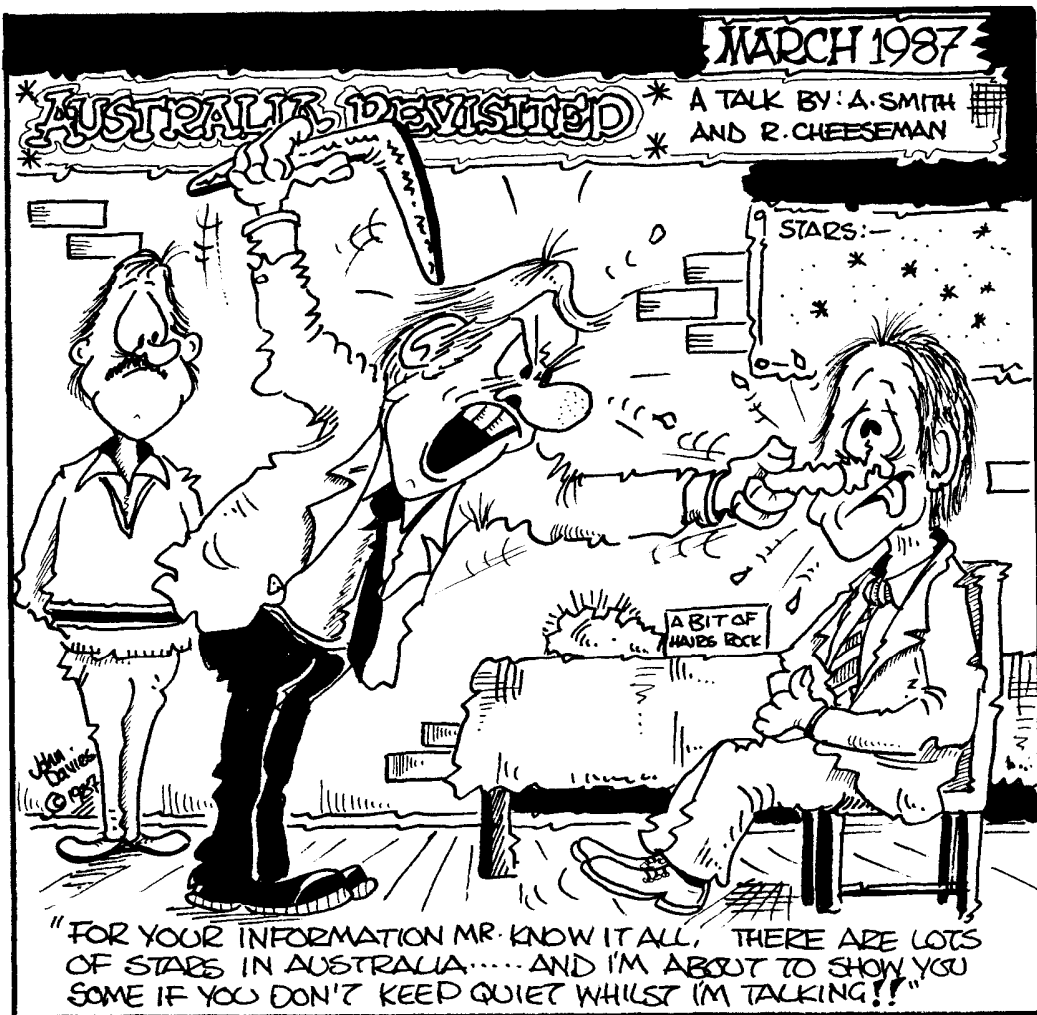
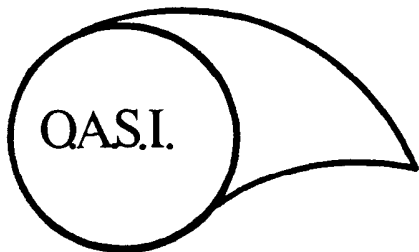


# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, IPSWICH.

# SOCIETY NEWS



## 1. Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on January 1st.

Rates for 1987 are:

Junior and O.A.P. £4.00

Adult ..... £6.50

Family ..... £7.50

Plus £1.60 for Newsletter postage, if you do not wish to collect it from the dome. Payment should be sent to David Barnard.

This will be the last newsletter sent to unpaid up members.

## 2. 1987 PROGRAMME





- a. Thursday 12th March at 7.30 p.m.  
Lecture on Giotto at Essex University. Interested members please contact Peter Richards.
- b. Friday 13th March at 8.00 p.m.  
A second chance to here the account of Roy and Alan's Australian trip. To be held at the Friends Meeting House, Ponnereau Road.
- c. Greenwch Trip, Friday 27th March.  
The 28" refractor at the Old Greenwich Observatory has been booked for Friday 27th March for observations in the evening. Please contact Roy Gooding for more details.
- d. Friday 10th April at 8.00 p.m.  
Solar System Geology (IV) by Bob.Markham. To be held at The Friends' Meeting House.

## 3. Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 21st March at 7.30 p.m. in the club room. All welcome.

## NIGHT SKY

Sun Rises approximately between 07.00 - 05.40  
Sets approximately between 17.30 - 18.30

Moon  7th  15th  22nd  29th

Mercury Too 'close' to the sun for easy observation this month. Greatest Western elongation on 26th (28°)

Venus Bright early morning object. Rises at about 05.00 in mid month. Mag. -4.0

Mars Sets at about 23.00 in mid month. Mag. 1.3

Jupiter Conjunction on the 27th

Saturn Prominent object in morning sky. Rises at about 01.30 in mid month. Mag. 0.5

Uranus Rises at about 02.00 in mid month. Mag. 5.8

Neptune Rises at about 02.30 in mid month. Mag. 7.7

R. Gooding

### LECTURE MEETING

On Friday (unlucky for some) the 13th February a series of short talks was given by some of the members in the Collinson room at the Friends Meeting House in Fonnereau road.

The turn out for this interesting meeting was very poor, only ten people including speakers.

The first talk was given by Mickael Harlow on the Schmidt camera which he has built himself. He gave us a lot of technical details which he made easily understandable with the help of slides and diagrams. He also showed us some of the equipment he used to polish and shape the glass blanks used in the camera for the mirror and corrector plate.

He made it sound so easy that i wouldn'thesitate to ask him to build me one as i think the practical part is a little bit beyond me.

Next we had Roy Gooding showing and commenting on Halley Comet slides, some of which i hadn't seen before. The high point of the evening and the thing that caused the most discussion was the slide projector which refused to focus on the black and slides and just kept winding the focus in and out.

The third speaker should have been David Payne talking on Eyepieces. But due to work commitments his plane from Scotland was late landing, and not even a meal was included. So he went home for a much needed meal and relax.

### NORWICH OBSERVATORY, AT LAST!

Any one who endeavours to persue an interest in observational astronomy in this country requires infinite patience and a fatalistic approach to the infamous British weather. For six months dates had been fixed for a society visit to the Norwich Astronomical Society's observatory. Bad weather and prior engagements had thwarted every previous attempt. Friday 20th February was optimistically awaited as the next date to be tried.

The weather in the morning exhibited a tantilising amount of sunshine between numerous clouds, to raise one's hopes for a clear evening, but leaving the final outcome far from certain. 5.00 P.m. came and the skies were virtually cloudless; had the clouds lost this battle? At 5.30 I received the first 'phone call, from Pete Richards, the Norwich trip was on. Between 6.00 and 7.00 my 'phone took the part of an unofficial exchange for the O.A.S.I. with 9 calls in and out. Peter Richards arrived at about 6.40 to be joined by Garry Marriott at 7.00 p.m. The final member of our group, Rachael Keveren, was collected, and a course was set for Norwich by 7.15.

Regular readers of society excursion reports are no doubt waiting to hear an amusing anecdote about this trip to Norwich. They will not be disappointed. After travelling a few miles up the A140 we were overtaken by a fast moving police transit van. The transit van was soon hindered in its progress North by a slow moving lorry - the sort used for transporting sand and gravel. For the next five miles or so the driver of the police van showed all the signs of an impatient car driver. The van was constantly pulling out to overtake the lorry, only having to return to the left-hand lane when confronted with on-coming traffic. After a while a driver behind Peter's car decided enough was enough and proceeded to overtake us and everything else in front. The transit van was merrily continuing its sinusoidal path. As the overtaking car approached, the van was converging on its point of maximum amplitude. With only feet separating the vehicles, the driver of the police van must have glanced into his mirror and reversed his direction just in time to avoid a collision. In time every one passed the lorry!

We arrived at Norwich observatory at about 8.15. Brian Mitchell was already using the 30" reflector as we

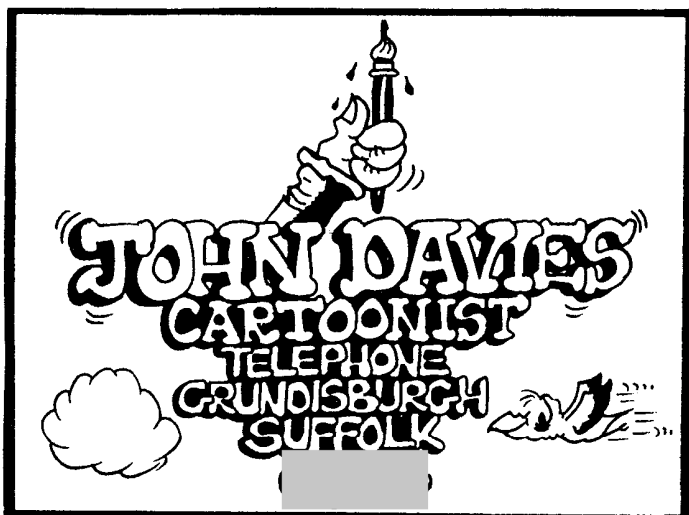
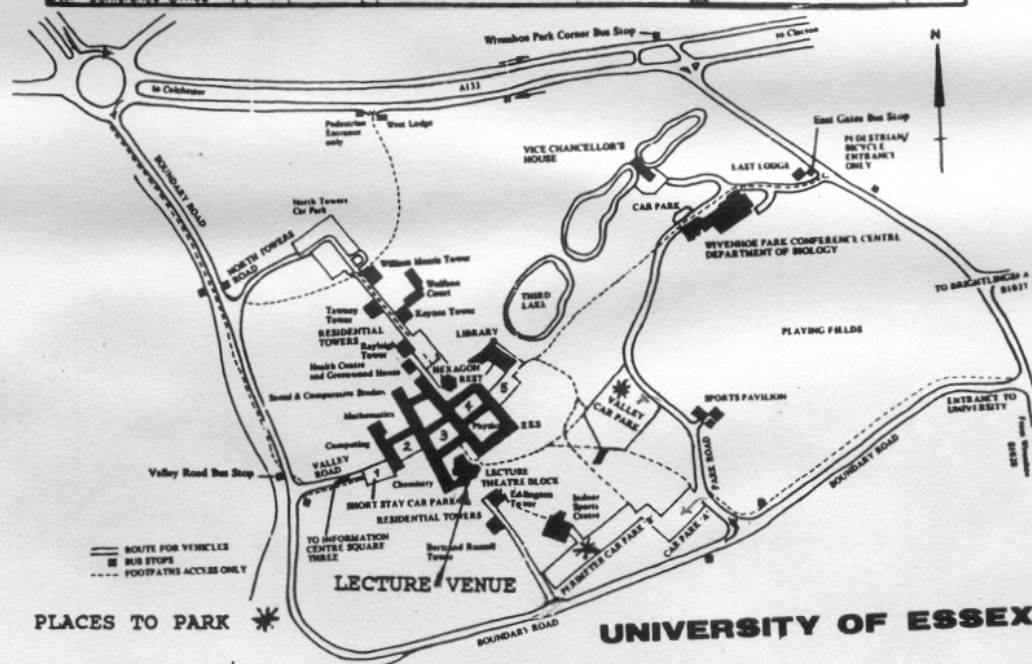
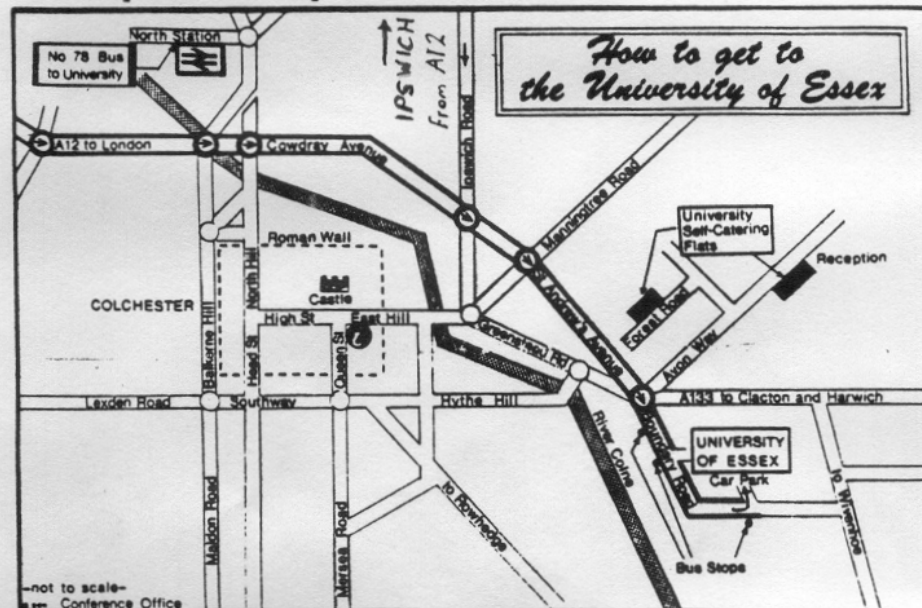
made our way from the car park to the dome. The last member of our visiting party, Dave Payne, arrived about 40 minutes later. A thin layer of haze was present but did not hinder observations of various Messier objects. The following were observed:- M31, M32, M36, M37, M38, M42, M45 and the double cluster in Perseus.

Observations with the 30" continued for over 2 hours. We then transferred our observations to the 2nd dome that housed a 10" reflector. We looked at M41, M42 and M43. The visit was concluded with a short discussion in their club room. Our party left for home at 11.00 p.m. having been considerably chilled by the night air, but satisfied with a successful observational evening.

R. Gooding.

### GIOTTO LECTURE

As mentioned in the last journal The Institute of Physics are holding a lecture on the subject of the Giotto high energy particle experiment EPONA. The lecture is being held at the University of Essex on the 12th of March starting at 7.30pm. Maps are given below for anyone making there own way there. Alternatively arrangements for sharing transport will be made at the previous wednesday meeting at the observatory ( contact a committee member if you will not be at the observatory on wednesday but will require a lift).



"FRONT COVER DESIGNS FOR THIS MAGAZINE" PLUS PERSONAL CARDS, OLD ENGLISH SCRIPT, POSTERS, CARTOON WALL PAINTINGS (FOR CHILDRENS BEDROOMS) ETC. HUMOROUS VERSE AND HUMEROUS SONGS!

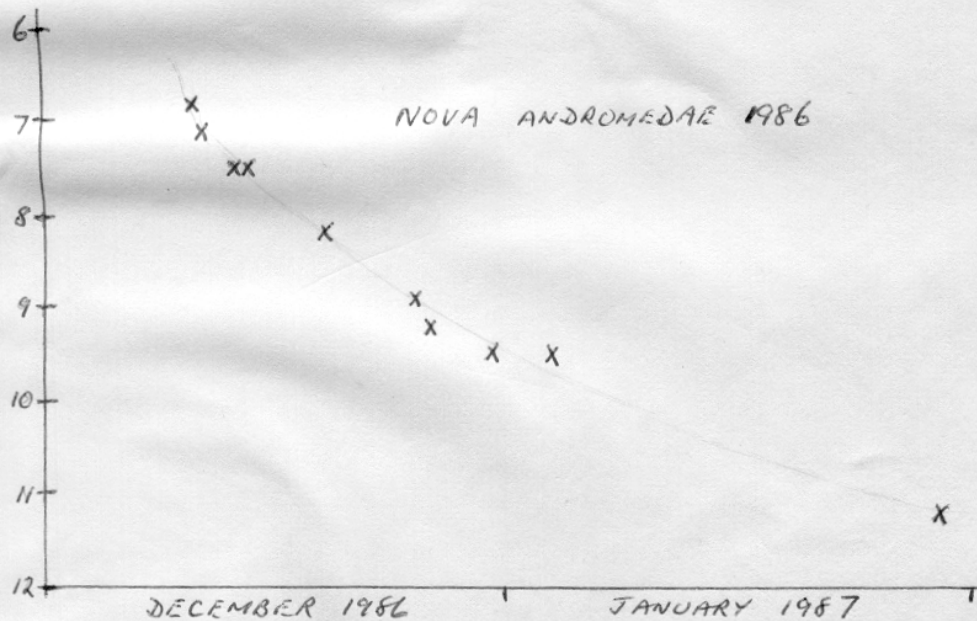
# VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS

by Mike Nicholls

This light curve shows Nova Andromedae 1986 during December and January. The nova was first spotted early in December, a few days before the maximum, which was around magnitude 6.4. This light curve begins just after the maximum and shows a fast decline from the 7th to the 11th magnitude in just under two months. There are three classes of novae, fast slow and very slow. To qualify as fast, a nova must fade by 3 magnitudes from maximum in less than 110 days. This nova easily falls into this class.

The amplitudes of novae generally lie between 7 and 16 magnitudes. It has been noted that on the Palomar Sky Survey plates there is a star of magnitude 17.8 at the position of this nova. It remains to be seen later whether this is the star which has turned nova. It could take several years for the star to fade to its original state, known as the postnova stage. Compare this with the rise to maximum which takes only a day or so.

Observations were made with an 8" reflector.



# PROGRAMME FOR MARCH

MONDAYS from 8pm  
2, 9, 16, 23

## DOUBLE STAR & PLANETS SECTION

Mr N Taylor [redacted], Farmlands  
Trimley Tel: Fel. [redacted]

Mr T Gillan [redacted], Bardwell  
Bury St. Edmunds. Tel: [redacted]

Miss M Edwards [redacted], Felixstowe Tel: Fel. [redacted]

TUESDAYS from 8pm  
3, 10, 17, 24

## GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

Mr N Bage, [redacted], Trimley Tel: Fel. [redacted]

Mr R Newman [redacted], Felixstowe Tel: Fel. [redacted]

Mr J King, [redacted], Felixstowe Tel: Fel. [redacted]

WEDNESDAYS from 8pm  
4, 11, 18, 25

## NEBULEA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION

Mr M Cook, [redacted], Ipswich Tel: Ips. [redacted]

Mr D Payne, [redacted],  
Wickham Market. Tel: W.Mkt [redacted]

FRIDAYS from 8pm  
6, 20

## GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

Mr R A Lobbett, [redacted],  
Felixstowe. Tel: Fel. [redacted]

Mr J Hood, [redacted], Ipswich. Tel: Ips. [redacted]

Mr M Harlow, [redacted], Felixstowe Tel: Fel. [redacted]

On nights other than Wednesday please contact directors to confirm dates.

# 1987 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[redacted], Wickham Market, IP13 OSD	Work: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN /P.R.O	D Barnard	[redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PP Essex SS17 9BU	Work: [redacted] Extn 2 [redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[redacted], Ipswich IP1 6AE	Work: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[redacted], Capel St. Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX	Work: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	[redacted] Ipswich, IP4 5PZ	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
LIBRARIAN	E Sims	[redacted], Ipswich, IP1 4HA	Home: [redacted]
SOCIETY EVENTS	R Lobbett	[redacted], Felixstowe	WORK: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
F.A.S. ARTICLES	M Harlow	[redacted], Felixstowe	Home: [redacted]
	P Richards	[redacted], Rushmere	HOME [redacted]