Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see May 26th 10:00pm.

Planets (Mars, Saturn).
Globular cluster (M13).
Constellation (Cassiopeia).

Look (South 194°) and (up 34°) to see Mars.
Mars takes 687 days to orbit the Sun and is about half the size of Earth. Mars is visible by eye in the constellation Virgo and is unmistakable with its reddish colour.

Look (South 152°) and (up 19°) to see Saturn.
Saturn takes 29.5 years to orbit the Sun and is our second largest planet. It's a bit low for ideal observation, but none the less a wonderful sight. Its rings, mainly made of ice, currently tilted at 22° are a great sight. At 1.43 billion kilometres from the Sun, Saturn is visible by eye, but you will need at least a 3" telescope to see its rings or a few of its moons, (Iapetus, Titan, Rhea, Dione, Tethys).

Saturn (3" telescope)

M13 Globular Cluster

If you do have a telescope, or binoculars.
Look (East 93°) and (up 52°) to see M13.
M13 is a Globular Cluster, a densely populated collection of tens of thousands of stars, all held together by their own gravitation. Globular Clusters consist of very old stars and there are about 150 such clusters within our own galaxy. M13 is in the constellation Hercules, and is thought to contain 300,000 stars.

Look (North 3°) and (up 22°) to see Cassiopeia.
Cassiopeia is a constellation that is visible all year; it has 5 bright stars in the form of a W. Greek astronomer Ptomely was the first to catalogue it almost 2000 years ago. One of Cassiopeia's bright stars is Shedir (bottom right) and is said to be 40 times bigger than our Sun.

Contact us if you need help or more information.
Website www.ThanetAstronomyGroup.com
Email ThanetAstronomyGroup@gmail.com
West Bay Cafe Saturdays 1-4pm.