Eclipse information and ideas

* Eclipse 20th March map

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEplot/SEplot2001/SE2015Mar20T.GIF>

* Introduction to the mechanics of solar eclipses including useful diagrams of eclipse geometry, types of eclipse and links to maps showing forthcoming eclipses around the world.

<http://www.mreclipse.com/Special/SEprimer.html>

* View of the sky from your location. Stellarium is free open source planetarium software for your computer. It allows you to view the sky for a particular place and time – useful for stargazing evenings as well as understanding how solar or lunar eclipses will appear from your location and timings of these events too.

<http://www.stellarium.org/en_GB/>

* Viewing the eclipse safely. There are plenty of websites giving instructions about how to view the eclipse safely using pinhole viewers etc. The Society for Popular Astronomy also have some other ideas of how you can do this – definitely worth trying out some of them in advance! They also have a comprehensive guide to the whole event which can be downloaded from their website.

<http://www.popastro.com/help/help.php?title_pag=How%20to%20safely%20view%20the%20March%2020%20Solar%20Eclipse>

* Advice and ideas for holding astronomy events can be found at the Stargazing Live website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b019h4g8>

Stargazing live will be back on TV 18-20 March with a live programme during the eclipse.

* Try getting a local amateur astronomy society involved to help visitors to view the eclipse by eyepiece projection. Find your local societies here:

<http://www.astronomyclubs.co.uk/Clubs/Counties.aspx>

* If you’re preparing anything to show visitors what they can expect to see, images of past eclipses can be found by searching the archives of Astronomy Picture of the Day.

<http://apod.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/apod/apod_search>

* If you are projecting the eclipse using binoculars or a telescope remember each piece of equipment will need someone with it who is responsible for it. Looking after the equipment, keeping it lined up with the Sun and ensuring nobody tries to look down the eyepiece/binoculars is a full-time job!
* **Make sure that safety warnings are clear, visible and much repeated.**