

JOURNAL OF THE ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

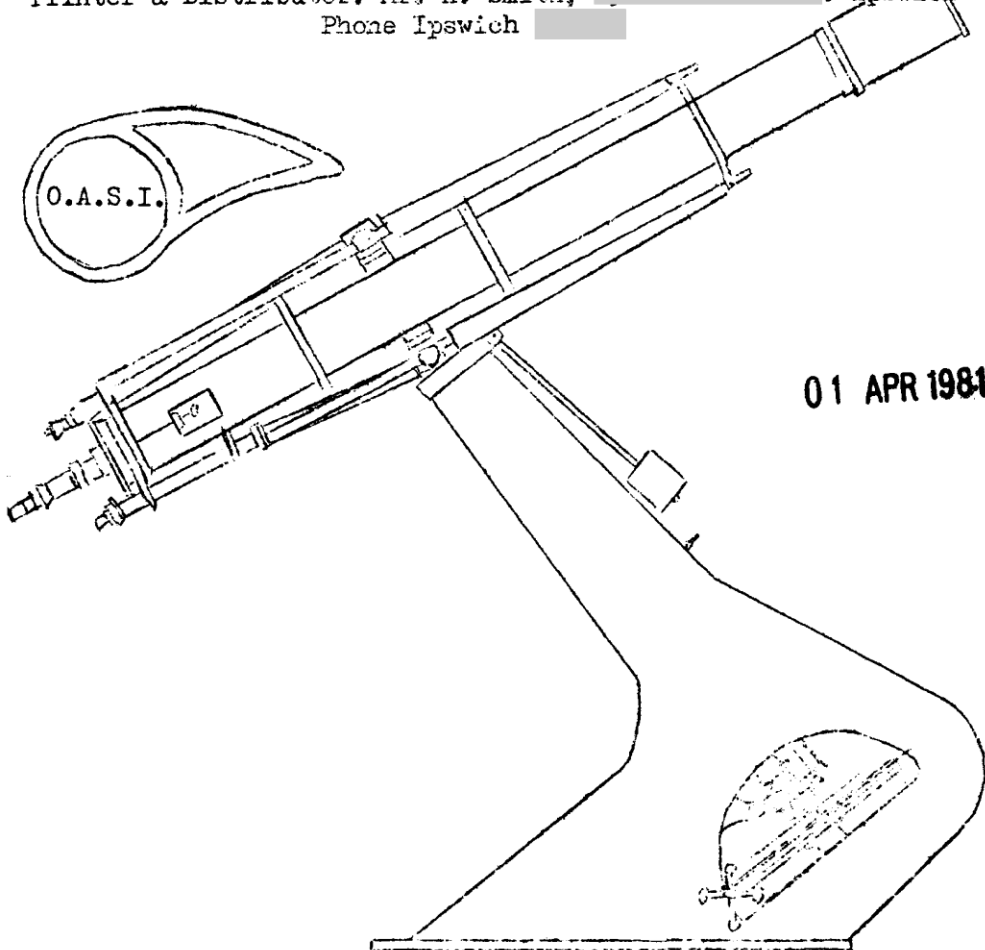
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The Orwell Park 10 inch astronomical Telescope
at Hacton near Ipswich

THE NIGHT SKY AS SEEN FROM ORWELL PARK IN APRIL

by Paul Burt

The zenith area is occupied by the Plough during late evening this month. To the east, Hercules is now fully visible before mid-night, and Bootes is well up into the sky. Between these two constellations lies Corona Borealis, the small but very characteristic Northern Crown. Two other small constellations, Canes Venatica and Coma Berentices can be found on the meridian at midnight at the beginning of the month directly below Ursa Major. Also visible to the south are Virgo and Leo and below them, Corvus and Crater. Sweeping below all of these constellations is Hydra, fully visible this month. To the west, Cancer, Gemini and Auriga are still prominent.

THE SUN. Sunrise is at 05h40m at the beginning of the month and ~~xxxxxx~~ changes to 04h50m at month-end. Sunset changes from 18h30m to 19h30m¹. The Sun moves from Pisces to Aries during the month.

THE MOON - Phases

New Moon	4d 20h 19m	Full Moon	19d07h 59m
First Quarter	11d 11h 11m	Last Quarter	27d10h 14m

Occultations

*913 Star	D Phase	5.2 Mag	9days 23h 04.5m
1202 "	D "	6.9 "	11 23 29.6
2291 "	R "	5.5 "	21 23 57.4

*denotes double star. All stars listed according to Z.C. numbers.

THE PLANETS.

Mercury is a morning object reaching superior conjunction on the 27th and too close to the Sun for observation

Venus reaches superior conjunction on the 7th and also will be too close to the sun for observation

Mars like Mercury and Venus Mars too will be too close to the sun for observation this month as superior conjunction is on the 2nd.

Jupiter is in retrograde motion in Virgo and is visible all night at mag. -2.0

Saturn is slightly east of Jupiter at mag. +0.8

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still a few membership subscriptions outstanding for 1981. Any member who has not paid his/her subscriptions for 1981 and would like to do so please send your cheque made out to 'Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) and send it to Mr. M. Barriskill, [REDACTED], Ipswich.

METEOR NOTES by David Barnard.

After a period of calm since the very successful meteor count last December, activity is now increasing. There is one major shower in April, The April Lyrids.

This shower reaches maximum on April 21st, with activity between April 19th and 24th and has a Z.H.R. of around 12, but the meteors are bright and fast moving. Moonlight will seriously interfere with observing this shower this year. There will not be a meteor watch to observe this shower this year as the maximum falls during the National Astronomy Week (April 20th - 26th) and it is hoped that we will be able to hold a meteor count on the lawns of Orwell Park School during some of the evenings when the telescope will be open to the general public.

On Saturday March 7th four of our members went down to London to attend the B.A.A. Meteor Section Meeting and an enjoyable time was had by all even though the acoustics of the hall did have a lot to be desired. The next meeting of this section of the B.A.A. is during September and will be held in Edinburgh when the Orwell Astronomical Society 'Looney Eyeballers Section' will be having their annual holiday up the road in Durness near Cape Wrath on the northern tip of Scotland. It is hoped to attend this meeting which unlike the meeting in London will last all day. As the trip to Scotland will probably be somewhat later in the year than last year it is hoped this time that we will be able to observe the Aurora because of the longer darkness hours.

Anybody wishing to come on this trip should contact Mr. A. Smith on Ipswich [redacted].

Latest Fireball Camera News.

Alan Smith has now purchased a motor driven camera with a lens (the latter is not recommended!) for less than £20 at a camera shop in Ipswich. The 'motor' is clockwork which can wind on about twenty frames. The first fireball has been confirmed by Dr. Keith Hindley, co-ordinator of the fireball camera network (it wasn't a linen line after all!)

If you have any fireball reports or if you observe the April Lyrids shower please send me your reports.

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK

During the week 20th to 26th April, 1981, Astronomical Societies throughout the country will be staging a variety of events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the discovery of the planet Uranus. The planet was discovered in March 1781 by William Herschel.

William Herschel was born on 15th November 1738 in Hanover. His father was an oboist in the band of the Hanoverian Foot Guards so all Herschels formal education was at the Garrison School. At the age of 15 William joined the Guard's Band as an oboe and violinist. Herschel stayed with the band for only four years before deciding to leave and settle down in England.

In England he started a successful musical career, eventually taking up the much prized post of organist at the Octagon Chapel in Bath during 1766. Herschel had previously worked in London, Sunderland and Leeds as a composer, teacher and Militia Band instructor. While in Bath his interest in astronomy began to dominate his life. Being dissatisfied with the telescopes available commercially he set about constructing his own with great success. Herschel's telescopes were much prized for their excellence.

On 13th March 1781 Herschel observed a new object, which when re-observed a few nights later had changed position. The discovery was reported to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and Oxford University Observatory as a new comet. The object was finally identified as a new planet by the Swedish Astronomer Anders Lexell and the French Mathematician Pierre Laplace.

After the discovery William Herschel received national and international recognition and the Royal Patronage of George III who gave him a pension enabling him to continue astronomy as a full time career.

In this month's Journal you will find a poster advertising the events which we will be holding and it would be appreciated if could pin it up in a conspicuous place.

As we are anticipating having a busy week YOUR HELP IS NEEDED if only for an hour or so at the Observatory

Roy Gooding

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)
MEETINGS FOR APRIL, 1981.

At the Observatory Orwell Park School, Nacton near Ipswich.

Wednesday	1st April.	8p.m.	Nebulae & Faint Objects Section
Friday	3rd	"	8p.m. Variable Stars Section
Monday	6th	"	7.30p.m. Visit by Scout Group
Tuesday	7th	"	7p.m. Solar, Lunar & Planetary Section
Wednesday	8th	"	8p.m. Nebulae & Faint Objects Section
Friday	10th	"	7.30p.m. Holiday Games Club
Saturday	11th	"	7.30p.m. " " "
Monday	13th	"	7.30p.m. Visit by a Scout Group
Tuesday	14th	"	7.30p.m. Holiday Games Club
Wednesday	15th	"	7.45p.m. Visit by a Boys Brigade Group
Saturday	18th	"	8p.m. South East Essex Caravan Club
Sunday	19th	"	8p.m. " " " " "
Monday	20th	"	8p.m. Observatory open to general public
Tuesday	21st	"	8p.m. for National Astronomy Week
Wednesday	22nd	"	8p.m. " " "
Thursday	23rd	"	8p.m. " " "
Friday	24th	"	8p.m. " " "
Saturday	25th	"	8p.m. " " "
Sunday	26th	"	2p.m. " " "

OTHER MEETINGS:

Friday 24th April at 8p.m. at The Friends Meeting House
Fonnereau Road, Ipswich, lecture entitled
'QUASARS' given by BELINDA WILKES
of the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge.

As you can see we have a very heavy programme for April and as many members and friends are required to help, especially at the Observatory during National Astronomy Week.

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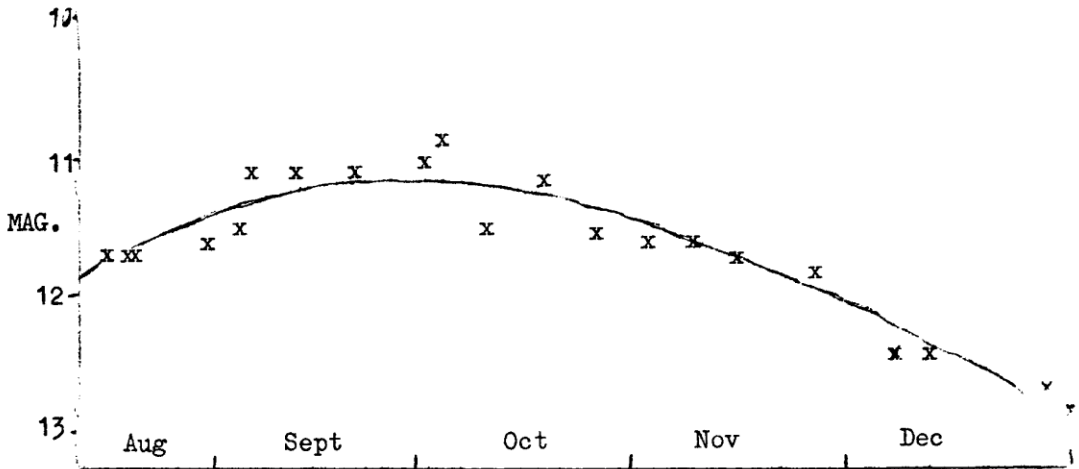
VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS by Mike Nicholls.

The light curve shown below is that of the long period variable S Cassiopeiae. As long period variables go, the period of this star is rather on the large side; 612 days compared with the more usual 300/400 days.

According to the B.A.A. Handbook it should have reached a maximum on August 12, however, it appears to have been late, maximum occurring around the end of September. Astronomical literature states that it is quite common for long period variables to have up to a few weeks variation in their periods.

Observations had to cease once the star reached mag. 13, because a comparison star of mag 13.2 could barely be glimpsed on a very clear night. Observations were made with an 8 inch reflector.

Light curve of:- S. Cassiopeiae August 1980 - Jan. '81.



DO NOT FORGET

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK.

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK, APRIL 20th-26th 1981

Orwell
Astronomical
Society (Ipswich)



presents a lecture

ON

QUASARS

by

Belinda Wilkes

(INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY CAMBRIDGE)

ON

FRIDAY APRIL 24th 1981

AT

THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, FONNEREAU RD,
IPSWICH

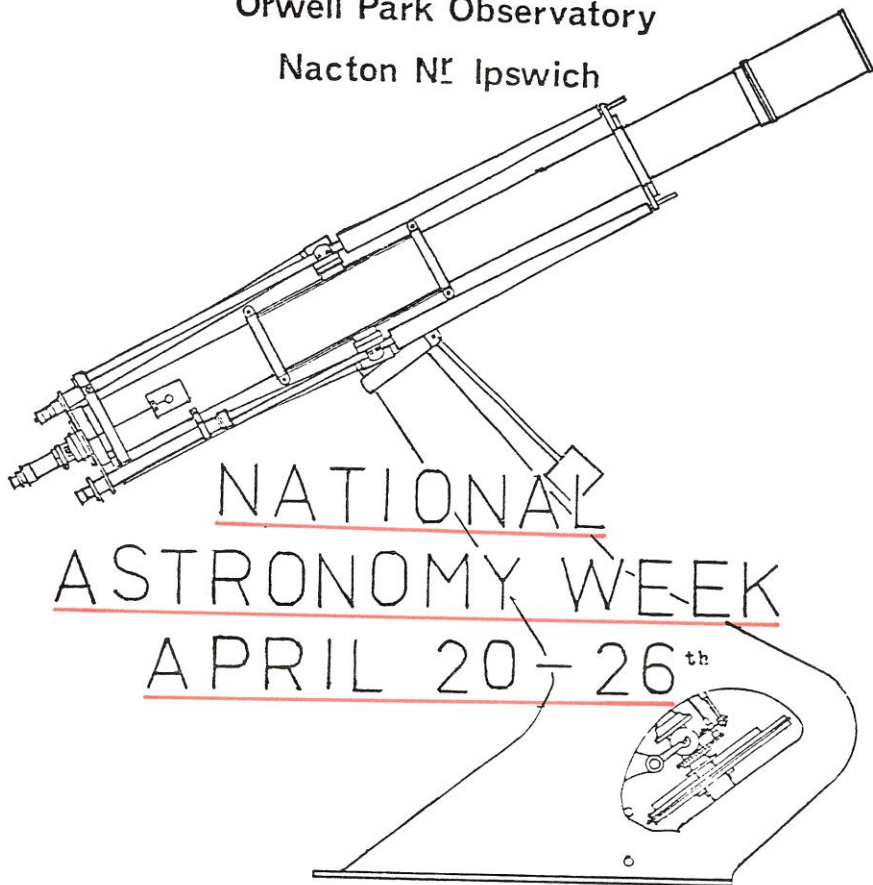
Commencing 8 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE - EVERYONE WELCOME

Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

Orwell Park Observatory

Nacton NE Ipswich



PROGRAM OF WEEK'S EVENTS

The observatory will be open for public observing sessions on the following nights. If you have a pair of binoculars please bring them with you, as we will be holding star parties outside the observatory as well.

Monday	20th	Observatory	open	from	8pm	to	10.30pm
Tuesday	21st	"	"	"	"	"	"
Wednesday	22nd	"	"	"	"	"	"
Thursday	23rd	"	"	"	"	"	"
Friday	24th	"	"	"	"	"	"
Saturday	25th	"	"	"	"	"	"
Sunday	26th	"	"	"	2pm	"	"

(Weather Permitting)

National Astronomy Week Lecture: 'QUASARS' given by BELINDA WILKES.

Friday 24th April at 8pm. at The Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Rd, IPS.