



# The Newsletter



## of the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

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

2006 December

No 414



### Some Snowball!

## ENCELADUS

A small, icy, inner moon of Saturn, Enceladus is only about 500 kilometers in diameter. But this distant world reflects over 90 percent of the sunlight it receives, giving its surface about the same reflectivity as fresh snow. Seen here in a sharp view from the Cassini spacecraft's recent flyby, Enceladus shows a variety of surface features and very few impact craters - indicating that it has been an active world even though this tiny moon should have completely cooled off long ago. The resurfaced appearance of Enceladus may be the result of liquid water geysers or water volcanos. Since Enceladus orbits within the outer E ring of Saturn, the moon's surface may be kept snow-bright as it is continuously bombarded with icy ring particles. Eruptions on Enceladus itself would in turn supply material to the E ring. Enceladus has only about 1/100th the surface gravity of planet Earth and a surface temperature of -200 degrees C.

Saturn will be rising around 10pm by mid December and becoming more available as our winter moves on.

*From the NASA web site [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)  
Cassini Imaging Team*

## Society News (Roy Gooding)

### 1 2007 AGM Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January

The 2007 AGM will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The venue is at the Methodist Church Hall, starting at 20:00. All members are invited to attend this meeting. As usual this will be a review of the society activities in 2006, plans for 2007 and the election for the 2007 committee.

### 2 Events for 2006

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy Workshop Quiz night	Nacton Village Hall Mike Whybray, & Paul Whiting	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 7:45pm
Geminids Meteor Watch	Sea wall promenade at the "Dip" end of Felixstowe	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 20:00
Christmas Meal	Levington Ship	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 20:00

### Events for 2007

This event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
2007 AGM	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> 20:00
Back to Basics Workshop Joint meeting with the BAA	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane A BAA booking form is included with this Newsletter	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 10:00 to 17:30
Lecture Meeting Nik Symanek	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 20:00
40th Anniversary Open Weekend		Preliminary dates only March 24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup>
Lecture Meeting Dr. Allan Chapman	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May

### 3 Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

The gate code is [redacted]. If the Black door entrance at the base of the observatory tower is locked, you will have to phone someone in the observatory to let you in. My mobile number is [redacted]. (Roy Gooding)

**4 Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year 2007**  
*Some random thoughts open for discussion.*

2007 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the Orwell Astronomical Society. A number of events will be held throughout the year to celebrate this. At present, any plans are at a very preliminary stage

- A joint meeting with the BAA in January is in the preliminary planning stage. This meeting will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007. We are the host Society for this meeting but the BAA is running it. The BAA will be charging for this. Attendance is by pre-booking with the BAA.
- All events could be prefixed with "40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"
- A society meal could be held during the year.
- A formal Astronomical Convention could be held.
- A more informal exhibition meeting could be held that is aimed more for the general public.

If you have any ideas that can be considered please contact me.

**5 Equipment Wish List**

At the March committee meeting, a wish list for additional society equipment was discussed.

Item under consideration	Comments
Laptop PC	Purchased
Eyepiece Cupboard	Purchased
Eyepieces for the small telescopes	
Webcam and equipment for CCD imaging.	Purchased
Coronado solar telescope	
Barlow Lens	
2" Right Angle Mirror Diagonal	
Laser Collimator	
AC587 1.25" Universal Eyepiece Protection Kit	
AC598 Jumbo Eyepiece Protection Kit	
Orion (USA) Soft Rubber Eyeguards	

## **6 Welcome to New Members**

No new members have joined during the last month

## **7 Lecture Meeting Venue**

Our town lecture venue is now at the Methodist Church, in Blackhorse Lane. The church has a car park, bigger enough to take about 30 cars, in Black Horse Lane. Alternatively there is a Park & Display car park at the top of Black Horse Lane, next to the Town Council Offices. This is about 100 yards from the church.

Black Horse Lane has only one entrance, which is from Elm Street. This is just past the Police Station, if you are arriving from Civic Drive. The church car park is on the right, just past the Black Horse pub.

Meeting starts at 20:00, doors open at 19:30

## **8 Observing Projects for 2006 Geminids Meteor Watch**

The next meteor watch will be the Geminids in December. The maximum will be on Thursday 14th December.

**The meeting will on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 20:00**

**The venue will on the sea wall promenade at the "Dip" end of Felixstowe.**

Directions for those who do not know this part of Old Felixstowe

- From the Hamilton Road roundabout, take the turning into High Road East
- Once you are parallel with on top of the cliff, there are two car parks available.
- The first one is behind the trees, on the right, just past the open area of grass, where Brackenbury Fort was once located. The steps down to the promenade are behind the Refreshment hut.
- The second car park is also on the right, up the hill on the other side of the "Dip", (hence the name). There are several ways down from this car park to the sea wall promenade.
- The promenade from the first car park gives the darker sky. The streetlights along High Road East can not be seen from here neither were Felixstowe dock lights visible, though the evening on which I checked this out was a little hazy.
- The meeting time 20:00
- The Moon will not be any trouble as it is at third quarter on the 12<sup>th</sup>

If you are interested please contact Roy Gooding, James Appleton or Martin Cook

## **9 Observatory Tower Restoration**

The School is planning to undertake some restoration work on the observatory tower in the new year. More information when known.

# Night Sky (December)

All times GMT

## Approximate Rising and setting Times

Object	Date	Magnitude	Rising	Setting
Sun	5		07:48	15:52
	25		08:04	15:54
Mercury	15	-0.8	06:56	15:05
Venus	15	-3.8	08:59	16:35
Mars	15	1.5	06:37	14:48
Jupiter	15	-1.7	06:22	14:47
Saturn	15	0.4	20:54	11:33
Uranus	15	5.9	11:52	22:35
Neptune	15	7.9	11:03	20:24

## Moon

Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>

- Mercury** Mercury will be visible low down in the predawn SE sky, during the first half of the month..
- Venus** Venus will be visible low down in the evening sky after sunset.
- Mars** Mars is visible in the early morning twilight, low down in the SE sky.
- Jupiter** Jupiter moves back into the early morning sky this month.
- Saturn** Saturn will be rising at about 22:00 by the end of the month.
- Uranus** Uranus in the western sky this month after sunset.
- Neptune** Neptune is also in the western sky this month after sunset

## Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Geminids	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	December 7 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>	100

## OCCULTATIONS DURING DECEMBER

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.

Date	Time (UT)	D /R	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (d)	Star Alt (d)	Mag	Star
01 Dec	19:58:48	D	0.87+	-38	49	7.3	100 Psc
03 Dec	18:36:16	D	0.98+	-25	36	6.0	66 Ari
04 Dec	02:55:24	D	0.99+	-43	36	3.7	17 Tau, Electra
	03:56:29	R		-34	27		
04 Dec	03:05:33	D	0.99+	-42	35	5.4	16 Tau, Celaeno
04 Dec	03:37:48	D	0.99+	-37	30	3.9	20 Tau, Maia
	04:11:01	R		-32	25		
04 Dec	03:40:21	D	0.99+	-36	29	4.1	23 Tau, Merope, V971 Tau
04 Dec	04:02:55	D	0.99+	-33	26	2.8	25 Tau, eta Tau, Alcyone
	04:56:25	R		-25	18		
04 Dec	04:45:00	D	0.99+	-26	20	5.1	28 Tau, BU Tau, Pleione
04 Dec	04:49:28	D	0.99+	-26	19	3.6	27 Tau, Atlas
	05:26:38	R		-20	14		
25 Dec	16:31:12	D	0.29+	-6	28	7.0	65 Aqr
25 Dec	18:04:09	D	0.29+	-20	25	7.4	Hip 112346
26 Dec	18:42:46	D	0.40+	-25	32	8.1	Hip 116520
27 Dec	17:01:06	D	0.51+	-10	40	8.3	Hip 1943
27 Dec	17:13:36	D	0.51+	-12	41	7.9	Hip 1894
27 Dec	18:11:39	D	0.51+	-20	42	6.9	CF Psc
27 Dec	21:13:51	D	0.52+	-48	28	6.5	ZC 64
27 Dec	21:46:44	D	0.53+	-52	24	8.0	Hip 2510
27 Dec	22:46:17	D	0.53+	-58	16	8.4	Hip 2659
28 Dec	16:36:47	D	0.62+	-7	41	8.0	Hip 5837
28 Dec	18:19:17	D	0.63+	-22	48	7.9	Hip 6003
28 Dec	21:42:22	D	0.64+	-51	37	6.8	ZC 203
29 Dec	16:37:20	D	0.73+	-7	40	7.1	ZC 313
30 Dec	01:08:25	D	0.76+	-58	19	7.4	Hip 11112

30 Dec	17:11:06	D	0.83+	-11	42	7.3	Hip 14292
30 Dec	19:44:53	D	0.83+	-34	59	7.5	Hip 14715
30 Dec	20:05:26	D	0.83+	-38	60	7.2	ZC 461

Note that during the period 02:55 – 05:30 UT (approximately) on 04 December 2006, the Moon passes through the Pleiades star cluster. Although the Moon is nearly full (and conditions are therefore not ideal), providing skies are clear, this sequence of occultations should be spectacular to observe and well worth staying up for!

If you observe this event, please send a report on your observations to me: I will collate all reports received and summarise for the Newsletter. Please include in your report the time of your observation, instrument used (if any), general impressions of the event plus any specific occultation timings. I can be reached either by email at [REDACTED], by post at [REDACTED], Rushmere, Ipswich, IP4 5TU, or by leaving material marked for my attention in the Orwell Park Club Room.

James Appleton

## Articles For Newsletter

Every month I am looking for articles for the newsletter. If you can help in any way it would be very much appreciated. What we need are any items of astronomical interest that you have had while observing, events you have attended and things you have planned for the future or even what you would like to do no matter how impossible it might seem at the moment.

As you can see we need more members to help keep the newsletter in articles. The more of you that make a contribution the easier it gets for the few who produce articles every month.

Now I hope to hear from a lot more of you in the future which will make the newsletter much more interesting and my job easier.

All entries need to be in A5 format which will save me having to retype any articles and stop me making any mistakes or misinterpretations of things I don't understand.

Newsletter Co-ordinator  
E Sims

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# OASI 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Clothing

In anticipation of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year, I am looking into ordering a quantity of commemorative sweatshirts and/or polo shirts for OASI members and beyond. A local supplier in Nacton, Carousel Clothing is very conveniently placed to help us out. Having shown them the OASI logo, the recommendation is to display it in full size on the front of a sweatshirt, or reduced quarter-size on the front top left side of a polo shirt. A minimum order quantity of 20 sweatshirts (or polo shirts) would be required to justify production.



I'm thinking of specifying printed rather than embroidered garments. Pricing would be subject to clothing brand, colour options, and quantities. There is certainly a lot of choice here. Carousel recommended Gildan for sweatshirts and Hembury for polo shirts. Having shown the catalogue to a number of OASI members on a Wednesday eve, for quality reasons, the majority favoured the "Fruit of the Loom" brand for sweatshirts with a



single colour scheme, the OASI logo in black on a sky blue garment. Others suggested metallic silver or gold for the logo as an alternative, recalling the OASI Transit of Venus Commemorative Plate very effectively uses metallic gold on a sky blue background. Everyone agreed that restricting the OASI order to a single colour scheme would be beneficial towards managing costs.

This is where I need your help. I mentioned sweatshirts specifically because the ratio of sweatshirts to polo shirts is 12:1 so I need 8 more members to justify an order. Similarly, I'd welcome lots of requests for polo shirts!

Some information to help you with your choice:

Fruit of the Loom - Raglan Sleeve Sweatshirt

S - 36/38", M - 40", L - 42/44", XL - 46/48", XXL - 50/52" sizes  
Other brands available in alternative sizes e.g. up to 58/60".

Hembury - Men's Pique Polo Shirt with Stand Up Collar

S - 36", M - 38/40", L - 42", XL - 44/46, XXL - 48", 3XL - 50/52", 4XL - 54", 5XL - 56/58" sizes

Hembury - Women's Pique Polo Shirt with Stand Up Collar

S/10 - 34/35", M/12 - 36/37", L/14 - 38/39", XL/16 - 40/41" - XXL/18 - 42/43" sizes.

Please let me know if you are interested. Similarly if you have strong views on colour schemes or any other suggestions. My contact details are on the back cover of this Newsletter or collar me at the observatory while I'm fixing something!

Looking forward to your requests. It would be ideal to have some OASI commemorative garments to coincide with the forthcoming BAA/OASI joint event in Ipswich on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007, so I please get in touch!

Neil Morley.



## OASI 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

As detailed in last month's newsletter, OASI begins the celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January**, when we will be co-hosting a day-long **Astronomy Basics Workshop** in collaboration with the BAA. Tickets are now available for purchase directly on a first come first served basis (limited number) from the BAA offices via the application form enclosed with this newsletter. **Please note that because OASI is an affiliated member of the BAA, our members are entitled to a discounted ticket price of £2.50 each.** Also enclosed is a poster to advertise the event and it would be very much appreciated if members could try local newsagents etc to see if they can be put on public display. Remember, if you wish to volunteer your services for the day to help run the event smoothly – and avoid having to pay (!) – you **MUST** register as a volunteer via the OASI Chairman no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Plans are in hand for a number of further celebratory events during the year, including another **OASI Presidential Lecture** from Professor Allan Chapman on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Halls in Ipswich – full details nearer the time. We hope to stage a **summer BBQ** and to organise a professional **group photograph** of the event. Given sufficient material we may be able to produce a **souvenir – professionally printed – newsletter** some time in the summer and we are also looking at obtaining a supply of **branded clothing** (sweatshirts or polo shirts) featuring the special logo you may have noticed at the top of this page. Our thanks go to James Appleton for designing it – no expense spared by adding 1967 – 2007 to the base of the already existing one and tidying the original up a little!! James is also burning the midnight oil for us in the hope of publishing an extensively revised version of the **History of OASI and the Orwell Park Observatory booklet**, but we cannot promise that this will be ready before the end of 2007.

To close the year we hope to put on a very special lecture **from the BBC Science Correspondent, Dr David Whitehouse** – again – more detail will be published nearer the time.

It should and will be an exciting year ahead of us...





## Seasonal Greetings



### **From the OASI Hon President**

Professor Allan Chapman FRAS

What, Christmas here again? How time flies as we say in Lancashire, when you throw the clock downstairs. But as you might recall, I, and my wife Rachel, always enjoy Christmas enormously. We have no family and not many relatives, so shopping does not pose much of a problem – though we do send out lots of cards. What matters to us at Christmas is not parties, spending, or feasting, but Peace: blissful, restful Peace. Reading, sitting with one's own thoughts, and, of course, going to Church. For top Rachel and me, Christmas is first and foremost a Christian Festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The rest is a jolly add-on. Of course, we call around to see neighbours and friends and they come to see us, but Peace and quiet come first.

And if the Christmas weather is clear, and I get a chance to go into the garden with my modest refractor, to admire the winter constellations on a frosty night, my thoughts will naturally move to those three Wise Men who followed a bright star from their homes in Mesopotamia to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to a baby in a stable in Bethlehem.

A Happy and a Joyous Christmas to you all.

Allan

### **From the OASI Chairman**

Kenneth J. Goward FRAS

It's that time of year again and for big kids like me a season of magic and wonderment at all we are lucky enough to have and for the privileged lifestyle we cherish in a world where the majority are far less blessed. There was a period this year for me personally when the outlook – health-wise – was uncertain and I came very close to not seeing my favourite festival again. A sobering thing – not least for one's family – and it brought home to me how precious life really is.

Having travelled through that personal darkness and now with my health beginning to return to a reasonable level I have begun to attend OASI events and meet my friends and fellow members again – and what better tonic can there be. It is a privilege to have been elected into the OASI Chair and to have had the opportunity to work on your behalf with a most dedicated Committee to keep the society running in its day to day function and now to look forward to our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

I wish you all the most wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy and clear skies New Year.

Ken

# Summary of Committee Meeting Held 23 September 2006

**Present:** Ken Goward, Roy Gooding, Paul Whiting, Bill Barton, Pete Richards, Nicky Gillard, James Appleton, Neil Morley, Eric Sims, Sue Brown, Mike Harlow

**Apologies:** Garry Coleman, Mike Whybray, Ted Sampson, Martin Cook

## 1. Chairman's Report – Ken Goward

Ken thanked the Committee for running the Society during his recent absence.

Ken will arrange a meeting with Orwell Park School to discuss outstanding matters concerning OASI's licence for use of the Observatory.

## 2. Secretary's Report – Roy Gooding

Roy reported the following activities since the last committee meeting:

- Received and dealt with eight enquiries from people interested in joining OASI.
- Completed arrangements for the Open Weekend.
- Investigated and selected a dark skies location at Felixstowe sea front for the Geminids meteor watch in December.
- Organised the Xmas meal.
- Began archiving OASI Committee meeting minutes onto CD-ROM.

## 3. Treasurer's Report – Garry Coleman

Garry was not present at the meeting but had sent a report in advance.

In broad terms, OASI finances are reasonably healthy.

Garry is standing down at the 2007 AGM. Mike Harlow will stand for election as Treasurer, and the Committee would welcome further nominations for the post.

#### **4. Membership**

No report.

#### **5. Training and Workshops – Mike Whybray**

Mike was not present at the meeting but had sent a report in advance by email.

Mike has organised the 2006-07 season of astronomy workshops.

#### **6. Web Site – James Appleton**

The Web site continues to act as a useful external “shop window” for OASI, generating a handful of enquiries about membership every month.

As always, James welcomes fresh material for the Web site from members of OASI.

#### **7. Equipment & Maintenance – Neil Morley**

Neil will undertake further canvassing of members of OASI for potential equipment purchases. Anyone with suggestions/requests for purchases should contact any Committee member.

Neil has fitted the Telrad finder to the 5” telescope and has obtained some additional pill-boxes for eyepiece storage.

Paul Tremlett, son of former OASI member, the late Roy Tremlett, has offered to donate Roy’s telescopes to OASI. The telescopes are: a Tasco 4” reflector, a Charles-Frank 6” reflector and a Prinz 76mm refractor. The Committee unanimously agreed to accept the donation and passed a vote of thanks to Paul for his generous offer.

Mike Whybray will purchase additional RAM for the OASI laptop in the hope that it will improve the speed of running applications.

#### **8. Security & Safety – Bill Barton**

Bill expects to complete another safety inspection shortly.

## **9. Library – Mike Whybray**

Mike has organised the OASI library into subject-specific sections, identified by letters which are keyed to labels on the spines of the books.

## **10. Lectures – Pete Richards**

Pete has arranged three lectures for the 2006-07 season: one in late October, one in late November and a lecture by Nik Szymanek in 2007.

Pete is hoping to arrange for a lecture by the current president of the RAS after he retires and moves to Southwold.

## **11. Visits – Paul Whiting**

Paul had hosted a private viewing at Orwell Park Observatory for a couple from Felixstowe. They observed the Sun and Jupiter and made a donation to OASI of £50.

Three visits are booked for the current season and there are a further two possibles.

## **12. Observing Projects**

Paul Whiting had observed the solar eclipse on 22 September 2003 from Livingstone Airport, Zambia.

Upcoming observing projects:

- Geminids meteor watch on 09 December at Felixstowe seafront.
- Lunar occultation of Pleiades, early hours of the morning on 04 December 2006.
- Daytime lunar occultation of Venus on 18 June 2007.

## **13. Events**

The Open Weekend will be held 30 September – 01 October.

The Xmas Meal will be held at the *Levington Ship* on Wed 13 December.

## **14. OASI 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2007**

2007 is OASI's fortieth anniversary year. The Committee is pursuing the following to mark the anniversary:

- The BAA *Back to Basics Workshop* on Saturday 20 January 2007 will be the first event to mark OASI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- A commemorative edition of the OASI Newsletter.
- Use of a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on all OASI publications.
- Publish a revised version of the OASI history booklet.
- Research and compile information on IDAS (Ipswich and District Astronomy Society), an astronomy society which used Orwell Park Observatory during 1949-57.
- Compile a historical appreciation of John Isaac Plummer, professional astronomer at Orwell Park 1874-1890.
- Arrange for a professional photograph of members of OASI and Orwell Park Observatory.
- Sell 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative plates.
- Lecture by Dr Allan Chapman, OASI Honorary President.
- Historical review of astronomical activities undertaken in 1967.
- Sell garments branded with OASI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo.

Anyone with suggestions for other means of marking the anniversary should contact any member of the Committee.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting**

Saturday 11 November 2006, starting 8:00pm in the Methodist Church Hall. As always, all members of OASI are welcome to attend.

## **More Information**

Please contact any member of the committee if you would like any more information on the above committee meeting or any other aspect of the running of OASI.

James Appleton, 10 November 2006

## A Selection of Highlights from 1967

Jocelyn Bell (later Bell Burnell), using a new radio telescope designed by Anthony Hewish, observes the first pulsar, CP 1919 ("Cambridge pulsar right ascension 19 hr 19 min") in July in the constellation Velpecula. At first the pulsar's regular signal is taken to be a message from extraterrestrial beings, or "little green men," but soon Thomas Gold will show that the signal is caused by a neutron star rotating very fast. Bell's supervisor, Anthony Hewish, will be given a share of the 1974 Nobel Prize for this discovery. Because they do not know the origin of the signals, data on the pulsar are not published until February 1968.

At a meeting of the Institute for Space Studies in New York, John Archibald Wheeler [b. 1911] uses the term "black hole" to describe a gravitationally collapsed star from which no light can escape because the star's mass becomes concentrated in too small a region of space.

William A. Fowler [b. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 9, 1911, d. Pasadena, California, March 14, 1995], Robert Wagoner, and Fred Hoyle show that the atomic nuclei of hydrogen, deuterium, helium, and lithium are formed shortly after the big bang, but no other nuclei. All heavier nuclei are formed in nuclear reactions in stars.

U.S. space probe Surveyor III soft-lands on the Moon on April 19. The robot craft digs small trenches in the lunar surface and returns photographs of the results to Earth, where the lunar soil is thought (incorrectly) to look a lot like Earth soil and therefore be safe to walk upon (which is correct). Surveyor V soft-lands on the Sea of Tranquility September 10. Surveyor VI soft-lands on Central Bay on the Moon November 9.

The Soviet space probe Venera 4 parachutes a capsule into the atmosphere of Venus, where high pressures and temperatures cause it to cease functioning about the time it is thought to have hit the



surface of the planet; telemetry from its descent reveals that the atmosphere of Venus is mostly carbon dioxide.

The third U.S. Lunar Orbiter completes the task of surveying possible landing sights on the Moon for the Apollo astronauts. U.S. scientists launch Lunar Orbiter IV on May 4. Its mission is to map the face of the Moon in more detail than can be seen from telescopes placed on Earth.

Launched on June 14, U.S. space probe Mariner V flies to within 4000 km (2600 mi) of Venus. It obtains data on the atmosphere, temperature, and air pressure of Venus that are roughly consistent with the Venera probe of the previous day. Later data will show, however, that the temperature and pressure are even higher than recorded.

Hans Bethe of the United States wins the Nobel Prize in physics for his study of the energy production of stars.

Established in 1967, the Webb Society exists to encourage amateur observations of double stars and 'deep-sky' objects such as star-clusters and nebulae, and to provide a forum where observers can communicate and publish the results of their work.

In 1967, John Dobson of subsequent Dobsonian Mount fame is a monk at the Vedanta monastery [For those who remember his visit to Orwell Park, presumably he already has a taste for yew berries!] At the monastery, he is assigned with uniting the ancient thinking of India with atomic physics and astronomy but also builds and trundles reflecting telescopes around the local neighbourhood on wagon wheels, showing children how to build telescopes. Monastery rules forbid him leaving without permission, and in 1967, after 23 years as a Monk, he is expelled. He has already constructed fifteen 12-inch and two 18-inch telescopes from salvaged junk.

Neil Morley.



At the start of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and in collaboration with the British Astronomical Association, the BAA and Orwell Astronomical Society are delighted to announce a very special event that will be of interest to anyone from nine to ninety seeking to take up the science and hobby of Astronomy.

## **An Astronomy Basics Workshop**

**To be staged at the Methodist Halls,  
Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
9.30am to 5pm.**

**Some of the UK's leading Amateur Astronomers will be on hand to demonstrate in a series of short talks how to get started - the basics of Astronomy - telescope advice - observational tips - and much more.**

**The event will be supported by displays and astronomy trade stands. Full details are available on our web sites.**

**Tickets are now available on a strictly first come first served basis at £5 each and may be purchased directly from the BAA by downloading an application form from their web site - or from the Orwell Astronomical Society web site.**

**[www.britastro.org](http://www.britastro.org)  
[www.oasi.org.uk](http://www.oasi.org.uk)**

# OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Kenneth J. Goward FRAS	<b>Chairman</b>	☎		Press & Publicity with Secretary.
Roy Gooding	<b>Secretary</b>	☎		<b>MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT</b> Press Publicity with Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Garry Coleman	<b>Treasurer</b>	☎		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	☎		Tomline Refractor Tutoring. Social Activities.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎		Newsletter.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎		Librarian & Workshops.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Committee	☎		Visits by outside groups.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎		Safety & Security.
Peter Richards	Co-opted	☎		Lecture Meetings. School Lighting Liaison. Email Distribution Lists.

# Diary for December

<p><b>Monday</b>  <b>11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>From 8pm</b>          NB STONS for 2006/7 will be Scheduled on two Mondays per month around no moon periods</p>	<p><b><u>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS</u></b> (STONS)          Targets: Perseus and Andromeda          ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [redacted]</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>7.45pm</b>  <b>NACTON VILLAGE HALL</b></p>	<p><b><u>ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP</u></b>  <b><i>A Festive Quiz Night</i></b>          Please bring along your own festive drinks/snacks. Teams will be formed on the night – a light-hearted mix of General Knowledge and Astronomy questions...          ☎ Mike Whybray [redacted]</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>From 8pm</b></p>	<p><b><u>OASI CHRISTMAS MEAL</u></b>  <b>At the Levington Ship</b>          NB Advanced Booking essential.          ☎ Roy Gooding [redacted] (mobile) [redacted]</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>from 8pm</b>          NB THE OBSERVATORY WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b><u>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</u></b>          ☎ Martin Cook [redacted] (mobile) [redacted]          ☎ Roy Gooding [redacted] (mobile) [redacted]</p>
<p><b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>From 8pm</b></p>	<p><b><u>GEMINIDS METEOR WATCH</u></b>          Felixstowe Promenade at the 'dip' end          ☎ Roy Gooding [redacted] (mobile) [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

## Society Trustees

Mr Roy Adams Mr David Brown Mr David Payne

## Society Honorary President

Professor Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

## Observatory Telephone Number

Meeting nights only

[redacted]



*A Merry Christmas to you all!*