



# The Newsletter



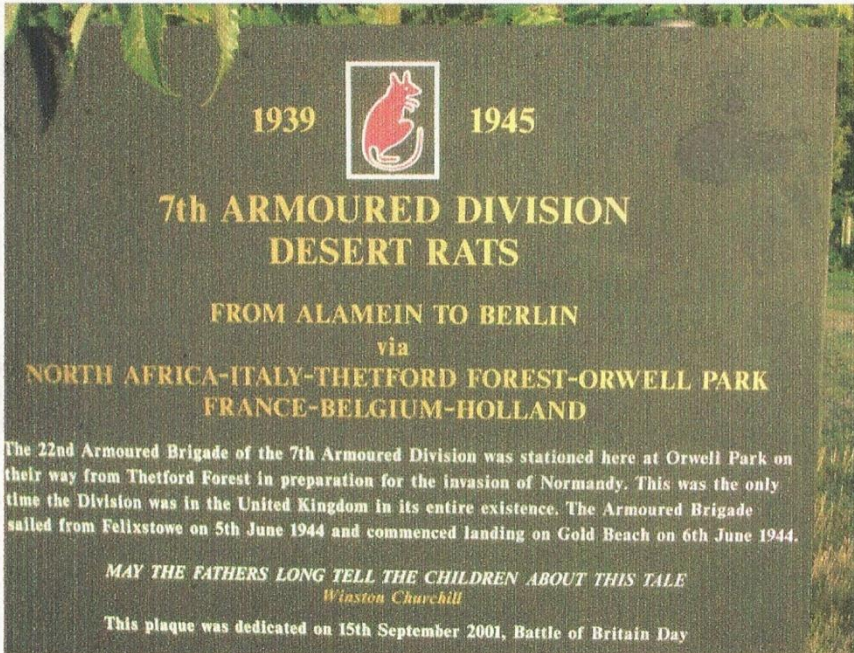
## of the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

Registered charity No 271313

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

2010 APRIL

No 451



**THIS PLAQUE  
IS DISPLAYED IN THE GROUNDS  
OF ORWELL PARK SCHOOL**

# Society News (Roy Gooding)

## 1 Committee Meeting Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April

### ***NOTE CHANGE OF DATE***

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April.  
Start time 20:00. Venue Methodist Church Hall

## 2 Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

Please use the third gate into the school grounds, this is the gate behind the Gym. 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) alternatively the Observatory mobile is [REDACTED] during meeting hours. The gate code is on the back of your membership card

## 3 Welcome to New Members

Andy Harrison David Rowe Carole Evans

## 4 Events Programme for 2010

This is a provisional event list, which will be updated through out the year

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>
Astronomy Workshop Where did our Universe Come From Mike Whybray	Nacton Village hall	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
Spring Star Party Organised by the Norwich Astronomical Society	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Lecture Dr. Alan Chapman Thomas Harriot, Galileo and the First Telescopic Astronomers	Orwell Park School	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 20:00
Public Out Reach Star Party	Orwell Country Park	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 20:00
Astronomy in the Park ( Solar Observing) 1 <sup>st</sup> option	Reg Driver Centre Christchurch Park	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Astronomy in the Park (Solar Observing) 2 <sup>nd</sup> option if previous weekend is cloudy	Reg Driver Centre Christchurch Park	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer Barbecue		TBA

Perseid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> August
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp 2010 Organised by Loughton Astronomical Society with the support of the SPA	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	Monday 6 September until Friday 17 September
Lecture by Tom Boles: Discovering Supernovae - Motivation & Rewards	Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane	Friday 22 October 20:00
Open Weekend		16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> October Provisional Date Waiting for confirmation from the School
Geminid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Meal		Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December

## 5 Dr. Alan Chapman's Lecture

Alan Chapman's lecture venue has been moved to Orwell Park School. Entrance will be by the School front door. Directions will be given in the entrance hall.

## 6 Public Out Reach Observing Events for 2010

### Orwell Country Park "Star Party" 24<sup>th</sup> April

This is a rearranged meeting

Set up time	20:00
Event Open	21:00
Event Close	TBA

This will be at the Orwell County Park and is a repeat of the successful meeting we held there last spring. This is being co-ordinated by Roy Gooding.

Moon transits the meridian	21:55
Saturn transits the meridian	22:53
Mars transits the meridian	19:46
Sun sets	20:18
Venus sets	22:42

### Astronomy in the Park (Solar Observing)

1<sup>st</sup> option: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May

2<sup>nd</sup> Option: (if the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> are cloudy) 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Set up time from 10:00 to 11:00

Event opens from 11:00 to 16:00

# Night Sky (April)

All times GMT

## Moon

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>New Moon</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>Full Moon</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>

Object	Date	Times		Mag	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	05:40	18:38		
	30	04:37	19:28		
Mercury	1	06:00	20:20	-0.8	Greatest eastern elongation is on April 8 <sup>th</sup> It is well place to observe in the evening sky during the 1 <sup>st</sup> half of the month
	30	04:30	19:07		
Venus	1	06:19	20:26	-3.9	Venus is well placed in the evening sky to observe this month
	30	05:39	22:01		
Mars	1	11:38	04:02	0.2 to 0.8	Mars is well placed all night to observe
	30	10:43	02:24		
Jupiter	1	05:08	16:14		Jupiter is too close to the sun in the evening twilight sky to observe this month
	30	03:25	14:55		
Saturn	1	17:16	05:47	0.7	Saturn is well placed all night, to observe all night
	30	15:11	03:50		
Uranus	1	05:23	17:12		Uranus is too close to the sun in the evening twilight sky to observe this month
	30	03:32	15:26		
Neptune	1	04:30	14:23		Neptune is too close to the sun in the evening twilight sky to observe this month
	31	02:38	12:32		

## Meteor Showers (BAA Handbook)

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Lyrids	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	April 19 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>	10

## OCCULTATIONS DURING APRIL

The table lists lunar 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
19 Apr	22:42:52	D	0.30+	-25	16	6.1	ZC 983
19 Apr	22:45:27	D	0.30+	-25	16	6.6	ZC 982
20 Apr	23:15:54	D	0.41+	-26	17	6.9	ZC 1123
24 Apr	22:47:46	D	0.84+	-23	32	5.9	62 Leo

James Appleton

### Meade Model 4504 - 4.5" (114mm) Equatorial Reflecting Telescope - Digital Electronic Autolocator

With Starfinder Electronic Hand Controller

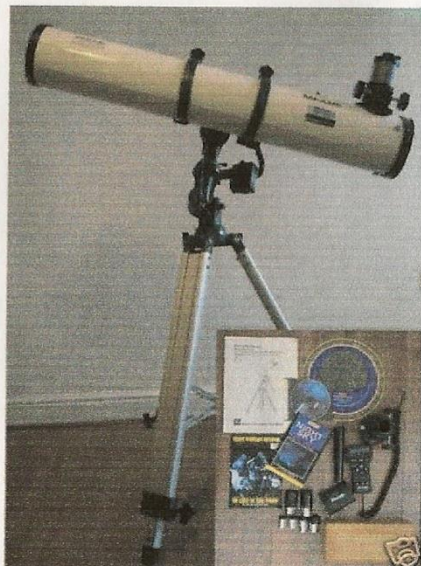
Complete with (as shown in picture and embeded picture):

- very sturdy tripod
- instruction manual
- many additional and spare eye pieces in a wooden case
- software
- *The Night Sky* book by Patrick Moore, and
- Philip's Planisphere showing the position of the stars and constellations for any time of the year in Northern Europe, USA and Canada

Collection from Ipswich or can deliver within 25 mile radius of Ipswich.

£119.00

*I dont know if this is still available but if any one is interested the owner is John Dickerson e-mail : [REDACTED]*



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# Just Fancy That!

*by Tina Hammond*

Our lives are full of coincidences. Or are they? I was reading an article on this earlier this year, and thought I would write one for the OASI newsletter.

Are the things we classify as coincidences really that or are they just things that occur to us at a time when they appear to be coincidental?

For example, when I was still at primary school, I was on holiday touring Scotland with my parents and we met my cousin and her family - also from Ipswich - on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle. This has been passed down as a coincidence, and I think it probably is. Neither of us knew the other family was going to be there, and to meet at such a place so far from home was unlikely.

However, there are other things to which we say, 'What a coincidence!', which upon further scrutiny are not really so.

A few months ago I was at the Observatory on a Thursday night to help with the Kesgrave High School Space Club visit. Their leader, Dave Green, and I were talking on the way up to the Belvedere and discovered that not only did we live in the same road as children, but he also lived next door to my best friend!

Was this a coincidence? Not really. The chance of meeting somebody from your own town actually in that town is not particularly remarkable. OK, so he lived next to my friend, but I did not know **him** - although there were many people we did both know - nor were we in the same year at school. It is inevitable that if people have lived in the same town for many years they may eventually meet.

Paul Whiting and I shared the same friend, Syd Mason, although via different routes. Paul knew him for his love of astronomy and amateur radio; I knew him because he was interested in Australia (where I once lived). When I met Paul, I asked if he knew Syd and, yes, of course he did. Coincidence? Possibly. But then my friend, Steve, came over from Australia, and did a talk for OASI on the Messier Objects. I knew he also was a fan of amateur radio....so does that mean that these two hobbies are mutually agreeable to many people?

Paul works at BT in Marltesham, as did one of the members of the CAMRA quiz team I belonged to 20 years ago. When his name came up in conversation Paul commented that he knew him. Is this surprising, bearing in mind there were thousands working there then? It appears so, until one considers that he left his employment under unusual circumstances, and it would have been odd had he not been known to most there, at least by name, if not in person.

In the days before email, I visited Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and had earlier contacted a chap who was a member of a society I belong to, to meet up for a drink and chat. I and five Malaysian males ended up spending over eight hours drinking in various pubs and eating until the small hours of the morning; and that was that. We never contacted one another again (except my writing to thank them, of course!).

Fast forward six years, I was living in Australia, and visiting Oxford in England for a dinner organised by the same society. I found myself seated next to one of the guys from KL! Not just beside his partner, but actually him. Neither of us knew the other would be attending, and so were not on the lookout for the other, nor was it the country of residence for either of us. That WAS a coincidence.

I then asked myself, is it a coincidence that John Isaac Plummer's brother in law was born in Ipswich? At first it looks to be so, but then you have to consider Plummer and his family. They had an extraordinary life, very atypical and the absolute antithesis of the average Victorian. In an era when few people even travelled to the next county, let alone another country (let's face it, even the Queen was not famed for doing so!), the Plummers not only travelled the length and breadth of Great Britain, but also overseas, living and working in Hong Kong, an unbelievable distance from England, for 20 years. The only other people of the time who were likely to travel such distances would be ambassadors, mariners and explorers.



We then look at Plummer's bother in law, Thomas Isaac Brown (Aha - I hear you cry - his middle name is also a coincidence!). He was born in Fore Hamlet, Ipswich, close to the river, and **his** father - Isaac - was a 'Seaman'. It is likely that Isaac took his family further afield, and Thomas followed in his father's footsteps, perpetuating the travelling of far distances - Hong Kong - and had a son, Arthur [not born in Ipswich] , who later married Plummer's daughter Maudie.

How and why Arthur went to Hong Kong remains uncertain, but the fact that he and Maudie met in a foreign country, far from home, is quite telling. Did they meet there, lonely and nostalgic for the old country, and found that their ties to Ipswich were sufficient for them to pursue a relationship and marry? More than likely. Taking these facts into consideration, the initial shock of an Ipswich-born brother-in-law by his daughter's marriage is much less of a coincidence than it at first appears, and more of a logical step in emotional ties: two people in a foreign land, sharing a common location. Whatever your opinion of this, it is satisfying that Ipswich not only played a major part in Plummer's professional, but also his personal, life.

To conclude, when I visited the Ipswich records office to find out more about Thomas Isaac Plummer, who should I meet in the car park as I arrived, but OASI member John Barbrook, also going there!

Coincidence? Or not.....

**c Tina Hammond, 2010**

## Where did our universe come from?

Doors open at 7:30pm.

START at 7:45pm 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010

I'll be talking about the evidence for (and against) the Big Bang theory of the history of the universe, and asking the questions: Where did it all come from? Was there anything before the Big Bang, and what if anything can we know about that? Recent theories suggest the universe could be cyclic, or that there may be infinitely many universes. Could we tell the difference?

This will be more of a talk than a workshop, but I hope to get some lively feedback from the audience – and even some help with a few of the trickier bits!

This is the last workshop this season – more to come in the autumn.

Mike Whybray

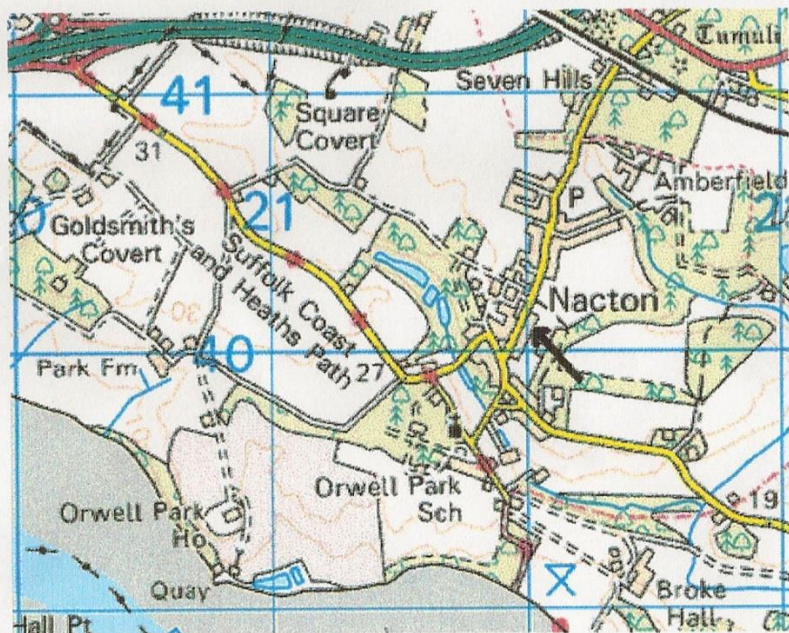
Workshops organiser

(Mobile)

(Home)

**Venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL IP10 0EU** (next to the small village school, just below and left of the N in Nacton on the map).

Please park on the same side of the road as the hall, but avoid parking on the white lines which mark clear spaces for various driveways and passing places.



# OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	Chairman	☎	
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎	<b>MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT</b> Press Publicity with Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer	☎	<b>Finance.</b> Supervision of Grant Applications. Visits by outside groups. <b>IYA 2009 Coordinator</b>
James Appleton	Committee	☎	Committee Meeting Minutes. Web Site.
Martin Cook	Committee	☎	Membership. Tomline Refractor Maintenance.
Peter Richards	Committee	☎	Lecture Meetings. Email Distribution Lists.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎	Newsletter.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎	Librarian & Workshops.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎	Safety & Security.
John Wainwright	Committee	☎	Forward planning & Strategy Equipment Curator

## DIARY for APRIL

<b>Monday</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> From 8pm	<b><u>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</u></b> Main observing targets: Leo and Cancer plus Mars and Saturn.  ☛ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☛ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesdays</b> From 8PM	<b><u>MAIN OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</u></b> Primary Observational targets: Nebulae and faint objects. ☛ Martin Cook [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED] ☛ Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesday</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Doors open 7.30pm Start 7.45pm	<b><u>OASI WORKSHOP</u></b> Where did our universe come from. Run by Mike Whybray Nacton village Hall ☛ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
<i>13<sup>th</sup></i> <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP</u></b> Taster Evening Proposed date not definite  ☛ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]
<b>Saturday 10th</b> <b>April @ 8pm</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <b>Methodist Church Hall</b> <b>Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</b>

### Society Primary Contacts

Chairman: Neil Morley ☛ [REDACTED]

Secretary: Roy Gooding ☛ [REDACTED] (daytime) [REDACTED] (evenings)

E-Mail queries: [ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk](mailto: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]