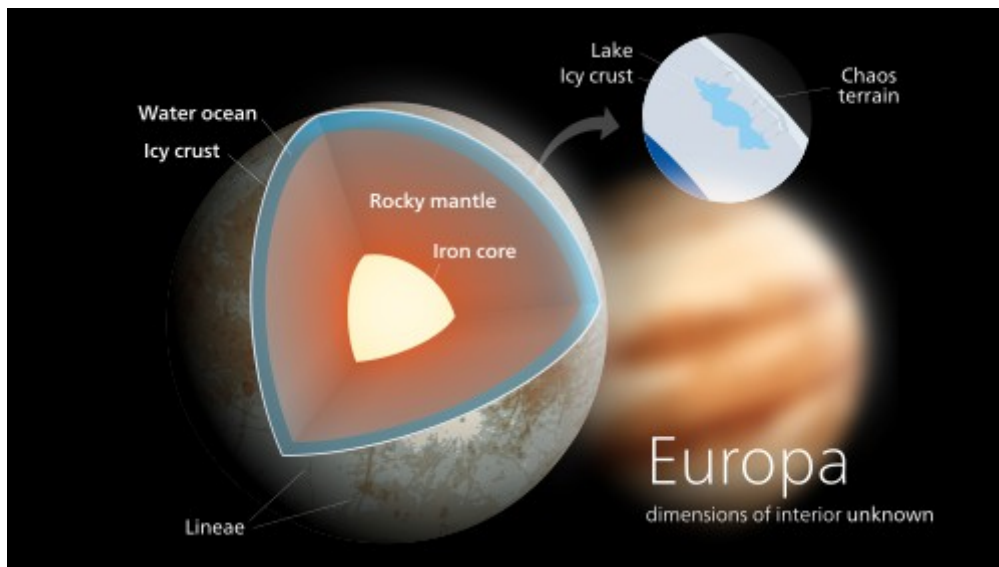
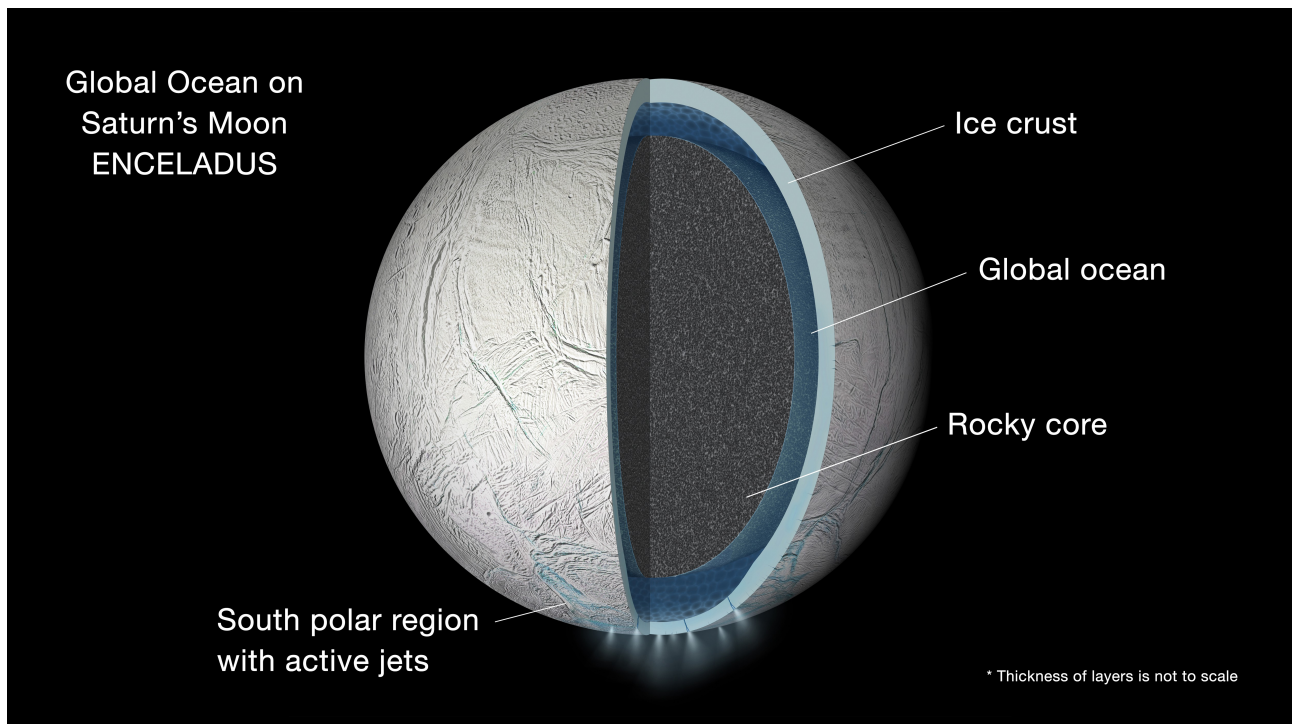


Beteleguese

Monthly newsletter of the East Oxford Astronomy Club
Issue 3: April 2026.



from Wikipedia



Natty Mark Samuels

Editorial

Writing this editorial two days after **Spring Equinox** (March 20th); looking forward to an April of celestial wonders.

For example, there are the **Lyrid showers**, 16th-25th April, peaking on the 22nd. One of the great star gazing phenomena of last year, was laying on a mat in the courtyard of a village house, as the Perseid meteors came and went. The Lyrids will emerge from the region of the Lyra constellation, where the star called Vega resides.

As there are Winter and Summer Triangles - the latter consists of the aforementioned Vega, Deneb, from Cygnus and Altair from Aquila - so there is a **Spring Triangle**; Regulus, Arcturus and Spica; from Leo, Bootes and Virgo, respectively.

And I always like to welcome the full moon, sometimes watching it as it rises over the leisure centre, while sitting on what I call the Lunar Bench, in Blackbird Leys Park, next to Leys College. The **Pink Moon** will be with us April 2nd, named for the time of phlox blossoming. The three pieces inside are from issues of *Leys Satellite*.

Another celestial happening in April, is the return of us, after fifty odd years, to the orbit of the Moon. Deferred from February, **Artemis II** will orbit our solitary satellite for ten days. Artemis IV will make a landing in 2028. The Artemis II crew consists of four astronauts; **Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen**. Victor Glover, pilot of Artemis II, is affectionately known as "Ike," meaning I know everything; partly due to his holding of four degrees, including three at Masters level, in differing aspects of engineering. He'll be the first Black man to orbit the Moon. The first Black astronaut was the Cuban **Arnaldo Mendez**, aboard a Soyuz spacecraft in 1980.

The week leading up to Spring Equinox, astronomers announced the finding of new moons round Jupiter and Saturn; additional five for Jupiter, eleven for Saturn. So Jupiter now has 101 satellites: Saturn 285. Europa on the front cover is a moon of Jupiter, one of the four Galilean moons.

Recommended book

The Starspotter's Guide

Sheila Kanani

Recommended YouTube video

NASA'S Dragonfly Mission to Titan

Real Engineering

Recommended apps

Star Walk 2 and Selerium

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Dragonfly

On a world of methane and ethane, a dragonfly alights.

Imagine a place where you can claim raindrops, as the little one captures bubbles blown by his grandmother. From the region of gravity, they come floating down, slow motion, like tearfall in need of a catcher. And the rain that falls is methane, as is the liquid in the lakes, such as Ontario Lacus, covering an area of 6.000 miles, a little smaller that its earthly namesake, Lake Ontario.

The world that I speak of is Titan, the largest of the moons of Saturn, the planet of 285 moons. It's the second largest moon in the solar system, after Ganymede, one of the satellites of Jupiter.

In 2028 NASA will launch a mission to Titan, expected to arrive there in 2034. All the essential work done there, precious to astrobiologists and astrogeologists, will be recorded by an insect-like drone, called Dragonfly.



from *Earth.com*

Dragonfly

Aurora

I am interaction; between what the sun gives out and what the earth receives. Yes, I am the result of the engagement between particles of the solar wind and the gases of your planet: I am colour. So I offer you an extravaganza; in vermilion, green, pink, turquoise and purple. So come, take a free ticket to the evening cinema.

And my celestial kaleidoscope is not exclusive to you, inhabitant of Earth. I try to emblazon as much as I can, such as Mars, Jupiter and Uranus. But before I go on, let me introduce myself by name. They've nicknamed me Northern Lights, but I am Aurora: Aurora Borealis.

**Aurora had but newly chased the night,
And purpled o'er the sky with blushing light.**

John Dryden



from *Space.com*

Northern Lights

The aurora can be seen near the poles of both the northern and southern hemisphere... In the south it is called the aurora australis.

Royal Museums Greenwich

Solar Eclipse

No sun will shine in my day today,
The high yellow moon won't come out to play.
I said darkness has covered my light,
And has changed my day into night.

Bob Marley, from *Catch a Fire*, 1973.

I don't know whether the reggae icon was using an eclipse, to comment on a day of struggle in the ghetto, but what we do know, is that the Irish documented an eclipse in stone; in Loughcrew, County Meath, 340BC. The Babylonians recorded one in clay; in Ugarit, Syria, 1223 BC. What a monumentally disturbing event it must have been, for the first people who saw one. One minute they're basking in the warm benevolence of the sun king, next minute, it seems as if the original prince of darkness has taken over. It must have freaked everyone out: totally! Some, shocked into stillness; others, running to somewhere. One or two praying; others gathering their families together. Goats jumping around; horses vocalising at full volume. The wise woman lost for words. Mayhem dark as invasion.

There are four different types of solar eclipses depending on how the Sun, Moon and Earth are aligned at the time of the event. Total solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, annular solar eclipse and hybrid solar eclipse.

Space.com

Nations, like stars, are entitled to eclipse. All is well, provided the light returns and the eclipse does not become endless night. Dawn and resurrection are synonymous. The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul.

Victor Hugo



from *Astronomy Magazine*

Solar Eclipse

Betelgeuse

Community Astronomy: East Oxford

Learn about the celestial objects; how they were formed, where they reside, how they interact. The pioneering astronomers, past and present. Space programs, telescopes and observatories. Indigenous/cultural astronomy.

FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH: 7-8PM

**Room P107
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Blackbird Leys Road and Cuddesdon Way
Oxford
OX4 6HN**

Open to all twelve plus. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

A once monthly newsletter

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The problem is, most people believe that real science is too difficult and complicated for them to understand. But I don't think this is the case...most people can understand and appreciate the basic ideas if they are presented in a clear way without equations, which I believe is possible and which is something I have enjoyed trying to do throughout my life.

Stephen Hawking: from *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*