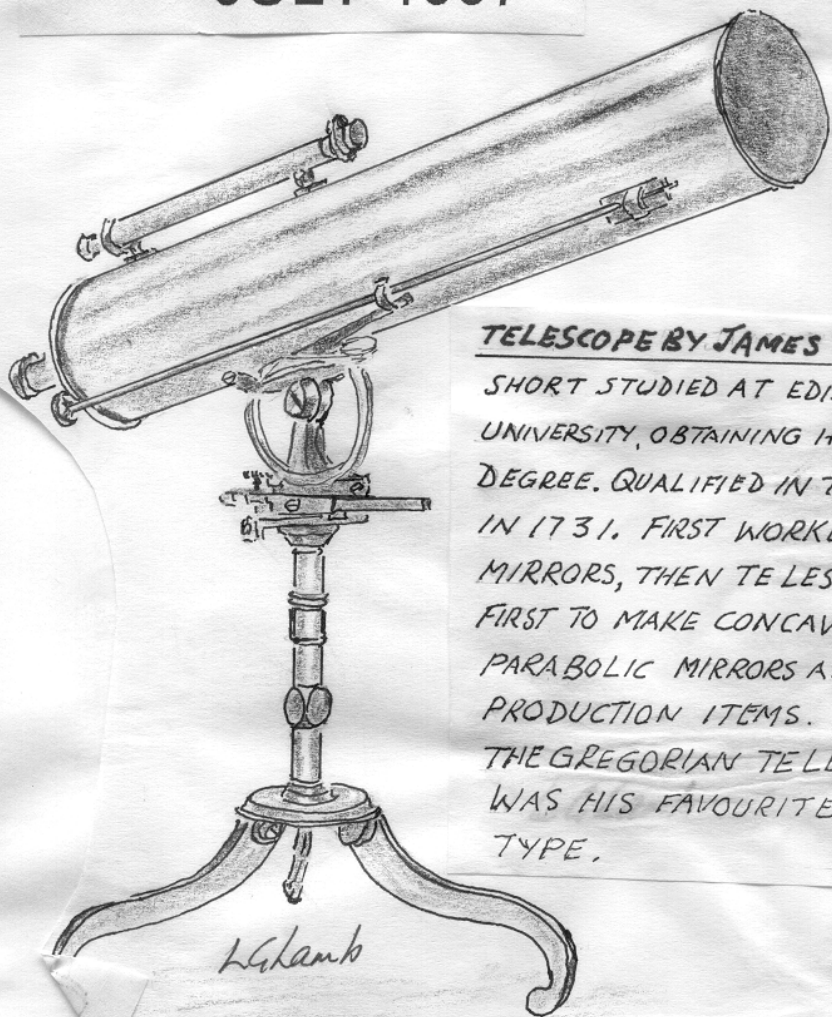


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

JULY 1997



TELESCOPE BY JAMES SHORT.
 SHORT STUDIED AT EDINBURGH
 UNIVERSITY, OBTAINING HIS M.A.
 DEGREE. QUALIFIED IN THEOLOGY
 IN 1731. FIRST WORKED ON
 MIRRORS, THEN TELESCOPES.
 FIRST TO MAKE CONCAVE
 PARABOLIC MIRRORS AS
 PRODUCTION ITEMS.
 THE GREGORIAN TELESCOPE
 WAS HIS FAVOURITE
 TYPE.

NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately between 03:40 to 04:10
 Sets approximately between 20:20 to 20:00

Moon

New Moon 4th
 First Quarter 12th
 Full Moon 20th
 Third Quarter 26th

MERCURY Mercury moves back into the evening sky this month. It will be difficult to see the planet this month because of the long twilight

VENUS Venus will be well placed in the western sky after sunset. Venus will be setting about an hour after sunset in mid month. Mag. -3.8

MARS Mars will be visible after sunset towards the SW. In mid month it will be setting at about 23:00. Mag. +0.3

JUPITER Jupiter will be rising at about 21:00 in the first week of the month. Mag. -2.8

SATURN Saturn will be rising at about 23:30 in mid month. Mag. 0.6

URANUS Uranus will be at opposition on the 21st. Mag. 5.7.

Neptune Neptune will be at opposition on the 29th. Mag. 7.8

OCCULTATIONS DURING JULY 1997

Only one stellar occultation disappearance event occurs during the month under favourable circumstances. Details are given below for the location of Orwell Park Observatory, but will be similar at nearby locations.

| Date & Time (UT) | Lunar Phase | Sun Alt (°) | Star Alt (°) | Min Dist rad | Star | Mag |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 18 Jul 22:20 | .98+ | -14 | 18 | .42S | 89 G. Sgr / V3879 Sgr | 6.0 |

James Appleton

SOCIETY NEWS

Field trips Excursions Open days Maintenance

1 Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 20th September at the observatory, from 19:30. This will be an open meeting and any member is welcome to attend.

2 Events for 1997

Summer excursion No date fixed as yet
Astro Camp 3rd to 17th Aug.

BAA Out of London meeting 12th, 13th, 14th Sept.

This year it is being held in Norwich at the University of East Anglia. As this event is being held over 3 days and tickets will need to be purchased. Please contact Roy Gooding if wish to purchase any tickets.

Registration £3.50

Meal vouchers £6.50

Lecture by Patrick Moore & John Mason £4.00 (13-9-97) in the evening. No start time given at present

FAS Cambridge Convention 4th Oct.
Christmas Meal 10th Dec.

3 Summer Excursion

A possible society excursion trip could be to the science Park at Herstmonceux. If enough members were interested, together with their families and friends it may be possible to hire a bus. Please let me have your opinions about this.

4 New Evening Directories Required.

At present the observatory has only one regular meeting evening, on Wednesdays. If you would like to be trained to operate the observatory and would like to run an additional evening, please contact any committee member.

5 Old Photographs

If any one has any old photographs showing any of the following, could they please contact Roy Gooding.

I am looking for a good selection of pictures to illustrate a booklet I have started for the society's 30th anniversary. The photographs will be digitised. This will do no harm to the pictures. They will only be scanned into a computer.

Committee Meeting Summary

The last committee meeting was held on Saturday 21st June. Points of note include:

- i) A second Open Weekend will not be held this year.
- ii) The long anticipated inspection of the dome internal framework and a possible repair strategy has now begun. If the repair work is started, the observatory will not be operational during the coming summer months. This will not affect normal meetings
- iii) A few members are interested in forming a Radio Astronomy section.
- iv) An afternoon/evening Barbecue will be arranged later in the summer, once a suitable day and venue has been chosen.

Promote the Facts

Some people say...

"You can't have too much light"

Glare, energy waste, environmental damage, and the wasting of taxpayers' money are the result of overlighting and poor lighting policy.

"But astronomers are in the minority"

Everybody should have the right to see the stars, an important part of our total environment and culture. Astronomy is now taught in our schools as part of the National Curriculum and as a separate GCSE subject. Young people should be able to undertake projects work and appreciate the wonder of the Universe at first hand. The BAA Campaign for Dark Skies is NOT just for the benefit of astronomers.

"We can't get rid of all the street lights"

Of course not! Astronomers have the same lighting needs as everyone else. We all need good quality, well-directed street and amenity lighting which serves the needs of the community, saves money and preserves the darkness of the night sky for our descendants. Everybody wins.

"More Light Less Crime."

There is little hard evidence of this. Crime rates have soared as street lighting and security lamps have proliferated. Interviews with 300 burglars (ref. Home Office Crime Prevention Unit. Papers 28 and 29) indicated that lack of occupants and risk-taking were the greatest stimuli to commit a crime, while the absence or presence of light was unimportant. Bright, poorly positioned, misdirected lights may well assist wrongdoers by creating deeply shadowed areas and glare which dazzles passers by. Fear of crime may well be reduced by exterior lighting. For astronomers, good security lights are well-aimed, shine only downwards and are passive, infra-red sensor-triggered fixtures (retaining an element of surprise to deter would-be intruders).

"I have never really looked at the stars. You can't see much from the town. What you've never seen you do not miss, so why bother?"

Most of us have never seen a whale, and have no urgent desire to go and find one. Does this mean that such beautiful creatures should therefore be exterminated? Everybody has the right to experience the night sky. The Universe is in a very real sense part of our natural heritage, involving the origin and destiny of the Earth and everything on it. Important inroads have already been made in tackling the problem of light pollution. Government departments, local, town and county councils, lighting designers, manufacturers, engineers and architects are at last beginning to see the importance of, and need for, quality lighting. **If all those who value the night sky can work together, our children and grand-children will never have to ask us...WHAT WERE THE STARS**

Preventing Light Pollution The Four Point Plan

Campaign for Dark Skies

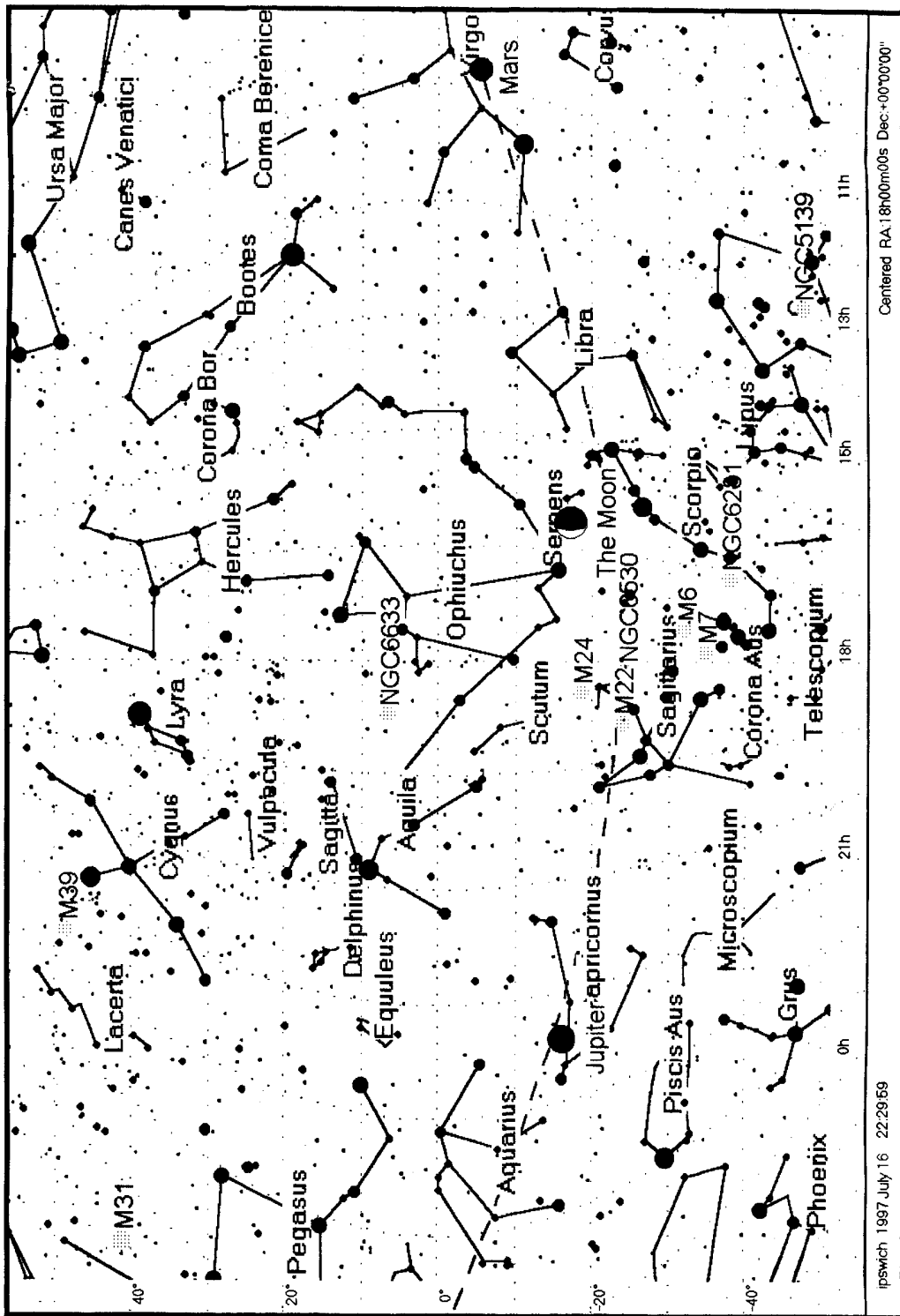
Since urban sky glow (light pollution) arises from a combination of artificial light emitted directly into the sky from light fittings and light reflected up into the sky from buildings and the ground, the BAA Campaign for Dark Skies currently recommends that...

- 1) Wherever possible lights should be installed in full cut-off or ultra low-profile housings to prevent the emission of light above the horizontal.
- 2) Although astronomers prefer the light emitted by low pressure sodium lamps (as this can be filtered out), mindful of the fact that low pressure sodium lamps in full cut-off or ultra low-profile housings are not, at present, easily available in the UK, high pressure sodium lamps are acceptable provided there is negligible spill above the horizontal.
- 3) 'Overlighting' must be avoided. Using only the correct amount of light for the task in hand, according to accepted standards, will reduce the amount of reflected light contributing to sky glow.
- 4) Unnecessary night-time lighting, particularly decorative floodlighting, merchandising and advertising lighting and sports floodlighting, should be switched off at 11pm or midnight to reduce the total sky glow in the early morning, pre-dawn hours.

In the future, as low pressure sodium lamps in full cut-off housings become more widely available in the UK - there are already several companies in the USA and mainland Europe manufacturing them - the BAA Campaign for Dark Skies will be recommending use of these fittings in preference to the equivalent high pressure sodium lamps, since any light which does subsequently get up into the sky may be filtered out.

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- For more information and advice about ways of reducing light pollution and the **British Astronomical Association Campaign for Dark Skies**, write to...
 - The Coordinator, CfDS. Bob Mizon. [REDACTED], Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2PX.
 - Bob Cheek, [REDACTED], Lowestoft NR32 3AB.
 - Our see the WWW page at <http://www.u-net.com/ph/cfds/>





Centered RA:18h00m00s Dec:+00°00'00"

Ipswich 1997 July 16 22:29:59

PROGRAMME FOR JULY

| | |
|---|---|
| Mondays from 7.30pm <i>No Directors available for this night</i> | GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION |
| Tuesdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards | OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS |
| Wednesdays from 8.00pm 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 3rd - 17th - 31st Mr J Hood | DOUBLE STARS |

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

Lectures and other events:

Committee Meeting -----On Saturday 20th September at 7.30pm in the club room at the observatory. All members are welcome to attend.

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

| 1997 COMMITTEE | | Home Phone | Work Phone |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN | D Payne | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| SECRETARY | R Gooding | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| TREASURER | M Nicholls | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| MAINTENANCE CO-ORD | M Cook | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| JOURNAL CO-ORDINATOR | E Sims | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| PUBLICITY & VISIT CO-ORD | P Richards | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| EQUIPMENT CURATOR | M Harlow | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD | J Appleton | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| LIBRARIAN & COMP SOFTWARE | E Sims | [REDACTED] | Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA |
| JOURNAL ARTICLES TO | R Gooding | [REDACTED] | OASI Secretary |
| CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Ipswich Suffolk IP1 6AE |
| MEMBERSHIP | M. Cook | [REDACTED] | Ipswich IP4 5PZ |