 July 2018 03:30 (UTC +01:00)



Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
 Time: 15 July 2018 23:00 (UTC +01:00)



This month four planets are easily visible with the naked eye: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Mars becomes visible in the southeast evening sky this month and from 7th July it outshines Jupiter making it the fourth brightest natural object in the night sky. With the darkening skies, you should be able to make out the smudge of the Andromeda Galaxy M31 especially towards midnight.



One of the delights this time of year is to pan binoculars or a telescope across the wings of Cygnus the Swan, moving from the few stars to looking through the spiral arms of our galaxy and the thick soup of hundreds if not thousands of stars in the eyepiece.



With care Mercury is visible showing a thin crescent in the evening sky after sunset. Venus is waning from nearly 70% illumination to approaching half by month's end; shaped like the Moon just after First Quarter. Mars can show differences in colour across its surface and bigger telescopes can bring out reasonable detail. It is a good time to have a look, as Mars is a big 21" arc seconds in diameter; about 7 times larger and 40 times brighter than the beginning of the year.

Jupiter is putting on a good show in the southwest and you should observe regularly to see its rapid 10 hour rotation and the orbits of the 4 brightest moons. Io and Europa will move across the front of Jupiter's disc several times this month and both moon and its shadow can be seen against the Jovian atmosphere. On 20th July at 23:00, you can watch Ganymede disappear behind Jupiter.

The Ring Nebula (M57) in Lyra can be found easily between the lower two stars as a 'smoke ring' about 3000 light years away. As it's faint, it appears grey to your eyes but photos show up its true colours of blue, green, yellow and red. You may see the central star.

Evening Sky in July 2018



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