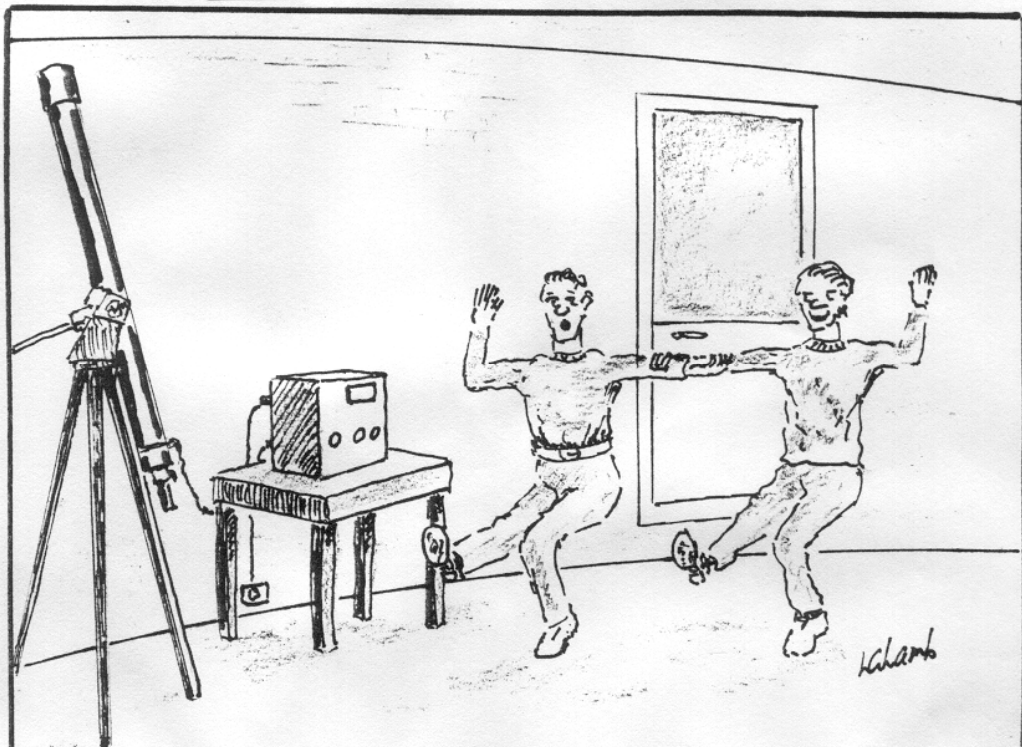


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

FEBRUARY 1998



RADIO TELESCOPE AT THE OBSERVATORY!

AN EXPERIMENT IN RADIO ASTRONOMY, USING THE FOUR INCH REFRACTOR AS AN AERIAL, RESULTED IN EXCELLENT RECEPTION OF RUSSIAN POP MUSIC - A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

SOCIETY NEWS

1 Next Committee Meeting 28th February

The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 28th February, with a 19:30 start. This is an open meeting and any interest member is invited to come along.

2 1998 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1998 will be due from 1st of January, for members who have not already paid. The rates for 1998 have been kept at the 1997 prices

The rates for the new year will be:-

Junior & OAP	£8.00
Adult	£12.00
Family	£14.00

A renewal form is included with the January newsletter. It would be appreciated if you could return this so that the society

membership records can kept up to date.

Please make cheques & P.O.'s payable to the ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH).

Please return all subscriptions to

Martin Cook

Ipswich
IP4 5PZ

AGM Notes

The AGM was held on Saturday 17th January. The following is a summary from the meeting.

1 Annual reports were received from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees and maintenance

2 The committee for 1998 is:

Dave Payne
Roy Gooding
Martin Cook
Pete Richards

Mike Harlow
James Appleton
Eric Sims
Joe Walsh

Mike Nicholls has asked to stand down as Society Treasurer. However he will only relinquish the job once a replacement has been found.

3 Events for 1998

Astro Fest	30-1-98
BAA Comet Section Meeting Cambridge	14-2-98
BAA Winchester Weekend	3-4-98
Summer Excursion ?	Date to be fixed
Summer barbecue	Date to be fixed
BAA Exhibition Meeting	27-6-98
Astro Camp	16-8-98
Horncastle Weekend	11-9-98
FAS Cambridge Meeting	3-10-98
Open Weekend	October / November Date to be fixed
Christmas Meal	9-12-98

Lecture Meetings These are being arranged

3 Subscriptions

Society subscriptions have not been increased for two years. They will probably be increased for 1999. Any increase will not be decided until nearer the end of the year.

4 Group Visits

The method of arranging group visits has been changed. All future visits will be asked to submit their request in writing. A minimum of 12 group visiting dates will be decided upon and hosts assigned. Groups will be given a date on a first come basis.

NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately at 07.33 to 06.55
Sets approximately at 16.57 to 17.33

MOON

First quarter	3th	Full moon	11th
Last quarter	15th		
New moon	26th		

MERCURY Mercury will be at superior conjunction on the 22nd

VENUS Venus will be visible in the morning sky. It will be rising at 05:00 in mid month. Mag -4.6

MARS Mars will be visible in the early evening. It will be setting at about 19:00 all month. Mag. 1.2

JUPITER Jupiter will be in conjunction with the sun on the 23rd.

SATURN Saturn will be an evening object this month. It will be setting at about 21:50 in mid month. Mag 0.7

URANUS Uranus will be visible in the morning sky this month, but it will be too close to the sun to be seen well.

NEPTUNE Neptune moves back in to the morning sky this month. As with Uranus, it will be too close to the sun in the sky to be well seen.

R. Gooding

OCCULTATIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1998

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

D or R	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (d)	Star Alt (d)	Min Dist (r)	Star	Mag
D	05 Feb 18:57	.70+	-20	53	.81S	89 Tau	5.8
D	07 Feb 02:02	.81+	-47	19	.15N	130 Tau	5.5
D	08 Feb 02:10	.89+	-46	25	.66S	26 Gem	5.1
D	08 Feb 23:25	.94+	-52	52	.39S	SAO 96985	5.6
D	19 Feb 02:46	.55-	-38	14	.07N	gamma Lib	4.0
R	04:03		-28	20			

James Appleton

LIBRARY JOURNALS

I am reviewing the journals which the OASI library takes. At present, the library subscribes to the following:

- The Astronomer* monthly magazine and early warning circulars. Bias towards serious observational astronomers. UK publisher.
- Sky & Telescope* monthly general interest magazine. American publisher.
- Astronomy* monthly general interest magazine. American publisher.
- Astronomy Now* monthly general interest magazine. UK publisher.
- Popular Astronomy* quarterly journal of the Society for Popular Astronomy (SPA). General interest magazine. UK publisher.
- Journal of the BAA* bi-monthly journal of the BAA (British Astronomical Association). Aimed at the serious amateur astronomer.

Current journals are stored in the magazines rack in the club room at the Orwell Park observatory. Current journals may not be removed from the observatory. Once a journal becomes 2-3 months old, it is moved into long term storage in the filing cabinets at the foot of the observatory stairwell. All members of OASI are welcome to borrow any journals from long term storage. (Sign them out and in using the library log book in the same way as library books.)

If any members would like the society to subscribe to any other publications, please let me (or any other member of the committee) know.

James Appleton

HELP WANTED

Mr John Hood is looking for somebody to help run his evenings at the observatory. All we need is somebody to assist with the opening up of the dome just two nights a month. Any training needed will be given but there is very little to it. John likes to study double stars but with astronomy, any thing else that is of interest at any time will also be looked at.

I would also like to bring it to the attention of all members that other nights are available for any member to run a night. If you are interested in helping John his phone number is on the back of the journal.

If you are interested in running your own night then please contact any member of the committee.

E Sims

VISIT TO THE HOME OF THE FATHER OF MODERN BRITISH AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

by

Nigel Gage

June 14th 1979

Much is being said at the moment about the Grand World Tour of the great man Mr. Patrick Moore OBE, CBE, F.R.A.S. As you will no doubt remember he gave a stimulating lecture in Ipswich recently, but what you may not realise this was not his first visit to Ipswich to lecture us about his favourite subject 'SPACE'. The first time we were able to bask in his ample enthusiasm was in the Mid 1970's at Copleston School, where, he lectured to a ebullient paying audience in the packed school hall.

Afterwards, he answered individual questions and signed autographs for the large number of interested members of the O.A.S.I. and the general public. Upon the completion of his lecture certain of the our Society members accompanied Patrick to a local restaurant he a good repast was had by one and all, at this time mention was made of the fact that many Amateur Astronomers had made the 'pilgrimage' to Patrick's home in Selsey near Chichester and that he greets each and everyone of the visiting 'fans' with a great deal of pleasure and would obviously welcome anyone from O.A.S.I. to his humble abode.

A few years later I found my self in his home village (I was on a family holiday with my Wife and young child and her parents at the local Pontins holiday camp) and remembering his invitation to our society member I decided to take advantage of his promise and proceeded to contact his home by phone. I must say it was a lot easier that I thought it would have been, his number was in the local telephone directory. After several telephone call only to contact Patrick's ansaphone, I finally took the plunge and knocked on his door, and with the help of his housekeeper 'Woody' to return later that same evening when she was sure that Patrick would welcome me.

Upon my arrival I was met at the door by Patrick himself and after brief introductions I was ushered into his study, which I instantly recognised from the 'Sky at Night' programmes. This was the room in which a few short months previous to this date Patrick had hosted a program alongside a certain Mr. Michael Bentine, whom just happened to be another of my all time heroes, so as you can imagine dear reader at his time I was in seventh heaven, after a short conversation, in which we discussed the merits of Refracting telescopes as opposed to Reflecting telescopes, which, with my limited knowledge at that time of reflectors was rather one sided but I put forward a good argument in favour of our own 10" Refracting telescope here at Orwell Park.

We then ventured outside to inspect his own magnificent telescopes and observing sites which were dotted around his garden. The first of all was the 15" reflector which was housed inside a home-made observatory which had been constructed by a local blacksmith. The operation of this dome was by hand after the methods (even to this day) for which we have contrived when opening or closing the dome at Orwell Park the simplicity of this was a joy to watch. This instrument was used mainly for Lunar work and it was through this that many of the maps of the Moon originated, even the USSR space planners made use of these maps when planning the landing sites on the dark side of the Moon, they actually requested Patrick to make available sketches of the terminator craters are Mare, which of course he graciously supplied to them.

After this, we moved onto the 10" refractor which was housed in an observatory composed of mainly corrugated Perspex with a rather ingenious system of moving the roof forward by utilising what seemed to me at the time to be bicycle chains connected to a sprocket from a bicycle, which was later confirmed to me, after I questioned Patrick about them. He said, they are an ideal method for this type of observatory and are cheap and easy to construct with the minimum of time and effort.

Next in line was his 12" refractor housed in what looked rather like a common garden shed, and after this last but not least was a 12.5" reflector contained within a single run-off shed, this incidentally was the original telescope of Patrick's collection.

Alongside all these telescopes there were other complementary instruments dotted around the garden. These include a very interesting, unusual and indefinable Sun clock which I could begin to do justice too and so I will say nothing more it. Other objects included a Rain level indicator and his 'Trade Union' Sun clock, so called because Selsey was situated in an area of South England where the Sun only shone six months of the year, the rest of the time it was in strike. In Patrick's own words at he time he was the Selsey unofficial weather bureau.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY

Mondays from 7.30pm Mr N Gage	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION Mr G Tilt
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 6th - 20th 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

The next committee meeting is to be held on Saturday 28th February in the club room at the observatory at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

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

1998 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 & DARK SKYS	P Richards	
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	M Harlow	
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	J Walsh	
LIBRARIAN & COMP SOFTWARE	J Appleton	
JOURNAL ARTICLES TO	E Sims	Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	R Gooding	OASI Secretary Ipswich Suffolk IP1 6AE
MEMBERSHIP	M. Cook	Ipswich IP4 5PZ