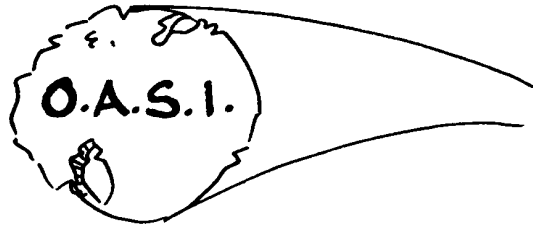


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



MAY 1988



SOCIETY NEWS

1 21st Anniversary Convention/Open Day CHANGE OF DATE

Our 21st Anniversary Open Day has been changed to Saturday JULY 16th due to the unfortunate occurrence of the school double booking the facilities we had planned to use. The programme listed in the last news letter is no longer valid, as two of the lecturers are unable to make the new date.

2 Accommodation

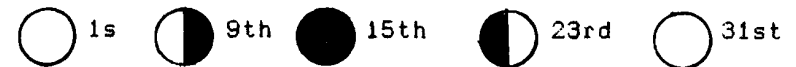
One of the lecturers booked for the Open Day has requested accommodation for himself and his wife for the Friday and Saturday nights. If any member is able to assist please contact Roy Gooding. Expenses will be paid from society funds.

NIGHT SKY

(all times G.M.T.)

SUN The sun rises between 04.30 to 03.50
The sun sets between 19.30 to 20.10

MOON



MERCURY

Mercury is well placed for observation in evening sky this month. It will be setting about 2 hours after the sun in mid month. Greatest elongation is on the 19th (22 deg.) Mag. -0.1

VENUS

Venus is well placed for observation in the early evening during the month. By the end of the month it is setting at 22.00 Mag. -4.5

Mars

Rises between 02.00 and 01.00 during the month. Mag. 0.0

JUPITER

Is in conjunction with the sun on the 2nd

SATURN

Rises between 23.30 and 21.00 during the month. Mag. 0.2.

URANUS

Rises between 23.00 and 21.00 during the month. Close to Saturn Mag. 5.9

NEPTUNE

Rises about 1/2 hour after Uranus. Mag. 7.7

Roy Gooding

SATURDAY 16 TH JULY

The following list includes all of the main items that will make up the days events.

DISPLAYS

- 1 History of Orwell Park.
- 2 History of the observatory.
- 3 History of the society.
- 4 Details of Plummers work.
- 5 Restoration of the observatory.
- 6 Society field trips.
- 7 Society observations: Variable stars, Meteors,
Graze occultations, Comets,
Deep sky photography, Others.
- 8 Solar system model.
- 9 Outside solar system model.
- 10 Measurement of the Universe.
- 11 Models: 3D Orion, E Lyra,
Earth/Moon, Foucault Pendulum
- 12 Games: Hunt the nova, Computers,
Bomb the UFO base, Others?
- 13 Telescope making.
- 14 Entrance desk.
- 15 Car parking.
- 16 Society information desk.
- 17 Lectures.
- 18 Films.
- 19 Automatic slide show.
- 20 Trade stands.
- 21 Members equipment.
- 22 Refreshments.
- 23 Club room will be closed (members equipment only)
- 24 Area for other society displays.
- 25 Observatory open all day.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Doors Open	10.30
1st Guided Tour of Observatory	
1st Film Session	11.00
Start of the continous slide show	11.00
1st LECTURE Neil Bone: Atmospheric Phenomenon	11.30 to 12.30
Lunch Break	12.00 to 14.00
2nd Film Session	13.00
2nd Guided Tour of Observatory	13.15
2ndLECTURE	14.00 to 13.00
3rd Film Session	14.00
3rd Guided Tour of Observatory	14.15
Afternoon Break	15.00 to 16.00
4th Film Session	15.00
4th Guided Tour of Observatory	15.15
3rd LECTURE	16.00 to 17.00
5th Film Session	16.00
5th Guided tour of Observatory	16.15
Tea Break	17.00 to 18.00
6th Film Session	17.00
DRAW	17.00
6th Guided Tour of Observatory	17.15
4th LECTURE ?	18.00 to 19.00
Close	20.00

Sky Camp '88 was held in Thetford Forest at the Dower House Camping & Caravan Park near East Harling from 16-24th April inclusive.

BAA WINCHESTER WEEKEND 1988

Two members of the OASI, Mike Harlow and myself (Pete Richards), attended this years British Astronomical Association annual weekend convention at, King Alfreds College, Winchester. This was the 22nd 'Winchester', an event which brings together amateur astronomers, both BAA members and non-members, from all over Britain. The course fee included meals and accomadation, in college halls, from friday afternoon until sunday afternoon. [The food was better than when I last attended, in 1982.]

The course started with a lecture on the Armaugh Planetarium's new Hi-Tech shows. The shows now employ video laser-discs and computers which transform the planetarium into a star ship, with a Hitch-Hikers-Guide-to-the-Galaxy style ships computer, in which the visitors cruise around the Universe. A demonstration of the dramatic visual effects which include real and computer generated images (still and moving) was given and during the saturday afternoon practical session we were given hands-on experience in operating the system. Particularly memorable was a sequence which takes the audience sweeping around Mars and swooping down into Olympus Mons.

John Wall, of Crayford Manor A.S., gave a lecture in which he showed how an amateur society could build large telescopes - when he says large he means big - up to (or even slightly beyond) 30 inch. After Johns lecture we were all ready to 'knock up' a little 10 or 12 inch reflector when we got home, as practice before we went for serious telescope building !

The 12th 'Alfred Curtis' Memorial Lecture, entitled "HISTORICAL TELESCOPES", was given by Dr Allan Chapman of Oxford University. Dr Chapman proved to be a really excellent speaker and the lecture was both fascinating and entertaining.

Other lectures covered meteors, planetary nebulae, clusters and how to observe and photograph them given by, respectively, Neil Bone, Owen Brazell and Bernard Abrams.

Heather Couper, Nigel Henbest, Michael Maunder and Dan Turton hot foot from the total eclipse in Malaysia described and showed slides of the event. " A tape recorder," said Heather, " is essential at a total eclipse. If you record what you say throughout totality you'll be amazed afterwards how silly you sound [being so awe struck]."

Michael Maunder told us of his close encounter with a volcano (not Olympus Mons) while on the eclipse expedition : several members of the party went to take a look at Krakatoa which had started to rumble a bit after a long quiescent period. Close to the centre of the volcano Micheal set his camara self-timer and struck up a pose with the plume of smoke in the background. About two seconds after the timer had been triggered Kracatoa ejected a large quantity of ash and rock which came showering down on top of him. He reported that his sunhat saved him from harm but he didn't say if the photo came out.

Yet again (after 1980,81,82) I was fortunate in chosing a Winchester with (mostly) clear skies and a large number of instruments, brought by attendees, were used for observing at night. The wide variety of telescopes including home-built reflectors and Celestion and Meade Schmidt-Cassigrains allowed comparisons of performance which was interesting. The Students Union bar was a major venue for discussions of observing programmes, news of other societies etc.

With all this and numerous trade stands, displays etc. and it being probably the biggest event of its kind with around 200 amateur astromers at Winchester each year it is well worth attending. [Winchester is within a few hours, by road, of Ipswich].

Next year's dates are 31st March to 2nd April and bookings can be made, early in 1989, through the assistant secretary of the BAA.

P.R. Richards.

On Saturday 16th April I packed a few essentials in the car, telescope, tent television (for cloudy nights), cans of beer plus the rest of the paraphernalia for camping with all home comforts. Once loaded I set off for Thetford, less than an hour later I had found the Dower House. As this was an Astronomical event I thought the best place to find out what was going on would be the nearest bar, which was in the Dower House. Thinking correct, I found Adrian Ashford, who was organising on behalf of the North Star Astronomical Society. After a drink he showed me where to pitch my tent. The field had a good view all round with little risk of sky pollution from any nearby towns or villages.

As with most field trips it was raining, so after getting myself organised I watched Patrick Moore and the Sky at Night about Sun Spots. As the programme finished the sun came out but before I could set up my telescope the clouds had taken over again.

Later in the evening Venus was spotted through the window of the bar so everybody downed glasses and headed for the field and telescopes. After about an hour of half decent viewing through holes in the clouds the holes disappeared so everybody gave up and went to bed hoping for a better sky the next night.

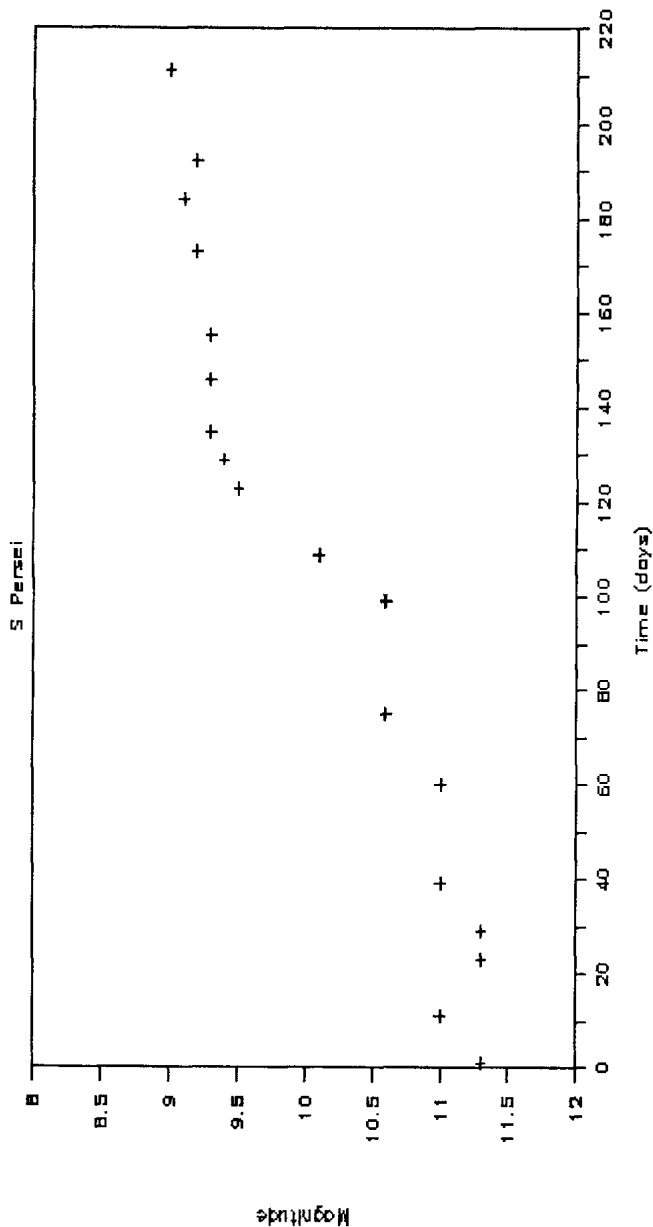
Sunday morning after breakfast I went for a wander round the camp but not having an O.S. map or compass I didn't venture too far. About 10.30am. someone else was going walking and as they were properly equipped I tagged along, not getting back till 2.00pm. After dinner more telescopes were set up so there was a selection between 3" refractors up to 12" reflectors. At about 9.00pm. Venus was seen in a clear darkening sky. Everybody out again. After about 4 hours of viewing all types of objects, including satellites, everything started to get too damp to use, including the mirrors in the telescopes so we gave up and went to bed about 1.30am.

Next morning I decided that after 2 nights of good viewing it couldn't happen agin so I packed up and loaded the car. As i finished it started to rain.

In the two days I spent at the camp about twenty people attended I think everybody there had a good time and some would like to return if another camp can be arranged for perhaps a week-end in September or October.

E.W.F. Sims.

Variable Star Observations



This light curve shows S Persei from July 1987 to March 1988. This star is a semi-regular red giant with a rather long average period of about 800 days. Here we see it on the rising portion of its cycle, probably at the maximum at the end. Magnitude 9 is quite bright for this star.

PROGRAMME FOR MAY

Mondays from 8pm

GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

Mr R Newman [redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9DY Tel. Fel. [redacted]
 9-16 Mr J King [redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ Tel. Fel. [redacted]
 23 Mr N Taylor [redacted], Trimley IP10 OXY Tel. Fel. [redacted]

Tuesdays from 8pm

GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

3-10 Mr R Newman [redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9DY Tel. Fel. [redacted]
 17-24 Mr J King [redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ Tel. Fel. [redacted]
 31

Wednesdays from 8pm

NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION / CLUB NIGHT

Mr M Cook [redacted], Ipswich IP4 5PZ Tel. [redacted]
 4-11 Mr D Payne [redacted], Wickham Market Tel. [redacted]
 18-25 IP13 OSD

Fridays from 8pm

GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION

13-27 Mr P R Richards [redacted], Ipswich IP1 2HW Tel. [redacted]
 Mr M Harlow [redacted], Trimley IP10 OXB Tel. [redacted]
 Mr R A Lobbett [redacted], Felixstowe IP11 8UJ Tel. [redacted]

On nights other than Wednesday ring directors to confirm dates.

1988 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	(Address above)	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Barnard	[redacted], Ipswich IP4 5PP	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[redacted], Ipswich IP1 6AE	Home: [redacted]
TREASURER	K Nicholls	[redacted], Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2EX	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	(Address above)	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
JOURNAL CO-ORD	E Sims	[redacted], Ipswich IP1 4HA	Home: [redacted]
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	(Address above)	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	R Newman	(Address above)	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]
SPECIAL EVENTS	N Taylor	(Address above)	Home: [redacted] Work: [redacted]