

## By Jupiter: Solar system's largest planet set to shine bright in the sky this week

Seoirse Mulgrew

STARGAZERS can set their sights on Jupiter on Thursday because it will be at its closest point to Earth and at its brightest this week.

Jupiter will be in 'opposition' on Thursday, which means it will appear directly opposite the sun in the sky. It will be closest to the Earth at midnight on Thursday night.

*Astronomy Ireland* editor David Moore said that, apart from the moon, Jupiter would be the brightest celestial object in the night sky.

"For the naked eye it's the brightest 'star' in the sky. It's 15 times brighter than the brightest star in the sky," he said. "Jupiter is closest to Earth this week so it's at its very brightest and it also means it rises as the sun sets and sets as the sun rises. In other words it's up all night long from dusk until

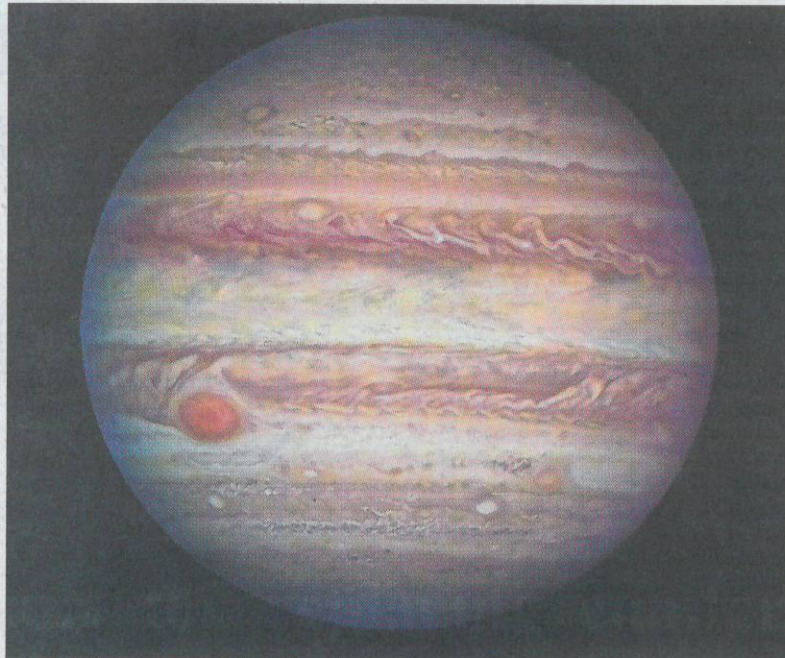
dawn. And because it's the brightest thing in the night's sky after the moon, it's incredibly easy to see."

"Usually once a month it will pair up with the moon, the moon will pass by Jupiter because the moon is going around the Earth faster, so it wraps all the planets every month. In fact, that's where the word 'month' comes from, there are 12 full moons every year.

"The big naked eyesight is on Saturday night when the moon is closest to Jupiter and that'll be a fantastic sight and the highlight of the month. The moon will have Jupiter just above it so people looking at the moon on Saturday will see this brilliant star just to the upper left of the moon.

"Even the full moon won't dwarf the brightness of Jupiter so that's going to be the most spectacular naked eyesight."

Eleven times wider than the Earth, Jupiter is the



fastest-spinning and biggest planet in the solar system.

Mr Moore recommends taking a pair of binoculars, and holding them "really

steady" in order to be able to see up to four of Jupiter's moons near the planet.

He pointed out that Italian astronomer Galileo first did

**Gas giant:**

Jupiter will be at its closest point to the Earth while directly opposite the Sun, making it appear at its biggest and brightest in the night sky.

PHOTO: NASA/PA

binoculars you can buy in the shops these days for €20," Mr Moore said.

If you have a small telescope, it should allow you to see the cloud belts on Jupiter and the moons easily.

Mr Moore said that if you had a more powerful telescope, you would be able to see lots of cloud belts on Jupiter, the moons passing in front of the planet and the shadow of the moons crossing the disk of Jupiter.

However, the astronomical spectacle could well be spoiled if the Irish weather has its way. Met Éireann is predicting cloudy and unsettled weather towards the end of the week.

Mr Moore said this event happened every 13 months.

"Jupiter is five and a bit times further from the Sun than we are, so it takes 12 years to go once around the Sun. Roughly speaking, Jupiter is going to be closest to the Sun in September of next year," he added.

## Cheap booze prices mean just €5 can push a woman over the low-risk weekly limit

Eilish O'Regan  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

ALCOHOL is still so cheap in Ireland that the cost of reaching the weekly low-risk limit is just €4.95 for women and €7.65 for men.

Budget booze is being supported by "a sophisticated pricing strategy across the off-trade market in supermarkets, convenience shops and neighbourhood shops", according to a survey released today.

Alcohol Action Ireland, which investigated the prices, said the affordability of drink "sustains Ireland's harmful use".

Minimum unit pricing - aimed at setting a floor price under which alcohol cannot be sold in retail outlets - is eventually to be introduced next year but shops are already shifting their marketing strategies to ensure retention of key price points.

"What this may result in is lesser multi-unit packs and perhaps a greater prevalence of smaller volume units such as 440ml cans or 500ml spirits products," warned the organisation's spokesman Eunan McKinney.

Separately, compliance with

the law making it mandatory for structural separation of alcohol from other products to reduce visibility was "uneven and unsatisfactory".

Some 52 out of 90 stores were deemed non-compliant with these displays.

The price survey was carried out in Dublin, Sligo and Ashbourne, Co Meath, between July 12 and 28. It involved a range of typical stores including Aldi, Centra, Dunnes Stores, Lidl, Lonsis, Spar, SuperValu and Tesco.

Cider is the cheapest at 45 cent per standard unit, followed by beer, wine and spirits such as gin and whiskey.

Low-risk limits for alcohol consumption in men are 17 standard drinks spread out over the course of a week - equating to a cost of €7.65 for the cheapest drinks such as cider at 45 cent per unit. For women, it is 11 standard drinks, equating to as little as €4.95.

A standard drink is a measure of alcohol and in Ireland, one standard drink contains 10gm of pure alcohol. A standard drink is a pub measure of spirits, a small glass of wine, a half pint of beer or a bottle of alcipop.

"The affordability of alcohol from off-trade businesses - across a retail landscape dominated by a handful of major players - continues to sustain Ireland's harmful use of alcohol," said Mr McKinney. Sheila Gilheany, Alcohol Action Ireland chief executive, said: "The unsatisfactory rate of compliance by retailers to match the regulations of the Public Health Alcohol Act, after having been afforded a two-year transition, is deeply disappointing. It demonstrates, yet again, an unwillingness of those hyper-selling alcohol to respond to the spirit of public health initiatives."

The survey found Irish retailers online are using UK-based guidelines, which reflect a smaller standard drink measurement of 8gm and this remains problematic and misleading, pointing to the need for implementation of health information requirements.

From January minimum unit pricing will mean a standard drink of alcohol cannot be sold here for less than €1.

In 2019, on average every person in Ireland aged 15 and over drank 10.8 litres of pure alcohol a year - the equivalent of 40 bottles of vodka.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA  
Kildare County Council

### Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021

#### Notice of proposal to make Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) Bye Laws

Following requests to extend the Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021, Kildare County Council has decided to extend the Public Consultation Period beyond the summer holiday period. Any submissions made in response to the notice published on Tuesday, 27 July 2021 remain valid and will inform the next stage of the process.

Kildare County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9, subsection (4), of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 hereby gives notice of its proposal to make Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in respect of public roads within the administrative area of the County of Kildare.

Particulars of this Speed Limit Review are available to view on Kildare County Council's website at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-speed-limit-review-2021-public-consultation> and on [www.speedlimits.ie](http://www.speedlimits.ie) from Wednesday, 18 August 2021 to Thursday, 16 September 2021.

Particulars of the Speed Limit Review are also available for inspection at the offices of Kildare County Council, Level 4 at the address below **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Appointments must be made in advance at <http://kildare.ie/county-council/OnlineBookingSystem/>

Submissions or observations with respect to the Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021 **can be made online** at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-speed-limit-review-2021-public-consultation>

OR

in writing to: **A/Senior Executive Officer, Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department at the address below on or before Thursday, 16 September 2021.**


Please make your submission by **one medium only** i.e. in hard copy or online. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions should be headed: "Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021".

All comments, including names of those making comments, submitted as part of this review will be included in the statutory report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Kildare County Council is subject to the provisions of Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts 1997 and 2014) and the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018.

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