



The Newsletter



of the
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

2011

Registered charity no. 271313

August -
September

www.oasi.org.uk

No 466



A very nice photo of a double
rainbow over Ipswich
at 6.00pm on
Monday 18th July.

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 Committee Meeting Saturday 10th September

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting. 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

No new members have joined since July

4 Events Programme for 2011

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp 2011 Organised by Loughton Astronomical Society with the support of the SPA	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	19 th – 30 th September
Open Weekend	Orwell Park Observatory	Saturday 1 st & Sunday 2 nd October 19:30 to 22:00
Lecture Meeting Telescopes from Hell: (what to watch out for when buying a telescope) by Martin Mobberley	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	Friday 14 th October 20:00
FAS Convention	Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge	Saturday 15 th October
Lecture Meeting Are We Star Dust or Nuclear Waste? (Stellar Evolution) by Robin Catchpole	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	Friday 4 th November 20:00
Ipswich Beer Festival Social event		TBA
Christmas Meal Social event	Venue Ski Lodge TBC	Wednesday 7 th December 20:00

OPEN WEEKEND 2011

This event has now been confirmed with the School and will be held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October
Doors open for the public at 19:30

As usual as much help as possible is required to make this another successful Open Weekend.

If you are only available to help for a short time your presence will still be appreciated.

Posters can be obtained from either Eric Sims or Roy Gooding

PUBLIC OPEN WEEKEND

Orwell Park Observatory will be Open to the Public on

Saturday 1st October 7:30pm to 10:00pm

Sunday 2nd October 7:30pm to 10:00pm

The weekends observing programme will include:

Observations of the Moon, Jupiter, Uranus and the Night Sky

**Observations will be made using the 10" Tomline Refractor
and a wide selection of other smaller telescopes**

6 **Christmas Meal 7th December (Note date change)**

After a discussion on a Wednesday, it was decided to go to the Ski Lodge.
They will not be taking bookings until September

Night Sky (August)

All times GMT

Moon

New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon	3 rd Quarter
6 th	13 th	21 st	29 th

Object	Date			Mag	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	04:16	19:46		
	31	05:05	18:46		
Mercury	1	06:40	20:07	0.5	Mercury will be difficult to see this month, as it is very low down in the eastern sky
	31	03:29	18:06		
Venus	1	03:49	19:41		Venus is at superior conjunction on the 14 th
	31	05:25	19:01		
Mars	1	00:49	17:33	1.4	Mars will be visible in the morning sky this month
	31	00:23	16:54		
Jupiter	1	22:28	13:00	-2.6	Jupiter is now moving into the evening sky
	31	20:34	11:08		
Saturn	1	10:16	21:54	1.1	Saturn is now sinking into the evening twilight sky
	31	08:34	20:00		
Uranus	1	21:23	09:43	5.8	Uranus is in Pisces. It is now better placed to observe in the evening sky.
	31	19:24	07:40		
Neptune	1	20:24	06:28	7.8	Neptune is in Aquarius It is at opposition on the 22 nd
	31	18:24	04:25		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
α Capricornids	July 15 th to August 20 th	August 2 nd	5
ι Aquarids	July to August	August 6 th	8
Perseids	July 23 to August 20 th	August 13 ^h 04:00	80

Night Sky (September)

All times GMT

Moon

New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon	3 rd Quarter
4 th	12 th	20 th	27 th

Object	Date			Mag	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	05:06	18:44		
	30	05:54	17:36		
Mercury	1	03:28	18:05		In the first two weeks of the month, Mercury may be observable low down in the pre-dawn sky
	3	05:58	17:44		
Venus	1	05:28	18:59		Venus is too close to the sun to observe this month
	30	07:02	18:01		
Mars	1	00:22	16:52	1.4	Mars moves from Gemini into Cancer this month
	30	00:05	15:51		
Jupiter	1	20:30	11:04	2.6	Jupiter is a very prominent in the evening sky now
	30	18:33	09:01		
Saturn	1	08:31	19:56		Saturn is too close to the sun to observe this month
	30	06:56	18:08		
Uranus	1	19:20	07:36	5.8	Uranus is in Pisces. It is now better placed to observe in the evening sky.
	30	17:24	05:36		
Neptune	1	18:20	04:21	7.8	Neptune is in Aquarius
	30	16:25	02:23		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
Piscids	September to October	Sept 9 ^h	10
		Sept 21 st	5
		Oct. 13 th	?

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

The Society for the History of Astronomy Picnic

Saturday 16th July 2011

Paul Whiting

Anyone would think that royalty was expected by the way the floors, walls and ceilings of the observatory were cleared of mud, dust and cobwebs on the Wednesday before the picnic. More activity still on Thursday evening too, when Neil hoovered the entire school (well all the way down to the boot room) while I finished the painting in the dome from last September – the blue panels in the doors and window frames and the black skirting. Even bin bags were replaced in swing bins. Everything was prepared for the prestigious event of hosting the annual picnic for the Society for the History of Astronomy.

The day dawned, although you wouldn't have noticed given the sheets of rain pouring out of the sky. Perhaps not an ideal day for a picnic. Bill, Neil and I arrived early to set up the Society display boards and the Millennium telescope in the Alston Room – one of two rooms the School had let us use along with the Orangery. This proved very fortuitous given the rain gushing from the sky. The original plan was to use the rooms as an indoor base for coffee and displays while the picnic took place on the playing fields. Now everything was to take place in these rooms – fine except there were no tables provided just chairs and a tea urn !

Just after midday the first SHA members started to arrive. We thought that they may have been put off by the weather, but most of them had travelled the day before and had stopped overnight at various venues around East Anglia.

In all around 20 SHA members turned up along with 9 OASI members, including Lorraine Goward and the boys. This was a good number and just

filled the Alston Room. The whole afternoon then took on a slightly higher class flavour when one of the SHA members produced a silver candelabra along with electronic candles, which he placed on the grand piano in the corner. At this point Neil started entertaining us with some excellent cello playing. I think that this was perhaps the most unique picnic the SHA has had in its almost 10 year history.

After the feeding festivities were complete the group as a whole headed up the stairs to the observatory for a 90 minute history lecture by yours truly. I tried to remember to include all the old chestnuts that I tend to omit from the standard visitor spiel, given the usual eye glazing reaction, but these guys seemed to lap it up – some of them even added to the story, but this would be expected given the group.

Back downstairs for more coffee and at last a quick spin outside, given that the rain had finally stopped.

John and Tina took advantage of the captive audience to sell some old books and magazines.

Eventually the guests wended their way home and the cups were tidied and placed in the kitchen, the telescope and display packed away and the room was handed back to the caretaker.

A very successful afternoon, despite the rain, in fact I received very many compliments about the organisation for the day and what we do as a Society and maintaining the observatory. More importantly the SHA made a very generous donation to the 582 Fund.

IDAS and The Stargazer(s)

by Tina Hammond

All Orwell Astronomical Society (OASI) members who know their OASI history will know that the predecessor to OASI, Ipswich and District Astronomy Society (IDAS) issued a newsletter called *The Stargazer* from approximately 1954 until their demise in 1957.

The current day OASI quiz team name, *The Stargazers* is inspired by IDAS' early efforts and so *The Stargazers* is a name that is very close to my heart.

Imagine then my surprise when, at a lecture in London very recently, *The Stargazers* were mentioned! But not the quiz team.....I sat up and paid attention.....especially as the topic was 1950s Britain.

It would appear that the magazine title was not just a random astronomical name, but a reflection of the then committee's musical tastes, and what today would be the equivalent of a cookery society naming their publication the Black Eyed Peas.

The Stargazers were a very popular vocal group - best described as novelty choraleists - throughout the 1950s. Although they appear to have died a natural death round about 1960 - so outliving IDAS! - they helped germinate the seeds of that type of music which would continue with huge success for at least a decade later. While not exactly taking the charts by storm, they made regular appearances on BBC radio shows such as *Take It From Here* in the mid to late 1950s, so would have been known to practically everybody, radio then being the dominant form of home entertainment in the UK. Generally falling into the easy listening genre of music, *The Stargazers* adapted their style to take advantage of changing musical fashions which, at the end of 1959, was very much rock and roll.

The original group - Marie Benson, Dick James (lead singer), Ronnie Milne (drums), Bernie Fenton (piano) and Fred Dachtler (brass), were brought together by the London born pianist/trombonist Cliff Adams in January 1949.

Like Judith Durham of the Seekers, Marie Benson had been born in Australia and had already established herself as a singer there before coming to the UK in 1948 to broaden her career. She appeared on most of the early *Stargazers* singles, later being replaced by other females. Dick James later went on to solo success singing the theme from the new - and hugely popular - Independent Television (ITV) childrens' series *Robin Hood*, and his place was filled by Bob Brown who had previously played the trumpet with Jack Jackson's Orchestra.

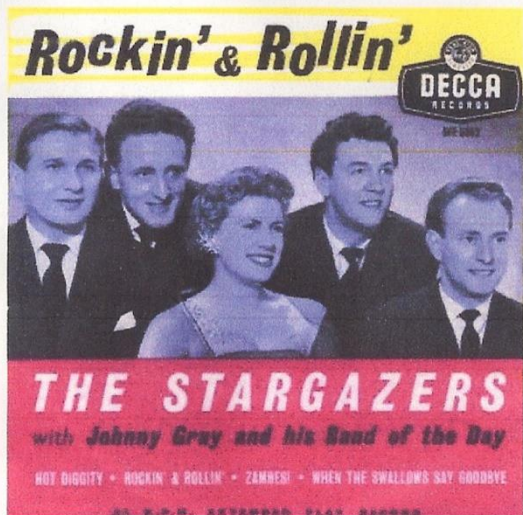
Ronnie Milne's place was later filled by David Carey, who had previously worked as a drummer for the Lew Stone Orchestra before turning to singing with Cyril Stapleton.

Fred Dachtler had previously played saxophone and clarinet with a number of orchestras and was probably *The Stargazers'* longest serving member.

The Stargazers created several very successful records during the early 1950s including two number one hits (including the aptly named *I see the Moon* in 1954!). These were produced with a number of different orchestras, most notably with that of Cyril Stapleton who also had close associations with BBC radio, and they were the resident singers with *Cyril Stapleton's Show Band*, a radio programme that ran for many years from January 1953. Besides their own hits, *The Stargazers* were regularly used as backing singers on the records of a number of UK artists, including Dickie Valentine, Roy Smith, Dennis Lotis and Lita Roza. *The Stargazers* also took advantage of ITV, even releasing a record, *Sorry, You'll Have To Wait* to the catchy tune of the *Murray Mints* advertisement.

The Stargazers' final line up consisted of Bob Brown, June Marlow, David Carey and Fred Dachtler.

This very rare 1956 EP sleeve gives a good photograph of the group at that time. According to the sleeve notes, the line up then consisted of Cliff Adams, Bob Brown Eula Parker Fred Dachtler and David Carey.



Cliff Adams later formed the *Cliff Adams Singers* in 1954 who became familiar to radio listeners with their show *Sing Something Simple* which remained popular the entire 1960s and beyond.

OCCULTATIONS DURING AUGUST

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
08 Aug	21:44:50	D	0.76+	-16	10	7.3	Hip 83461
11 Aug	20:50:07	D	0.96+	-11	16	5.9	57 Sgr

OCCULTATIONS DURING SEPTEMBER

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
05 Sep	19:36:23	D	0.62+	-10	13	7.3	Hip 86811
08 Sep	21:56:04	D	0.88+	-27	22	7.2	Hip 101199
19 Sep	23:39:09	D	0.55-	-37	20	5.0	109 Tau
20 Sep	00:30:48	R		-36	28		

The track of a grazing lunar occultation crosses East Anglia during the month. The circumstances are as follows:

Star: 40 Ari
 Mag: 5.8
 Date: 17 Sep
 Time: 02:31
 Lunar phase: 0.81 waning
 Sun alt: -23 deg
 Star Alt: 56 deg
 Star azimuth: 176 deg
 Lunar limb: S

The graze track across East Anglia passes 6km N of the centre of Bury St Edmunds, through Stanton and Bressingham, 3km N of Diss, through Pulham Market, 2km N of the centre of Ditchingham, 7 km N of Beccles and out to sea at Gorleston-on-Sea.

If weather conditions are favourable, it is likely that the usual OASI graze observers will travel to the graze line to observe the event. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the observing party.

James Appleton

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 August - September

STONs	SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY STONs will restart in October. Solar and daytime planet observing by arrangement with Paddy O'Sullivan. ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]
Wednesdays From 8.00pm	OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear. ASTEROID OBSERVING PROJECT. ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED]
Wednesday	OASI WORKSHOP Nothing Arranged At Nacton Village Hall If you are interested in running or helping at a 00002 workshop please get in touch with Mike Whybray. ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
Thursday	OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]
Saturday 10th September 8.00pm	NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Venue: The Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane Ipswich

OPEN WEEKEND

Orwell Park Observatory

Saturday 1st October & Sunday 2nd October

7.30pm to 10.00pm

Society Contact Details

Observatory tel. no. (meeting nights only): [REDACTED]

Secretary: Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (day) [REDACTED] (evening)

E-mail queries: info@oasi.org.uk

Chairman: Neil Morley [REDACTED]