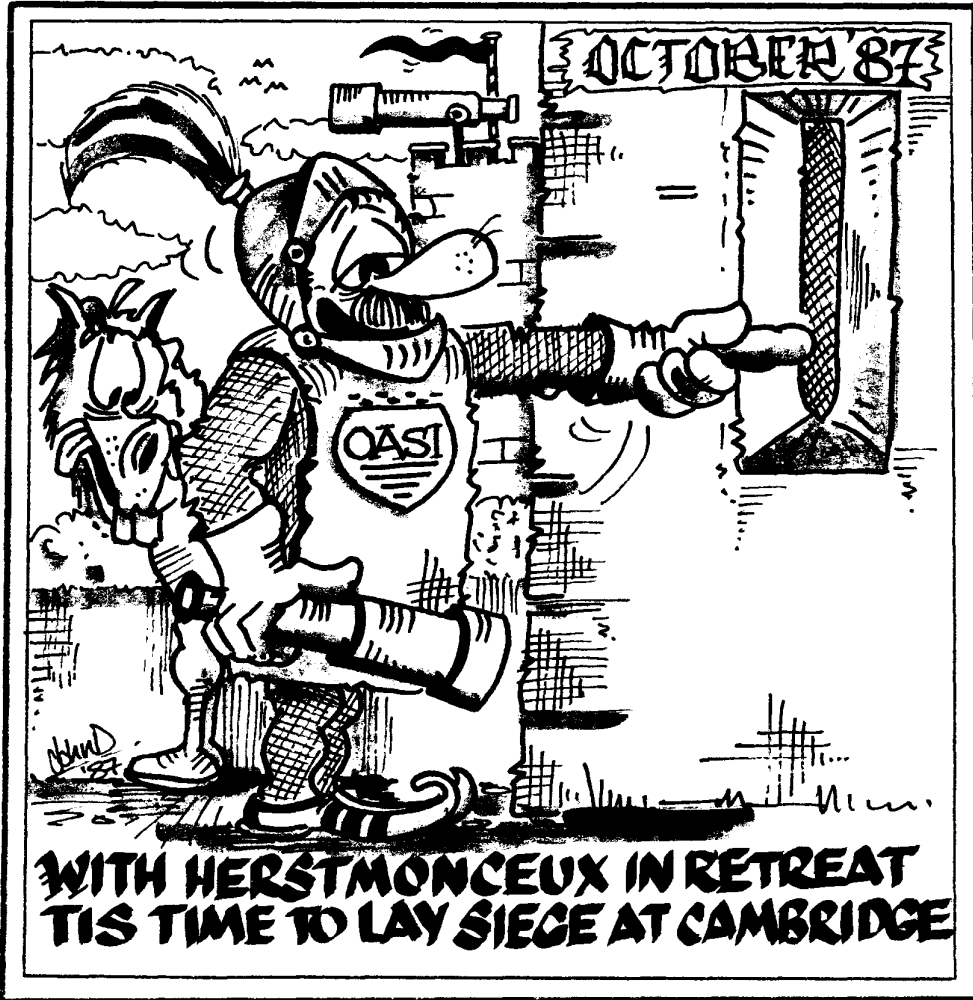


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, IPSWICH.

SOCIETY NEWS

Q.A.S.I.



1. GREENWICH TRIP

Time has been booked to use the 28" refractor at Greenwich (weather permitting) for Fridays 20th and 27th November.

2. DOME FLOOR

Once the painting has been finished the dome floor will be sanded, stained and varnished. During this period the dome will be out of use. It is planned to do this during the next few weeks.

NIGHT SKY

(all times G.M.T.)

SUN Rises approximately between 06.10 - 07.00

Sets approximately between 17.30 - 16.30

MOON



7th



14th



22nd



29th

Mercury

Greatest eastern elongation on the 4th (26°)
However, it will be unobservable this month.

Venus

Sets at about sunset. Probably unobservable this month.

Mars

Rises about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before the sun in mid month
Mag. 1.8

Jupiter

At opposition on the 18th. Mag. -2.8.

Saturn

Observable at beginning of the month, lost in twilight at the end. Mag. 0.6

Uranus

Sets at about 19.00 in mid month. Mag. 5.8

Neptune

Sets at about 20.00 in mid month. Mag. 7.7

R. Gooding.

CONSTRUCTION OF ORWELL PARK OBSERVATORY

First published in 'Engineering' October 2nd, 1874.

PART 3.

In designing an equatorial instrument, the first consideration is the size of the object-glass (which will rule the size of the instrument, and the size of the observatory); the next consideration is the system of mounting which shall be adopted; and the last is the construction of the object-glass and instrument. As regards the size of the object-glass, it may be observed that in the hands of a skilful observer a

6-inch glass is sufficient for most observations, and a very large part of the delicate work done in modern times, such for example as the discovery of small planets, has been done by means of 6-inch glasses; but for the careful examination of the moon and planets a larger glass adds greatly to the enjoyment of an observer. In spectroscopic and other observations of recent interest also, in which the amount of light is of great consequence, a large glass is almost essential. But the point of first importance is the definition and purity of the glass, and the difficulty of insuring these requisites increases rapidly with the size of the glass. There have undoubtedly been made object-glasses of large size, 15 inches and upwards, of great excellence, but in the opinion of the writer, a 10-inch glass is the largest that can at present be relied upon for superior excellence when made to order. The object-glass of the Orwell Park Observatory is a 10-inch glass. It would probably be advisable, in all cases, to order a glass from a professed manufacturer of astronomical object-glasses. There are, unfortunately, not many such manufacturers, and the best are foreigners, but they have a great advantage in possessing always in stock a large number of lenses of all sorts, and by fitting together different lenses (so as to form an object-glass, which is compounded of two lenses) they are generally enabled to insure an object-glass of great excellence. The object-glass of the Orwell Park Observatory was procured from Messrs. Merz of Munich, and is an excellent glass. In no case should a glass be accepted without being tested, and to test a glass requires the skilled eye of a practical observer. Probably the best method of testing a glass is to compare it by observation of a star with a similar glass of known excellence. In the case of the object-glass for the Orwell Park instrument, the writer obtained permission to attach a temporary tube containing the glass to be tested in the polar axis frame of the large equatorial at the Royal Observatory; the two telescopes were then turned upon the same star, and a comparison instituted of their efficiencies. The best object to observe as a test of definition is a bright double star (both stars of which are bright), κ Bootis, for example; if the two stars of the double star stand distinctly apart, it is a good glass. Also every star should appear in the glass as if surrounded with several concentric thin black rings (known as diffraction rings). These rings may be accounted for theoretically, and their existence is a strong proof of the accuracy with which the lenses have been formed.

To be continued.

OBSERVATORY RENOVATION

Next year is the Twenty First Anniversary of the OASI and in preparation for our "Open Day" (Date For Your Diary: Saturday 9th July 1988) we are in the midst of a programme of renovation and decoration of the transit room, telescope dome and the club room. The transit room and dome are now well on the way to completion although there is still a significant amount of work to be done. This mammoth task is being undertaken by the faithful few and would not have progressed at all if it were not for the many hours of spare time being devoted by a few individuals (Alan Smith, Roy Gooding, Martin Cook, Dave Barnard, Peter Richards to name a few).

MORE HELP IS NEEDED if we are to get all the decoration out of the way to leave adequate time for the organisation of the Open Day itself. If you are marginally capable of wielding a piece of sand paper or a paint brush then please come along on a Wednesday evening and give us a hand. If Wednesday is not convenient then contact Martin Cook giving days/nights when you could turn up, and other work periods including weekends can be arranged.

David Payne

OPEN WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 25th - 28th.

On September 25th the O.A.S.I. opened its doors to the public for the annual open weekend.

The first three nights we were blessed with clear skies so the visitors were able to use the 10" telescope to look at a range of different Astronomical objects such as, Jupiter plus four moons, M13, M31, ring nebula and the two double stars in Lyra.

On the fourth night it was cloudy so the visitors were unable to use the telescope. However, we amused ourselves at 9pm. by having the draw. The results as follows:-

1. Compact Camera 2029 A. Smith
2. Clock Radio 2160 J. Haigh
3. £5 Token 2164 J. Richards
4. £5 Token 1675 J. Smith
5. Red Wine 0530 B. Buckle
6. Sherry 2303 N. Hawkins
7. Red Wine 2162 J. Richards
8. Chocolates 1079 D. Thorpe
9. " 1736 L. Wardley
10. " 0285 A. Court.

ARTICLES REQUIRED

More articles are required for the newsletter.
PLEASE submit articles for publication to Eric Sims
or any of the other committee members.

The subject can be anything remotely related to astronomy
or of potential interest to the Society.

The articles can be any length you wish from less than half a page
to several pages (we can always serialise extra long articles).

NOTE if each member submitted only one half page
article per year we would be inundated with material, so
PLEASE HELP and send in the OCCASIONAL
report,
comment,
letter,
article etc.

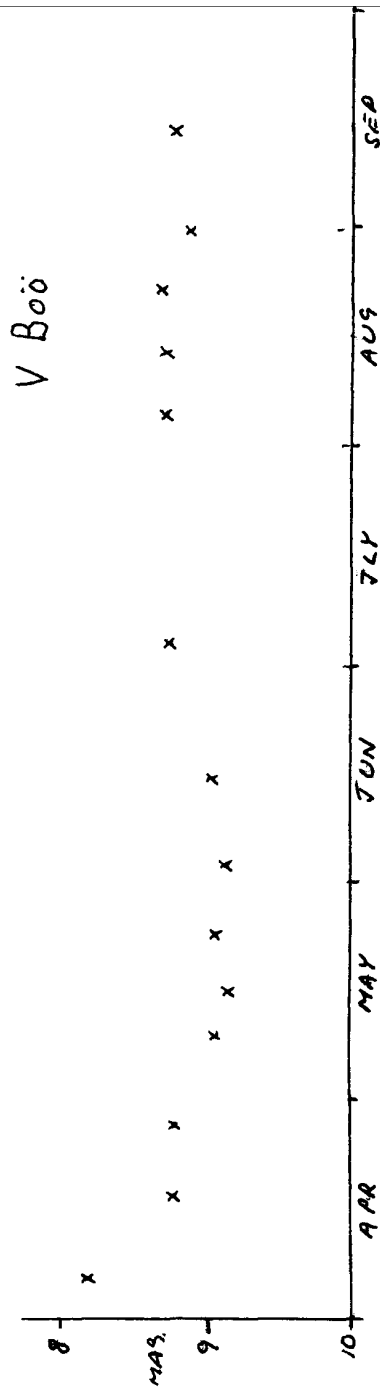
for YOUR newsletter.

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS

by Mike Nicholls

The light curve shows V Boötis from April to September this year. V Boötis is a semi-regular type of variable with a period of about 258 days and a light range of magnitude 7.6 to 10.4. This light curve seems to suggest a shorter period and smaller range. However, being a semi-regular star this sort of performance is to be expected. The entry for V Boötis in Sky Catalogue 2000 makes the statements, "period may vary" and "amplitude varies strongly".

All observations were made using an 8" reflector.



PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER

Day	Time	Section	Observer	Location	Contact
MONDAYS	from 8pm	DOUBLE STAR & PLANETS SECTION			
	5-12-19-26		Mr N Taylor	[Redacted], Farlands 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	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION			
	6-13-20-27		Mr N Gage,	[Redacted], Trimley	Tel: Fel. [Redacted]
			Mr R Newman	[Redacted], Felixstowe	Tel: Fel. [Redacted]
			Mr J King,	[Redacted], Felixstowe	Tel: Fel. [Redacted]
WEDNESDAYS	from 8pm	NEBULEA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION			
	7-14-21-28		Mr M Cook,	[Redacted], Ipswich	Tel: Ips. [Redacted]
			Mr D Payne,	[Redacted], Wickham Market.	Tel: W.Mkt [Redacted]
FRIDAYS	from 8pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION			
	2-16-30		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 0SD	Work: [Redacted] Home: [Redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Barnard	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PP	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
/P.R.O		Essex SS17 9BU	Extn [Redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[Redacted], Ipswich IP1 6AE	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]
JOURNAL CO-ORD	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] TRIMLEY	Home: [Redacted]
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	[Redacted] IPSWICH	Home: [Redacted]