



The Newsletter



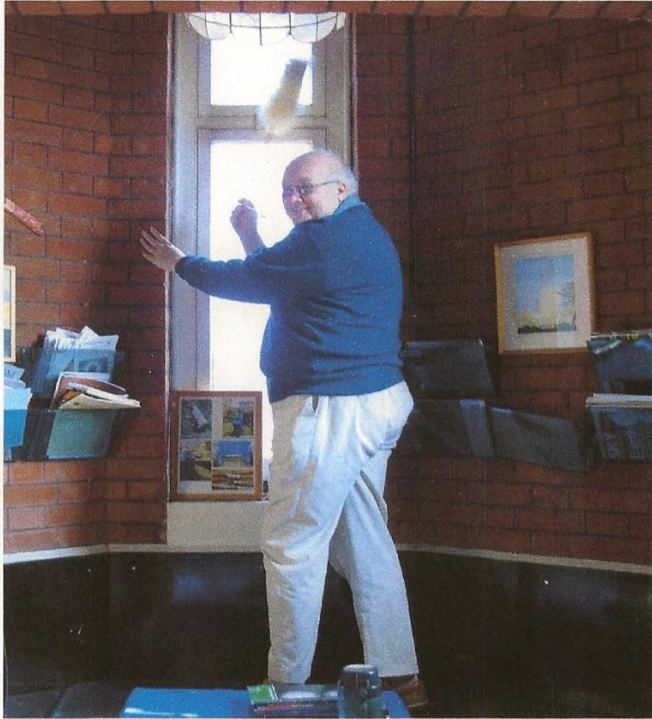
of the
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

2010
NOVEMBER

Registered charity no. 271313

www.oasi.org.uk

No 457



How tickled I am! OASI Treasurer, Paul Whiting, demonstrates remarkable lightness of touch wielding a feather duster in the club room at Orwell Park Observatory. Paul's exertions were in preparation for the Orwell Park School open day on 09 October 2010. Some three dozen parents and students visited the observatory where they learned something of the rich history of Orwell Park and, in between clouds, were able to observe several major solar prominences using OASI's Coronado Solar Telescope.

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 AGM Committee Saturday 18th January 2011

All members are invited to attend the AGM on Saturday 18th January 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

Paul Palmer Caroline Chapman & family David Patterson Jason Pollard & family
Sheila Davis & family Chris Allen & family Stephen Bennett Ian Freeston
Graham Allis & family

4 Events Programme for 2010

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

Meeting	Venue	Date
Geminid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	Saturday 11 th December
Christmas Meal	Arlingtons Museum street	Wednesday 15 th December 20:00

5 Events Programme for 2011

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
AGM	Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane	Saturday 8 th January 20:00

6 Christmas Meal Wednesday 15th December 20:00

Christmas meal bookings have now been closed. If you would still like to come please contact a Arlingtons to make a private booking.

Night Sky (November)

All times GMT

Moon

New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon	3 rd Quarter
6 th	13 th	21 st	28 th

Object	Date	Times		Mag	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	06:50	16:27		
	30	07:40	15:48		
Mercury	1	07:51	16:41		Mercury is not visible this month
	30	09:44	16:48		
Venus	1	06:44	15:38	-4,7	Venus has moved back into the morning sky
	30	04:04	14:21		
Mars	1	09:12	17:20		Mars is not visible this month
	30	09:09	16:38		
Jupiter	1	15:08	02:39	-2.7	Jupiter is well placed to observe this month
	30	13:13	00:44		
Saturn	1	04:09	15:49	0.9	Saturn is visible in the early morning sky
	30	02:32	14:00		
Uranus	1	15:09	02:59	5.7	Uranus is well placed to observe this month It is about 2 degrees above and to the left on Jupiter
	30	13:14	01:03		
Neptune	1	14:13	23:57	7.8	Neptune is in capricornus
	30	12:19	22:04		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
Taurids	October 20 th to November 30 th	November 3 rd	10
Leonids	November 15 th to 20 th	November 17 th 12:00	20

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

OCCULTATIONS DURING NOVEMBER

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
03 Nov	04:38:13	R	0.12-	-21	11	5.6	ZC 1713
11 Nov	17:29:55	D	0.31+	-12	17	6.9	ZC 2908
12 Nov	17:35:01	D	0.41+	-13	22	7.0	ZC 3029
16 Nov	00:06:35	D	0.71+	-56	11	7.4	Hip 114260
16 Nov	19:49:37	D	0.78+	-35	42	4.9	19 Psc
18 Nov	02:34:43	D	0.87+	-43	10	6.5	ZC 89
21 Nov	04:58:27	D	1.00+	-22	18	4.9	zeta Ari

James Appleton

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

I have updated the electronic archive of *OASI Newsletters*. It is now complete from edition 1 (February 1972) to edition 452 (May 2010).

The electronic archive fits on a DVD. It contains a scan of every non-blank page of the *Newsletter* and an index to the articles in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet facilitates locating particular articles: it provides a categorisation of each article into one of 24 types and enables the user to undertake keyword searches by using the Excel *Find* function.

Key statistics of the electronic archive are as follows:

Newsletters archived:	edition 1 to edition 452
Period:	February 1972 – May 2010
Number of scanned pages:	5104
Number of items indexed:	10,851
Size of archive on DVD-ROM:	2.6 GB
Size of index when printed	307 A4 pages

I will provide a DVD of the archive for the OASI library. If any member of OASI wants a personal copy, please just ask and I'll provide a DVD.

Earlier articles concerning the Newsletter electronic archive, its creation and highlights from the first 34 years of *Newsletters* may be found in the October 2005 and June 2009 *Newsletters*.

James Appleton

4

Astronomy Workshops

Doors open at 7:30pm.

Workshops START at 7:45pm

Venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL IP10 0EU

If you are a new OASI member, or haven't been to one of these workshops before – they are a mixture of events of different characters including beginners talks, interactive workshops, hands-on observing sessions, films etc., suitable for all. They are also a chance to chat with other members over a cup of tea and a biscuit, in a venue rather warmer than the observatory dome on a winter's night!

I have only got detail for the first two so far but hope to have more in following months.

As ever, I need more volunteers to run these – you don't need to be an expert on your subject – just pick something interesting, read up about it, and come and run the event any way you like! Unless more people come forward, these will die out as an OASI activity.

Date	Event	Run by...
10th November 2010	Choosing and using a telescope Beginner's guide to the different types of astronomical telescopes available, and things to consider if you are thinking of buying one. We'll have some examples of different 'scopes available to get your hands on and try out.	Mike Whybray and John Wainright

Mike Whybray

Workshops organiser

(Mobile)

(Home)

Workshops venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL IP10 0EU (next to the small village school)

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.

Astronomical Musings from Melbourne

Paul Whiting

Well you need a change from work sometimes! My first jaunt was to visit the Astronomical Society of Victoria Inc. at one of their specialist group meetings, talking about exo-planets. The venue for this informal talk was the ASV Lodge, which is quite a nice little set up in the back barn of a private house in the suburbs, an hour's tram ride and half a mile walk from the city centre. The Lodge is equipped with everything you might need for talks, presentations and exhibitions, including full AV equipment and a tea urn. The talk was very informal by nature and took the form of an intelligent discussion around a magazine article on exo-planets. We might do worse than adopt this style for one or more of our workshops.

The ASV hold one formal meeting a month (which I just missed, it being the week before I arrived), a number of specialist section meetings, and this month a public exhibition at the Melbourne Observatory, which took place the day after I left! More of Melbourne Observatory later.

My second jaunt was to visit the Melbourne Planetarium, part of the Museum Victoria Scienceworks facility. Again this facility is based about 5 miles out of town and a short ride on the suburban metro train, plus the ubiquitous half a mile walk. I should have hired a car, what with the Aussie's driving on the correct side of the road and all that, but I could never get used to the Melbourne "turn right from the left lane only" rule. The Scienceworks is obviously geared up for kids and the great interactive exhibits demonstrated pretty much every aspect of the human body. For example there was the F.A.R.T machine, which asked kids to pull the mechanical finger. I also caught a young couple playing the "race a sperm" game. Younger kids had fun in a special zone with lots of Lego and playing dump trucks with soft balls. However this was but a diversion whilst waiting for the afternoon performance of Blackholes to begin inside the 16m dome. It was an excellent recorded presentation, but why are the reclining chairs so comfortable. I'm sure I started snoring at one point (as usual in planetaria). Then came 15 minutes on what we could see in the sky that night, if it wasn't

cloudy, which it was. Every night. The planets were well placed as were the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, but as I said, it was cloudy.

The third jaunt was to the Melbourne Observatory, part of the Royal Botanical Gardens. This time situated much more centrally, which of course is a pain for light pollution. The first Observatory was initially set up in 1853 to provide a proper standard of time for the town and visiting shipping. The opening of the proper astronomical observatory was in 1863, with Robert Ellery as Government Astronomer. Their first task was to continue accurate time provision by accurately mapping the southern skies. In fact Sir George Airy, our old friend the Astronomer Royal, said "The Melbourne Observatory has produced the best catalogue of stars the Southern Hemisphere has ever published". The observatory also collected data about the Earth's magnetic field, earthquakes and atmospheric electricity and, just like Hong Kong Observatory, was also home to the local weather service.

The Great Melbourne Telescope, a 48" speculum Cassegrain, was built by Grubb and installed in 1869, and was the largest, fully steerable telescope in the world for the next 30 years. After the Observatory was de-commissioned in 1944 the telescope was moved to Mount Stromlo Observatory, near Canberra until it was destroyed in a bushfire in 2003.

For a lot more information on Melbourne Observatory, and especially about historic transits of Venus have a look at www.melbourneobservatory.com.

The Observatory, or at least the smaller domes and telescopes, are now administered by the ASV, who hold regular tours and telescope viewings, which leads me on to my next jaunt.

Jupiter and its moons – the title of the open evening I booked into one Monday. Cloudy again (obviously) but the organisation of the tour was quite good. Everyone there had had to pre-book via the Botanical Garden office, and pay their \$18 (each). I wonder how much of the cut the ASV get and how much the Gardens keep?

There were about 20 of us visiting that night, and we were swiftly split up into three groups – one group to do each of the two open domes and the third to have a brief tour of the outside covering the history of the place. At every turn the

guides' patter could have been copied from my own for our observatory. Different types of telescopes, how they work, what the dome's made of, problems with the bearings, etc., etc. Very reassuring that the world over, we guides do the same thing.

We started in the dome currently housing a wooden 12" reflector made by an amateur in the early part of the 20th Century (not the original working telescope). We then moved on to the helioscope dome, which was actually a double dome, the first housing a smallish telescope mainly used for solar work, including the Victorian transits of Venus. The second dome houses a Troughton & Simms 8" refractor installed in 1874. Does this sound familiar? It was obviously a stable mate to our own 10" Troughton & Simms, also installed in 1874. The mounting here was also made by Troughtons. The dome above our heads here rotated on real 19th century canon balls.

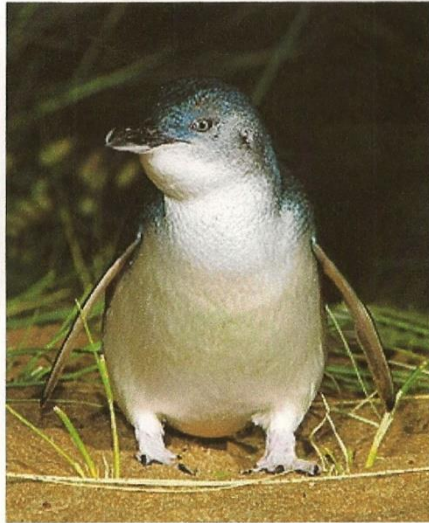
There are many other buildings/rooms connected with the old observatory containing much old equipment, which unfortunately the Botanical Gardens are not inclined to restore and display. This includes one or more large transit instruments, the largest also being made by Troughtons.

The former observatory Director's house and that of his assistant still exist but are used by the City Council and have not been maintained as they were either.

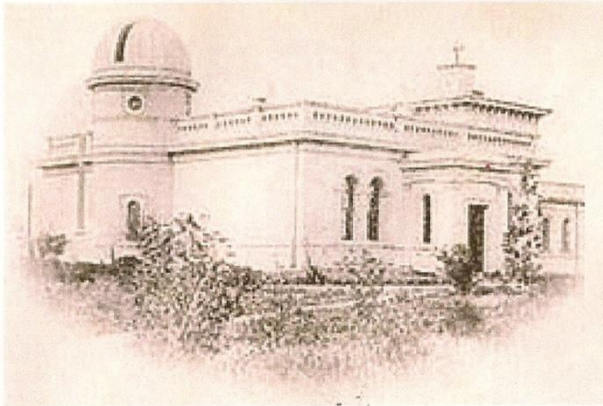
One interesting note – the ASV have in their possession the remains of the burnt out Great Melbourne Telescope retrieved from Mt Stromlo and they have long term plans to return it to use, in its former run-off roof style building.

The only partially clear night coincided with a visit to a penguin colony. The little penguins on Phillip Island put on a "parade" when they come ashore to roost every evening at sunset. Venus, Mars and Jupiter were well on display along with the Southern Cross, the Pointers and Scorpius, beyond that it was too cloudy to see what I really wanted – the Magellanic Clouds.

After 3 weeks of bad weather I never did get to see the Magellanic Clouds, but I did just catch the closest approach of Jupiter for 47 years (Sep 21st), with Uranus just one degree from it. A nice sight with (reasonably high powered) binoculars from the small park opposite the hotel, with common brush-tailed possums running about my feet wondering what I was doing.



A little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) wandering home to roost after a hard day's fishing



Melbourne Observatory
(www.melbourneobservatory.com)

OASI LIBRARY

by Tina Hammond

The huge collection of astronomical magazines (complete years) received from Tim Lyster of Frinton Sea have been gratefully received by the St Elizabeth Hospice, and I have catalogued and filed away about 70% of the books.

This has only been made possible by a thorough sorting through of the existing books and I am therefore gradually creating a small list of publications for sale to OASI members.













I can currently offer the following:

Title	Author	Format	Year	Pages	Notes	Comments
Astrophotography for the Amateur	Michael Covington	pb	1995	168 pp	Revised ed'n	
Introducing Astronomy,	J B Sidgwick	pb	1957?	260 pp		
Satellite Observers Manual	Howard Miles/BAA publication	pb	1973	96 pp		
The Nature of the Universe	Fred Hoyle	hb	1950	122 pp	4 th ed'n	No dust jacket
Teach Yourself Books: Astronomy	David S Evans	hb	1952	182 pp	1 st ed'n	No dust jacket
The Invasion of the Moon 1969: the Story of Apollo 11	Peter Ryan	pb	1969	190 pp		Penguin
Wonders of the Sky	Mary Proctor	hb	??	96 pp		No dust jacket

Please email me on [REDACTED] with your offers. In the unlikely event that two people want the same book, it will go to the highest bidder. Otherwise the first person to contact me will be successful.

The books will follow the magazines if nobody is interested...

OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	Chairman			Chair committee meetings. Represent OASI to external bodies.
Roy Gooding	Secretary			Respond to enquiries. Press & publicity. Observatory decoration. Open days.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer			Finance. Visits by outside groups.
James Appleton	Committee			Minutes of committee meetings. Web site.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee			Safety & security.
Martin Cook	Committee			Membership. Tomline Refractor maintenance.
Tina Hammond	Committee			Librarian.
Peter Richards	Committee			Lecture meetings. Email distribution lists.
Eric Sims	Committee			Newsletter.
John Wainwright	Committee			Equipment curator.
Mike Whybray	Committee			Workshops.

Trustees

Mr Roy Adams
Mr David Brown
Mr David Payne

Honorary President

Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

DIARY for NOVEMBER

<p>Monday 1st & 15th STONs</p>	<p>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY Main observing targets: Taurus, Jupiter, Uranus, Andromeda.</p> <p>☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Wednesdays From 8.00pm</p>	<p>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear.</p> <p>☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th Doors open 7.30pm, workshop starts 7.45pm</p>	<p>OASI WORKSHOP Nacton village Hall. Choosing and using a telescope</p> <p>☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>4th 8:00pm 11th 8:00pm 18th 8:00pm</p> <p>2nd December 8:00pm</p>	<p>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP Emma Mordue Group Tina Hammond Group 15th Ipswich Guides</p> <p>Westbourne Sports College ☎ Paul Whiting [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Saturday 8th January 2011</p> <p>8:00pm</p> <p>Provisional date</p>	<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>Methodist Church Hall Black Horse Lane Ipswich</p>

Society Contact Details

Observatory tel. no. (meeting nights only): [REDACTED]
 Secretary: Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (day) [REDACTED] (evening)
 E-mail queries: ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk
 Chairman: Neil Morley [REDACTED]