

The Newsletter



OASI President, Dr Allan Chapman
giving the Presidential lecture on Sir Patrick Moore

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).

NB the "oasi-subscribe" address 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

We now produce an electronic version of the Newsletter. Newsletters will still continue to be printed.

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

[REDACTED]

Welcome to New Member

Michael O'Malley

Society Events

1 Events Programme for 2013

This provisional event list will be updated throughout the year.

Meeting	Venue	Date
Society BBQ See page 9	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

2 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.

Set up time: 11:00 to 12:00 Start time: 12:00 to 16:00

Directions

Entrance by the Myrtle Road gate

Follow the path till you get to the grass area

Our area is where the X is.



We will not be the only activity taking place in this area

The park staff do not want any traffic moving round the park during the event period. Please arrive in time to set up before 12:00.

Once you have set up the park staff may ask you to take your car to the car park area. Just follow the path round. There are car park spaces up the hill

I plan to take the day off as leave As usual the meeting will be dependent on the weather. Final decision will be taken early on Wednesday morning

3 Autumn Star Party

The dates have been confirmed

Option 1 Saturday 7th September

Option 2 Saturday 14th September

I am now finalising details with Richard Sharp

The location will be the same as for the 31st July event

4 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

Comet ISON

This may be very bright (-16!) but this may be over optimistic. Will be visible before and after Christmas, may require more Outreach 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

Night Sky in July

Occultations during July

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
18 Jul	22:38:34	D	0.80+	-15	11	7.3	ZC 2296
21 Jul	00:52:43	D	0.95+	-17	10	6.0	16 Sgr

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	04:39	21:19		
	31	05:15	20:47		
Mercury	1	06:06	22:46	-0.5	Mercury is very low down in the morning twilight sky. Greatest western elongation on the 30 th
	31	03:41	19:39		
Venus	1	06:45	22:46	-3.8	Venus is visible low down in the evening twilight
	31	08:19	21:58		
Mars	1	03:20	20:02	1.6	Mars is also low down in the morning twilight
	31	02:50	19:32		
Jupiter	1	04:05	20:40	-1.8	Jupiter is also low down in the morning twilight sky towards the end of the month
	31	02:37	19:09		
Saturn	1	15:23	01:40	0.7	Saturn is now in the south west sky in Virgo
	31	13:27	23:38		
Uranus	1	00:40	13:29	5.8	Uranus is in Pisces
	31	22:38	11:31		
Neptune	1	23:34	09:57	7.8	Neptune is in Aquarius
	31	21:35	07:55		

Moon

New Moon
8th at 07:14

1st Quarter
16th at 03:18

Full Moon
22nd at 18:16

3rd Quarter
29th at 17:43

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
α Cygnids	July to August	July 20 th & August 21 st	5
Capricornids	July to August	July 8 th July 15 th July 25 ^h	5
δ Aquarids	July 15 th to August 20 th	July 29 ^h & August 6 th	20 10

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

The Tomline Triangle – Part 3

by Tina Hammond

The final port of call for myself - and also Tomline - was to the Church of St Martin in the Fields (SMitF), the official parish church of Buckingham and St James's Palaces and one of the most significant ecclesiastical buildings in the English-speaking world where, of course, Tomline's funeral service was held.

Although a church has been on the site for nearly 800 years, the present one was completed in 1726. Designed by Roman Catholic architect James Gibbs, it lies just off Church Path, Trafalgar Square, which was designed by John Nash, the architect of Tomline's home at Carlton House Terrace.

Due to the ravages of time and two World Wars, SMitF has been the beneficiary of a much needed restoration project in the last ten years, with the transformation of the crypt into a reasonably-priced casual restaurant, 60 metres long by 16 metres wide, imaginatively entitled *Cafe in the Crypt*.

For me, the most striking thing about the architectural transformation of this magnificent baroque building is the East Window. Originally a stained glass window, it now depicts a cross as if reflected in water. Designed by Iranian-born artist Shirazeh Houshiary, it is an absolutely mesmerising architectural feature.



The East Window of SMitF

Its patron saint, Martin of Tours, a Hungarian-born fourth-century Roman cavalry officer turned Christian ascetic and preacher, was riding through Amiens one cold winter night when he saw a near-naked beggar. Martin cut his cloak in two with his sword, giving half to the beggar; that night he dreamt that Christ appeared to him in the form of the beggar to thank him. The very next day Martin was baptised, and subsequently became the patron saint of beggars and soldiers.

True to the ethos of St Martin, SMitF has been a comfort to soldiers and down-and-outs since the First World War, when the Reverend Dick Sheppard transformed an almost deserted SMitF into one of the most welcoming Christian foundations in the city. Even today, it continues to be a busy soup kitchen.

I am a huge fan of contemporary photographs that have a tangible link to the past. e.g., during the

2012 transit of Venus, I photographed John Isaac Plummer's home in Nacton, with his biographer in the foreground. Therefore, standing in the building where Tomline's funeral took place I was delighted when I turned round from photographing the East Window to see somebody who - like Tomline in his day - shares his name with a train that plies the Ipswich/Felixstowe line.

It somehow seemed a fitting end to the day.

And, yes, he really *is* as nice as he appears to be.



Michael Palin and friends in SMitF

OASI SUMMER Barbecue 2013

Saturday 13th July

Newbourne Village Hall, Newbourne, Suffolk.

The event is open to all OASI members and their friends and families. The event will be very informal so feel free to come and go any time between around 1 pm and around 6 pm. The event will carry on until later in the evening if people want to stay longer. The barbecue lighting up time will be around 3 (three) pm and it will be kept running as long as there is demand. Bring food and drink and (optionally) picnic/garden chairs and - if the skies are clear - telescopes. Some bread rolls and condiments will be provided. If the weather is inclement the event will be held inside the hall, in which case please bring party snacks instead of barbecue food.



From the Newbourne Village Hall Website (picture left):

“The hall is situated in Mill Road Newbourne and has a playing field and car parking. Inside there are modern kitchen and toilet facilities, with one large main hall and an additional side area. There is good access for wheel-chairs.”

Newbourne Observing Group

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

Those 15 optimistic members who turned up for the June meeting were well rewarded, for after days of solid cloud there was, at about 9.30pm a parting of the heavens giving us a sparkling clear night sky. It was however bitterly cold for a June evening and by about 11pm a heavy dew put paid to our observing. However Martin & Steve were able to solve the issue with Roger Howell-Harris's 8" Celestron and Gerry spent time with David & Val with their new 8SE Celestron.

David Murton also took a few great photos with his new Canon, one of which is included here.

We managed to chomp our through a pound of biscuits and a swiss roll so could not have been all bad! We closed up shop at about midnight.



Newbourne Observing Group - June Meeting. Picture by David Murton.

Telescopes in Action

Dyer, David & Val	8SE Celestron	Norris, Mike	Meade ETX125
Howell-Harris, Roger	8" Celestron	O'Mahony, Mike	120mm Skywatcher Refractor
Pilling, Gerry	130mm Celestron	Richmond-Hardy, Martin	127mm Skywatcher Maks
Morley, Neil	Skywatcher 10" Dob	Shapland, Steve	8" Skywatcher Newton

We now have a full programme of dates taking us through to December which are listed below so please make a note of these now.

Open Evening Saturday 23rd November From 5.30pm

Summer - 8pm start

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



**BRECKLAND
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
2013 AUTUMN STAR PARTY**



This Year BAS will be holding its autumn star party at Haw Wood Farm Caravan Park from Friday September 6th. You are welcome to come earlier and stay later.

The site is just off the A12 at Hinton, about 5 miles ESE of Halesworth via the A144. It is a very good dark sky site and has been awarded the Science and Technology Facilities Council's highest Milky Way rating as a Dark Sky Discovery Site. Naked eye visibility is 5.73, averted vision 5.99 and the best SQM reading is 21.75

The S&TFC web site shows information and the exact location

www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/dark-sky-discovery-sites/map.html

One of the road ways can be used as hard standing for telescopes if required.

BOOKING

Direct to David Wiggins or Sue Orman at Haw Wood Farm.

Haw Wood Farm Caravan Park, Hinton, Saxmundham. IP17 3QT

Email, davewiggins@hotmail.co.uk Phone 01986 784 248

Website, www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk

Pitches are £10 per night with hook up.

The shop on site will open as required and can provide the basics plus sandwiches and coffee by request.

The site is dog friendly and well behaved dogs are welcome.

For information see the BAS website, www.brecklandastro.org.uk

OTHER ACTIVITIES

For those that like to do something in the day there are many footpaths in Dunwich forest only minutes away, if you take the path through the reed beds you may be lucky enough to hear the bitterns booming. This path joins the long distance Coast Path and the Sandlings Walk.

Dunwich Beach is only 10 minutes away, and 15 minutes away RSPB Minsmere or Westleton Heath.

Also 15 minutes away are Walberswick and the Blythe Estuary offering river-side walks and a walk to Southwold.

Diary for July

<p>Small Telescopes Observing Nights at the observatory</p> <p>Paddy O'Sullivan Gerry Pilling Dave Robinson 7</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 Monday 8 July</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>Holywells Park Family Day Wednesday 31st July Solar observing (see page 4)</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