

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

AUGUST 2004 SEPTEMBER 2004



Society News

1 Next Committee Meeting Saturday 25th September 2004

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 5th June at 19:30 in a classroom in the courtyard. This is an open meeting and any one who is interested is invited to attend

2 Events for 2004

Meeting	Venue	Date
New Date Summer Barbecue	Mike Whybray's garden. His address is [redacted], Nacton, IPSWICH	Saturday 24 th July From 15:00
Equinox Sky Camp	Kelling Heath Leisure Park Weybourne, Holt, Norfolk To book phone 01263 588181	Friday 10 th to 19 th September
Astronomy Workshops	The new session is the planning stage.	
FAS Convention	Institute of Astronomy Cambridge	Saturday 2 nd October
Christmas Meal	Red Lion Martlesham	15 th December at 20:00

The summer barbecue scheduled for July 10th was cancelled when bad weather was expected. It has been rescheduled for Saturday 24th July from 15:00

3 FAS Convention Saturday 2nd October

Venue: The Institute of Astronomy,
Madingley Road Cambridge

This annual event is well worth attending, especially if you have not been before. There are a limited number of tickets available (180) Tickets cost £7. If you would like to come please contact me (Roy Gooding) and I will order the tickets.

Lecture Programme

Speaker	Lecture
Prof. Douglas Gough	TBA
Dr. Paul Murdin	The Reality of Black Holes
Guy Hurst	Supernovae
Dr. Cathie Clark	Formation of stars and Brown Dwarfs

Several trade stands will also be present.

4 Proposal to hold "Find Your Way Round the Night Sky" Meetings



In recent months several new members have joined OASI. They mentioned that they are interested in Astronomy, but being beginners, they have only limited knowledge. One of their reasons to join us was to find like-minded people, with a greater knowledge than they have. Finding their way around the night sky held a high priority.

At our public Open Weekends I usually take visitors outside to show them the night sky, and identifying the principle constellations. All that is required for this is the naked eye and binoculars.

I would like to do something similar for any members who would like to increase their identification of the constellations. As everyone knows the observatory tower is not a good site for viewing the whole sky

A possible venue could be the picnic site at Nacton shores. This is only a few minutes walk from the observatory car park.

If any one is interested in doing this, please contact me (Roy Gooding)
The first meeting would not start until mid to late September.

Since I first included the above item in June's Newsletter, there has been much interest in this proposition. I will defiantly organise several meetings during the coming Autumn. This will probably be extended into the winter observing season as well. if sufficient members are still interested.

5 New Decorating Season

Its that time of year again when the observatory refurbishment commences. 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.



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 2004

This list is based on last years one

Location	Jobs	Names	Completed
Computer room	New eyepiece cupboard	Neil Morley	
Transit room	Paint door panels		
	Rebuild telescope pillar		
Observatory	Construct new RA drive control		
	Repair gutter		
	Paint door frame at the top of the stairs		
	Build set of mobile stairs for telescope	Martin Cook	
	Stain and varnish floor		
Belvedere	Paint all balcony doors. Use white Ranch paint		
	East balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	South east balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	South balcony	Garry Coleman	

	Paint balcony door, inside and outside Door needs repairing.		
	South west balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	West balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	Complete painting the stone work		
Bottom room	Varnish door	Roy Gooding	
	Make good room walls, stabilise and paint	Roy Gooding	

New Summer Barbecue Date

Saturday 24th July 3pm till about 8pm
[redacted], Nacton

Bring whatever you fancy to barbecue (meat, fish, veggies, bananas etc.). Rolls, salads, soft drinks and plates, cutlery, and glasses will be provided. Bring your own alcohol!

We've got a slide, swing and sandpit for the kids (use at own risk). Note - there is a small pond, but well overlooked. We have 10 garden chairs but to guarantee a seat bring your own! Mike & Andrea Whybray. ([redacted])

Directions:

From the Old Felixstowe Road, turn into Nacton Village, go under the railway bridge and : [redacted]

Parking:

One or two cars can squeeze onto the drive. Other will have to park on the road - best position is on the opposite side to the house, along a bit in the direction [redacted]

Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 04:20 and 05:00
The sun will be setting approximately between 19:40 and 19:00

Moon

3rd Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon
7 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th

Mercury. Mercury will be in the evening twilight sky at the start of the month. It will be at inferior conjunction on the 23rd

Venus Venus is a striking object in the morning sky, reaching greatest western elongation on the 17th. Magnitude -4.2

Mars Mars will not be visible this month. It sets a little after sunset this month

Jupiter Jupiter will be in the evening twilight sky this month, setting about 1 hour after sunset by the end of the month

Saturn Saturn returns to the early morning sky this month. It will be rising at about 01:00 at the end of the month. Magnitude 0.2

Uranus Uranus will be at opposition on the 27th. Magnitude 5.7

Neptune Neptune will be at opposition on the 6th. Magnitude 7.8

Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
α Cygnids	July 21 st to August. 21 st	July to August	5
Capricornids	July 8 th July 15 th July 26 th	July to August	5
δ Aquards	July 29 th August 6 th	July 15 th to August 20 th	20 10
α Capricornids	August 2 nd	July 15 th to August 20 th	5
ι Aquarids	August 6 th	July to August	8
Perseids	August 12 th	July 23 rd to August 20 th	80

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

OCCULTATIONS DURING AUGUST

No good occultation events occur during August.

Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 05:20 and 05:50
 The sun will be setting approximately between 18:40 and 17:50

Moon

3 rd Quarter	New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon
6 th	14 th	21 st	28 th

Mercury. Mercury be at greatest western elongation on the 9th. This will be the best morning apparition this year. From mid month its magnitude changes from -0.6 to -1.

Venus Venus will be rising at about 4 hours before the sun this month. Magnitude -4.2.

Mars Mars will be in conjunction with the sun on the 15th

Jupiter Jupiter will be in conjunction with the sun on the 22nd.

Saturn Saturn will be rising before midnight by the end of the month. Magnitude 0.2.

Uranus Uranus will be setting by 03:00 at the end of the month. Magnitude 5.7

Neptune Neptune will be setting by 01:00 at the end if the month. Magnitude 7.8

Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Piscids	September 8 th September 21 st October 13 th	September to October	10 5 ?

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

OCCULTATIONS DURING SEPTEMBER

The 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	10 Sep 03:51	0.18-	-14	31	2 Cnc, omega 1 Cnc	5.9
D	22 Sep 18:25	0.63+	-6	9	ZC 2788	6.1
D	24 Sep 20:05	0.83+	-21	15	ZC 3102	7.0

James Appleton

Request Reports on Observations of Transit of Venus

Anyone who visited Orwell Park Observatory on Tuesday 08 June will know that many members of OASI enjoyed a very successful observation of the Transit of Venus. Members operated the Tomline Refractor, the 250mm Dobsonian, the ETX-125 and Bill Barton used his H-alpha equipment. The weather was excellent and all the equipment (including the new sun-blind for the Dome and the projection screen for the Tomline Refractor) worked very well, enabling members to make sketches of the event, to record timings of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th contact and to take photographs and videos.

Many members of OASI attended to observe the Transit - some 17 signed into the Observatory log book but anecdotal evidence suggests that several more attended who did not sign in! Many children from Orwell Park School together with their teachers and a handful of parents briefly joined members of OASI to observe (and enjoy) the transit.

Other members of OASI successfully observed the Transit from other locations.

I aim to compile an article for the Newsletter summarising the experiences of OASI members who observed the Transit. Several members of OASI have already sent me their observing reports - thanks very much to them. Please would everyone else who observed the transit kindly send me any reports, data, images or drawings of the event. I will compile all material received into an article for the Newsletter. I can accept material either paper-based or electronically by any of the following methods:

- Leave material marked *FAO James Appleton* in the club room at Orwell Park Observatory.
- By post to James Appleton, [REDACTED] Rushmere, Ipswich, IP4 5TU
- Email: [REDACTED]

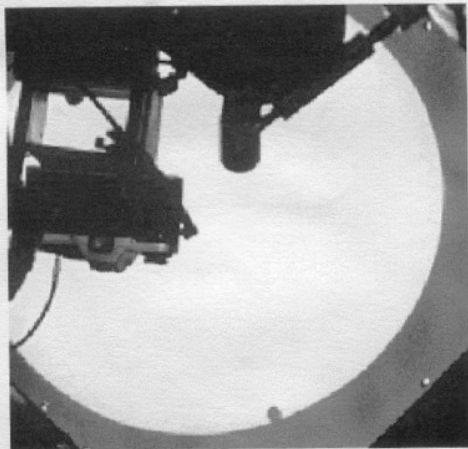
I look forward to hearing from you!

James Appleton
14 June 2004

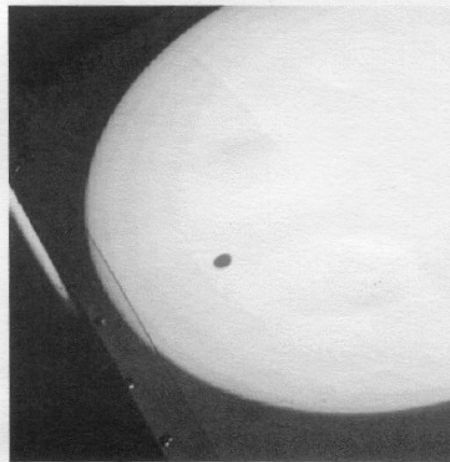
Astronomy Workshops 2004 – 2005.

I am pleased to report that sufficient members have volunteered to lead a workshop, making another series, as above, now viable. One more volunteer would give us seven sessions, so if anyone has a favorite astronomical topic, and the courage to lead a workshop, then I would be pleased to hear from you – or add your name to the list on the notice board. I have written to the school requesting the use of the science classroom as previously, and hope to be in a position to give details of dates and topics in the **October Newsletter**. I hope to hold the workshops on the first Wednesday in the month, from 7.45 until 9.15, with the first one in **October 2004**. My thanks to all the volunteer presenters, and to members who have supported the workshops, both past and future!! If we formally finish the workshops by 9.15, it should then be possible, for those wishing to do so, to join Roy on the Nacton shore on clear nights for some constellation recognition. See you in October. Ted Sampson.

Venus Transit Images

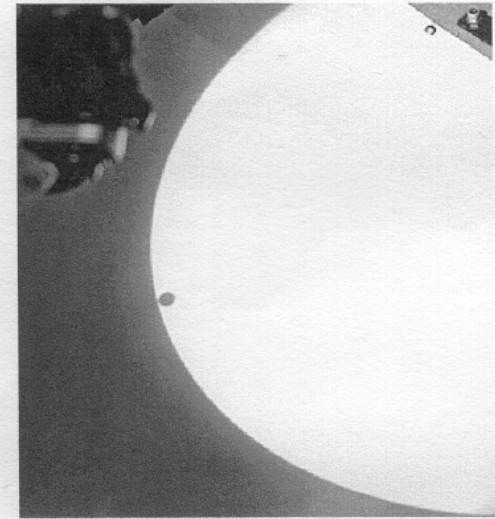


2nd Contact

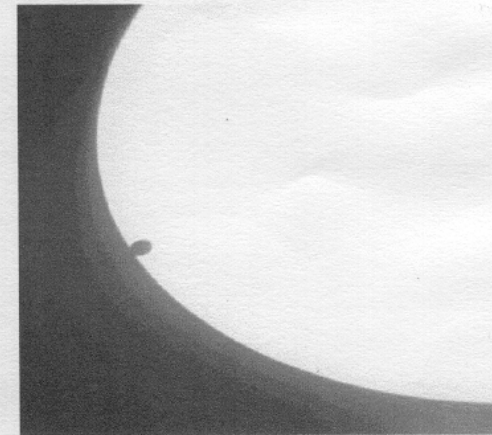


Mid Transit

9



Near 3rd Contact The Tear Drop effect is visible



3rd contact

10

OASI COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Kenneth J Goward	Chairman	Press Publicity with the Secretary. Open Weekend.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	Main point of Society Contact. Press Publicity with the Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Garry Coleman	Treasurer	Finance. Supervision of Grant Applications.
James Appleton	Committee	Committee Meeting Minutes. Web site.
Martin Cook	Committee	Membership. Tomline Refractor Maintenance.
Neil Morley	Committee	Equipment Curator.
Ted Sampson	Committee	Workshops. Tomline Refractor tutoring.
Eric Sims	Committee	Newsletter
Mike Whybray	Committee	Librarian.
Paul Whiting	Committee	Visits by outside groups.
Monica Lustig	Committee	Safety & Security
Peter Richards	Working under Committee direction but not Co-opted	Lecture Meetings.

DIARY FOR 2004 AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY	<p><u>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</u> From 8pm</p> <p>August 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th</p> <p>September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th</p> <p>☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED]</p>
SATURDAY 25 th September	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETING</u> 7.30pm in a classroom at the base of the Observatory tower. All members welcome</p> <p>☎ Ken Goward FRAS [REDACTED]</p>
THURSDAY	<p><u>OBSERVATORY VISIT BY OUTSIDE</u> <u>GROUP</u> Thursday 30th September 8PM Felixstowe & District Amateur Radio Society</p> <p>☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]</p>

SOCIETY PRIMARY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Kenneth J Goward FRAS ☎ [REDACTED] (daytime & evenings)
 SECRETARY Roy Gooding ☎ [REDACTED] (daytime) [REDACTED] (evenings)
 E-MAIL QUERIES ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk
 WEB SITE www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich
 Contact details for the full Committee may be found on the inside back page

Registered Charity No 271313
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