

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

About Us

Throughout history people have been fascinated by astronomy. They used the stars to find their way. Like children they joined the dots to make what we know as constellations. Today we enjoy wonderful images from space probes like Curiosity on Mars and the Hubble Telescope. Although we can't match these images, there is truly nothing like looking at the real thing with your own eyes.

So many people have bought telescopes but don't use them, we realised the need for somewhere they could meet with their telescopes (or ours) and learn about astronomy. We hold a FREE meeting every Saturday 1-4pm. at West Bay Café, Sea Rd, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8QZ. We hope you will come along and share our love of astronomy.

What you can see, Stars, Constellation, Planet

27th January at 7pm look south east.

Stars

You will see a bright star just above the horizon, this is **Sirius**, distance 8.6 ly (light years).

Above Sirius you will see another bright star, **Betelgeuse**, distance 427.5 ly. This forms the top left corner of the constellation Orion.

Below, to the right, you will see three stars in a row **Alnitak**, **Alnilam** and **Mintaka**, Orion's belt.

Below, and a little more to the right, another bright star, **Rigel**, distance 772 ly.

Constellation

Several other stars form **Orion**.



Planet

Above and left of Betelgeuse, you will see a really bright object, this is the planet **Jupiter**, 778 million km from the Sun.



Stargazing Course

Those wanting to learn more, we are starting a new 3 part Stargazing course at the West Bay Cafe, 15th February, only £15 for all 3 parts.

For more detail, and a longer version of this article, see our web [site](#).

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