



The Newsletter

of the



Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

2013
APRIL

Registered charity no. 271313
www.oasi.org.uk

No 484

. Cortina OASI Hotel



This place is just crying for a delegation
of Suffolk astronomers to visit.....

photo by Stephen J Bentley , at CorTina

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 Committee Meeting 27th April 2013

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

The code for the car park gate, is on the back of your membership card. 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

Floyd Devonish Shaun Andrews
Jason Searle Mark Harding
Jason Cox Gill Owens
Bob Crawley Colin Paton
David & Valerie Dyer
Sarah Wright & Carl Talbot

4 Events Programme for 2013

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
Spring Star Party	Kelling Heath Kelling Norfolk	11 th to 15 th April Main Weekend Saturday 13 th Sunday 14 th
Presidential Lecture Dr Allan Chapman	The Orangery Orwell Park School	7 th June 20:00
Society BBQ	Newbourne Village Hall?	TBC
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp	Kelling Heath Kelling Norfolk	30 th Sept. to 11 th Oct. Main Weekend Saturday 4 th Sunday 6 th
SPA Convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	October 12 th
FAS convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	October 19 th
Open Weekend		TBC
Christmas Meal		December

Events for 2014

Meeting	Venue	Date
National Astronomy Week	Events TBA	March 1 st to 8 th

5 Out Reach Meetings 2013 Chantry Park

Spring Star Party

Directions:

- Enter Chantry Park from the Hadleigh road entrance. It is the drive way to the Sue Rider home.
- This drive does 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.
- To set up telescopes please arrive at about 19:30

Meeting	Venue	Date
Spring Star Party 1 st Option	Chantry Park	Saturday 13 th April 20:00 to 22:00
Spring Star Party 2 nd option if 1 st is cloudy	Chantry Park	Saturday 20 th April 20:00 to 22:00

These dates have now been confirmed.

6 Out Reach Meetings 2013 in Christchurch Park

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park 1 st option	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	Saturday 18 th and Sunday 19 th May 11:00 to 16:00
Astronomy in the Park 2 nd option if 1 st is cloudy	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	Saturday 25 th and Sunday 26 th May 11:00 to 16:00

These dates for Christchurch Park have been confirmed with Sam Pollard

7 Out Reach Meetings 2013 Holywells Park

Autumn Star Party

Richard Sharp (from the town park ranger group) has recently moved from Chantry Park to Holywells Park. He has asked if we can hold an event in the park. I have contacted Richard and mentioned that we will organise an event in the Autumn, to which he has agreed.

8 Out Reach Meeting 2013 Minsmere RSPB Reserve

This is a new one. The RSPB have asked use to run an astronomy event for them. This is still in the planning stage. They originally asked for a talk, which Paul Whiting is willing to do. I added that we may be also be able to run a Star Party for them in the evening. Minsmere has very dark skies, as it is miles from anywhere. The biggest problem may be the distance and members not prepared travel this far. We have never run a public event this far from base.

The date set for this Friday 4th October

9 2013 Comets

Two bright comets are predicted for 2013

The 1st comet (PANSTARRS) will be visible in the evening sky in March and April This one should be visible during the Chantry Park Star Party

The 2nd comet (ISON) and brightest (-16!) this may be over optimistic) is visible before and after Christmas, may require more Out Reach meeting / meetings. I have spoken to Sam Pollard about running Star Parties before and after Christmas, in Christchurch Park.. The latter one should coincide with the BBC's Stargazing Live 2014

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, 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...
3 rd April	Stars and their colours The wavelength (colour) spectrum of a star can be used to understand many of its properties e.g. its type (old, new, hot or cool), chemical composition, and velocity; indeed most of our knowledge of stars has been obtained through spectroscopy. This talk is an introduction as to how the amateur can obtain, record and process star spectra in a (relatively) inexpensive manner using grating, camera and free software.	Mike O'Mahony

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!



The Tomline Triangle, Part 1

by *Tina Hammond*

Following Martin Richmond-Hardy's very interesting research into Colonel Tomline last year, I decided to make the most of a day in London and add to OASI's library of photographs.

Three locations interested me and the first one was the latest addition to our knowledge: Tomline's stables at Wells Street and Babmaes Mews, collectively known as the East Stable Yards.

Seventy-five years ago, Wells Street was renamed Babmaes Street, and this leads into Babmaes Mews from Jermyn Street (so very handy for Tomline to stock up on last minute luxuries and expensive goodies!).

Imagine my horror then, to find that Babmaes Street and Mews are now building sites! Babmaes Street appears to have been gentrified for many years now and Babmaes Mews is now going the same way as its larger cousin. Very little is left of the original buildings, and the best I was able to manage was to take photos of a private gym there.



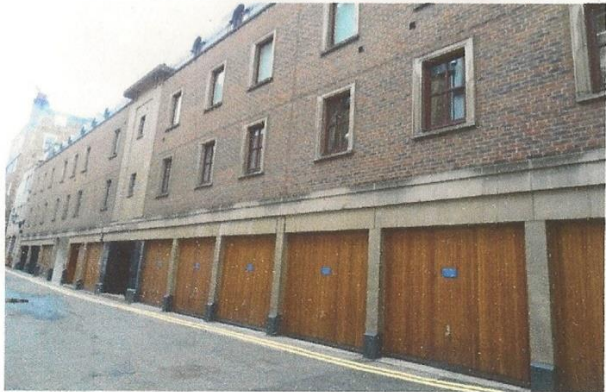
Babmaes Mews

Every cloud, etc: luckily the West Stable Yards have not been so extensively developed, and are now used for garaging, thus retaining more of their original charm and having more of a contemporary Victorian feel about them.



Babmaes Street

It was easy to imagine Tomline using his stables - now garages - to breed his prize-winning horses. Maybe a treat for the winner from Fortnum and Mason?!



West Stable Yard

Access could be gained either on foot or via carriage.



It is clear from the West Stable Yard photos that the Stables covered an extensive area in the very expensive West End of London, and there would certainly have been cheaper locations for stabling! Possibly the most amazing thing is that just 150 years ago there were still operating stables just a stone's throw from Piccadilly, the iconic symbol of the West End.

Night Sky (April)

Moon

3rd Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon
3rd	10th	18th	25th

Object	Date			Mag.	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	05:30	18:29		
	30	04:27	19:19		
Mercury	1	04:57	15:43		Mercury is too close to the sun this month to be easily observed.
	30	04:16	18:00		
Venus	1	05:41	18:30		Venus is too close to the sun this month to be easily observed.
	30	04:50	20:05		
Mars	1	05:42	18:47		Mars is too close to the sun this month to be easily observed.
	30	04:25	18:59		
Jupiter	1	07:49	00:07	-2.0	Jupiter remains well placed to observe in the early to mid evening sky
	30	06:14	22:38		
Saturn	1	20:49	06:49	0.1	Saturn is replacing Jupiter in the evening sky. Opposition is on the 28 th
	30	18:44	04:51		
Uranus	1	05:31	18:06		Uranus is too close to the sun this month to be easily observed.
	30	03:40	16:21		
Neptune	1	04:33	14:49		Neptune is too close to the sun this month to be easily observed.
	30	02:41	12:59		

Meteor Showers (BAA Handbook)

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Lyrids	April 22 nd	April 18 th to 25 th	10

Partial Luna Eclipse 25th April

This may be difficult to see as only about 1% of the moons disk will be covered . Mid eclipse is a little after 21:00

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
14 Apr	20:52:23	D	0.18+	-17	19	6.4	ZC 736
17 Apr	19:50:55	D	0.43+	-8	46	7.1	Hip 35875
18 Apr	19:34:48	D	0.53+	-6	49	6.5	ZC 1237
21 Apr	00:57:44	D	0.74+	-25	14	7.3	Hip 48918

James Appleton

THE GRAZE OF 13 (Mu) SAGITTARIUS

A grazing lunar occultation of the star 13 Sagittarius was predicted for 05:35 UT on the morning of Wednesday 06 March 2013. The star is of magnitude 3.8 and the occultation a south limb event, so the astronomical circumstances were not at all good (low down in the eastern sky). Despite this, and the fact that the graze track was half way to Norwich, a number of OASI members decided to observe the phenomenon.

James Appleton and I performed our usual double act to identify a potential observing site. James calculated the graze track, producing it as a .kml file to be overlaid directly on Google Earth digital maps. Using Google Earth and OS maps I examined the track and identified a shortlist of only two potential observing sites, choosing them to be off-road, away from sources of light pollution and with an unobstructed eastern/southern aspect. The sites were close to the Tacolneston TV transmitter mast just to the west of Long Stratton (on the A140, south of Norwich). I surveyed the sites a couple of weeks prior to the event, and quickly selected the most promising: a sugar beet 'clamp' adjacent to a minor road passing just to the south of the TV mast. It had a clean, dry concrete surface, with room to park a number of vehicles, and surrounded by large straw bales (useful if the day turns out to be windy). The other site was rejected as being too far

along a very muddy track (years of experience has taught us that attempting to negotiate such tracks in the dark has ‘consequences’!). I approached the owner of a house adjacent to the clamp to inform them of what we intended to do and left an explanatory ‘pack’ giving details of what a grazing occultation is and the OASI web site address. The lady of the house gave me directions to the farm manager from whom I requested permission to use the site. Both were very interested in the somewhat unusual ‘occasion’.

With some days to go to the graze, the usual cloudy weather was forecast for the early morning, but clear skies for the evening before. So, OK for the Jupiter eclipse program but not looking so good for the graze !

Our standard practice for occultation observations is to hold a telephone conference on the evening of the event to make a go/no-go decision. At 9.00pm on Tuesday we held the conference, and the decision to proceed with observations was not an easy one. Only a few of the most dedicated observers decided to wait until 0300 hrs to make a ‘final’ decision.

After observing an eclipse re-appearance of Io at about 2215 hrs on Tuesday evening (clear skies !) I loaded my telescope into the car, set the alarm for 0300 hrs and went to bed. 3 o’clock duly arrived and it was obvious that complete cloud cover had set in. I sent a text message to the other hardy souls informing them that the event was off. In desperation I waited until 4’oclock (the latest possible time that I could leave home and arrive on site with time to set up my kit and start observing). No surprise: complete cloud cover ! With the met. office infra-red satellite images also showing no chance, I decided that yet again ‘spode’ had intervened and this years only graze was definitely a no-go.

Bah...humbug !

Alan Smith

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Trustees

Mr Roy Adams
Mr David Brown
Mr David Payne

Honorary President

Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

DIARY for APRIL

<p>STONS Tuesday 9th From 8:00pm This is the last STON's till October</p>	<p>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY Main observing targets : Leo,Ursa Major,M67,, M95,M96,M105,M65,M66,M81,M82,M101,M97, M109,Saturn. ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED] ☎ Dave Robinson [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Wednesdays From 8.00pm</p>	<p>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear. ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED] mobile [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Wednesday 3rd April Doors open 7:30pm Start 7:45pm</p>	<p>OASI WORKSHOP At Nacton Village Hall Stars and their colours: By Mike O'Mahony ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd April 8:0pm</p>	<p>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS Taster Evening ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]</p>
<p>Saturday 27th April 8:00pm start</p>	<p>COMMITTEE MEETING Venue: The Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</p>

Spring Star Party Chantry Park Ipswich
1st Option Saturday 13th April 20:00 to 22:00.
2nd Option Saturday 20th April 20:00 to 22:00

Enter by the Hadleigh Road entrance

[OASI Members Group Observing Evenings.](#)

Monday 15th April The venue is Newbourne Village Hall. Available to us from 7pm until 11pm.

Address Mill Road,Newbourne. Location map www.newbourne.org.uk

Society Contact Details

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

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

Web-site. James Appleton: e-mail [REDACTED]

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

Facebook.com/orwell astronomical

Chairman: Neil Morley [REDACTED] / e-mail [REDACTED]

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