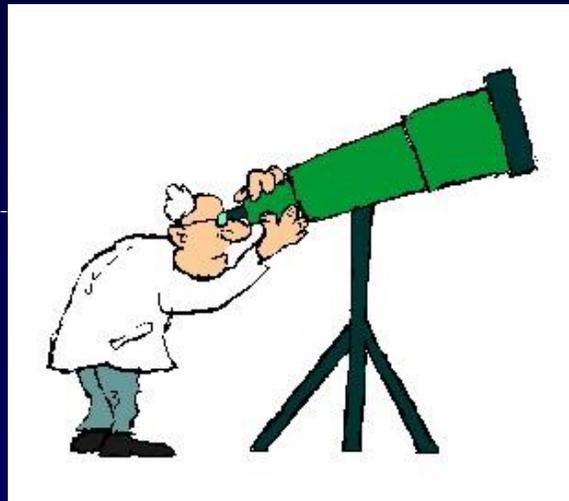


# What's Up!

For April 2018



**BROOKLANDS**RADIO

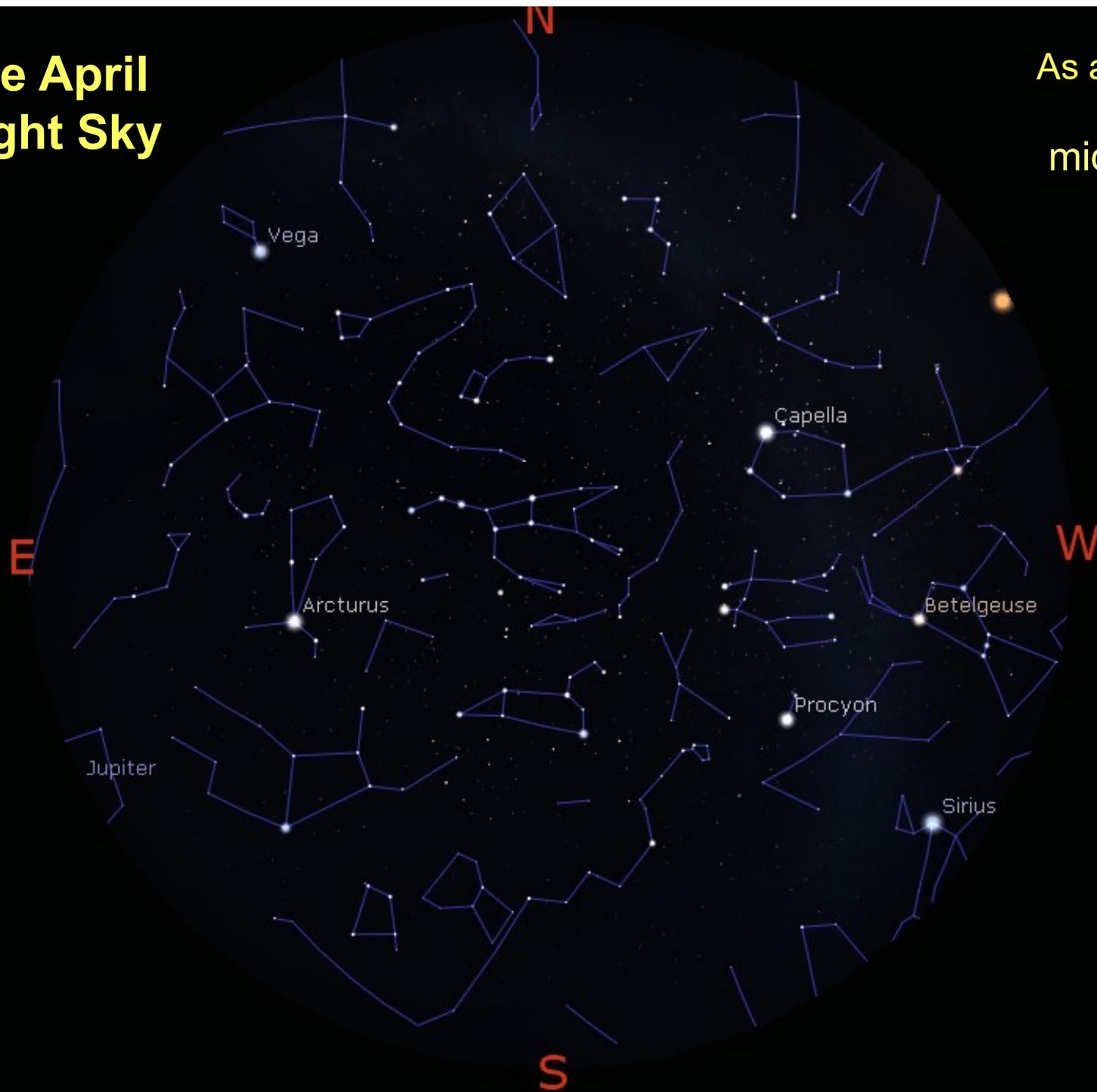
ONLINE

The Sound of Surrey

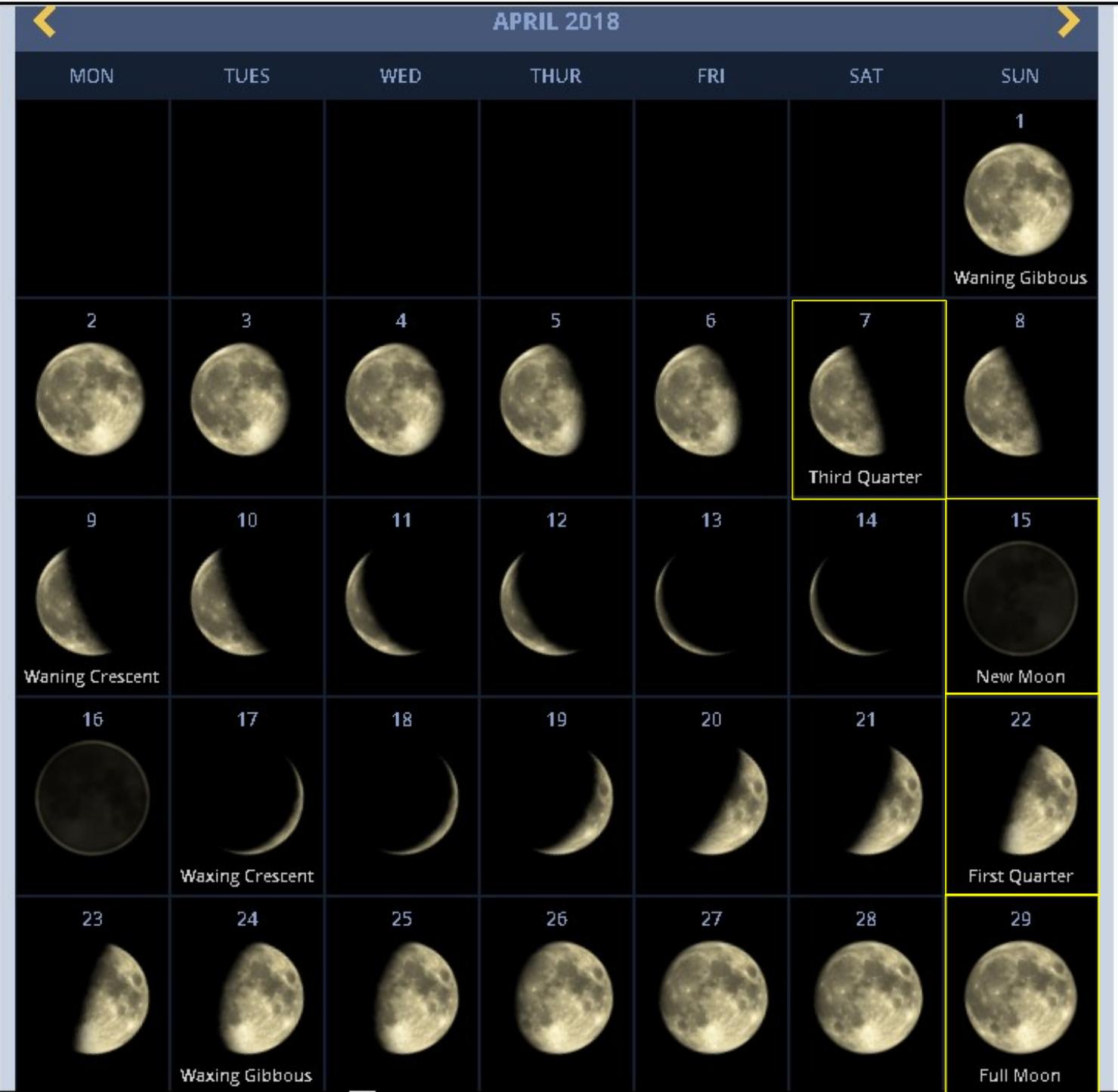


# The April Night Sky

As at 10 p.m.  
BST  
mid-month



# The Moon in April



# What's Up - April's Planets

- **Mercury**

- Not well placed this month, too close to the Sun.

- **Venus**

- A brilliant Mag -3.8 evening object, low in West - northwest, setting 3 hours after sunset by end of month

- **Mars**

- A morning object, brightening from Mag +0.5 to -0.3 as month draws on, but low in South East, visible from around 3.30 a.m.

# What's Up - April's Planets

- Jupiter

- A morning object, but starting to rise before midnight. Easily visible at Mag -2.2 in South in early hours.

- Saturn

- An early morning object shining at Mag +0.9, improving as month progresses, very low in South Eastern sky.

- Uranus

- Not visible this month

- Neptune

- Not visible this month

# Events of Interest in April

- **2<sup>nd</sup>** Mars & Saturn just  $1.3^\circ$  apart with globular cluster M22 just  $0.3^\circ$  below Mars, about 4a.m. 
- **3<sup>rd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup>** Waning gibbous Moon close to Jupiter, before dawn 
- **7<sup>th</sup>&8<sup>th</sup>** Nice grouping of Moon, Mars & Saturn, low in the South East, shortly before sunrise 
- **17<sup>th</sup>** Thin crescent Moon  $6^\circ$  from Venus low in West shortly after sunset
- **21<sup>st</sup>&22<sup>nd</sup>** Max of Lyrids meteor shower ZHR 18/hr
- **24<sup>th</sup>** Venus lies about  $4^\circ$  below Pleiades 

# April's Suggested Constellation



*Have you  
spotted it yet?*

# April's Suggested Constellation



That's right  
- Cancer

# C A N C E R



A SERIES OF 50 No. 27

## OUT INTO SPACE

*Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D.,  
Sec. Royal Astronomical Society*

### CANCER

Cancer (Crab) is fourth sign, and first of Summer Signs, of Zodiac. The sun enters Cancer on 21st June, giving the Northern Hemisphere their longest day and the Southern their shortest. The Sun, reaching its greatest height in the North, moves backward along ecliptic, which accounts for the Crab being used as symbol for this sign. Cancer contains several 'double' stars and a 'triple' star. Over 90 stars can be seen with the naked eye. One cluster of over 150 stars of sixth and lower magnitudes was known to ancients as Praesepe or Beehive.

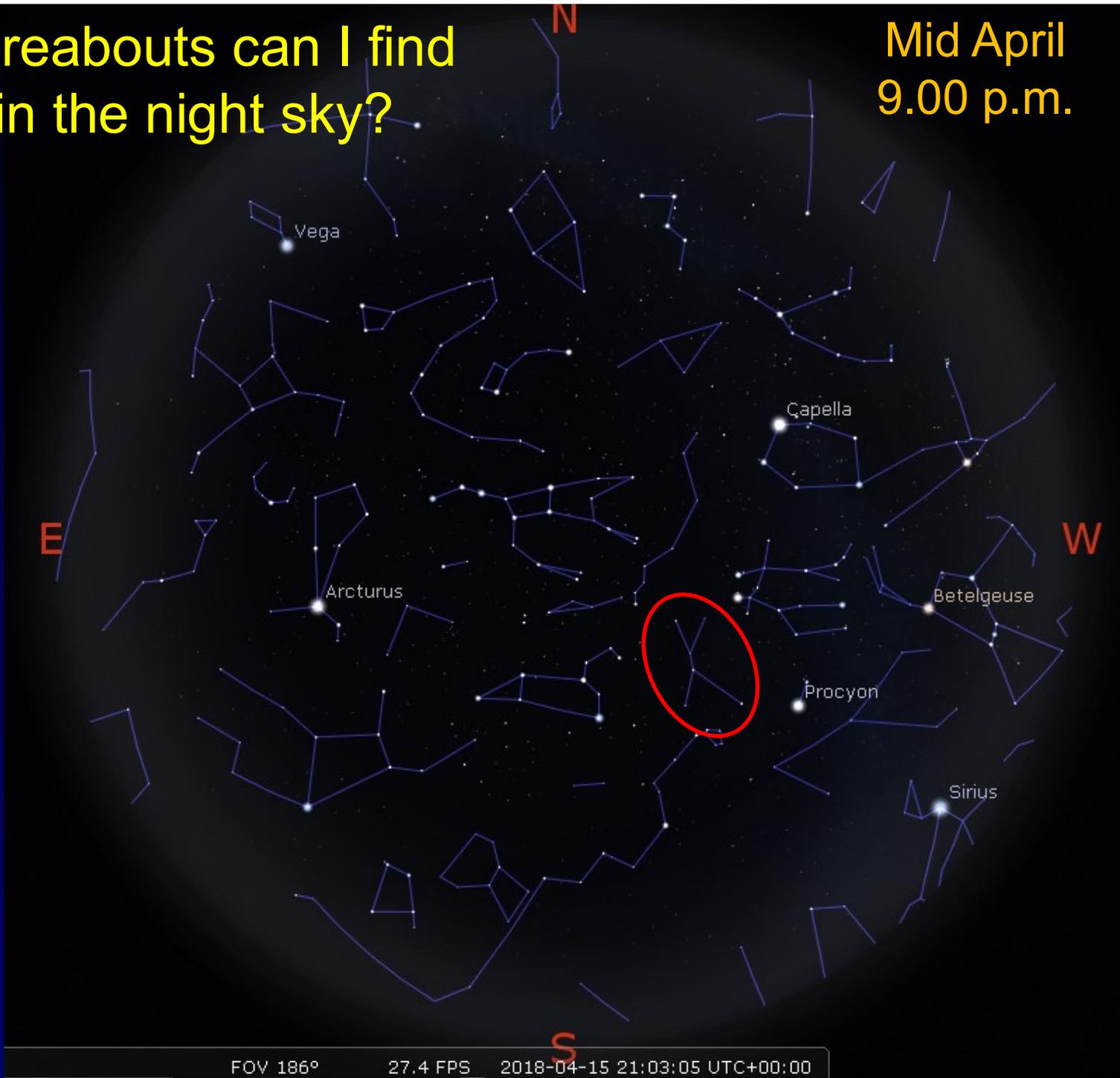
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Whereabouts can I find  
it in the night sky?

Mid April  
9.00 p.m.



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# Cancer

0 9h 8<sup>30</sup> 8h 7<sup>30</sup>

Double Star  
Mag 4.5 & 6.5

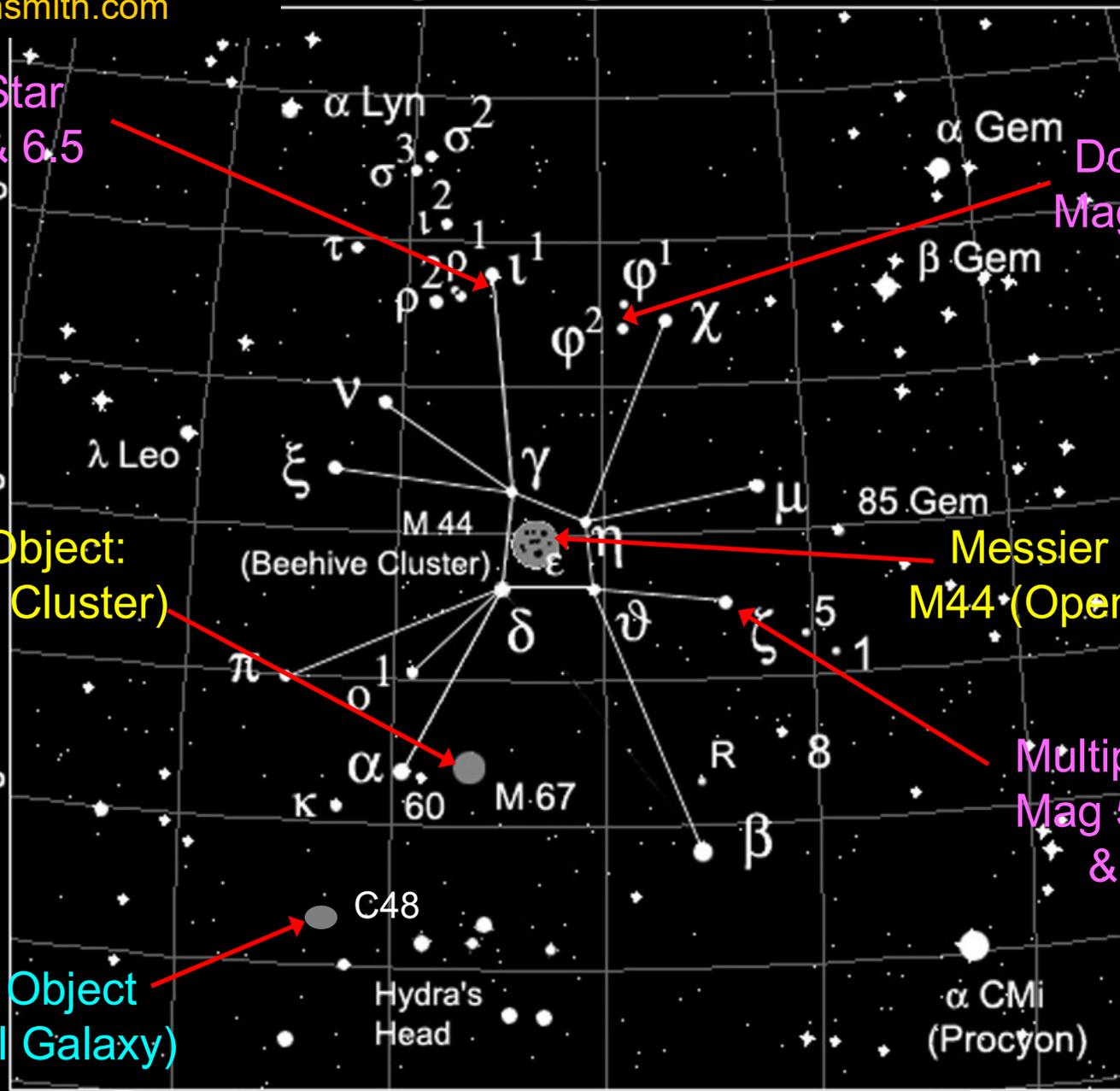
Double Star  
Mag 5.5 & 6.0

Messier Object:  
M67 (Open Cluster)

Messier Object:  
M44 (Open Cluster)

Multiple Star  
Mag 5.6, 6.0  
& 6.1

Caldwell Object  
C48 (Spiral Galaxy)



# Messier M44 - “The Beehive” aka “Praesepe” (Open Cluster)



**Distance** 515 light years  
**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 3.1

**Apparent Dimensions** 1.2 degrees  
**Discovered** Known since antiquity

# Messier M67 - King Cobra (Open Cluster)



**Distance** 2,600 light years  
**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 6.9

**Apparent Dimension** 25 arc minutes  
**Discovered** c1775 Johann Kohler

## Caldwell C48 - NGC 2775 (Spiral Galaxy)



**Distance** 55M light years  
**Visual Brightness** Magnitude 10

**Apparent Dimension** 4.6 arc minutes  
**Discovered** 1783 William Herschel

# Meetings at Local Societies

- **Guildford AS** *Lecture Theatre L, Uni of Surrey*
  - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 p.m.

## » **Lucky Planet**

### » **Prof David Waltham**

» Dept of Earth Sciences

» Royal Holloway, University of London

# Meetings at Local Societies

- **Farnham AS Aldershot Cricket Club**

– Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7.45 p.m.

- **Euclid and the Dark Universe**

– **Dr. Dida Markovic**

- » Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation
- » University of Portsmouth

# Talks at Local Astro Societies

- **Croydon AS** *Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane, Croydon*
  - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7.45 p.m.
    - **Cepheid Variables and Magnetism**
      - **Konrad Malin-Smith & Roy Easto**
        - » CAS
    - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 7.45 p.m.
      - **The Solar Eclipse of 2017 in the USA**
        - **Paul Coleman**
          - » CAS
      -

# Talks at Local Astro Societies

- **Ewell AS** *Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam*

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 8.00 p.m.

- **13 Journeys Through Space & Time**

- David Fishwick

- » FRAS

# Astronomy on TV

## The Sky at Night

### *Mars: Red and Dead?*

The team reveal the latest results from NASA's Curiosity and ESA's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter Missions, which are attempting to find signs of life on Mars. Maggie finds out how the next lander heading to Mars will survive its hostile environment and Chris talks to Andy Weir, author of *The Martian*

Sunday      8<sup>th</sup> April      BBC 4, 10.00 pm

Thursday    12<sup>th</sup> April    BBC 4, 7.30 pm

(please check [www.radiotimes.com](http://www.radiotimes.com) [www.bbc.co.uk/skyatnight](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skyatnight))