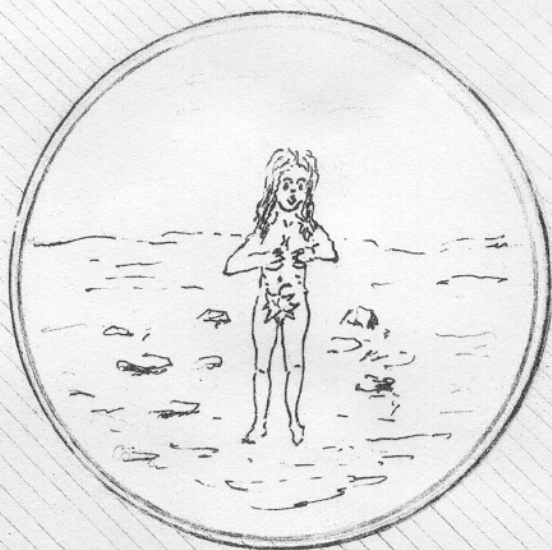


# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

## SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

### NOVEMBER 2003



'IN NOVEMBER 1659 CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS RECORDED  
SEEING THE FIRST DISCRETE OBJECT ON THE MARTIAN  
SURFACE' (ASTRONOMY NOW, PAGE 55, SEPTEMBER 2003)

LGLamb9/03

### Society News

#### 1 Annual General Meeting Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2004

The next meeting will be the AGM, to be held Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2004, from 20:00. The venue will be in one of the classrooms in the School's Court Yard, below the observatory tower. All members are invited to attend

#### 2 Events for 2003

Meeting	Venue	Date
2 <sup>nd</sup> Astronomy Workshop	Garry Coleman Comets - Visitors From Outer Space	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Visit by Thurrock Astronomical Society	Orwell Park Observatory	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
3 <sup>rd</sup> Astronomy Workshop	St John Robinson Cosmology - Some Thoughts	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Christmas Meal	Red Lion Martlesham	17 <sup>th</sup> December at 20:00

#### Events For 2004

Meeting	Venue	Date
AGM	A classroom in the School's Court Yard	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January From 20:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Astronomy Workshop	James Appleton Constellation Close up: Gemini	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Open Weekend	Orwell Park Observatory	Saturday & Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March
5 <sup>th</sup> Astronomy Workshop	Pete Richards Astronomy - Some Basic Concepts	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
6 <sup>th</sup> Astronomy Workshop	Bill Barton Rainbows and Other Natural Wonders	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
7 <sup>th</sup> Astronomy Workshop	Paul Whiting The Radio Universe - A Look At Radio Astronomy	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May

#### Christmas Meal

The annual Christmas Meal will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at the Red Lion Martlesham. The meal will start at 20:00  
If your wish to attend please contact me ( Roy Gooding )

The meal will cost £20. I require a deposit of £10 and your meal selection

### 3 Proposed Open Weekend Date for 2004

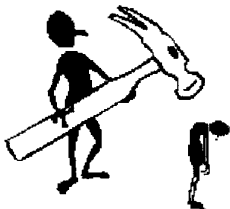
The optimum date for the Open Weekend next year is Saturday and Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The moon will be at first quarter in the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will visible during the evening

Object	Approx. Rise Time	Transit Time	Approx. Setting Time
<b>Sun</b>	06:00	12:16	18:35
<b>Moon</b>	07:50	16:30	00:15
<b>Mercury</b>	06:15	13:20	20:30
<b>Venus</b>	07:00	15:00	23:20
<b>Mars</b>	07:40	16:00	00:15
<b>Jupiter</b>	15:55	22:45	05:40
<b>Saturn</b>	10:00	18:20	02:50

### 4 Year Three of the Library Rebuild

The Observatory will not be closed during the Autumn  
But

Its that time of year again when the observatory refurbishment commences. Work will restart on completing the new society Library. When you attend Wednesday evenings any helping hand would be appreciated. Help is requested to man (or woman) the power tools, hammers, and paint brushes.



Once the walls have been finished the new library cabinets will assembled

I will be resuming the observatory painting in May, Probably starting with the walls of the room at the base of the stair well.

Members who attend will be encouraged to lend a hand. If you intend to come along to the observatory during summer period please come in old clothes Volunteers are needed for the following jobs

### Observatory Maintenance Jobs for 2003

Location	Jobs	Names	Progress	Completed	
<b>Computer room</b>	New eyepiece cupboard	Neil Morley	Ongoing		
	Stain floor	Neil Morley		Yes	
	Mount either a new or the old heater on the wall				
<b>Transit room</b>	Paint door panels	Pete Richards Kathryn Gerry		Yes	
	Wash walls	Monica Lustig		Yes	
	Drill ventilation holes in stairs	Gerry Pilling		Yes	
<b>Observatory</b>	Rebuild telescope pillar				
	Construct new RA drive control				
	Grease shutter	Martin Cook		Yes	
	Replace shutter rope	Martin Cook		Yes	
	Repair gutter				
	Paint door frame at the top of the stairs				
	Ladder modification	Garry Coleman Gerry Pilling		Yes	
	Build set of mobile stairs for telescope	Martin Cook			
	<b>Belvedere</b>	Paint all balcony doors. Use white Ranch paint			
		East balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.	Mike Whybray	Started	
South east balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.					
South balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside Door needs repairing.		Garry Coleman	Started		
South west balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.					
West balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.					
<b>Library</b>	Complete painting the stone work				
	Complete the library reconstruction	Martin Cook Ken Goward & et al		Yes Yes Yes Yes	
	Wall battens Damp proof sheet Plaster board Artex coat Paint walls				
	Install new electric circuit in lift shaft	Martin Cook Dave Payne James Appleton		Yes	
	Varnish door	Roy Gooding			
<b>Bottom room</b>	Stabilise room walls and paint	Roy Gooding	Ongoing		
<b>Entrance</b>	Install door bell	Eric Sims Roy Gooding		Yes	
	Fix entrance signs to walls	Roy Gooding Eric Sims	Collected	Yes	

If you wish to help by adopting a balcony door please contact either Martin Cook or Roy Gooding.

## 5 New Fire Drill Meeting Place

**The new meeting place when the School's fire alarm is heard, is in front of the sports pavilion on the Schools playing field**

**The playing field is accessed by the double doors at the base of the observatory tower.**

**The School's fire control meeting place is also on the playing field**

### Night Sky ( November )

All times GMT

#### Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 07:00 and 07:34

The sun will be setting approximately between 16:30 and 16:00

#### Moon

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
1 <sup>st</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>

**Mercury** Mercury is in the evening sky, but is too low down to be seen easily.

**Venus** Venus will be visible low down in the SW sky after sunset Magnitude -3.9

**Mars** Mars remains observable this month. As its distance from Earth increases its brightness fades to magnitude -0.5. It will be setting at about midnight at the end of the month

**Jupiter** Jupiter will be rising at about 01:00 by mid month. Magnitude -1.9.

**Saturn** Saturn will be rising at about 19:00 by mid month. It will be at magnitude -0.2.

**Uranus** Uranus will be setting at about 22:30 at the end of the month. Magnitude 5.8

**Neptune** Neptune will be setting at about 21:00 at the end of the month. Magnitude 7.9

#### Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Taurids	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	October 20 <sup>th</sup> to November 20 <sup>th</sup>	10
Leonids	November 17 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>hr</sup>	November 15 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup>	+100?

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

## Visit by Crewekerne & District Astronomical Society

The first Saturday of September saw half a dozen members of the recently formed Crewekerne AS travelling up to sunny Suffolk to visit our Observatory. Why come so far? Well, it was all down to our 'excellent web site' (their words) and the irresistible lure of a large aperture working Victorian Refractor...

OASI and CADAS members arranged to meet in the Shepherd & Dog pub restaurant for a Carvery meal. A tad fraught at first, given that neither group had met anyone from the other and the whole scene resembled one of those corny 'I'll be wearing a red rose and standing under the station clock' scenarios! However, we managed to find each other eventually and settled down to a pleasant repast before going on to the Observatory. Small world that it evidently is, table chatter elicited that one of the CADAS members is the brother of a teacher at Orwell Park!



OASI and CADAS members at the Tomline Refractor

Its very easy for OASI members to become a little blasé about our excellent resources at Orwell Park and it was quite enlightening to hear the oohs and aahs from a group of astronomers without such facility. The evening was spent observing Mars, the Moon and one or two stars – Albireo (Beta Cygni) attracting much comment. Seeing wasn't

particularly brilliant but that did not dampen the spirits of our visitors, who seemingly couldn't get enough of the views! At length the gravitational attraction from the Levington Ship finally overwhelmed us and consumption of a pint or two of Adnams Broadside rounded off the evening. The thrust of the banter was that the CADAS folk would try and smuggle the Tomline into their tents overnight...!

The following morning Garry Coleman kindly took the CADAS party on a tour of Playford village to inspect the Airy family monuments before our guests began their 220-mile drive home.

A very successful weekend much enjoyed by all who attended and Anne Dodgson (CADAS Secretary) has written to express the thanks of all their members. Crewkerne AS is a keen society and they have ambitions to build their own Observatory as soon as they can raise the funds. Anne says that Orwell AS will be the first group to be invited down. Judging by their self-evident enthusiasm, a trip to 'Scrumpy Country' won't be that far off!!

Kenneth J Goward FRAS  
Chairman OASI

## *Society for the History of Astronomy*

The story of the history of astronomy is a fascinating and often dramatic one. The point and counterpoint of momentous discoveries, eccentric and often adventurous characters, remarkable observatories and great telescopes form as much a history of humanity as does the march of armies and the life and death of kings. Equally fascinating and accessible is the local history of astronomy. The Society for the History of Astronomy is the UK's new national society focusing on the history of the great science, especially at the local and regional level. We know that there are people out there doing this kind of research in isolation, or who are interested in taking it up but are not sure how. There are also many people who are not active researchers, but simply have a great interest in the subject. All are welcome as members of the SHA, whether amateur or professional, academic or enthusiast. Working together, we can bring the local history of astronomy to light, as well as enjoying its national and international story.

**CAN YOU HELP US BY CONTRIBUTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF  
SUFFOLK'S ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY?**

**CONTACT THE SUFFOLK REPRESENTATIVE;**

Kenneth J Goward FRAS Tel [REDACTED]

email [REDACTED]

[www.shastro.org.uk](http://www.shastro.org.uk)

## **Light pollution, Parliamentary Committee Report**

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee have just published their long awaited report on Light Pollution and Astronomy. Our Society was one of 126 groups or individuals to submit written evidence to the Committee, thanks largely to the admirable efforts of Peter Richards. The Committee have sent a copy of their report to our society, which is now available for inspection in the OASI Library.

### **Brief extract from some of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee:**

- *There is convincing evidence of the value of amateurs to professional astronomers.*
- *Amateur and professional astronomers play a vital role in encouraging young people into science.*
- *School pupils - should - be able to study the night sky primarily with the naked eye.*
- *They regret that PPARC and the Government have adopted a defeatist attitude towards both light pollution and UK astronomy.*
- *The adverse effects of light pollution on energy consumption are undisputed and the Government fails to take serious issue.*
- *The Government should not dismiss the compelling evidence of light spread and pollution provided by Satellite images of the UK at night.*
- *The Government must ensure that every local authority investing in new street lighting should be well informed of the new modern luminaries available. Local authorities that have not invested in new lighting must be strongly advised to install high pressure Sodium Lighting, the design of which should be shallow bowl or fully cut off.*
- *They consider 500W security lights to be energy inefficient and liable to cause nuisance and that appropriate legislation should be considered for their ban at domestic sites.*
- *They urge public bodies not to floodlight Sports Fields etc after 11PM.*
- *The Government should create a new Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) as soon as possible and ensure that all local authorities are made aware of their consequent obligations.*
- *The Government should afford special protection to Observatories and local authorities should be obliged to consult on planning applications in the vicinity of such establishments. Observatories should be able to register with their local authority for protection.*
- *Quote: 'Light trespass and glare affects astronomers, but it can also affect us all. We are persuaded by the evidence that light trespass is measurable and controllable. We recommend that obtrusive light should be made a statutory nuisance'.*

It remains to be seen if fine words are eventually translated into Statutorily fine deeds. However, anyone watching Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October could hardly be encouraged by the rather flippant way a question regarding the report was posed to the PM and the equally flippant answer given in response.

But we live in hope...!

*Ken Goward FRAS*

## **\*\*BEWARE!\*\***

**Following a recent near accident on the Observatory Spiral Stairs it has become necessary to remind members to take extra care when ascending or descending.**

**Wherever possible, please keep to the outer wall side.**

**If you have difficulty climbing the stairs, please consider whether or not you should make the attempt and wherever possible, please ask someone to assist you.**

**Members are also reminded that the door from the school stairs into the Observatory at the base of the Spiral Stairs is a**

**FIRE DOOR  
And should be kept closed.**

**Safety First!**

### Monday Small Telescope Observing Nights

Monday Small Telescope Observing Nights (STON) have already commenced and two have been held to date. They are now on the first and third Mondays of every month, starting at 8pm and will run until the end of May.

One change from last year is that Ted Sampson has stepped down from being a STON director. His thespian inclinations have dragged him away from us. He has assured us that he will be able to make it- and contribute, to about half our meetings. Paddy O'Sullivan is now joined by Gerry Pilling as our new STON director.

Often the subject of the night will be one of the constellations prominent in the southern sky. However, if a preceding workshop generates a suitable subject, that will be substituted. Among the topics to be attempted will be the observation of double stars and Messier objects in and around the subject constellation. These evenings are intended for all levels of *incompetence* (and that includes the observing directors). It is intended to be a hands-on experience and if attendees do a bit of preparation more enjoyment will be had we're sure.

The telescopes in use will be mainly the Meade ETX125 (including its GOTO facilities) and the 10" Dobsonian, supplemented as needed by the 4" and 6" Newtonian reflectors. When necessary the Tomlinson will also be brought in to service.

In the event of rain, hail, snow, hurricanes etc, the evening will still go ahead and a variety of 'indoor' tasks undertaken such as:- reflector collimation, ETX training, eyepiece and telescope characterisation, 19" workshop, etc.

Any variations on this formula will be broadcast on the E-Mail newsring or you can contact Paddy.

Paddy O'Sullivan & Gerry Pilling

## OCCULTATIONS DURING NOVEMBER

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

D / R	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Star	Mag
D	02 Nov 21:54	0.67+	-47	14	ZC 3276	7.3
D	29 Nov 17:13	0.39+	-12	19	ZC 3215	7.5
D	30 Nov 17:04	0.50+	-11	23	69 Aqr, tau 1 Aqr	5.7
R	18:16		-22	24		
D	30 Nov 18:37	0.50+	-25	24	71 Aqr, tau 2 Aqr	4.1
R	19:49		-36	21		

James Appleton

## Observing Programme For November

Dates	Observing Director	Activities
Monday	3 Nov Constellations Pegasus / Andromeda. 17 Nov Comet Encke P O'Sullivan G Pilling	Small Telescopes observing night
Tuesday	18th 10th Ipswich Scouts	Outside Visit
Wednesdays	5th - 12th - 19th - 26th November from 8.00 M Cook D Payne	Nebular & Faint Objects
Thursday	13th St Marys School 27th Martlesham Heath Brownys	Outside Visit Outside Visit
Friday		

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

## Special Events

### 1. ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP 5th NOVEMBER

The Astronomy Workshop starts at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5th November. Comets - visitors from outer space. Presenter, Garry Coleman.

### 2. CHRISTMAS MEAL 17th DECEMBER

The Christmas meal is to be held at the Martlesham Red Lion on December 17th at 8 pm. Please contact Roy Gooding if you are interested in attending.

### 3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17th JANUARY

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 17th of January at 8pm in a class room at Orwell Park School. All members are invited to attend.

## 2003 COMMITTEE

		Home Phone	Work Phone
CHAIRMAN & PUBLICITY	K Goward		
SECRETARY & WORK PARTY ORGANISER	R Gooding		
TREASURER	G Coleman		
MECHANICS & MEMBERSHIP	M Cook		
NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR	E Sims		
ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP	T Sampson		
WEB SITE & MEETING MINUTES	J Appleton		
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	P O'Sullivan		
LIBRARIAN	M Whybray		
CO-OPTED MEMBERS			
LECTURE CO-ORDINATOR	P Richards		
VISITS BY OUTSIDE GROUPS	Paul Whiting		
JOURNAL ARTICLES TO CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	E Sims		Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA
	R Gooding		OASI Secretary Ipswich Suffolk IP1 6AE
MEMBERSHIP	M. Cook		Ipswich IP4 5PZ

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## Society Contact Details

		Home Phone	Work Phone
Chairman	K Goward		
Secretary	R Gooding		

Contact details for the full committee are inside the back page.

e-mail queries: [ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk)  
WWW address: <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich/>