



COLL

& THE COSMOS
'An Astronomical Adventure'

Coll & the Cosmos

Follow Up Information

Useful Astronomy Websites, Links & Software

- [BBC - Sky at Night](#)
- [BBC - Stargazing Live](#)
- www.kidsastronomy.com
- [European Space Agency - ESA](#)
- [National Aeronautics and Space Administration - NASA](#)
- [Space.com](#)
- Free Open Source Planetarium Software
 - [Stellarium](#)
 - [Celestial](#)
- Android Smartphone apps (search on Google Play)
 - Google Sky Map - free
 - Sky Safari - paid (also on Apple App Store)
- Astronomy Forums
 - [Stargazers Lounge \(UK based\)](#)
 - [Cloudy Nights \(US based\)](#)
- Highly Recommended [Zooniverse – Real Science Online](#)
- [Basic Astrophotography Guide](#)

Useful Astronomy Tools for Beginners

- [Choosing a Telescope \(beginners guides\)](#)
- [Techniques for Setting Up & Using Your Telescope](#)
- [Choosing & Using Binoculars](#)
- [Using a Planisphere](#)
- [Star Hopping](#)
- [Star Charts](#) (All Sky) / Telrad Finder Charts [‘Messier’](#) & [‘Caldwell’](#)
- Getting the Best from Your Telescope
 - [Telescope Collimation](#)
 - [Telescope Alignment / Polar Alignment](#)
 - [Dark Adaption / Red Light](#)
 - [Averted Vision](#)
 - Cool Down – make sure your telescope mirror/lens has reached ambient outside temp before you start observing. (min 20/30 minutes)
- Useful Publications
 - Sky at Night Monthly Magazine & Astronomy Now Monthly Magazine
 - Philip’s Annual Stargazing Guide
 - Philip’s Planisphere
 - Patrick Moore – Beginner’s Guide to Astronomy
 - Steve Richards - Making Every Photon Count (Beginners Guide to Astrophotography)
 - ‘Turn Left at Orion’ (excellent beginners guide to finding objects with a scope)

Star Camps

- Most star camps are announced through Stargazers Lounge here - <http://stargazerslounge.com/forum/45-star-parties/>
- Northumberland - Kielder Star Camp (usually Mar/Oct) <http://kielderforeststarcamp.org/>
- Galloway Star Camp (Info on dates usually Feb/Nov are put up on SGL Star party page - book direct through the campsite <http://www.drumroamin.co.uk/>)
- Norfolk - Autumn Equinox Sky Camp - <http://starparty.las-astro.org.uk/index.php>
- Stargazers Lounge Official Star Camp <https://stargazerslounge.com/forum/202-sgl-star-parties/>

MUST SEE EVENT

- Want to see a total eclipse of the Sun, totality covers coast to coast Chile – July 2019 or USA – April 2024!

Some “Must See” Astronomy Stuff

Movies:

- “Contact”, “Gravity”, “Interstellar” & “The Martian”

Documentaries:

- The Wonders of the Universe (BBC) Brian Cox
- The Wonders of the Solar System (BBC) Brian Cox
- Carl Sagan’s Series “Cosmos” (available free on YouTube)
- Neil deGrasse Tyson’s Remake of “Cosmos”
- BBC Voyager Documentary (available on BBC Store)
- Hubble IMAX 3D

Other Stuff:

- The Hubble Images & Videos (<http://hubblesite.org/>)
- The Sky at Night Show (2nd Sunday in Month BBC 4)
- The Sky at Night Show (back catalogue, selection available on iPlayer)
- BBC Stargazing Live Jan/Feb/Mar (month varies)

Short Astro Videos & Virtual Reality

Short Videos: [Intro to Astronomy](#), [Most Astounding Fact](#), [A Brief Timeline of EVERYTHING](#), [Size Comparison HD](#), [Solar System to Scale](#), [Seeing Andromeda \(Prof. Brian Cox\)](#)

Virtual Reality for Android Smart-Phones:

Please note VR works best with newer smart phones, this is a very basic look at what's available. You will need to do your own research before any purchase.

Google Cardboard Overview:

<https://www.google.co.uk/get/cardboard/>

VR Review: [Headsets](#) VR Headsets for use with Android smart-phones: [Basic](#), [Standard](#), [Premium](#)

VR Apps: [Google Cardboard](#), [VR Cosmic Rollercoaster](#), [Titans of Space](#),

Free Distance Learning

There are some amazing **free** online courses that are available to do if you have some spare time. I'd highly recommend giving them a go. Below are links to Coursera and the Open University. These courses are done in collaboration with some of the top universities and professors from around the world.

- <https://www.coursera.org/courses/?query=astronomy&domains=physical-science-and-engineering>
- <https://www.coursera.org/courses/?query=astrobiology&domains=physical-science-and-engineering>
- http://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses?subject_filter=669&level_filter=&duration_filter=&sort_by=mostpopular&per_page=25#toggle_filter_options