

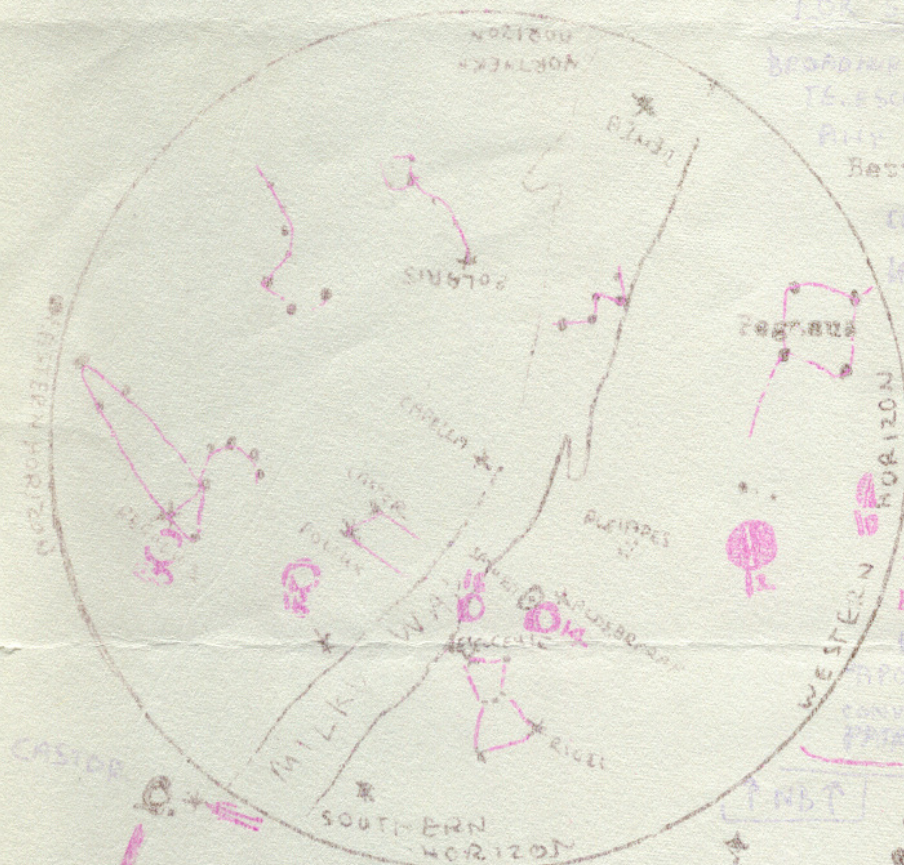
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Report on the Annual General Meeting of Jan 3rd
 will be included in the next edition.

Sessions using the observatory will be on alternate Thursdays (contact
 David Bearcroft for enquiries) and most Wednesdays (contact David Bearcroft,
 Roy Cheesman of [redacted], Ips, or myself. David Bearcroft can be
 telephoned at Ipswich [redacted]. A number of photographs have been taken
 through the 10" refractor of the Moon, copies available from me or Roy
 Cheesman.



10" Refractor with slenter
 best west connection 5" (76.5mm) aperture
 TELESCOPE. ORIGINAL COST 2 YEARS AGO. 1970
 BUY REASONABLE OFFER ACCEPTED.
 Better than mint condition.
 ALTAZIM WITH MOUNT
 CONTACT: DR. MILLS, [redacted]
 IPSWICH. Tel Ipswich [redacted]



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 WHICH WILL BE HELD ON
 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1973
 8 PM. ORWELL PARK SCHOOL HALL
 THE BUSINESS DISCUSSED & FINISHED WILL
 BE VERY IMPORTANT
 AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE
 DRINKS AND A PLAYING OF
 CONVERSATION RECORDED WITH
 PAPER MODELS. <TRBT>



Mistake to last edition,
 Apollo 17 Command Module
 pilot was Ronald Evans, not
 Tom K. Mattingly.
 See you at the A.S.W.

Sunday 17th, December 1972.

Roy Cheesman, David Bearcroft, Geoffrey Collier, David Collier and myself arrived at the Observatory at 04.50 hrs. G.M.T. in the hope of seeing Mercury. There was a great deal of fog about. Although Mercury was not visible, Venus was well observed, near to the horizon. It was Gibbous in phase, and red in appearance due to its low altitude. The Observatory was closed at 06.50 hrs G.M.T.

In the evening at 18.10 hrs. G.M.T. the observatory was re-opened, in order to show a party of visitors from the Colchester Astronomical Society around. The moon was well seen: Aristarchus, Vallis, Schroter, Martus and Marius Hills, Grimaldi, were amongst the interesting features seen and photographed. Saturn, M-42 Orion Nebula, Sword Handle cluster were also observed.

The possibility of a 1973 East Anglian Astronomical Convention to be held at Colchester was considered.

Clacton Astronomical Association, meet on 1st Thursday each month. Colchester Astronomical Society will have a general meeting at Colchester on January 17th, at 7.30 p.m. Details from me.

PATRICK MOORE AT FELIXSTOWE

On the evening of Tuesday, December 19th, Patrick Moore O.B.E. F.R.A.S. came to Felixstowe Pier Pavilion with B.B.C. live coverage of the Apollo - 17 Splashdown. Unfortunately news of this event reached my ears too late to include in the December O.A.S.I. journal. When he had finished the coverage and recorded a radio programme, Roy Cheesman, David Bearcroft, Phil' Lucas and myself held a very interesting half hours conversation with him that Phil' Lucas tape recorded. Mr. Moore expressed interest in our observatory, but was many miles from home and did not have time to have a look although he wanted to.

The recording of the conversation will be played at the A.G.M.

"Whats' Up?" The Planets (and Moon) in January.

MERCURY Is not visible this month, although it may be glimpsed to the south of west, after sunset, in February.

VENUS is becoming less well placed, though it is still visible an hour or more before sunrise, south of east, low above the horizon, magnitude - 3.4, very bright.

MARS is visible this month. It will be well placed throughout this year (1973). It rises at around 05.00 hrs: G.M.T. (three hours before sunrise) in the East - South - East. It is in Scorpius at the moment, Magnitude + 1.4. Co-ordinates approximately: RA 17hrs. Dec: - 24°.

JUPITER reaches conjunction on January 10th, and there is visible. It becomes visible in February as a morning star.

SATURN is still visible as a bright star (mag: - 0.1) in Taurus.

THE MOON Phases: New Moon, January 4th, 15h 42m G.M.T.
First Quarter January 12th, 05h 27m G.M.T.
Full Moon January 18th, 21h 28m G.M.T.
Last Quarter, January 26th, 06h 05m
New Moon, February 4th, 15h 42m G.M.T.
Pengee: January 16th, 21h 00m G.M.T.
Apogee: January 28th, 16h 00m G.M.T.

Up to about January 12th, libration will expose the East Limb of the Moon, and the South Pole of the Moon.

From January 20th until January 26th, the North and West limbs will be exposed by libration.

METEORS The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs January 1st to 5th. Maximum occurs at 16h G.M.T. January 3rd, 110 meteors per hour. Blue Meteors, Silver Trains, very rich in faint meteors, very favourable. Best shower this year.

THE STARS IN JANUARY

Evenings:

LEO is in the east. ORION, south Taurus due south Gemini is south - east, Pegasus is in the west.

INTERESTING OBJECTS

M-44 Praesepe, an open cluster, like the Pleiades in Taurus well seen in binoculars, visible to unaided eye, it is in Cancer, contains orange stars, called the "Beehive".

GEMINI is well worth sweeping with binoculars, being crammed with star fields, a beautiful sight.

The star SIRIUS is in Canis Major, south - east. It is the brightest star as seen from Earth. A beautiful bright blue diamond, sparkling all the colours in the rainbow due to its low altitude. It has an invisible companion star which orbits once every 50 years. Sirius is called the Dog Star, its companion the Pup Star. The Pup is Mag: + 8, the Dog is - 1.4. The Pup was discovered in 1862. It should be visible in the Orwell Park 10" O.G. now, getting better, best visible in 1975. The Pup is a tiny "White Dwarf" very dense, 50,000 times as dense as water, 1 cu: cm: weighs thousands of kilogrammes.

CASTOR of Gemini is a double, visible in the 10" O.G. as a double.

M-46 Interesting Object. Open cluster with planetary nebula at its northern edge.

OBSERVING SESSIONS

David Bearcroft will be at the observatory on alternate Thursdays, Roy Gheeseman on most Wednesdays, both in the evenings. Details from me, or telephone David Bearcroft at Ipswich 78871.

CIVIC COLLEGE ASTRONOMY COURSES

There are two astronomy courses with evening classes.

Course Number 4774

Preliminary Course in Astronomy - £1.75 fee.

Wednesday January 10th - 7th February, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

An introductory course for those who have general interest in astronomy. No previous knowledge is required. Illustrated descriptive lectures.

Course Number 4775

Foundation course in Astronomy - £1.75 fee.

Wednesday February 14th - 11th April, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

A course for keen amateur astronomers who want a better understanding of the foundations of astronomy than from a merely descriptive course. A knowledge of mathematics (particularly trigonometry) and physics up to 'O' level will be describable. The elementary spherical geometry needed to understand the celestial sphere will be covered in the first few lectures.

Technical astronomical terms will be explained and there will be simple mathematical descriptions of systems of co-ordinated, gravity and star magnitudes etc.,

Application for enrolment should be made as soon as possible to:
Head of School of Science, Ipswich Civic College, Rope Walk, Ipswich.
(Tel: 55885 Ext: 290)

Full time students at school can send a letter to that effect signed by their headteacher, and the fee will be reduced to £1.00.

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

Date:..... December 1972

Dear Member,

You are invited to come to the Annual General Meeting of the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich), at 8.00 p.m, Wednesday 3rd, January at Orwell Park School, Nacton.

At this meeting, the progress of the society over the past (1972) session will be reviewed. New officers will be nominated and elected. Various other matters including legal documents concerning the society will be cleared up by members.

After the official closing of the meeting, G. Radley will give an illustrated talk (followed by general discussion) on the "Aims and Achievements of Apollo and Plans for the Future". Our half hour conversation with Patrick Moore will be played.

Signed:  Chairman
(John Easty)