

The Newsletter

Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)



Photo taken at the star party in Chantry Park on Saturday 20th of April.

By Eric Sims

OASI Committee Contacts and Responsibilities

Neil Morely	Chairman		Chair committee meetings. Represent OASI to external bodies.
Roy Gooding	Secretary		Respond to enquiries. Press & publicity Outreach meetings Open days
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer		Finance Visits from 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

The OASI mailing list

OASI has an email distribution list which all which all OASI members can join to keep in touch. If you want to join the list please send an email to

[Redacted email address]

The email needs to include your name (as you gave it on your membership application). Including your name is essential so we can confirm you are an OASI member (particularly if you have a cryptic email username:-).

Please note that the "oasi-subscribe" address above is not the actual email list.

Society Notices

by Roy Gooding

1 Committee Meeting 2013

Saturday 29 June at 20:00

Venue: Museum Street Methodist Church Hall

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

2 Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

Please use the third gate into the school grounds. The code for the gate is on the back of your membership card. If the black door entrance at the base of the observatory tower is locked, please phone the observatory mobile [REDACTED] during meeting hours.

3 The Newsletter

From time to time various members have suggested having an electronic version of the Newsletter. During Easter week, Eric and I set up a trial electronic version of April Newsletter. We will continue with this trial for a few months. Newsletters will still continue to be printed.

To take part in the trial you will have to be a members of the oasi yahoogroup. To subscribe to this group please email

[REDACTED]

Welcome to New Members

Matthew Fidler

Society Events

1 Events Programme for 2013

This provisional event list will be updated throughout the year.

Meeting	Venue	Date
Presidential Lecture: Dr Allan Chapman	The Orangery Orwell Park School	7 June 20:00
Society BBQ	Newbourne Village Hall?	Saturday 13 July Setup time 13:00 Light up time 15:00 Finish after 19:00 or later depending on weather
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	30 Sept – 11 October Main weekend 4–6 October
SPA Convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	12 October
FAS Convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	19 October
Open Weekend		TBC
Christmas Meal		December

Notes on Allan Chapman's lecture

Several new members have enquired about this lecture. All society lectures are free to members and any guests they wish to bring.

Enter Orwell Park School grounds by the main gate (lectures only). Enter the school by the main door. Members will be there to show you where to go.

As you enter the main door, the Orangery is down the corridor on your immediate right.

2 Outreach Meetings 2013 in Christchurch Park

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park 1st option	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	TBC
Astronomy in the Park 2nd option if 1st is cloudy	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	TBC

3 Outreach Meetings 2013 in Holywells Park

Family Day Wednesday 31st July

We have been asked by Richard Sharp to run a solar observing event during the family day This will be weather dependent.

I plan to meet Richard one Saturday to checkout the best observing site.

The previous site that we use, is not suitable for the early afternoon as there are too many tall trees

4 Autumn Star Party

Provisional dates September 14th (option 1) and 21st (option 2)

5 Outreach Meeting 2013 Minsmere RSPB Reserve

Friday 4 October

6 Events Programme for 2014

Meeting	Venue	Date
National Astronomy Week	Events TBA	1 – 8 March

7 Comets

Two bright comets are predicted for 2013

The 2nd comet (ISON) and brightest (-16! this may be over optimistic) is visible before and after Christmas and may require more outreach meeting(s). I have spoke 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.

Night Sky in June

Occlusions during June

James Appleton

The table lists lunar occultations which occur during the month under favourable circumstances. The data relate 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
15 Jun	21:39:32	D	0.41+	-9	15	5.9	55 Leo
	22:04:37	R		-11	11		
17 Jun	23:02:10	D	0.63+	-14	9	7.0	ZC 1809
19 Jun	21:33:37	D	0.82+	-8	20	6.7	ZC 2063

Sun and planets

Roy Gooding

24-30: Mercury, Venus and Jupiter appear together low at twilight in the west-northwest sky, with Venus and Jupiter only 1 degree apart on 28th.

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun	1	04:41	21:06		
	30	04:39	21:19		
Mercury	1	05:45	23:01	-0.5	Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation on the 12th. It may be possible to glimpse Mercury above Venus at the beginning of the month.
	30	06:10	21:40		
Venus	1	05:39	22:34	-3.8	Venus will be low down in the western twilight sky. Most northerly at 01:00UT on 6th
	30	06:42	22:47		
Mars	1	04:12	20:08		Mars is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	30	03:21	20:02		
Jupiter	1	05:34	22:07		Jupiter is too close to the sun to observe this month
	30	04:08	20:42		
Saturn	1	17:26	03:40	0.4	Saturn remains well placed to observe this month
	30	15:27	01:44	0.5	
Uranus	1	02:36	15:23		Uranus is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	30	00:44	13:33		
Neptune	1	01:36	11:55		Neptune is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	30	23:38	10:01		

Moon

New Moon
8th at 15:56UT

1st Quarter
16th at 17:24UT

Full Moon
23rd at 11:32UT

3rd Quarter
30th at 04:54UT

Meteor Showers

Shower
Ophiuchids

Limits
May 19 to July

Maximum
June 9 & June 20

ZHR
5

Chantry Park Outreach Meeting – Saturday 20th April

Roy Gooding

The weather on Saturday 20th April was finally with us. After 4 previous attempts, that had to be cancelled because of bad weather, we finally had clear skies. The event was well supported by members both old and new.

The only unfortunate thing was the small number of visitors. Less than 30 arrived, we could easily have catered for several times this number.

The 20th April 2013 saw a ground braking event. After about eight years since its completion, our 482mm Dobsonian reflector saw its inaugural outing at a public event. Its large size attracted much attention. We have to thank Martin Cook and Matthew Leeks for this. The telescope preformed well, with its shroud completely protecting its exposed mirror from stray light and inquisitive fingers. Hopefully this will be the first of many future field trips.

Again members did not disappoint, we had a large number of telescopes of many sizes and designs with which we were able to show the night sky to the visitors. In fact the visitors were spoilt for choice.

Here is a partial list of equipment in use:

Roy Gooding:	11 x 80 binoculars
James Appleton:	250mm Meade Schmidt Cassegrain
Jennie Wood	100mm reflector
John Wainwright:	450mm Dobsonian reflector
Steve Shapland	150mm reflector
Martin R-H	200mm Dobsonian reflector

There were a few more telescopes in use but I did not make a note of every one.

For a change I brought along two telescopes. My normal 120mm refractor with the addition of a 90mm Maksutov-Cassegrain mounted on top. This combination was very successful as I could offer two magnifications of the same object.

We were able to observe the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and comet PanSTARRS

Other members present included

Eric Sims Andy Gibbs Mike Whybray

As usual I would like to thank all members, including any I may have omitted, who were able to attend.

Foot Note

This Saturday was to provide Outreach meetings at two venues. Neil Morley had inadvertently believed that the meeting was in Christchurch Park. He arrived there, but found himself alone. He showed two of the Park Rangers the moon, before they closed the park.



Newbourne Observing Group – May Meeting

We meet at The Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Lane, Newbourne, IPI2 4NP Start 7:00pm

omahony.mike@gmail.com

Another very successful meeting with fourteen members attending and a total of ten telescopes pointing again a clear sky. Gerry Pilling again showed his class by operating two telescopes simultaneously and still managing to find M57 again! There was a bit of wait until the sky darkened but it gave everyone a chance to grab an early cuppa. What is so nice about these meetings is that it gives an opportunity for members to wander round, chat and look at objects through a variety of optics, so much more useful than any text book.

Telescopes in Action	Owner
Skywatcher 200mm DOB	Martin R-H
Meade ETX 125	Mike Norris
Skywatcher 120mm Refractor	Mike O'Mahony
Celestron 130mm	Gerry Pilling
Fullerscope 8" DOB	Gerry Pilling
Skywatcher 10" DOB	Neil Morley
102 mm Newtonian	Jennie Wood
8" DOB	David Murton
ETX 90 PE	Andrew Gibbs
TAL 2 6" Newtonian	Michael Atkins



Mike O'Mahony took this shot of Saturn with his 120 mm f7.5 refractor; 5x Powermate (Barlow) and Canon EOS 600D; 10 x 1sec @ ISO200; time 22:30; 7/5/2013

Maybe we should have a little exhibition in December of photos taken at Newbourne!

We now have a full programme of dates taking us through to December, which are listed below, so put these in your dairies now.

Summer – 8pm start

Monday 10th June,
Monday 8th July,
Monday 12th August

Autumn & Winter – 7pm start

Monday 9th & Thursday 26th September,
Monday 14th & Thursday 24th October,
Monday 11th & Thursday 28th November,
Monday 9th & Thursday 19th December

Diary for June

<p>Small Telescopes Observing Nights at the observatory</p> <p>Paddy O'Sullivan Gerry Pilling Dave Robinson</p>	<p>STONs</p> <p>From 8:00pm STONs start again in October</p>
<p>Observatory Club Nights</p> <p>Observing with the Tomline refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear</p> <p>Martin Cook Roy Gooding</p>	<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>From 8:00pm</p>
<p>OASI Members Group Observing Evenings</p> <p>Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Road, Newbourne. Summer programme – see web site for details</p>	<p>Monday 10 June</p> <p>from 8pm during May – August See www.newbourne.org.uk</p>
<p>OASI Workshop</p> <p>Nacton Village Hall Mike Whybray</p>	<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>Nothing arranged until later this year</p>
<p>Observatory visits by local community groups</p> <p>Paul Whiting FRAS</p>	<p>Nothing booked</p>
<p>Committee Meeting</p> <p>Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich</p>	<p>Saturday 29 June, 20:00</p>
<p>Astronomy in the Park</p>	<p>Nothing booked</p>

Society Contact details

See page 2 for Committee contact details.

Observatory (meeting nights only)



Email queries: info@oasi.org.uk

Facebook.com/orwell astronomical

Twitter: @OASlpswich

Please send material for the OASI web site e.g. observations, notices of events, general interest articles, to

info@oasi.org.uk