

New Moon 30 th Jan @21:39	First Quarter 6 th Feb @ 03:40	Full Moon 14 th Feb @ 23:54	Last Quarter 22 nd @ 17:16
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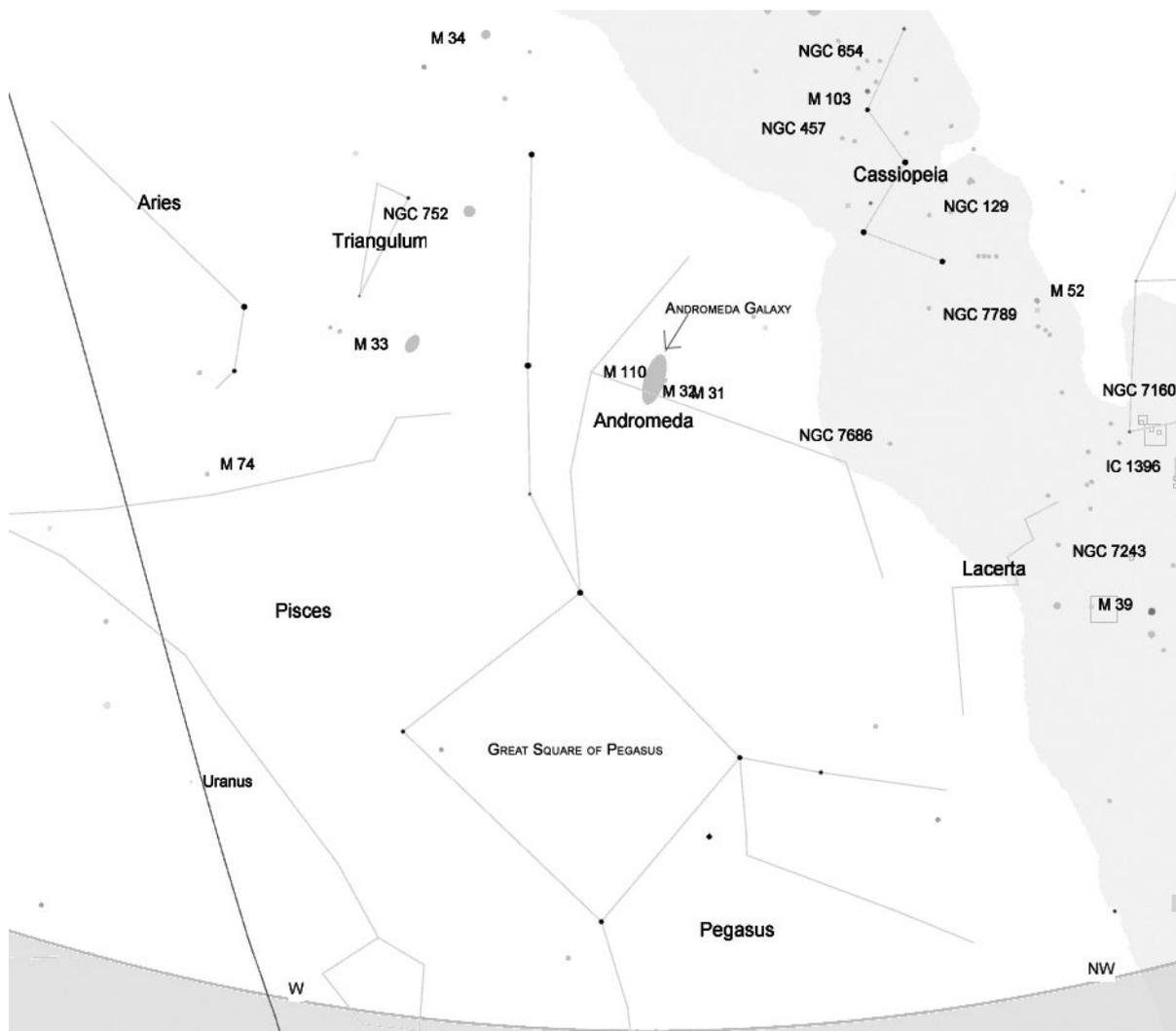
Note: Times are in Chailey local time – GMT+0

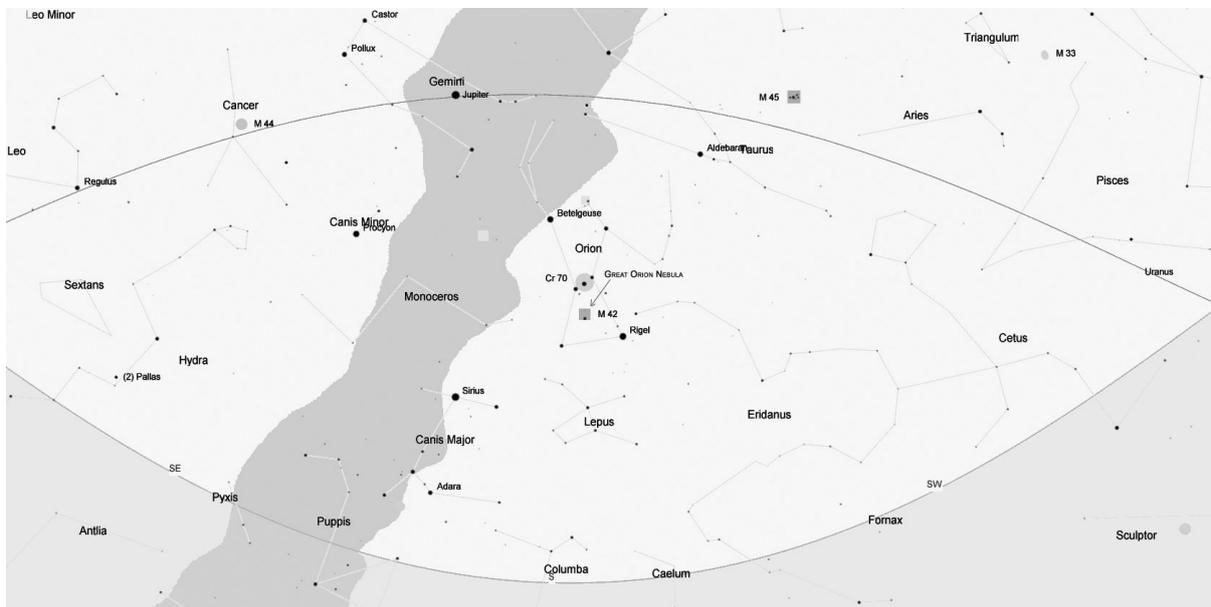
I’ve just realised I forgot to wish you all a Happy New Year in January’s edition! Silly me – that’s because it has only just happened for me. So essentially I am speaking to you from the past!

The day I moved to Chailey was a very happy accident for my wife and I, and each year it keeps getting better. Last year, we moved across to the other side of the A275, and I completely rebuilt and improved my Observatory from scratch. I also walk my 2 dogs Jed & Honey around the village (ok, from my house to the Horns Lodge if I am honest!), quite often at night.

As I walk around the village on a clear night, I spend a lot of time just staring up in wonder at the stars and galaxies I can see above my head. Some I can see with my eyes easily, and some I need to use my imagination for, but all are wonderous.

This time of year on a crisp clear night, you can easily see the Andromeda Galaxy if you know where to look. The nearest stellar nursery to Chailey is also on view in the Constellation of Orion. Shining with baby stars just formed a few million years ago, the Great Orion Nebula is a wonder to behold – it is clearly visible with the naked eye, and even though it is relatively close by, is still 1,400 light years away from our Solar System. The light from those stars is only just now reaching us – a journey started just after the Roman invaders vacated our green and pleasant land.





One thing that strikes me as I walk round our village is the number of lights on display. My astronomical colleagues who have visited us in Chailey have often remarked on the quality of the sky here. Situated between Lewes, Uckfield, Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, the sky glow in Chailey on a clear night from these towns is unparalleled for most of the South of England (until you hit Dartmoor.)

Yet each night as I walk our village I see permanently illuminated lights on our houses. Not only wasting power, but also causing local sky glow. It is not the council who pays to light our village – it is us! I am in the process of putting Passive Infra Red (PIR) lights on my own house to save me money, and also help others who may be looking at the sky in Chailey when I am not, and I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to save yourself some money, as well as help reduce the Sky Glow around us.

Oh, and for the romantics out there. As you might have seen, this month we have a Valentines Moon – the Full Moon falls on Valentines Day. Hoping it is clear that night so I can join you all in kissing our sweethearts at 23:54 under a truly Full Moon!

Don't forget that this month, in association with BBC Stargazing Live and the Brighton Science Festival, we will be holding the 3rd Springtime Astronomy in the Pub event on the 22nd February from 6pm until midnight at the Horns Lodge pub. Join us for a Astronomical Evening!

I am now available to give talks on Astronomy to local groups and schools. Please contact me on 01273 400989 or use the email address below. I am a registered STEM Ambassador, and have been CRB checked accordingly.

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