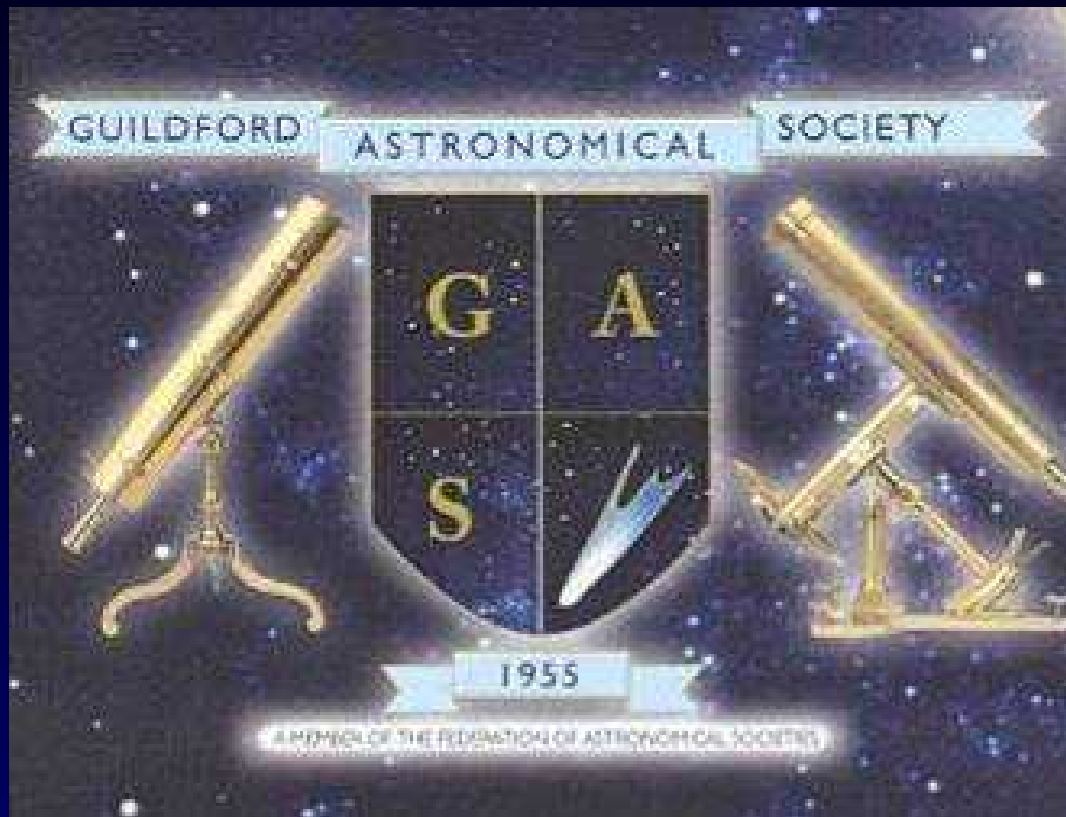
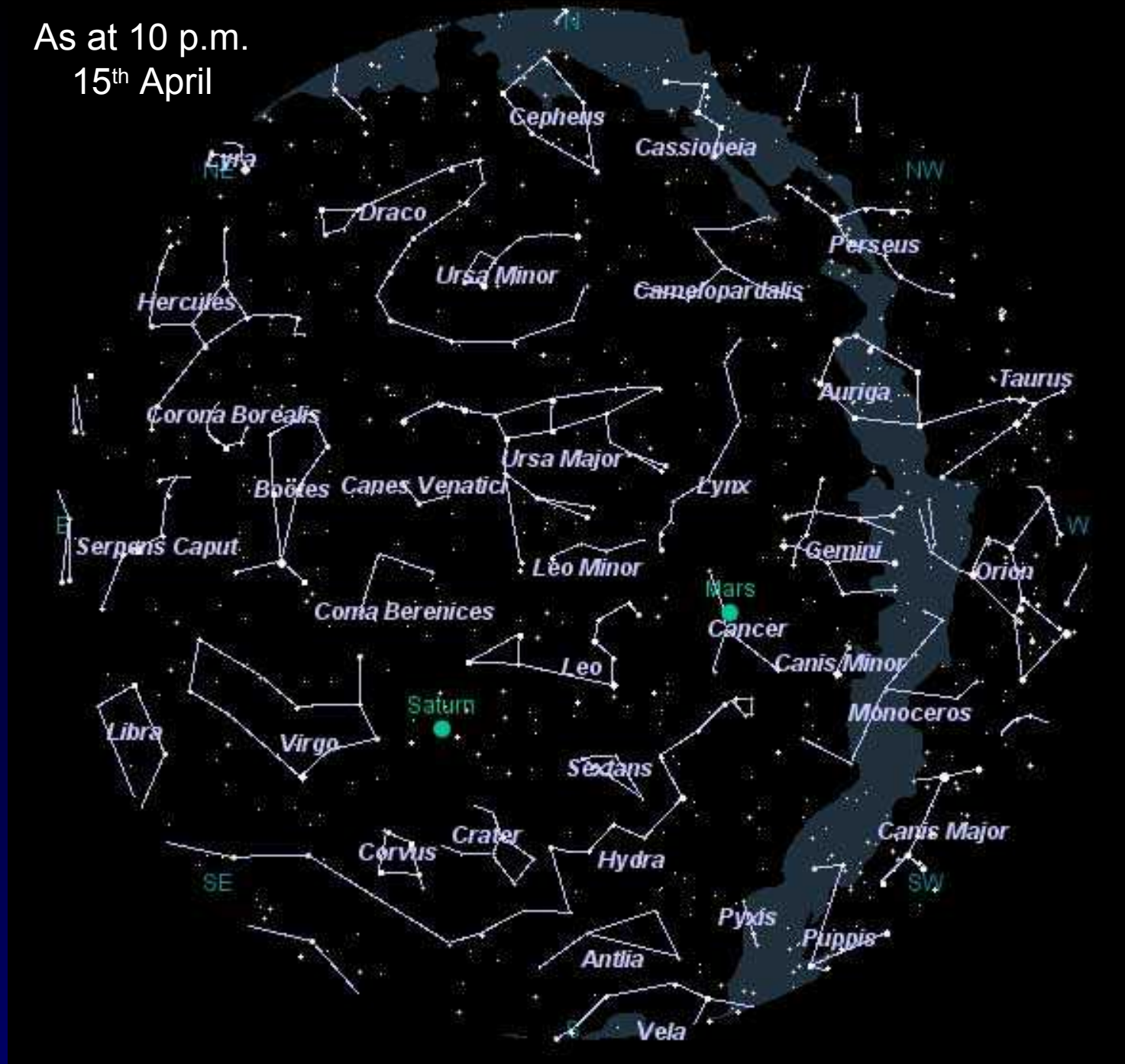


What's Up!

1st April 2010



As at 10 p.m.
15th April

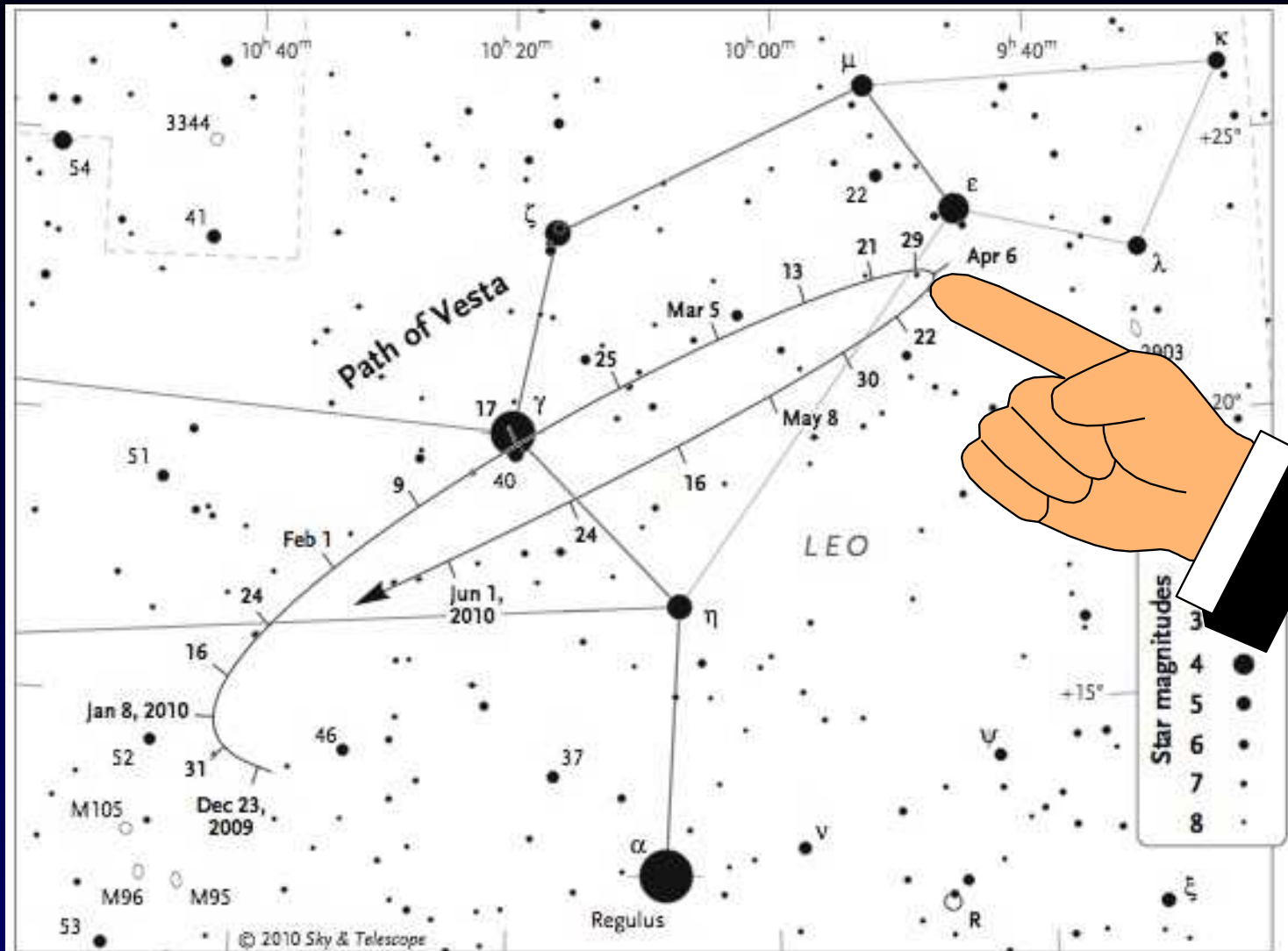


What's Up - Planets

- **Mercury**
 - Visible after sunset at magnitude -1.0, until 18th, best apparition of the year
- **Venus**
 - Visible throughout the month, very low after sunset, at magnitude -3.9.
- **Mars**
 - Fades from mag 0.2 at the beginning of the month to 0.6 by the end. Evening object high in the constellation of Cancer. Passes close to Beehive M44 mid-month
- **Jupiter**
 - Morning object just before sunrise at mag -2.0.
- **Saturn**
 - Very well placed, due South in Virgo around midnight at mag +0.6 and 19.5" diameter.
- **Uranus**
 - Not favourable.
- **Neptune**
 - Not visible

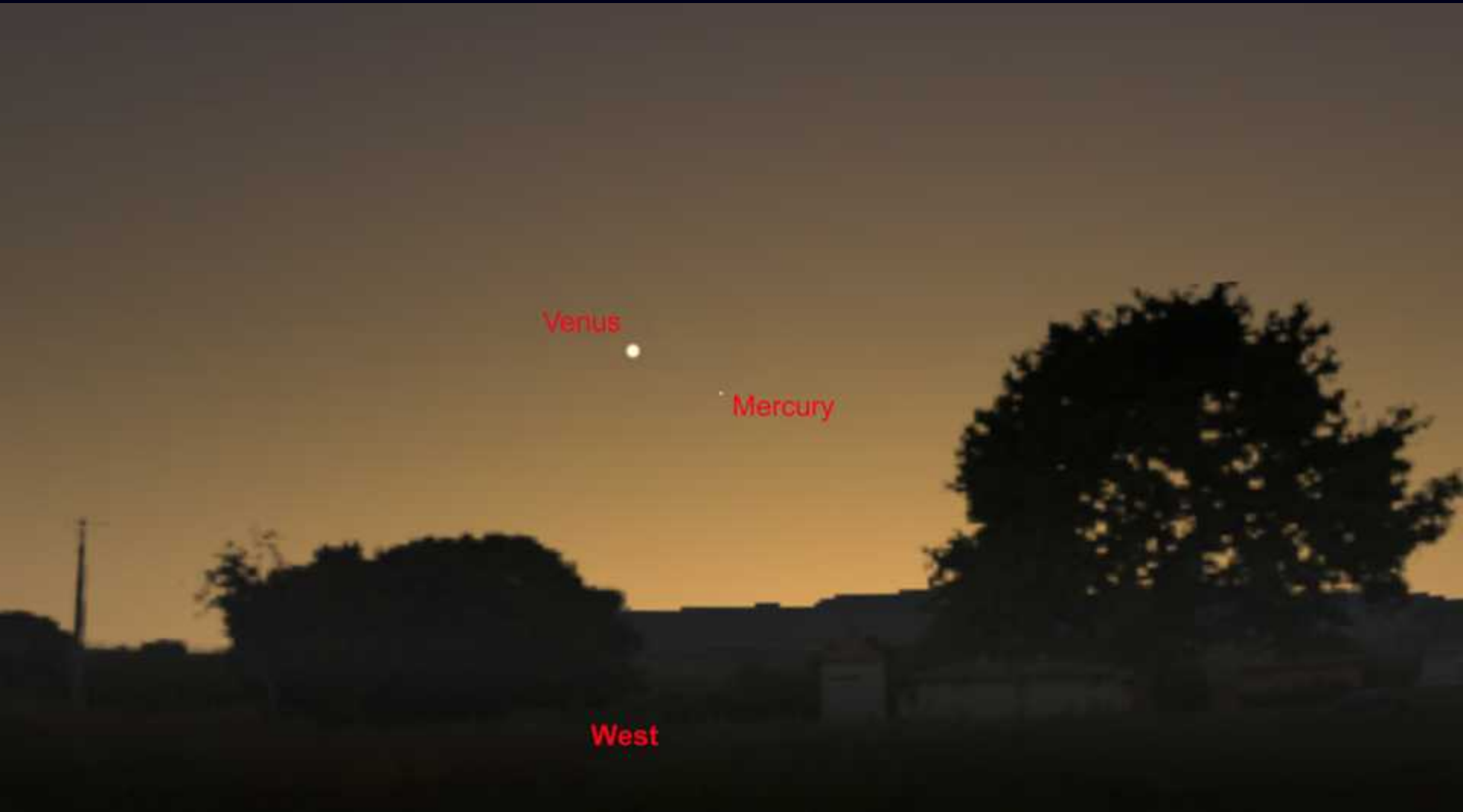
What's Up – Asteroid Vesta

- Magnitude 6



What's Up – Photo Opportunities

- **1st April** : Venus and Mercury nearing conjunction at 3.3° apart. Conjunction occurs on 4th April.



What's Up – Photo Opportunities

- **15th April** : Very new moon, just 1% illuminated, just below and to right of Mercury
- **16th April** : 2-day old crescent Moon now above Venus & Mercury, half way between Venus and Pleiades (good widefield shot, try to capture ashen light)
- **16th April** : Mars closest to Beehive
- **23rd – 25th April**: Venus passes a few degrees below the Pleiades

What's Up – Meteors

- 12th : Virginids peak, favourable Moon
- 22nd/23rd : Lyrids max, fairly favourable

What's Up – Occultations

- Zilch!

Astronomy on TV & Radio - April

- **Wonders of the Solar System**
 - *“Aliens”*
 - Prof Brian Cox*



Sunday 4th BBC2, 21.00 hrs

Tuesday 6th BBC2, 19.00 hrs

Astronomy on TV & Radio - April

- **The Sky at Night**

- *“The Splendour of the Sun”*



- Sir Patrick Moore takes a tour of the sun and demonstrates safe ways to look at it. Guests are Prof John Brown & Dr Chris Davis

Sunday 4th BBC1, 23.50 hrs

Wednesday 7th, BBC4, 20.30 hrs

Thursday 8th, BBC4, 02.45 hrs

Saturday 10th, BBC2 (pse refer to TV pages)

Meetings at Local Societies & other

- **Tuesday 13th April**

- **RAS, Burlington House, 1pm:** “The Second Space Age”, Dr Kevin Fong
- **Farnham AS :** “A History of Deep Sky Observing”, Alan Dodwell

- **Thursday 15th April**

- **Gresham College, London** “The Afterglow of Creation”, Prof Ian Morison

- **Friday 16th April**

- **Ewell AS :** “Faulkes Telescope Project”, Robert Shirley

- **Saturday 17th April**

- **Southdowns Planetarium,** “Spaghetti Astronomy”, Prof Fred Watson, Anglo-Australian Telescope