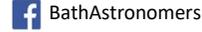




If you're interested in stargazing, come join us. Everyone is welcome. We have group stargazing sessions, workshops, talks, and other events BathAstronomers.org.uk



Great observing this month so best dust off your binoculars or telescope, step out and get looking up!



Daylight information for the month is:

Sunrise: 08:14 (1st) 07:49 (31st)
 Sunset: 16:11 (1st) 16:56 (31st)



New Moon: 6th January
 First Quarter: 14th January
 Full Moon: 21st January
 Last Quarter: 27th January



The big meteor shower this month is the Quadrantids that peak on 4th January with 50+ meteors per hour. The shower begins on 28th December and lasts until 12th

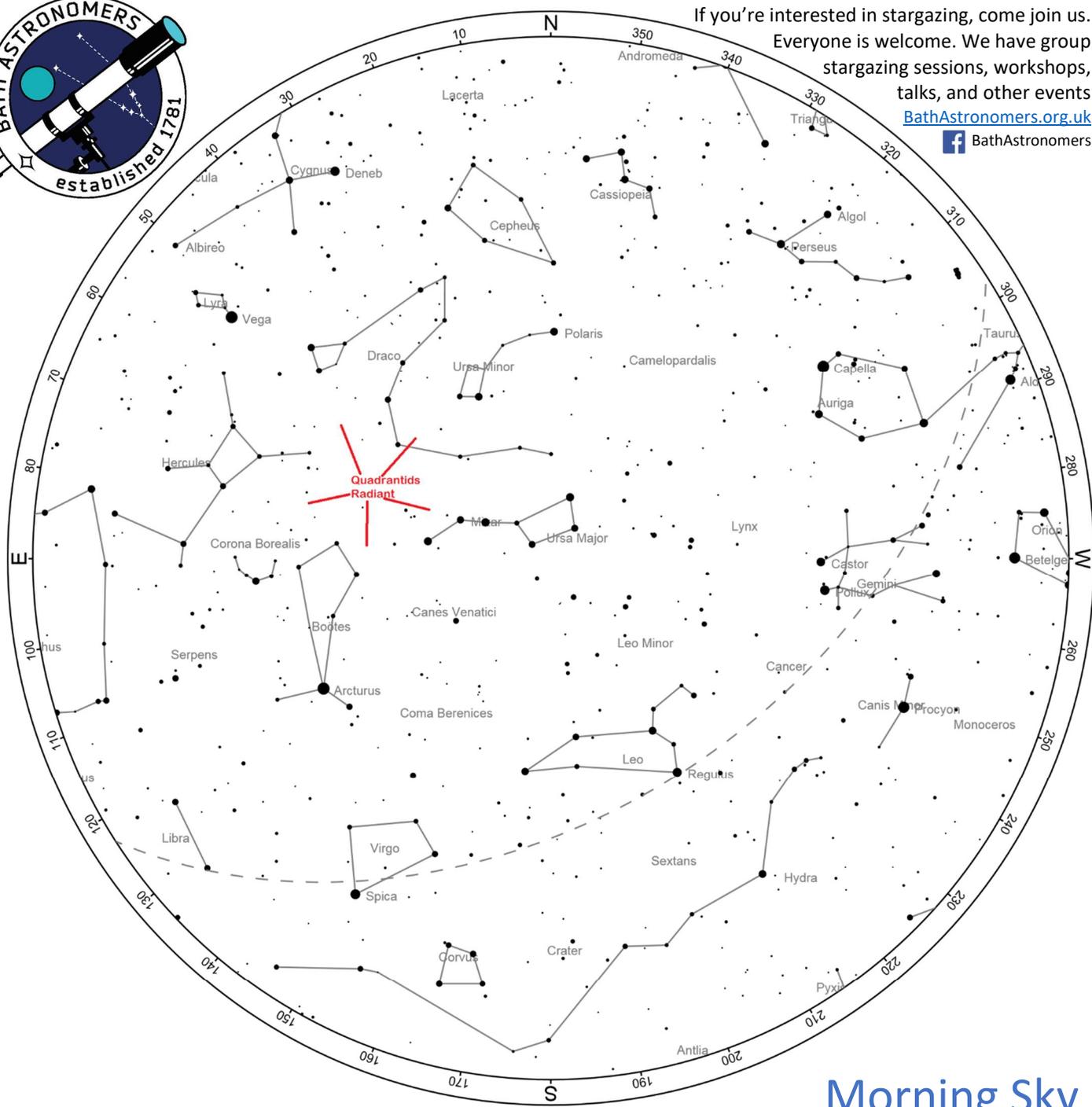
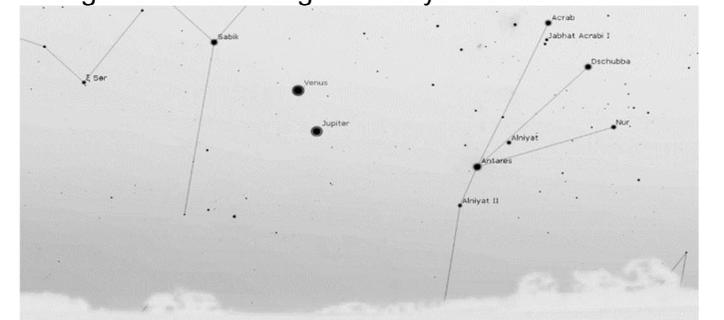
January. Best seen after midnight, the source of the meteors will appear to the left of the Great Bear (Ursa Major) and above Boötes.

In the early morning of 21st January there is a Total Lunar eclipse commonly called a Blood Moon. It starts from 02:36, totality from 04:41 to 05:43, and ends by 07:48. It's a good photo opportunity especially if you can capture landscape images with the changing Moon as a backdrop. This is the last full total lunar eclipse for a few years so set the alarm clock.



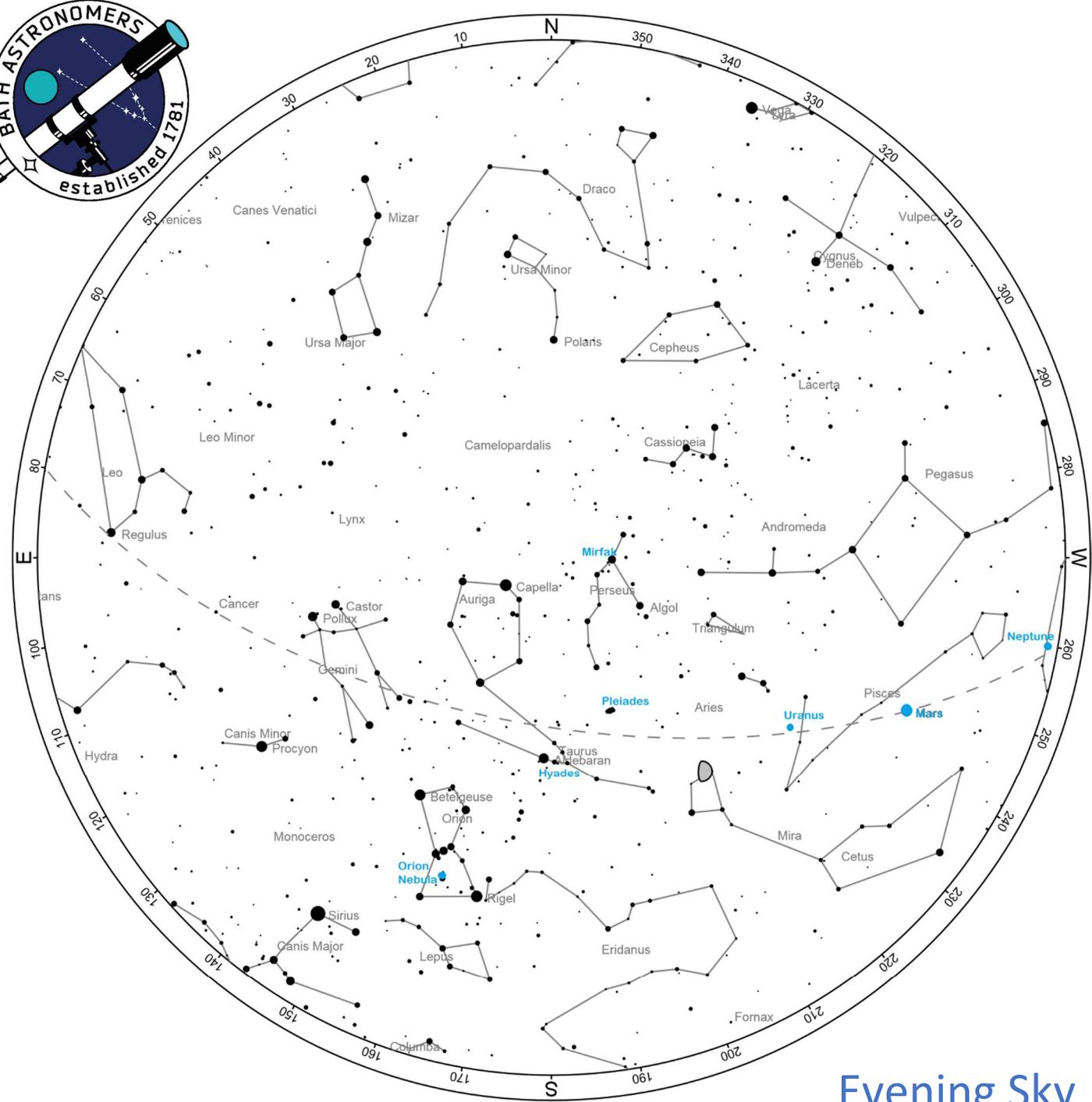
The 22nd January sees the dawn skies dominated by the close approach of the bright planets Venus and Jupiter low in the East. It is Venus' plunge back around the

Sun that brings them together and you can watch this change each morning the days before and after.



Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
 Time: 16 January 2019 04:00 (UTC +00:00)

Morning Sky in January 2019



Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
 Time: 15 January 2019 21:00 (UTC +00:00)

Evening Sky in January 2019

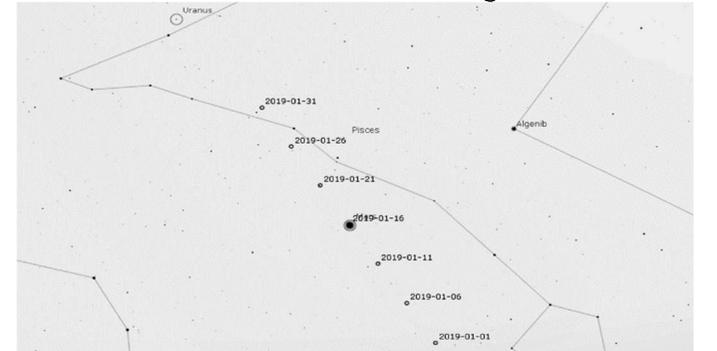


Orion the Hunter is the standout constellation of the month visible to the South. It is unmistakable with three stars in a diagonal making up his belt. To the top left is Betelgeuse with a light reddish hue if you look carefully. Bottom right is the bright white/blue Rigel. Hanging from the belt you can imagine the sword and observing it away from street lights you'll notice perhaps the tip of the sword looks a little fuzzy, or softer. This is the Orion Nebula, a star-formation region, assigned M42 by Charles Messier during his cometary hunting.

Orion is so distinctive that you can use it to help identify other constellations. Go from Rigel to Betelgeuse and the same again and you're in Gemini approaching the Twins stars of Castor and Pollux. Use the other foot and shoulder stars in Orion and extend the line to travel to Taurus with the open V of the Hyades star cluster at its centre. Travelling further in the same direction, see the bright star Capella in Auriga and Mirfak in Perseus. Can you see the constellations? Now you've found Capella, travel again from Orion's Belt through Capella and the same distance again and you're at Polaris, the North Star and more familiar constellations like the Small and Great Bears (Ursa Minor & Major respectively).



Uranus is being followed by Mars rapidly this month and you'll note the relative motion week on week through Pisces as shown. Mars is visible as a bright reddish dot.



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