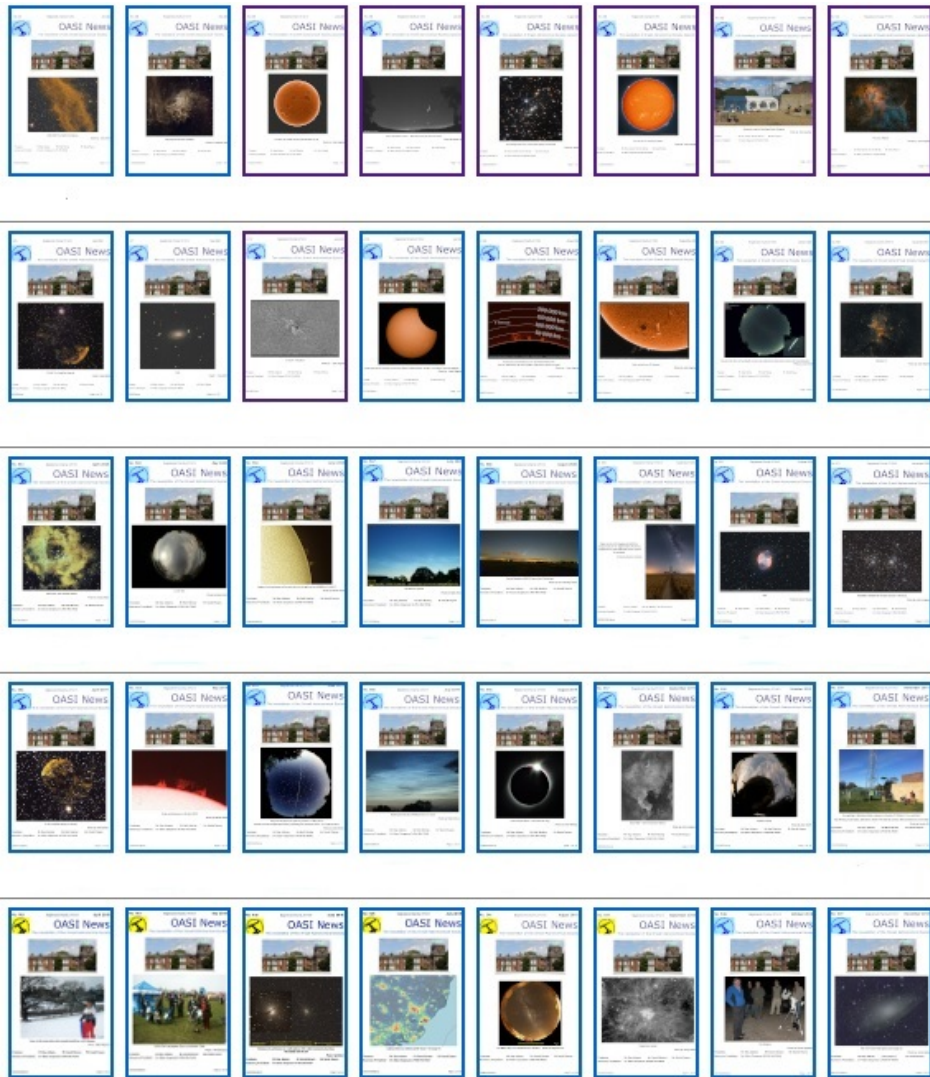




OASI News

The newsletter of Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)



600th Edition



Trustees: Mr Roy Adams Mr Neil Morley Mr David Payne

Honorary President: Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

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Martin Richmond-Hardy

Died 5 May 2023

joined OASI 2011

Newbourne Meeting
Organiser

&

OASI News Editor

Society Notices

Dear Members,

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that our friend, Committee Member, Newbourne Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Martin Richmond-Hardy, has passed away.

Martin became Newsletter Editor in 2014, taking over from the very capable hands of Eric Sims. Under Martin's editorship, the Newsletter has continued to flourish, providing members with a vital monthly update of news, articles and photos.

Martin was also Coordinator for our meetings at Newbourne Village Hall, where he would always be available for advice and to welcome new members to our Society. He was also a regular helper at our outreach meetings.

Besides astronomy, Martin was very active in the Amateur Radio scene, was a member of the Suffolk Mac User Group and a member of the Trianon Music Group.

Martin will be greatly missed and I'm sure that all members will wish to join me in offering our sincere condolences to wife Jen and family.

Andy Gibbs, Chairman

Society Contact details

Email queries: info@oasi.org.uk

Facebook: Orwell Astronomical

Twitter: @OASIPswich

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHgxe3QAeRVWf7vkjKkCI2Q>

Members-only message board

<https://groups.io/g/OASI>

Observatory (meeting nights only)

07960 083714

**Please send material for the OASI
web site and newsletter
e.g. observations, notices of events,
general interest articles, to
news@oasi.org.uk**

The CLOSING date is the 15th day of the month

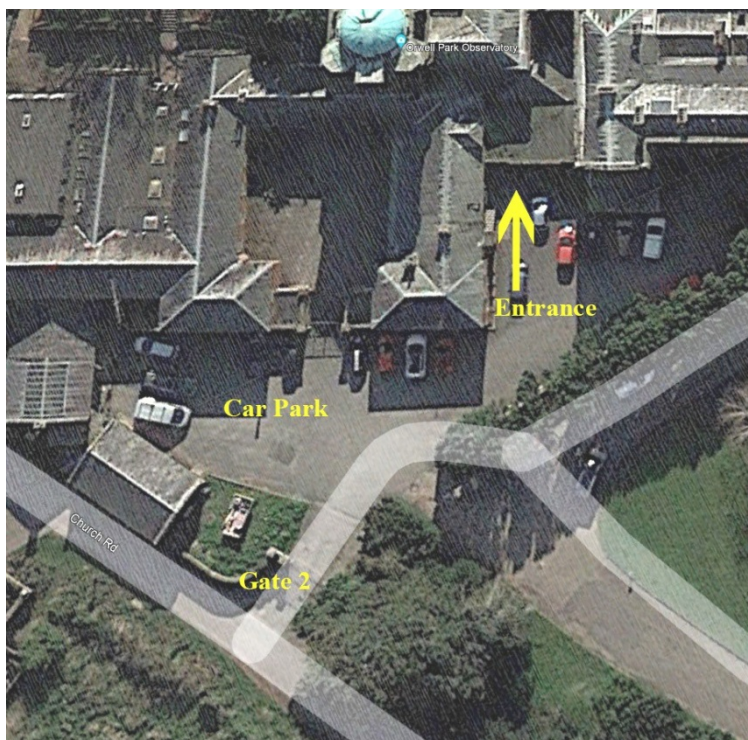
Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

Orwell Park School have changed our access route to the observatory.

The new route will be as follows:-

- Enter through gate 2 (gate 1 being the main gate) and park inside as per the attached map.
- Enter the school through the double black doors as indicated on the map. A key fob will be required to open the door.
- Continue straight through the next two sets of double doors.
- Turn left at the end of the short corridor then immediately right.
- Pass through the single door and on your left you will find the staircase leading to the observatory.
- On no account must you deviate from this route.

When leaving the observatory use the same route but in reverse. Please keep noise to a minimum as there are staff quarters nearby.



Articles for OASI News

News, pictures and articles for this newsletter are always welcome. Details above.

Please send tables as separate files in one of the above formats.

If you don't feel up to writing a major article, perhaps you might write a short note for OASI News along the lines of "This month I have mostly been observing/constructing/mending/reading/etc."

The Newsletter archive is at www.oasi.org.uk/NL/NL_form.shtml

Authors, please note that your articles will be publicly available worldwide!

Reproducing articles from OASI News

If you plan to reproduce an article exactly as per OASI News then please contact the Editor – otherwise, as a matter of courtesy, please seek permission from and credit the original source/author. You may not reproduce articles for profit or other commercial purpose.

Committee 2023

Chairman	AndyGibbs	Set overall agenda for OASI, Chair committee meetings, Press and publicity
Secretary	RoyGooding	Outreach meetings (jointly with Chairman), observatory decoration
Treasurer	PaulWhiting	Finance, Supervision of applications for grants. Visits by outside groups, Observatory tours, Public appreciation of astronomy, Outreach activities
Committee	James Appleton	Committee meeting minutes, Web site
	MartinCook	Membership, Tomline refractor maintenance & user testing
	Matt Leeks	Safety & security
	Peter Richards	Lecture meetings, Email distribution lists
	John Wainwright	Equipment curator
	Mike Whybray	Astronomy Workshops, Child protection officer, Orwell Park School Astronomy Club
	Andy Willshere	Librarian Newsletter, OASI @ Newbourne

For newsletter and Newbourne please contact Paul Whiting,

Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on Friday 1st September at 8:00pm via Zoom. All members welcome.

Welcome to new members

no-one this month

Received form Neil Morley ...

"I also include the photo taken at the observatory showing a new feature on Jupiter. The image was post processed using a software package called Beetlejuice Version 1.04567 to bring out the finer detail. Closer inspection reveals an eighteen spot Harlequin Ladybird, one of many species that frequents the observatory during Winter Months."



OASI and BAA Events

For the latest event details, please see www.oasi.org.uk/Events/Events.php

There's a Google Calendar on the OASI web site with the latest dates.

If you want to easily add OASI Events to your own computer/phone/tablet calendar application click this button on the website Events page (bottom right of the calendar) or use this address to access this calendar from other calendar applications:-



<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/Ijhs9db7Incki4sojo7092vfvc%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

For other astronomy news and astro pictures try our

Twitter feed <https://twitter.com/OASlpswich>

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Orwell-Astronomical/158256464287623>

Date, Time & Location	Contact	Event
Weekly, every Wednesday, from 20:15	Martin Cook, Roy Gooding	Observatory open
Sat 03 Jun 2023 11:00-16:00 Christchurch Park	Roy Gooding secretary@oasi.org.uk	Public access event. Observing the sun safely. (Booking not necessary)
Mon 12 Jun 2023 19:00 Newbourne Village Hall	Paul Whiting treasurer@oasi.org.uk	Newbourne meeting - beginners welcome! Weather permitting; there will be solar observing starting at 19:00.
Thu 15 Jun 2023 20:00 Zoom	Paul Whiting treasurer@oasi.org.uk	Monthly Zoom meeting.
Sun 18 Jun 2023 09:30 East Suffolk Wireless Revival (The Ipswich Rally)	Paul Whiting treasurer@oasi.org.uk	Public access event. Solar observing. (Booking not necessary)
Mon 26 Jun 2023 19:00 Newbourne Village Hall	Paul Whiting treasurer@oasi.org.uk	Newbourne meeting - beginners welcome! Weather permitting; there will be solar observing starting at 19:00. Paul will also talk about the latest astro news

OASI @ Newbourne

newbourne@oasi.org.uk

We meet at Newbourne Village Hall,
Mill Lane, IP12 4NP on the 2nd and 4th
Mondays from 19:30.

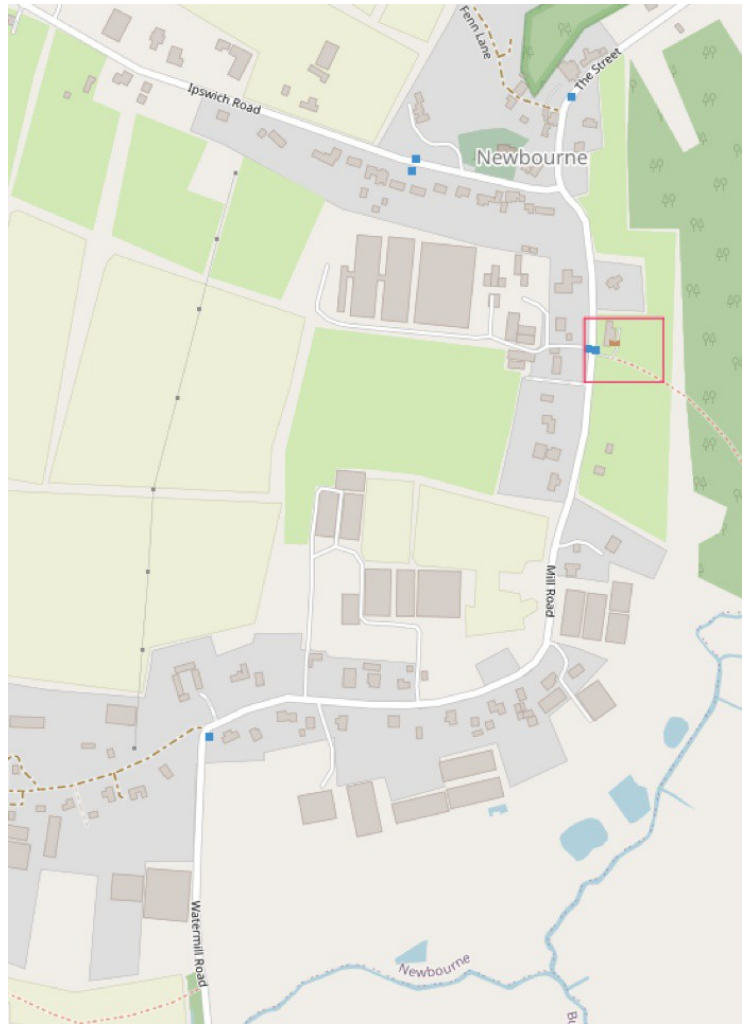
**Visitors are welcome but we do ask you
to join the Society after two visits.**

<http://www.oasi.org.uk/OASI/Membership.php>

Newbourne dates for 2023

June	12	26 (S/A)
July	10	24 (S)
August	14	28 (S/A)
September	11	25 (S)
October	9 (T)	23 (S/A)
November	13	27 (S)
December	11 (A/Q)	

We open up for all meetings at 7:30pm. Astro
News (A) / Star Guide (S) at 7:45pm followed
by any Talks (T), Workshops (W) and
occasional Quiz (Q).



OASI Picnic – Saturday 8th July 2023

Time: 1pm to Late

Venue: Newbourne Village Hall

OASI members and their family and friends are all invited.

If skies are clear the club's telescopes (both solar and traditional) will be available for anyone who is interested, or bring your own.

Bring your own picnic food and drink, and chairs and mats etc. Note that there will be no barbecue this year, but feel free to bring your own portable barbecue to cook your own.

There will be a quiz in the evening.

Stargazer's Guide

On the last meeting each month, at 19:45, Bill Barton FRAS will give a short presentation of what can be viewed in the following 4 weeks plus a reminder of OASI events. These will be available on our website.

Paul Whiting FRAS will give occasional Astro News briefings.

Summer Lectures – via Zoom

Thursday 15th June 2023 – Zoom Talk (Recorded)

“What Gravitational Waves can tell us about the Universe”
with Dr John Veitch

Thursday 20th July 2023 – Zoom Talk (Recorded)

“Citizen Science and Radio Jove – radio exploration of Jupiter”
with Dr Chuck Higgins

Thursday 17th August 2023 – Zoom Talk (Recorded)

“Imaging of Black Holes with the Event Horizon Telescope”
with Dr Ziri Younsi

Starting 20:00. Standard Zoom meeting details

BAA news & webinars

For full details of all meetings or cancellations, please go to <https://britastro.org/events/future-events>

7 June 2023 BAA Meeting and George Alcock Lecture, Institute of Physics, London

8 July 2023 Comet Section Meeting, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

The BAA Radio Astronomy Section

The BAA Radio Astronomy Section have been enjoying talks, seminars and tutorials via Zoom and these are available on the BAA YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/britishastronomical/playlists>.

The Night Sky in June 2023

All event times are for the location of Orwell Park Observatory 52.0096°N, 1.2305°E.
Times are **BST** unless otherwise stated.

Sun, Moon and planets

Sources: <http://heavens-above.com/PlanetSummary.aspx> <http://heavens-above.com/moon.aspx>

June 2023

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun	1	05:54	18:01		
	30	06:00	18:07		
Moon	1	15:46	03:21		Full Moon 04 June 03:42 Perigee 06 June 23:07 Last Quarter 10 June 19:31 New Moon 18 June 04:37
	30	15:17	02:48		Apogee 22 June 18:31 First Quarter 26 June 07:50
Mercury	1	04:19	16:20	0.4	
	30	05:57	18:00	-2.1	
Venus	1	09:14	21:14	-4.2	
	30	08:58	20:57	-4.3	
Mars	1	09:58	21:58	1.6	
	30	09:12	21:12	1.7	
Jupiter	1	03:28	15:26	-2.0	
	30	01:56	13:54	-2.1	
Saturn	1	23:55	11:57	1.0	
	30	22:02	10:04	0.8	
Uranus	1	04:33	16:31	5.8	
	30	02:44	14:42	5.8	
Neptune	1	01:14	13:12	7.9	
	30	23:17	11:19	7.9	

Occultations during June 2023

https://iota-es.de/moon/grazing_descrx101.html and <http://www.lunar-occultations.com/iota/bstar/bstar.htm>

Observers are encouraged to download and install the [Occult](#) software program [Windows only] to generate predictions for their own particular site coordinates.

Meteor showers during June 2023

Shower	Normal limits	Maximum	ZHR at Max	Notes
τ -Herculids	May 19 – Jun 19	Jun 1	variable	An unknown quantity adding to the background. Next outburst due 2033
June Boötids	Jun 22 – Jul 2	Jun 27	2 but very occasionally 100	A one night wonder, hopefully

See also <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/meteor-shower-guide>

For radio observation, use reflections from Graves Radar on 143.049MHz or the Brams transmitter in Belgium on 49.97MHz and UK GB3MBA on 50.408MHz <https://www.ukmeteorbeacon.org/Home>

See also https://www.popastro.com/main_spal/meteor/radio-meteor-observing-2020/.

Comets

Source : <https://heavens-above.com/Comets.aspx> on 26 May.

Comet	Brightness	Date of last reported observation	Angular separation from Sun	Constellation

Nothing less than mag. 10 at the moment.

Visible ISS passes > 10° max altitude for June 2023

Source: <http://heavens-above.com/PassSummary.aspx?satid=25544>

Times are **BST**.

Predictions are approximate (12 May) due to craft adjustments. Check the day before.

Date	Bright-ness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End		
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.
30-Jun	-1.6	02:37:02	13°	SSE	02:38:03	14°	SE	02:39:52	10°	ESE

July promises to be a lot better for viewing the ISS.

Starlink passes

<https://heavens-above.com/AllPassesFromLaunch.aspx>

For a dynamic 3-D display, see <https://heavens-above.com/StarLink.aspx>

Bill Barton's Radio Broadcast

ICRFM (Ipswich Community Radio) 105.7 MHz at about 08:25 in the morning of the first Wednesday of each month. I aim to cover what there is to see in the sky and then a little bit on something topical. ICRFM is also available to listen to over the Internet and there is a listen again option on their website. <http://www.icrfm.com>

Forthcoming Outreach Programmes

All members are welcome to come along and help out at these events – you don't need to be an expert in the subject. Just respond to the email call for help prior to the event.

Please note that not all events are open to the public.

Saturday 3rd June

Solar event in Christchurch Park, outside the Mansion. We will be using several filtered and solar telescopes to view the Sun safely. *Public Event.*

Park entrance: Bolton Lane gate
Setup time: 09:00 Event times: 10:00 to 16:00.

Sunday 18th June

Solar event at ESWR Radio Rally, Kirton. 9am for 10am start, Kirton Sports Field. *Public Event.*



Sunday 23rd July

Solar event at Needham Lakes. This meeting is still pending, More details to follow, if the go ahead is given. *Public Event.*

Sunday 27th August

Solar event at Bawdsey Radar Museum. *Public Event.* 9.30 for 11am start. Follow AA signs from A12.



Friday 22nd September

Star Party at Thomas Mills School, Framlingham
A night time observing event, with lecture option if wet. More details to follow nearer to the date. *Private Event*

Fire at Orwell Park!

Bill Barton FRAS

One hundred years ago last month, a major fire broke out in the Orwell Park Mansion. Although confined to the upper storeys of the central block of the building containing the servants' accommodation, schoolrooms and nurseries ceilings on the ground floor were damaged by heat and water used to fight the flames.

Smoke was first noticed at a quarter past eleven in the morning of Wednesday 28th May 1923. On discovering the flames an extinguisher was used, but to no effect. Orwell Park's own fire engine was soon got into action, the estate alarm bells having been widely rung and the employees there especially trained for just such a calamitous event. However the steam powered engine soon broke down under the strain of being used 'for real' and assistance was sought from Felixstowe (at 11:45am), and Woodbridge (at 2:20pm). The Felixstowe engine commanded by Captain Everett was on the road to Nacton within six minutes of the call being received. However the elderly manual Woodbridge appliance commanded by Superintendent W Richardson looked very inadequate next to the modern steam powered one from Felixstowe. It was also noticed that the Woodbridge brigade's hoses were also somewhat leaky. Water used to fight the fire was drawn from the house's own water-tower and, apparently, a 'convenient creek'. Engines from Ipswich which were prohibited from leaving the administratively separate county borough, did not attend. However Fire Brigade Superintendent George Gallaway (1878-1962) motored over from the town to give of his experience.

The 'family' were not at home, the first to arrive was George Pretyman (1895-1979). He had been on manoeuvres with his army unit at Landguard Fort in nearby Felixstowe. He was summoned by telephone and was able to help where he could. His father, Ernest Pretyman MP (1859-1931), owner of the house at the time, was in London. He was due to be at a meeting in his constituency in Chelmsford, but on hearing of the fire drove on to Nacton with his wife Lady Beatrice (1870-1952). They arrived around four pm. In the days that followed he wrote letters to the Felixstowe and Woodbridge Councils to thank them for sending their fire engines.

By two o'clock in the afternoon the flames were seen to be spreading. The estate workers and nearby villagers made a positively Herculean effort to remove the family's more valuable possessions to the lawns. Paintings by Murillo (possibly the religious work *Christ Healing the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda*, painted ca. 1670 and now in the National Gallery, London), Titian, Van Dyck, and Gainsborough were included in the haul, which eventually stretched all the way down to the river Orwell. Presumably these paintings were the ones originally bought by George Tomline and had simply remained in the family since his death. It was said that this collection contained a greater proportion of *chef-d'œuvre* (that is masterpiece) works than were to be found in the majority of others. By the time the flames were subdued at five o'clock that afternoon some twenty rooms had been burnt out and the roof was only saved from collapse by draining a large water tank to reduce its weight.

In addition to those actually fighting the fire members of the public from roundabout arrived to view the spectacle, initially from within the grounds, they were later moved to outside the Park grounds. Police Inspector John Gibbon Leftley (1874-1960) and constables Head (from Nacton), Finch (from Trimley), and Vince (from Felixstowe) attending to control the small crowd.

The exact cause of the outbreak was never established, but a short circuit in the electrical wiring of the building was ruled out on the grounds that the wires had been specially installed in steel conduits.

The cost of the damage was estimated at the time to have run to twenty thousand pounds (some four million in contemporary values based on the cost of labour). While repairs were undertaken the family lived in the unaffected east wing which also included the observatory. On page 70 of her 1995 work 'Orwell Park' Gillian Bence-Jones states that much of this repair work was undertaken by the estate workers themselves, however she dates the fire to 1921, for which the present author can find no evidence.

References:

Evening Star,

Fire at Orwell Park, Wednesday, May 30, 1923, p.3,

Letter from Ernest Pretyman, Saturday, June 2, 1923. p.4,

'The Orwell Park Fire', a letter from Ernest Pretyman to Felixstowe Council, Thursday, June 7, 1923, p.1.

East Anglian Daily Times,

Mystery Fire at Orwell Park (including photos), Thursday, May 31, 1923, p.10,

Letter from Ernest Pretyman, Saturday, June 2, 1923, p.7.

Woodbridge Reporter,

Original report, Thursday, May 31, 1923, p.1, & p.5.

Daily News (London),

M.P.'s Mansion Ablaze, Thursday, May 31, 1923, p.5.



Image showing area affected by the flames (Bill Barton)

The path from the Sports Centre car park has finally been repaired.



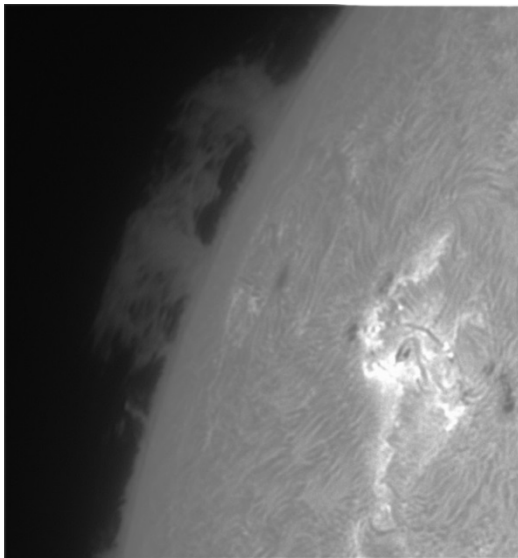
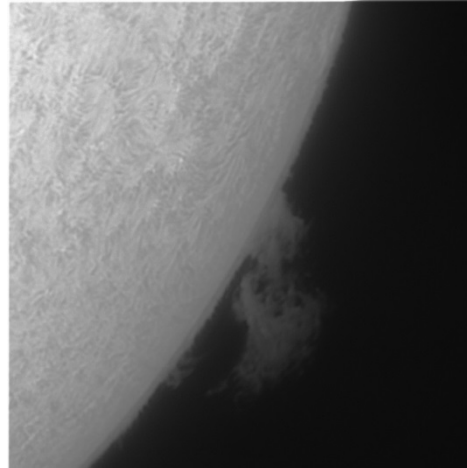
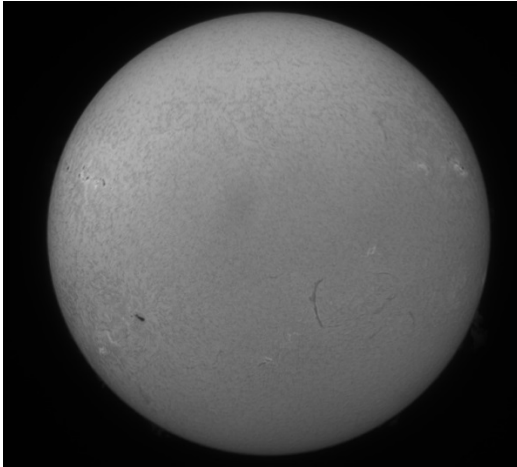
pictures by Neil Morely

In The News

Basil Brown, the archaeologist who uncovered the Anglo-Saxon treasures at Sutton Hoo, has had a blue plaque unveiled to his memory on his house in Rickinghall, Suffolk.

The plaque commemorates him as the discoverer of the Sutton Hoo treasures and as a self-taught archaeologist and astronomer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-65534012>



The Sun imaged in H α light using a Lunt LS60THa/B1200 telescope and ZWO 178mm camera on the 20 May 2023 11:45 UT

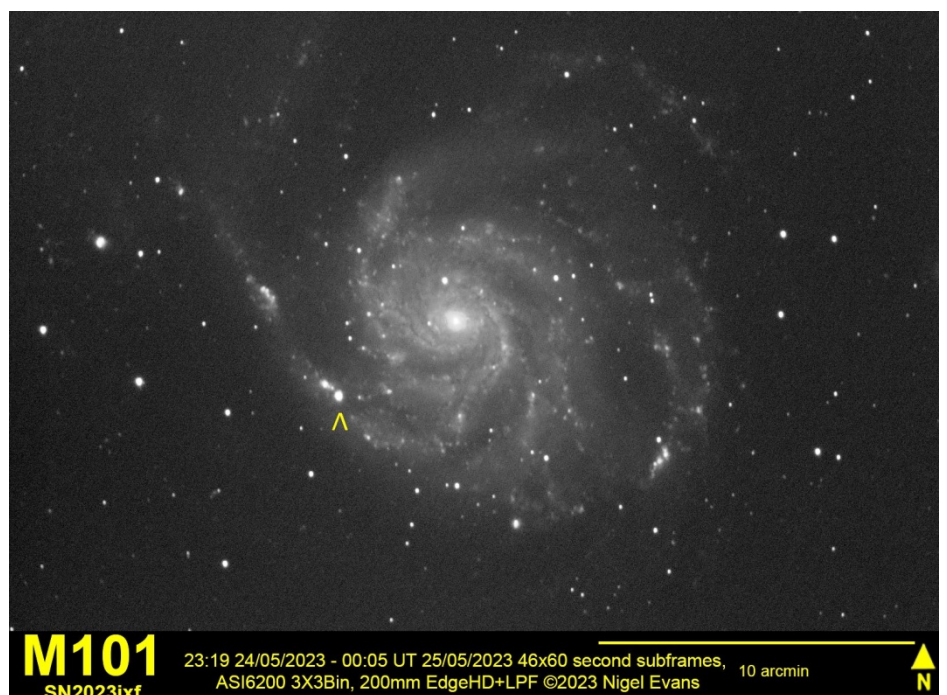
Several sunspot groups can be seen along with filaments (thread-like features), plages (bright patches surrounding sunspots) and prominences

The close-up views were taken using a 2.5 X Barlow lens and shows two of the active prominences

Martin Cook

The recent supernova in M101 – SN2023ixf

Nigel Evans



M101
SN2023ixf

23:19 24/05/2023 - 00:05 UT 25/05/2023 46x60 second subframes, 10 arcmin
ASI6200 3X3Bin, 200mm EdgeHD+LPF ©2023 Nigel Evans

