

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

FEBRUARY 1999



Society News

1 Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 27th February from 19:30 in the club room. As usual this is an open meeting and any one who is interested is invited to attend.

2 Events List for 1999

Event	Details	Date
Astro Fest	Kensington Town Hall Hornton Street	12 th & 13 th February
Visit to Norwich AS's observatory	To be arranged	
Lecture Meeting	Robin Catchpole: The Universe Unveiled with the HST	February 5 th
Lecture Meeting	Provisional	5 th March
Oxford Astronomy Weekend	Cost £132	April date ?
BAA Winchester Weekend		1 st April
Lecture Meeting	Provisional	23 rd April
Summer Excursion	To be arranged	
Summer Barbecue	To be arranged	
BAA Exhibition Meeting	London Guildhall University Calcutta House	26 th June
Eclipse	Members to make own arrangements	11 th August
Astro Camp		
FAS meeting Cambridge		2 nd October ?
Open Weekend	To be arranged	
Christmas Meal	To be arranged	10 th December
Other events will be added to this list throughout the year		

3 Membership subscription for 1999

Subscriptions for 1999 will be due from 1st of January, for members who have not already paid. The rates for 1999. The rates for the new year will be:-

Junior & OAP	£9.00
Adult	£13.00
Family	£15.00

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

Annual General Meeting Summary

This year's AGM was held on Saturday 16th January

- 1 Summary reports of the society's activities for 1998 were given by the Chairman and Secretary, followed by the society's finances reported by the Treasurer. The final annual report was given by Roy Adams, representing the society's Trustees.
- 2 The Committee for 1999 is as follows

Dave Payne
 Roy Gooding
 Mike Harlow
 Martin Cook
 Eric Sims
 James Appleton
 Joe Walsh
 Ted Samson
 Gary Coleman

Pete Richards decided to stand down from this years committee to allow a change of Gary Coleman to join. Pete will still be active in his capacity as organising lecture meetings.

Night Sky

All times GMT

Sun

The sun will be rising at approximately 07:50 to 06:50
 The sun will be setting approximately between 16:40 to 17:30

Moon

3rd Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter
8 th	16 th	23 rd

Mercury

Mercury may be seen after sunset, towards the end of the month. At the end of the month it will be at magnitude -1.0.

Venus

Venus remains visible in the evening sky this month. It will be setting at about 19:30 in mid month. Magnitude - 3.9

Mars

Mars will be rising at about 23:45 in mid month. Magnitude 0.2

Jupiter

Jupiter will be visible in the early evening sky. By mid month it will be setting by 20:15. Magnitude -2.1

Saturn

Saturn is still well placed for observing through out the evening. It will be setting at about 23:00 in mid month. Magnitude 0.5

Uranus

Uranus will be in conjunction with the sun this month.

Neptune

Neptune will be to close to the sun in the sky this month, and will not be seen.

Meteor Showers

There are no meteor showers of any note this month

Roy Gooding



RECYCLE THOSE OLD ASTRO MAGS

The following idea has been suggested to and approved by your committee:

Instead of carting all your used Astronomical Magazines and related publications off to the bins - why not bring them up to the Clubroom for resale to members at - say - 50P each? A small collecting tin has been placed in the clubroom and any monies raised will go into society coffers.

This is your chance to help raise extra funds and maybe, if you collect such publications, obtain those missing back numbers. *Ken Goward*

FAME AT LAST!!

Barring any last minute unforeseen editorial/column space problems, the **March** edition of **Astronomy Now Magazine** will include a small feature on our society.

Order a copy at your local newsagent now. Should be published around about the third Friday of February. *Ken Goward*

OCCULTATIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1999

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 (rad)	Star	Mag
D	19 Feb 19:38	.15+	-23	15	.06S	29 Cet	6.4
D	20 Feb 21:19	.25+	-37	12	.40N	ZC 306	6.8
D	21 Feb 21:00	.35+	-34	25	.72S	ZC 444	5.9
R	21:43		-39	19			
D	23 Feb 18:22	.57+	-10	55	.86N	ZC 729	7.1
D	23 Feb 19:59	.58+	-25	51	.33S	Hip 22782	7.2
D	23 Feb 21:44	.59+	-39	40	.21S	ZC 741	5.5
D	24 Feb 18:50	.69+	-14	56	.20S	ZC 886	6.8
D	24 Feb 19:08	.69+	-17	56	.62S	Hip 27666	7.0
D	24 Feb 23:08	.70+	-46	37	.60N	ZC 904	7.1
D	26 Feb 02:01	.81+	-41	20	.06N	Hip 34094	7.3
D	26 Feb 18:50	.87+	-13	46	.61N	Hip 38092	6.7
D	26 Feb 19:01	.87+	-15	47	.09N	Hip 38135	6.9
D	26 Feb 22:25	.88+	-42	54	.50N	ZC 1192	7.3
D	28 Feb 01:58	.95+	-41	34	.26N	omicron 2 Cnc	5.7
D	28 Feb 02:09	.95+	-40	32	.77S	omicron 1 Cnc	5.2

During the early evening of 23rd February, in addition to the occultations listed above, there is a close approach of Venus and Jupiter. The planets lie within 600 arc-seconds during the early evening, with a closest approach of 481 arc-seconds as they set on the western horizon. Venus is at magnitude -4.0 and Jupiter at magnitude -2.1, so both are easily visible as soon as the sun sets. The best time to observe is circa 18:00, shortly after the sun has set, with the planets to the south-west at an altitude of 17°.

James Appleton

OASI Lecture in Ipswich

The 1999 OASI lecture programme kicks off with Dr Robin Catchpole of the Royal Observatory Greenwich talking on "The Universe Unveiled by the Hubble Space Telescope". The talk will be held at The Friend's Meeting House, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich on Friday 5th February starting at 8pm. Members may bring guests, but please contact a committee member if you would like to invite more than 2 guests. This lecture is a change to the programme. The original speaker – Dr Gerry Gilmore – has had his allocated time on the Anglo-Australian Telescope moved to a later date than had been planned and he will be in Australia on February 5th. Dr Gilmore kindly arranged the alternative speaker for us. Dr Gilmore has been invited to speak at a later date.

On the Friday 5th of March we will be holding a set of short talks by members. Please contact Pete Richards if you'd like to give a talk or just show a few slides. Frank Flynn has been invited to give a talk aimed mainly at beginners and improvers (but which should be of interest to everyone) on Friday 23rd April. The title of his talk will be 'Getting the Measure of The Universe'.

A special autumn lecture is also planned and details will be announced at a later date.

Astrofest

European Astrofest is being held in London on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th February. This is the biggest UK astronomy event and it gets bigger every year, with lots of trade stands and other exhibits and excellent lectures. You can pay £3 to see just the exhibition or pay from £22 for one or more of the half day lecture sessions, each of which comprise 4 lectures by top speakers. One of this year's speakers is Fred Espenak of NASA - well known to many astronomy enthusiasts through his eclipse Internet pages - talking about this year's eclipse. Details are available at the observatory and in Astronomy Now magazine.

Astronomy Night School in Ipswich

I recently received a brochure on part time course from the University of East Anglia. Amongst the courses available is one on Astronomy held in Ipswich. Unfortunately, by the time the February journal goes out the course will be underway. It comprises 20 Tuesday evenings starting on January 12th. However, in case you want to start late or you would consider doing the course in future here is the contact information for enrolment and further details: John Norman, Community and Leisure Learning, University College Suffolk, IP4 1LT, 01473 343666. Incidentally, a few OASI members have been on the

course so it might be worth coming up to the observatory on a Wednesday evening to ask them about the course if you are interested.

Venus and Jupiter close approach

On February 23rd the planets Venus and Jupiter will be very close together in the evening Sky. On that evening telescope users will have the rare opportunity to see the two planets in the same field of view with relatively high magnification eyepiece. With binoculars they will appear as an unusual double planet. Those that dabble in planetary photography or CCD imaging might like to try recording the event. On the evenings before and after the event telescopic, binocular and naked eye observers will be able to see the planets as they approach and recede from one-another and earlier in the month the crescent Moon joins in. The planets will be seen in the West and it's worth looking from shortly after sunset.

OASI E-mail Distribution List

If you are an OASI member and you have an e-mail address you can register on the OASI electronic distribution list. This mail account is provided to allow members to send information relating to astronomy or the society to the other members on the distribution list. If you would like to join the e-mail list send a message from the e-mail account you wish to use to the OASI e-mail address: oasieng@btbcs.bt.co.uk. Please note that the distribution list is for OASI members only and should not be supplied to anyone else. The 'oasieng' address given above is the official OASI e-mail address which is distributed for anyone to use to contact the society.

General Committee Functions

At the request of the Environmental Protection: Dark Skies representative on last year's committee, it was agreed at the AGM that the light pollution issue should be a committee function. So if you have any questions to ask or information which may be of interest (including press cuttings) please send them to a committee member. Don't forget that although a large number of non-astronomers are seeking a reduction in light pollution astronomers still play an important role. Another general committee function is allocating dates and people for visits from outside groups. This function started as a general committee function last year and will continue in 1999 but will in future a specific committee member will act as contact person to receive requests and liaise with visitors. Please note that we have to limit the number of visits from outside groups in consideration of the school staff and pupils and to ensure members have sufficient access to the telescope and therefore we do not actively advertise group visits. We do of course encourage people to visit on our public open evening events.

PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY

<i>Mondays from 7.30pm</i> Mr N Gage	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION
<i>Tuesdays from 7.30pm</i> Mr P Richards	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
<i>Wednesdays from 8.00pm</i> Mr M Cook	NEBULA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION Mr D Payne
<i>Thursdays from 7.30pm</i> Mr P Richards	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
<i>Fridays from 7.30pm</i> 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 27th February in the club room at the observatory at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

VISITS:

11-2-99 Ipswich Scout Fellowship Hosts Mr P Richards & Mr J Walsh
 18-2-99 Mendlesham Guides Hosts Mr E Sims & Mr J Appleton
 25-2-99 Suffolk Federation of Young Farmers Hosts Mr R Gooding & Mr E Sims

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

1999 COMMITTEE		Home Phone	Work Phone
CHAIRMAN	D Payne		
SECRETARY	R Gooding		
TREASURER	M Harlow		
	M Cook		
	E Sims		
	T Sampson		
	G Coleman		
	J Walsh		
	J Appleton		
	P Richards		
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