



# The Newsletter



of the

## Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

2012  
MARCH

Registered charity no. 271313

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

No 472



This image was taken by Ben Jarvis from Christchurch Park during the public BBC Stargazing event on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The scope used was a Williams Optics Megrez 72 refractor with a flattener/reducer added to bring it down to 345mm focal length and f4.8. The camera was an astro-modified Canon eos 500D with a clip in light pollution filter, the mount was a Skywatcher HEQ5 pro, guided with a Lodestar guide camera and PHD software on a laptop.

# Society News (Roy Gooding)

## 1 Committee Meeting Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Any members who are interested are invited to attend this 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.

## 3 Welcome to New Members

David Bingham Tommy Fairweather

## 4 2012 Subscriptions

Subscription are due for this year now. If you have not paid for this year please return the **YELLOW** form with your cheque, payable to OASI, to Martin Cook

## 5 Events Programme for 2012

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

Event	Venue	Date
Workshop Waves the Harmony of the Spheres to the Higgs Boson Mike O'Mahony	Nacton village hall	14 <sup>th</sup> March 19:45
Lecture meeting The Faulkes Telescope Nik Szymanek	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 20:00
Quiz to raise money for the 582 restoration fund	TBC Tina Hammond has more details	1 <sup>st</sup> option 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2 <sup>nd</sup> option 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Workshop Constructing Dobsonian Telescopes and Equatorial Platforms John Wainwright & Martin Cook	Nacton village hall	11 <sup>th</sup> April 19:45  TBC

Yoxford Star Party	NEAS are holding a star party in the Yoxford area and have requested a visit to the observatory	Date TBC
Lecture meeting	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	18 <sup>th</sup> or 25 <sup>th</sup> May Still in planning
Summer Barbecue	Newbourne Village Hall?	TBC
The Autumn Equinox Sky Camp <a href="http://www.starparty.org.uk/">www.starparty.org.uk/</a>	Kelling Heath Kelling Norfolk	Extended event 10 - 21 September Main Event Weekend 14 - 16 September
Lecture meeting	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	12 <sup>th</sup> or 19 <sup>th</sup> October Still in planning
Open Weekend Option 1	Orwell Park Observatory	20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> October
FAS convention	Cambridge Institute Astronomy?	October TBA
Open Weekend Option 2	Orwell Park Observatory	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Meal	TBA	5 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> December?

## Other Observational Events 2012

Meeting	Venue	Date
Venus Transit	Orwell Park Observatory	6 <sup>th</sup> June
Jupiter occultation	North Norfolk coast	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Perseids provisional meeting	Behind the refreshment hut at "The Dip" Felixstowe	11 <sup>th</sup> August
Geminids provisional meeting	Behind the refreshment hut at "The Dip" Felixstowe	15 <sup>th</sup> December

## 6 Observational Out Reach Meetings 2012

### Spring Star Party: Chantry Park

#### Directions:

- Enter Chantry Park from the Hadleigh road entrance. It is the drive way to the Sue Rider home.
- This drive dose not have any gates so access is always open
- At the top of the drive take the left hand road. There are about 3 speed humps along here.  
At the end of this road, which is about 200 yards long, there is a parking area.

Meeting	Venue	Date
Spring Star Party 1 <sup>st</sup> Option	Chantry Park	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 20:00 to 22:00
Spring Star Party 2 <sup>nd</sup> option if 1 <sup>st</sup> is cloudy	Chantry Park	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 20:00 to 22:00

### Astronomy in the Park: Spring Event

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park "Observing the sun" 1 <sup>st</sup> option	Christchurch Park Reg Driver Centre	Saturday / Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> May From 11:00 no time set to finish
Astronomy in the Park "Observing the sun" 2 <sup>nd</sup> option if 1 <sup>st</sup> is cloudy	Christchurch Park Reg Driver Centre	Saturday / Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup> May From 11:00 no time set to finish

### Newsletter Articles

Our Society is always on the lookout for newsletter articles! If you would like to submit an article, please email it in Microsoft word format <e.g.A5 landscape 12 point font> to the editor, Eric Sims at [REDACTED] by the third Wednesday of each month to ensure it appears in the next month's newsletter. If you don't have access to a computer, please phone me at the number published inside the back page of the newsletter.

Eric Sims

# Night Sky (March)

(GMT)

All times

## Moon

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>

Object	Date			Mag	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	06:41	17:36		
	31	05:32	18:28		
Mercury	1	07:06	19:17	-0.8	Mercury is visible in the western sky after sunset. This will be the best evening apparition of the year. Greatest eastern elongation is on the 5 <sup>th</sup>
	31	05:00	16:53		
Venus	1	07:49	21:52	-4.1	Venus remains the brightest object in the western sky after sunset. Greatest eastern elongation is on the 27 <sup>th</sup>
	31	06:39	23:11		
Mars	1	17:29	07:23	-1.2	Mars will be in opposition on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of March, in Leo
	31	14:38	05:03		
Jupiter	1	08:25	22:49	-2.2	Jupiter is moving into the western evening sky, passing close to Venus on the 13 <sup>th</sup>
	31	06:39	21:26		
Saturn	1	21:48	08:28	0.6	Saturn is now in Virgo. It is becoming easier to observe in the evening sky this month
	31	19:40	06:27		
Uranus	1	07:23	19:35		Uranus is too close to the sun, to observe this month.
	31	05:28	17:47		
Neptune	1	06:28	16:32		Neptune is too close to the sun, to observe this month.
	31	04:32	14:40		

# 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!

Date	Event	Run by...
14 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Waves- Harmony of the Spheres to the Higgs Boson</b> From Pythagoras's Harmony of the Spheres to the current hunt for the Higgs Boson waves have always been central to understanding the universe. On a less grand scale waves play an important role in our lives, they can be constructive in transporting the energy and information needed for daily life or destructive as experienced in the recent Japanese tsunami where unwanted energy is transported long distances to a vulnerable coastline. Although there are many different types of waves, for example those travelling through media such as water and air or electromagnetic waves it is fascinating (I hope!) that they exhibit many common characteristics. So for example the angular resolution of an optical telescope is governed by similar mathematical equations as the divergence of a microwave beam or water exiting from a pipe. This talk is a general ( i.e. simple ! ) introduction to waves and their properties touching on some historic and current ideas ( e.g. string theory) on their nature and role.	<b>Mike O'Mahoney</b>

<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>	<p><b>Constructing Dobsonian Telescopes and Equatorial Platforms.</b>          John will be showing some of the pitfalls of making a Dobsonian if you don't consider some of the engineering problems involved. Optics, materials, how big!, portable or not, designs, accessories etc.          Martin will talk about Equatorial Platforms – a way to make a Dob or other telescope track the heavens.</p>	<p><b>John Wainwright and Martin Cook</b></p>
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Mike Whybray

Workshops organiser

(Mobile)

(Home)

Workshops 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.

The police do occasionally check up on this!





# Star Party in Christchurch Park Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January (Roy Gooding)

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Out Reach meeting, we had held in Christchurch Park in 3 weeks. The 1<sup>st</sup> being the BBC Stargazing event on then 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather during the whole day, had been in constant flux, one hour complete clear skies the next 100% cloud cover. The decision time for go no go was at 15:00, when the sky was again completely clouded over.. After several calls to Martin Cook and consulting serial weather web sites, I decided to gamble, and to stage the event. The gamble paid off, with an evening of clear skies, up to just after 20:30

As usual here is the list of equipment in use

Roy Gooding:	120 mm refractor and 11 x 80 binoculars
Nicky Richards:	80mm refractor
Mike O'Mahony	120 mm refractor
James Appleton	250mm Meade Schmidt Cassegrain
Jennie Wood	100mm reflector
John Wainwright:	450mm Dobsonian reflector

Other member present included

Eric Sims

Pete Richards

Martin Cook

A second 100mm reflector was also brought along by the visitors. The majority of members now have green laser pointers, and there was a competition on whose worked the best in the prevailing conditions, Lasers do not like working in cold weather. We were nowhere as busy as on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Instead of the 300 visitors, we entertained about 50, which was similar to last years event.

Objects we observed included the Moon, Jupiter, Venus, M45, M42, M31

The last visitor left around 20:30, which was when the freezing fog



started to encroach over the park., it was time to call it a night!

As usual I would like to thank all members who attended, in making this another very successful OASI event..

We now have break of 2 months, before the next Star Party in Chantry Park at the end of April

## OCCULTATIONS DURING MARCH

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
01 Mar	21:00:05	D	0.58+	-31	49	7.3	ZC 791
02 Mar	20:24:53	D	0.67+	-26	57	6.8	ZC 935
03 Mar	19:11:38	D	0.76+	-15	55	7.5	ZC 1076
05 Mar	23:25:17	D	0.92+	-43	46	4.3	$\alpha$ Cnc
26 Mar	20:48:30	D	0.15+	-22	16	7.4	XX Ari
28 Mar	22:22:45	D	0.32+	-31	18	6.2	ZC 755

James Appleton

## OASI LIBRARY

*by Tina Hammond*

All the Frinton books have been catalogued and are now in the library. Although the process of sorting out duplicate titles is ongoing, I have now identified the following that are excess to requirement.

As before, please email me on [REDACTED] with your offer if you are interested in purchasing any. 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.

Title	Author	Format	Year	Pages	Notes	Comments
Astronomy	Iain Nicolson	PB	1974	160 pp	Hamlyn Paperback	
Unusual Telescopes	Peter L Manly	PB	1995	221 pp		
Hubble Vision	Carolyn Collins Petersen and John C Brandt	HB	1995	252 pp	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	
Mission To The Planets	Patrick Moore	PB	1990	128 pp	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	
Voyage Through The Universe; Galaxies	Time Life Books	HB	1989	144 pp		Very Good Condition
The New Astronomy	Nigel Henbest and Michael Marten	PB	1986	240 pp		
Patrick Moore On Mars	Patrick Moore	PB	1998	222 pp		Very Good Condition

## OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	Chairman	☎		Chair committee meetings. Represent OASI to external bodies.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎		Respond to enquiries. Press & publicity. Open Reach Meetings 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.

**To subscribe to the mailing list**



### **Trustees**

Mr Roy Adams  
Mr David Brown  
Mr David Payne

### **Honorary President**

Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

## DIARY for MARCH

<p><b>STONs</b>  <b>Tuesday</b>  <b>20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</b>                  Main observing targets: Venus, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, Gemini, Cancer, Leo and close Messier Objects.                  ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED]                  ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b>  <b>From 8.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</b>                  Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear.                  ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED] mobile [REDACTED]                  ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED] mobile [REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Doors open 7.30pm</b>  <b>Start 7.45pm</b></p>	<p><b>OASI WORKSHOP</b>  <b>At Nacton Village Hall</b>  <b>Waves: Harmony of the Spheres to the Higgs Boson.</b>  <b>By Mike O'Mahoney</b>                  ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b>  <b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 8:0pm</b></p>	<p><b>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> Felixstowe Scouts</b>                  ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>  <b>8.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING</b>  <b>Venue: The Methodist Church Hall</b>  <b>Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</b></p>

### SPRING STAR PARTY: CHANTRY PARK

1<sup>st</sup> Option Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 20:00 to 22:00

If cloudy

2<sup>nd</sup> Option Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 20:00 to 22:00

Enter Chantry Park from Hadleigh Road.

### Society Contact Details

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

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

E-mail queries: [info@oasi.org.uk](mailto:info@oasi.org.uk)

Chairman: Neil Morley [REDACTED]

Please send material for the OASI web site (e.g. observations, notices of events, general interest articles) to [info@oasi.org.uk](mailto:info@oasi.org.uk)