

# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

## SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

### DECEMBER 1997

## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1 Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 29th November at the observatory, from 19:30. This will be an open meeting and any member is welcome to attend.

### 2 Events for 1997

The last planned event of the year, is the annual Christmas meal. At the time of writing, there are still a few places left. The venue this year is at the Westerfield Swann. The meal is booked for 20:30 on Wednesday 10th December. We will be meeting there around 20:00.

1998 AGM      Saturday 17th January      20:00

The 1998 AGM will be held in the room at the rear of the school library. All members are welcome. If you are not sure where to meet, please wait in the observatory club room, till someone shows you the way.

## NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

### SUN

Rises approximately between 07:50 to 08:10  
Sets approximately between 16:00 to 15:50

### Moon

First Quarter	7th
Full Moon	14th
Third Quarter	21th
New Moon	29th

MERCURY Mercury reaches inferior conjunction on the 17th. It may be visible in the predawn sky at the end of the month. Mag. +0.3

Happy Christmas  
to all Star gazers!



VENUS Venus will reach its brightest on the 11th, when it will be at Mag. -4.6. Venus will be setting about 3 hours after the sun in mid month.

MARS Mars will be visible for a short time after sunset, in the southwestern sky. It will be setting about 2 hours after the sun in mid month. Mag 1.2.

JUPITER Jupiter will be setting at about 20:00 by the end of the month. Mag. -2.1.

SATURN Saturn is also well placed for observing this month, setting at about 01:00 in mid month. Mag. 0.6.

URANUS Uranus will be setting by 18:30 at the end of the month. Mag. 5.7

Neptune Neptune will be setting at about 18:00 in mid month. Mag. 7.9

Meteor Shows this Month

Geminid: Max Dec. 13th ZHR 100  
 Ursids: Max Dec. 23rd ZHR 10

*R. Gooding*

#### Geminid meteor shower - December

I looked for the Geminid meteor shower for the first time in 1996 and despite the cold I was pleased to be rewarded by an excellent display. A cometary nucleus discovered by IRAS (the Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite) in 1983 is believed to be the source of the particles which create this shower. The meteors are medium speed and many are quite bright. The shower officially runs from December 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> with a peak at 22:00 hours (10pm) on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately Moonlight interferes with viewing of the Geminids in 1997, but the shower produces a good number of bright meteors so it should be worth observing.

Pete Richards.

MAP INSIDE BACK PAGE

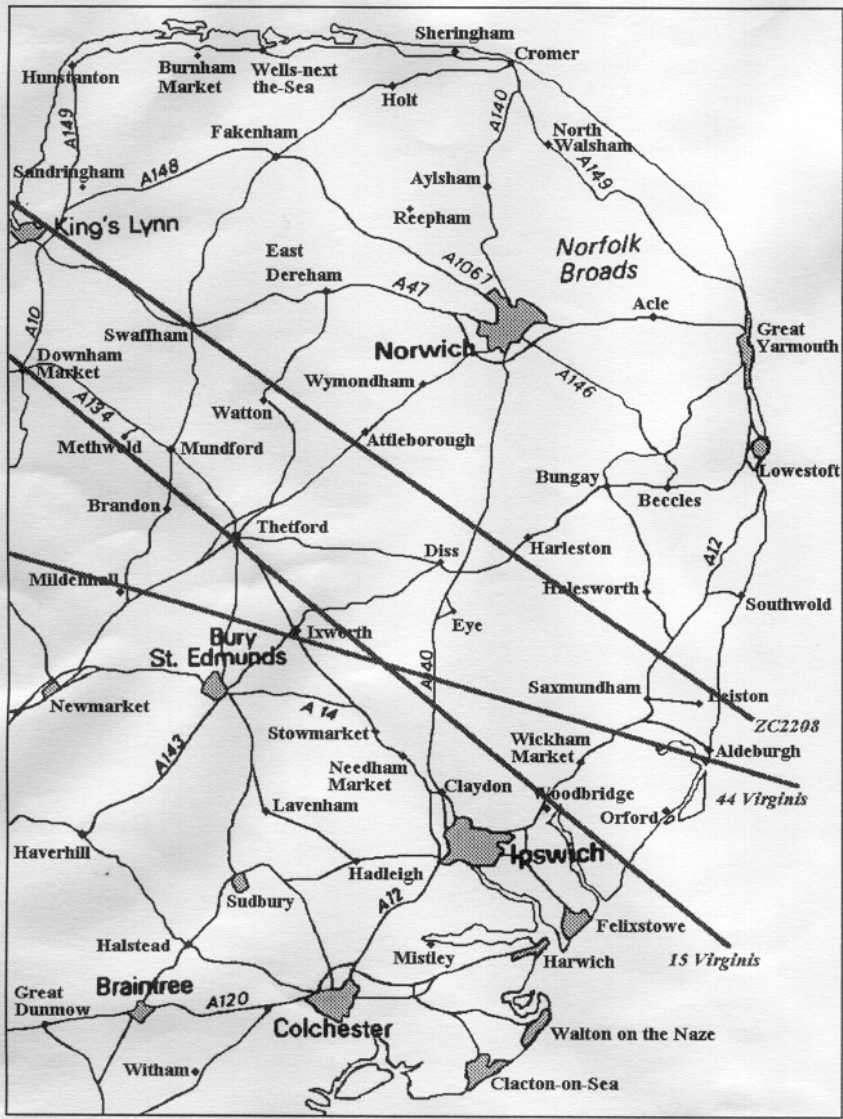
## OCCULTATIONS DURING DECEMBER 1997

The table lists stellar occultation events which occur during the month under favourable circumstances. The data relates to Orwell Park Observatory, but will be similar at nearby locations.

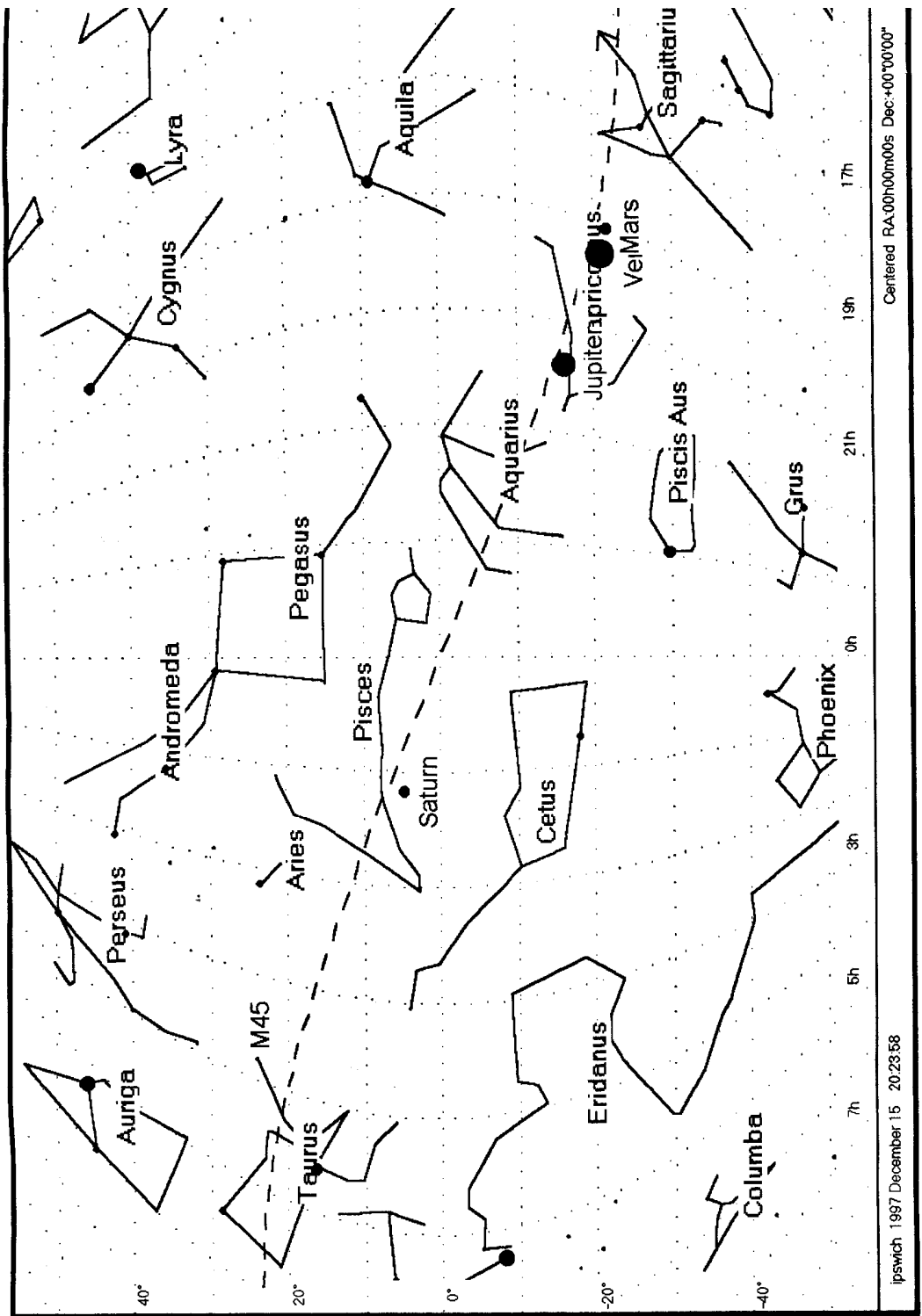
	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Min Dist rad	Star	Mag
D	06 Dec 20:27	.45+	-42	19	.20S	213 B. Aqr	6.8
D	07 Dec 18:03	.55+	-20	33	.10S	SAO146774	7.0
D	08 Dec 17:17	.66+	-13	33	.28S	10 Cet	6.4
D	09 Dec 18:10	.77+	-21	37	.08S	242 B. Psc	7.0
D	09 Dec 21:13	.78+	-49	41	.33N	95 Psc	7.3
D	12 Dec 22:05	.98+	-55	53	.77S	gamma Tau	3.9
R	22:53		-59	54			

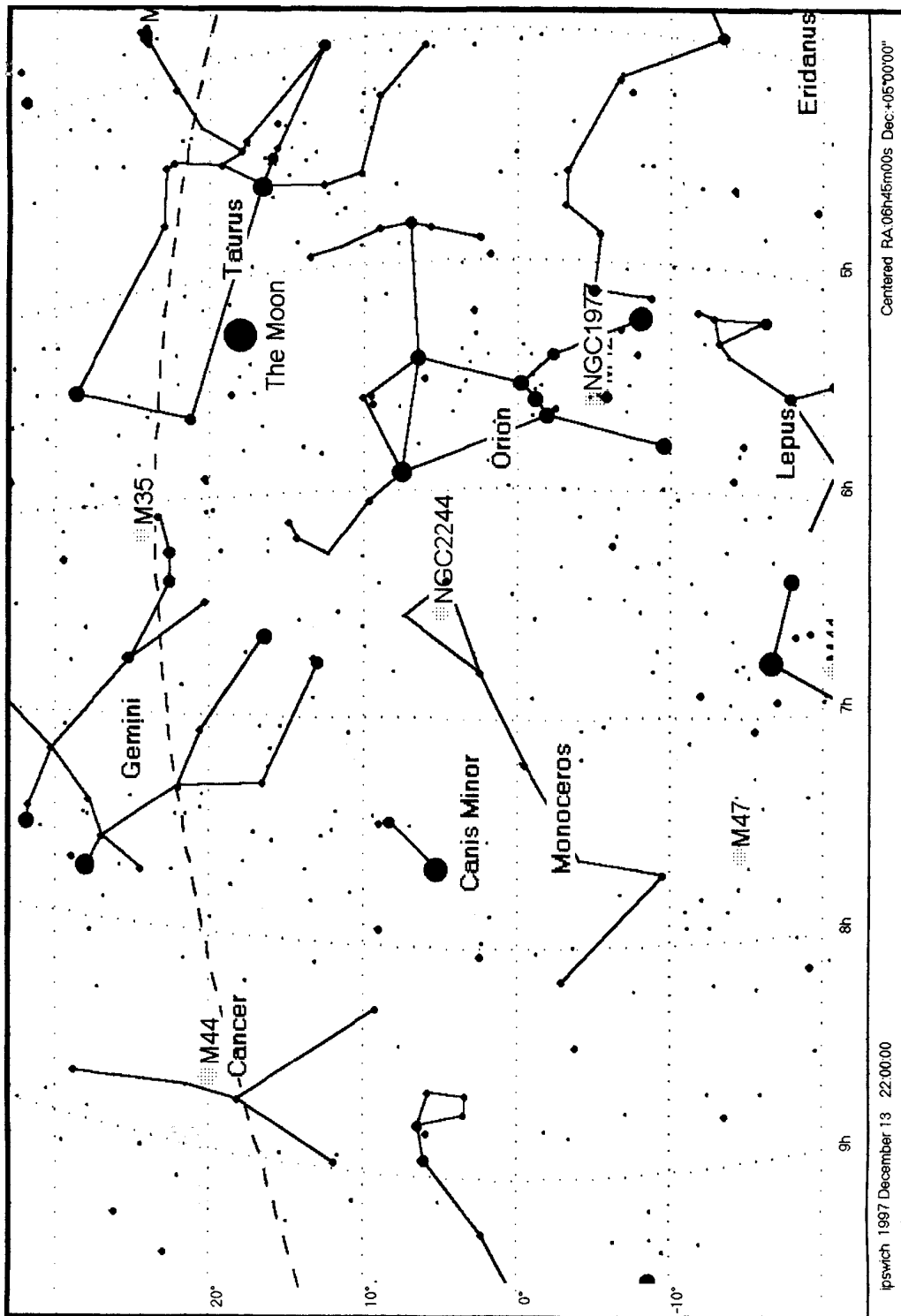
There are three grazing occultations during the month. The table summarises the circumstances, while the figure shows the graze paths. More detailed maps of the graze paths will be prepared if it is decided to mount observing trips.

Date	Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Star Azi (°)	Limb	Star	Mag
22 Dec	07:00	0.46-	-9	36	195	N	15 Vir, eta Vir (double)	3.9
23 Dec	03:00	0.39-	-45	16	119	N	44 Vir, k Vir (double)	5.9
26 Dec	06:30	0.13-	-14	15	141	S	ZC2208	7.4



James Appleton





## PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER

Mondays from 7.30pm <i>No Director for this night</i>	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION
Tuesdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards [REDACTED]	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
Wednesdays from 8.00pm Mr M Cook [REDACTED]	NEBULA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION Mr D Payne [REDACTED]
Thursdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards [REDACTED]	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
Fridays from 7.30pm 5th - 19th Mr J Hood [REDACTED]	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:

### Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M is to be held on Saturday 17th of January at 8.00pm in the room behind the school library. All members are welcome to attend.

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### 1997 COMMITTEE

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