

# Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

## **What to see Saturday 30th May at 10pm**

### **Planet (Saturn)**

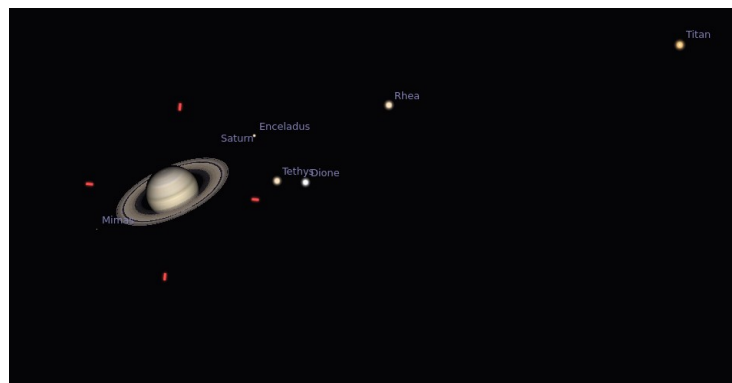
#### Good news ! Saturn is back.

At about 10:00pm look South East ( $146^\circ$  on your compass) and ( $14^\circ$  above the horizon) and enjoy this magnificent sight, Saturn. It's very close to the horizon at this time but will be a little higher up later in the night.

By 12:20am it will have risen to nearly its maximum height ( $20^\circ$  above the horizon) before again descending towards the horizon. If you have a telescope it's truly a jaw dropping sight, you may even see Dione, Tethys, Enceladus, Rhea and Titan, just some of Saturn's many moons.



*10pm Saturn's position in the night sky*



*A Close up of Saturn and some of its Moons*

#### Noctilucent clouds mid May to mid August

Noctilucent clouds can be seen in the late evening after sunset and in early morning before sun rise and appear brightly lit while the lower weather clouds appear black in the darkening sky.

This phenomenon takes place between 76,000 and 85,000m at which height the temperature plummets to  $-120^\circ\text{C}$  causing any clouds to crystallize and reflect the Sun.

Noctilucent means 'night shining' in Latin. These clouds are called Noctilucent because they appear bright against the darkening night sky. They are the highest clouds in Earth's atmosphere.

Weather clouds are 10 times lower in the atmosphere and will appear silhouetted against the evening sky but Noctilucent clouds are still lit by the Sun even after sunset, therefore the best time to observe them is about an hour after sunset and in the pre-sunrise sky.

They are generally colourless or a pale blue, but can be red or green. They can be featureless bands but frequently have patterns such as streaks, whirls and wave-like undulations. Sometimes they have been mistaken for the aurorae.

#### **Contact us if you need help or more information.**

Website [www.ThanetAstronomyGroup.com](http://www.ThanetAstronomyGroup.com)

Email [ThanetAstronomyGroup@gmail.com](mailto:ThanetAstronomyGroup@gmail.com)

Or see us at, West Bay Café, CT8 8QA. Saturdays 1-4pm.