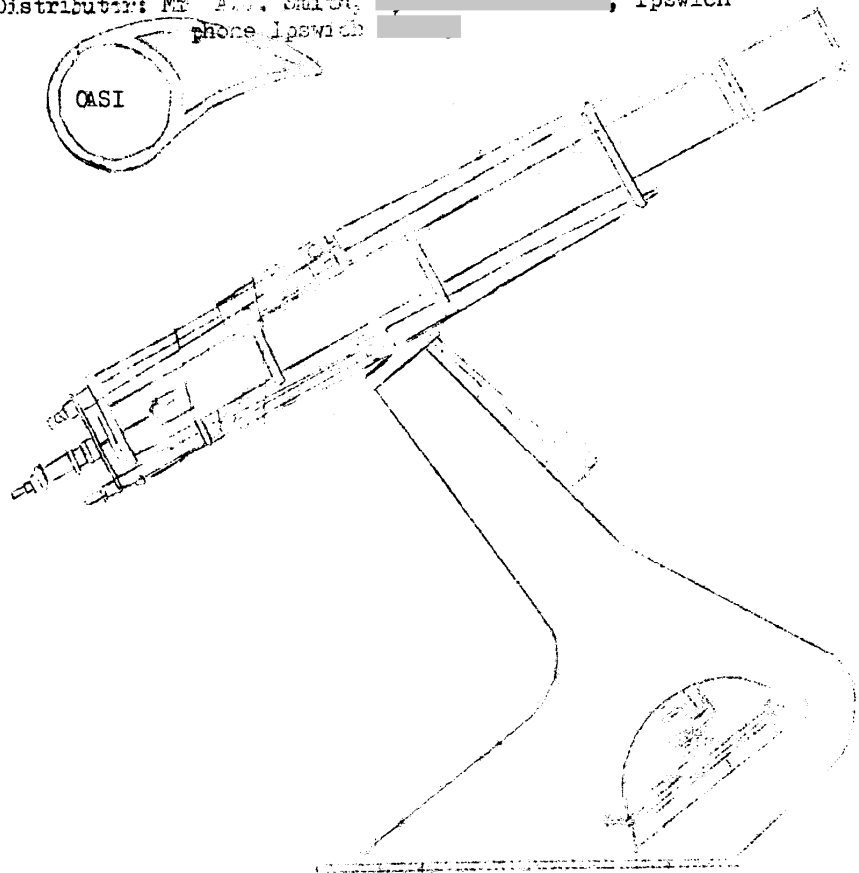
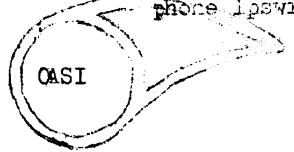


MARCH 1982

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JOURNAL OF THE ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

Editor: Mr. P. Burt, [redacted] . Ipswich IP1 6PP  
phone Ipswich [redacted]  
Producer: Mr. R.M. Cheesman, [redacted]  
WEST HARMINGFIELD, Chelmsford. Essex. CM2 8IQ  
Distributer: Mr. A.J. Saiter, [redacted], Ipswich  
phone Ipswich [redacted]



The Orwell Park 10 inch Astronomical Telescope  
at Nacton, near Ipswich.

THE NIGHT SKY AS SEEN FROM ORWELL PARK DURING MARCH.

by Paul Burt.

Ursa Major is in the zenith during March with the 'handle' pointing eastwards to Draco and Bootes which are now well above the horizon by late evening. Leo is due south by mid-night with Hydra winding southwards beneath it. Virgo is also in the south-east and is fully visible during late evening.

The western aspect of the sky is dominated by Gemini, Taurus, Auriga and Orion which is still visible but will be nearly on the western horizon before mid-night by month-end. To the north-west Cepheus, Cassiopeia and Perseus can be found sweeping around Polaris.

THE PLANETS:

The Sun:- Sunrise is at 0650 hours at the beginning of the month changing to 0550 hours at month-end. Sunset changes from 1730 hours to 1830 hours during the month and the Sun moves from Aquarius to Pisces.

The Moon:- Phases -

|              |             |                      |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1st quarter  | 2d 22h 15m  | Full Moon 9d 20h 45m |
| Last quarter | 17d 17h 15m | New Moon 25d 10h 17m |

Mercury is a morning object too close to the Sun for observation.

Venus is also a morning object rising about two hours before the Sun at mag. -4.2

Earth Spring Equinox 20d 22h 56m

Mars is visible all night and is retrograding in Virgo and reaches opposition on 31st March at mag. -1.2

Jupiter rises at approx 2200 hours in Libra at mag. -1.9

Saturn is retrograding in Virgo and rises at about 2000 hours at mag. +0.6

Source:- B.A.A. Handbook, all times at U.T.

METEOR NOTES by David Barnard.

There are no major showers visible from the northern hemisphere this month. However, there are sporadic meteors to be observed and any data will be gratefully received. We will not be holding a meteor count this month.

Society Trip to Scotland (in conjunction with Aurora Section)

A great deal of excitement is currently buzzing around the observatory about this year's trip to Scotland, especially as the last trip was such a great success. So we are organising another similar event this year. In order to arrange the hiring of a mini-bus it would be extremely helpful if any other members wishing to participate on this holiday would let me know as soon as possible please.

We will be going for two weeks this year (last week in July/first week in August), but it is likely some members will be going for the first week only please contact Glyn Buckley-Jones on Ipswich [redacted] if you would like to come for one week only.

We will be camping in ridge tents which we will have to be hired. At present the exact places we will be visiting are unknown, but it is likely that Durness will be the first destination, spending two or three nights there and then moving down the west coast.

So if any member is interested in coming along this year please contact me as soon as possible in writing. However, if anybody is unable to go but is willing to lend us some tents or camping equipment this will be very much appreciated.

David Barnard, [redacted]  
Ipswich.  
phone Ipswich [redacted]

Solar Section

Phil Evans gave me a ring at work just as the Sun was setting on Tuesday 9th February to tell me he had just seen a sunspot group with the naked eye. Sure enough, Roy Gooding projected the sun the next day and there was a giant sunspot - actually consisting of three spots. The next two days were cloudy, but on Sunday 14th February

Martin Cook and myself succeeded in photographing the group up the observatory. The sunspot group was then on the limb, but at the time of writing another fairly large spot was visible at the advancing limb. There is a considerable amount of other small spots and faculae at present also. More details in next month's Journal

Occultation Section.

This observation of star ZC 405 (mag 4.4) on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February will be reported in the April Journal. This occultation is a group observation with the Chelmsford and District Astronomical Society.

Other events in March

There are three visits to the Observatory as under and as much help in running the evening from members would be appreciated:

1. Tuesday 9th March.  
Visit to observatory by Brownies Group at 7.45p.m.
2. Wednesday 10th March  
Visit to observatory by 27th Ipswich Guides at 7.45p.m.
3. Wednesday 31st March  
Visit to observatory by Anglia Holiday Games Club (Ipswich Juniors)

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On 25<sup>th</sup> March David Payne will be giving a talk to the Bramlingham Young Farmers at the Conservative Club, Framlingham. A few members will be able to attend. If you are interested please contact David Payne on Wickham Market [redacted].

Saturday 6th March Open Committee Meeting in the observatory at 7.30 p.m. to which all members are invited.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please note that our Editor of our Journal, Paul Burt, has now moved to

[redacted],  
IPSWICH IP1 6RY  
'phone number as before - Ipswich [redacted]



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1982.

All membership subscriptions for 1982 fell due on 1st January 1982. If you have not renewed your subscription to our Society and would like to do so please send your cheque off as soon as possible please to

Mr. M. Barriskill,  
Membership Secretary, O.A.S.I.

[REDACTED],  
IPSWICH.

JOURNALS:

In last month's Journal a letter was included asking whether you would like your Journal posted to you, if you have not returned it please do so as soon as possible to Mr. A.J. Smith, [REDACTED], Ipswich.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL JOURNAL

The deadline for articles to be included in April's Journal should be sent to arrive no later than 22nd March. Please send to Mr. R.M. Cheesman, [REDACTED],

WEST HANNINGFIELD,  
Chelmsford, Essex.  
CM2 8LQ.

ASTRONOMY FOR BEGINNERS:

This month's talk at the Observatory on Friday 12th March starting at 7.30p.m. will be about the Solar System.

REACHING FOR THE STARS

Hopefully the Journal will reach you by Wednesday 3rd March (we are a bit late getting it out this month but if you do tune in on the T.V. to BBC 1 at 6.30 p.m. and see the 'pop group' 'Mod-Cons' and you will see our editor of our Journal Paul Burk in the group. Paul has been involved with this group for some years

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)  
PROGRAM FOR MARCH.

At the Observatory, Orwell Park School, Nacton.

TUESDAYS from 7p.m. Solar, Lunar & Planetary Sections  
Directors Mr. J. Hood and Mr. J. Ranson.

2nd 16th 23rd & 30th

WEDNESDAYS from 8p.m. Nebulae & Faint Objects Section  
Directors Mr. D. Payne & Mr. M. Cook.

3rd 17th 24th

FRIDAYS from 8p.m. Variable Stars Section  
Director Mr. M. Nicholls.

Mr. R. Hodgkiss  
5th & 19th

FRIDAY 12th at 7.30p.m. Beginners Night.  
Talk on 'The Solar System'

SATURDAY 6th at 7.30p.m. Open Committee Meeting to which all members are invited.

VISITS TO THE OBSERVATORY organised by Mr. D. Barnard  
Tuesday 9th March at 7.45p.m. Brownies

Wednesday 10th March at 7.45p.m. - 27th Ipswich Guides

Wednesdays 31st March - Anglia Holiday Club (Ipswich Juniors)

OTHER MEETINGS

At the Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich  
FRIDAY 26th March starting at 8p.m. talk by

Mr. M. Nicholls on VARIABLE STARS.  
any body and every body welcome to come along to this talk. Admission Free.