

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

NOVEMBER
1995

NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately at 07.00 to 07.34
Rises approximately at 16.28 to 16.00

MOON 
7th


15th


22nd


29th

MERCURY Mercury will be at superior conjunction on the 23rd. It will be very difficult to observe this month.

VENUS Venus begins to move into darker skies in the evening sky. It will be setting about 1½ hours after the sun by the end of the month.

MARS Mars remains very low down in the evening sky, setting about an hour after sunset.

JUPITER Jupiter is also very low down in the evening sky, setting less than an hour after the sun by the end of the month.

SATURN Saturn is presently in Aquarius, and will be at setting at about 0000 by the end of the month. Mag. 0.9

URANUS Uranus will be setting at about 19.00 by the end of the month. Mag. 5.7

NEPTUNE Neptune will be setting at about the same time as Uranus. Mag. 7.9

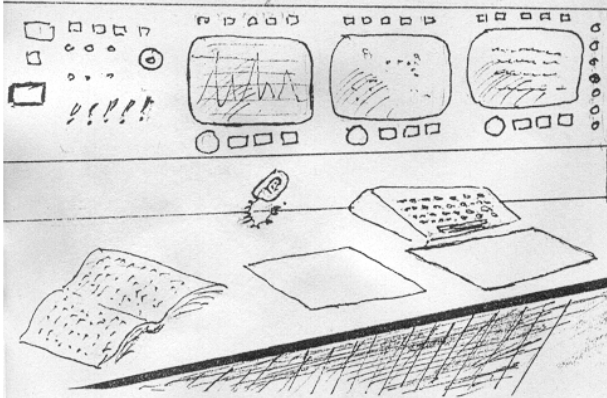
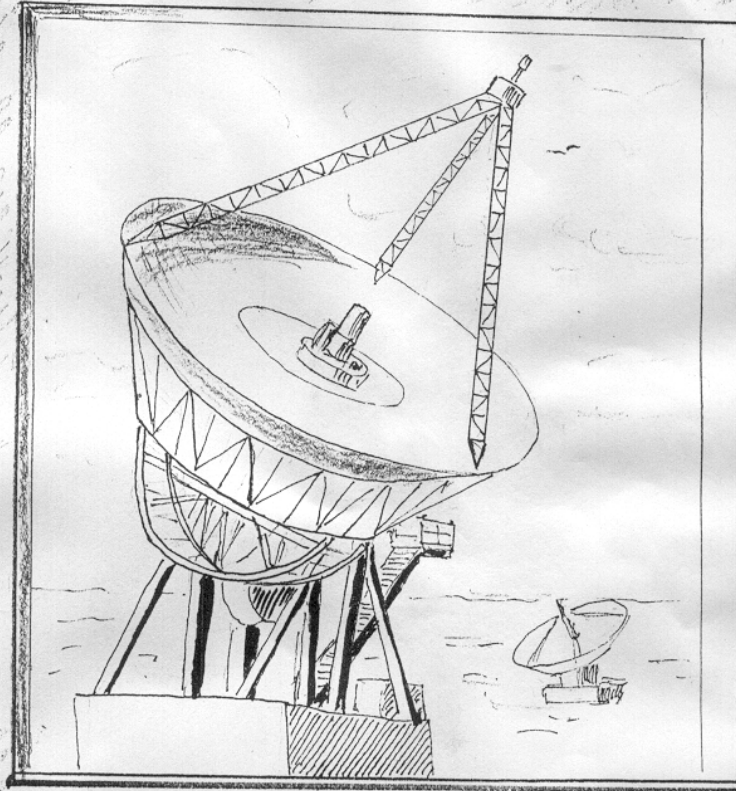
SOCIETY NEWS

R. Gooding

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NEW CAR PARKING FOR 1995

The society has been asked by the school to change our present car parking arrangements. Will all members and visitors please now park around the grass island in front of the school and not near the school kitchens



SOMEONE OUT THERE WANTS TWO CHICKEN KASHMIRI WITH POPPADOMS BY EIGHT O'CLOCK

2 Christmas Meal Wednesday 13th December

There are still a few places left for the Christmas meal. Any one interested in attending, please contact Roy Gooding. A £5 deposit will be required to book a place, as soon as possible.

3 Return of Unused Observatory Keys

If any member has a set of observatory keys and no longer needs to use them, could you please return them to Roy Gooding. The keys will be reissued to members who have expressed an interest in starting new evening meetings. A set of keys costs the society about £12.00, and there are over 15 sets of observatory keys.

Committee News

This is a new addition to the Society News. At the last committee meeting (14-10-95) it was decided to include a summary of a few of the items discussed each meeting. Committee meetings are usually held about six times a year at the observatory. These are open to any member who wishes to attend.

i Final arrangements for the Open Weekend were finalised, this included publicity and a rota for each evening.

ii Pete Richards has been co-ordinating our contribution towards the CfDS (Campaign for Dark Skies).

Roy Adams will write to Suffolk Coastal District Council on lighting matters. Pete Richards commented on the improved lighting at Sainbury's, and stated that he would write commenting on this. The new Star Watch UK sheets will be made available to any interested visitors during the open weekend.

ii It was decided to increase subscriptions for 1996 to:

Junior	£8.00
Adult	£12.00
Family	£14.00

This is the first increase for two years.

iv Other regular topics discussed each meeting include:-

Matters Arising.	
Treasures Report.	
Membership Report (now at 55 paid and 3 honorary)	
Maintenance.	
Newsletter.	Visits
Events	Any Other Business

OCCULTATION DURING NOVEMBER 1995

The table lists disappearance times of stars of magnitude 7.5 or brighter which are occulted during the month. Only events taking place under favourable circumstances are listed. The data relates to Orwell Park Observatory, and timings, etc. will differ slightly for nearby locations.

Date	Time (UT)	Mag	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Star
Thu 09 Nov	03:51:47	3.8	0.97-	-29	43	ZC648 Delta Tau
Thu 30 Nov	21:55:11	5.7	0.67+	-53	28	ZC3508, 21 Psc

James Appleton

Concerned about light pollution? Able to write?

If the answers to both these questions is yes, you should be writing now to the Millennium Commission and to the Bishop of your diocese. The Millennium Commission is considering a project to instal floodlights for vast numbers of churches across the country to celebrate the millennium. These lights will not be turned off after New Year's Day 2000 (or 2001). There is a strong lobby group in support of the project, namely floodlight manufacturers hoping to sell huge amounts of lighting equipment. The Campaign For Dark Skies is asking all amateur astronomers to write (as individuals - not societies) to the Millennium Commission and to their Bishops to object to the scheme. It is hoped that the scheme will be either rejected or significantly scaled down with well designed lighting (well shielded and making the most out of the minimum light, rather than crude floodlights). The addresses to write to are:

The Millennium Commission,
2 Little Smith Street,
LONDON,
SW

The Right Reverend John Dennis MA,
The Bishop of Ipswich and St. Edmundsbury,
Bishop's House,
4 Park Road,
Ipswich,
IP1 3ST

The Bishop of Colchester,
1 Fitzwalter Road,
Colchester [Check with the local library for the full address]

Some of the points I made in my letter to the Bishop are:

“There is clearly a financial issue here, in that the money to install these lights and to keep them running could be better spent; the renovation and repair of our historic churches would be a better use of this money...”

“ My primary concern is the environmental harm that would result...” For example:

- Global Warming and other pollution effects due to the wasted energy;
- The threat to an ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’, the night sky (which is a concern to everyone, not just astronomers) posed by skyglow.

Other points that could be mentioned are:

- The educational value of astronomy (children who are particularly fascinated by space related things);
- The fact that wildlife can be adversely affected by light pollution;
- The fact that a starlit night sky is a better backdrop to a rural scene than urbanising sky glow.

More information on the issue of light pollution is available at the observatory or from the BAA. The address for the latter is:

The British Astronomical Association,
Campaign for Dark Skies,
Burlington House,
Piccadilly,
London, W1V 9AG.

If you are really in the swing of writing, why not write to your local councils (particularly the Lighting Engineers) on the general subject of light pollution.

OASI Lecture Meetings

A short series of lecture meetings is being planned for the New Year / Spring. As usual the meetings will be held in a venue in Ipswich (to be announced). If anyone has any requests for particular subjects or speakers for these or future lectures, please pass these on to the committee. Our short lecture series normally comprise three events, but if they are well supported it may be possible to increase the number in future.

Some Forthcoming Astronomy Events

The London Astronomy Show '95 is at the Horticultural Halls, London SW1 on November 4th and 5th. Admission is £4 (with family tickets at £10 for up to 2 adults and 2 children). The events include many top guest speakers, hands on practical exhibits, Internet/World-Wide-Web demonstrations, trade stands, etc. More information is available by phoning 01829 770884; a number of posters with more information are available at the observatory.

The University of East Anglia is running a number of Day Schools in 95/96. Two which are related to astronomy are: ‘From Quarks to Quasars’ on Saturday 4th November; and ‘Observational Astronomy’ (this is an introductory course) on Saturday 3rd February. Both courses will be held at Wensum Lodge, Norwich. Brochures listing further details on these day schools and others (on different subjects) to be held in Norfolk and East Suffolk are available at the observatory or by phoning the UEA on 01603 593497.

Star Watch Uk

This November issue of the OASI news letter has enclosed a leaflet called Star Watch UK. This is a new initiative to measure and quantify the levels of light pollution throughout the UK. The project is a collaboration between many national organisations with an interest in protecting the dark sky (these are listed in the leaflet) and is being co-ordinated by the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

The aim is to use members of the public and particularly astronomers to perform observations from their local observing sites. The observations are in two parts one visual the other photographic. The OASI is encouraging all its members to participate in at least the visual part and if possible also the photographic part. This latter part can lead to the best quantifiable data, with minimal subjective judgement, of the local sky conditions at your observing site.

All the instructions are explained in the leaflet. Please feel free to photocopy and pass the leaflet on to anyone you think may be interested. It is worth taking several copies of the report form for recording observations over several nights. Also if you do manage to perform the photographic observations please carry out the visual observation at about the same time to allow some correlation between the two sets of data.

If you do require more forms and have problems obtaining photo-copies please contact one of the OASI committee members.

David Payne

T	I	T	A	N	I	A	K	O	U	M	B	R	I	E	L
B	F	E	G	J	H	R	N	P	S	X	E	L	Z	B	D
E	J	C	D	E	I	I	M	L	R	Y	L	T	A	C	A
K	A	L	M	B	P	E	O	N	Q	A	I	U	I	B	D
A	E	I	T	E	I	L	U	J	F	G	N	H	L	V	W
I	M	J	L	L	K	A	N	O	M	P	D	Q	E	V	R
U	X	L	Y	E	A	Z	N	P	X	W	A	U	H	T	A
C	W	M	E	D	H	B	F	C	O	M	T	Z	P	S	I
O	B	C	Q	A	Z	P	O	Q	A	A	S	P	R	U	T
B	M	R	P	B	R	E	R	T	V	N	A	G	O	I	R
E	N	E	Y	Z	N	F	Y	O	B	O	F	B	N	W	O
R	O	S	I	L	A	N	D	N	P	M	E	U	M	H	P
O	M	S	Z	R	D	Y	H	Z	U	E	O	B	V	C	W
N	O	I	N	I	C	Z	C	A	J	D	J	K	R	N	X
H	P	D	K	P	B	M	X	Q	Y	S	P	T	C	M	A
Z	N	A	C	X	T	C	O	R	D	E	L	I	A	U	W
A	D	N	A	R	I	M	R	K	T	D	N	L	S	M	P

ARIEL CORDELIA MIRANDA PORTIA TITANIA
 BELINDA DESDEMONA OBERON PUCK UMBRIEL
 BIANCA JULIET ORPHELIA ROSILAND

NEW LIBRARY BOOK

The OASI library has recently acquired the book *The Great Comet Crash*, edited by J.R.Spencer and J.Mitton. The book gives a very comprehensive account of the impact of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter in July 1994, including many colour photographs taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and other large instruments.

Please contact me with any requests for purchase of other books for the library.

James Appleton

PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER

Mondays from 7.30pm No Directors available for this night	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION
Tuesdays from 7.30pm Mr D Barnard	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION daytime only
Wednesdays from 7.45pm Mr M Cook	NEBULA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION Mr D Payne
Thursdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
Fridays from 7.30pm 10th 24th Mr J Hood	DOUBLE STARS Mr M Barritt

All members are welcome to come but, on nights other than Wednesdays please check with the director of the night that the observatory will be open.

Lectures and other events:

Next Committee Meeting Wednesday 6th December in the club room.

e-mail enquires to oasieng@btbcs.bt.co.uk
 WWW url <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk:80/~ipswich/>

1995 COMMITTEE		Home Phone	Work Phone
CHAIRMAN	D Payne		
SECRETARY	R Gooding		
TREASURER	M Nicholls		
MAINTENANCE CO-ORD	M Cook		
JOURNAL CO-ORDINATOR	E Sims		
PUBLICITY & VISIT CO-ORD	P Richards		
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	M Harlow		
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	M Andrews		
LIBRARIAN & COMP SOFTWARE	J Appleton		
JOURNAL ARTICLES TO	E Sims		Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	R Gooding		OASI Secretary Ipswich Suffolk IP1 6AE