

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER
1988



THE NIGHT SKY

(all times G.M.T.)

SUN Rises at approximately between 07.20 - 07.50
Sets at approximately between 16.30 - 15.55

MOON



1st



9th



16th



23rd

MERCURY This month Mercury is a morning sky object, but it will be difficult to see. It will be rising about 1 hour before sun rise at the beginning of the month.

VENUS Venus is still a morning sky object and can not be mistaken. Mag. -3.9

MARS Mars is very prominent in the evening sky. Mag. -1.3

JUPITER Jupiter is at opposition on the 23th. It will be visible nearly all night. Mag. -2.8

SATURN Saturn is still visible in the western sky at the beginning of the month, but will disappear into the twilight at the end of the month. Mag. 0.4

URANUS Will be difficult to see this month as it is the twilight sky after sun set. Mag. 5.9

NEPTUNE Neptune follows behind Uranus in the night sky and will become more difficult to see by the end of the month as it disappears into the twilight sky. Mag. 7.7

R Gooding

SOCIETY NEWS

- 1 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**
The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 12th November at 7.30 at the observatory. This will be the last committee meeting of the year. This is an open meeting and all members are welcome to attend.
- 2 POSSIBLE VISIT TO SIZEWELL POWER STATION**
Jo Walsh has said that he will arrange a group visit to Sizewell if enough members are interested.
- 3 MOVE TO SCOTLAND**
Tom Gillan will be moving to Scotland in November. He has been a member for a number of years, and was a joint director of the Double Star & Plants Section. We wish him well in his future retirement.

FAS HERSTMONCEUX CONVENTION

October 8th was the date for this year's FAS annual convention at Herstmonceux. These conventions have been taking place every year since 1981, members of our society have attended every meeting. Each year the annual pilgrimage to Herstmonceux has been eagerly awaited. Unfortunately this year's event was the last one to be held at Herstmonceux. For those members who do not know, the RGO is moving out of Herstmonceux to a new home at Cambridge, in about two years time. A total of 29 members went to the convention, making this the largest society excursion for many years. Many went independently, but the biggest group went in the usual mode of transport, a 12 seater minibus.

Every one in the main group met at Alan Smith's, for a 7.50 start. The journey to Herstmonceux in previous years has often been full of incidents, this year however it passed with out a single item of note. Alan drove the minibus on the outward journey, which took less than 2½ hours. We arrived at the RGO at about 10.15, and parked in front of the Castle. The first task to undertake was the group photograph in front of Herstmonceux Castle. This seemingly simple task still has its pitfalls. We all formed an incoherent rabble on the steps leading to the bridge over the castle moat. Our large gathering must have drawn the attention of a less experienced group of Herstmonceuxians, who were looking for the entrance to the castle. We were soon joined by many unknown faces who at first must have been bemused as to why none of us were making any attempt to enter the castle via the door over the bridge. Alan was the first to obtain a photograph, soon to be followed by Gary, who gave every one waiting an entertaining performance in his attempts to set up his camera.

After nearly 15 minutes we made our way into the castle in search of a cup of coffee, which was found in the Long Gallery. The weather forecast said that rain would arrive around midday, with this in mind several of the group decided that it would be best to walk round the gardens while it was still dry. The walk was ended when it started to drizzle. It is not possible to describe every one's day as by this time the whole party had split up into small groups.

The days programme was similar to previous years. Through out the day there were 4 lectures, I am unable to comment on any of these as I did not attend any. The Long Gallery was quite crowded this year as it had to hold not only

the refreshment area but also the trade stands. In the afternoon the RGO facilities were open for inspection. These included the telescopes of the Equatorial Group, the Laser Ranging Telescope and the Star Link Computer.

The weather this year was not very good. At the start of the journey the sun had been shining with the promise of a pleasant day to come. By the time we had reached Herstmonceux the skies had become very cast. It started raining about 12.00 and did not stop completely until past 6.00.

After a very wet time walking between the different RGO facilities it was decided to call it a day and we began the journey home a little after 6.00. There were two stops on the way home. The first was at Robertsbridge at a fish and chip shop. The road through this village is very narrow, and by chance there was a garage forecourt across the road. Alan managed to slip the minibus behind the two petrol pumps quite easily. Unfortunately getting away was a little more difficult. The garage forecourt appeared to be only big enough for two minies. We nearly left with one petrol pump in tow.

About five miles down the road Alan relinquished the driving to Peter. Saturday night was the first performance of Michel Jarr's Concert and Laser light show from the London docks. Driving along the M25, away from the Dartford Tunnel we were able to see several search lights in the distance looking towards the London docks. It was decided to find a suitable observing point. Instead of turning right at the A12 junction we went left. After only about 15 minutes of looking we came across an area of waste land, on a hill with a clear view to the west. The laser show was at least six or seven miles away. We stayed for over half an hour. The best vantage point was from the top of the minibus. The one we had hired came with a roof rack. The evening was quiet dry through it had by this time become very windy, this was the main reason why it was decided to head for home. We arrived in Ipswich at 10.30

MEMBERS AT THE FAS HERSTMONCEUX CONVENTION

JOHN KING
NIGEL GAGE
THERESA GRACE

DAVID PAYNE
LINDA PAYNE
DARREN PAYNE
MARTIN PAYNE
ANGELIA PAYNE

ERIC SIMS
CAROL SIMS
ERICA SIMS
RACHAEL WARNER

ROY CHEESMAN
MICHAEL HARLOW
K. HALL

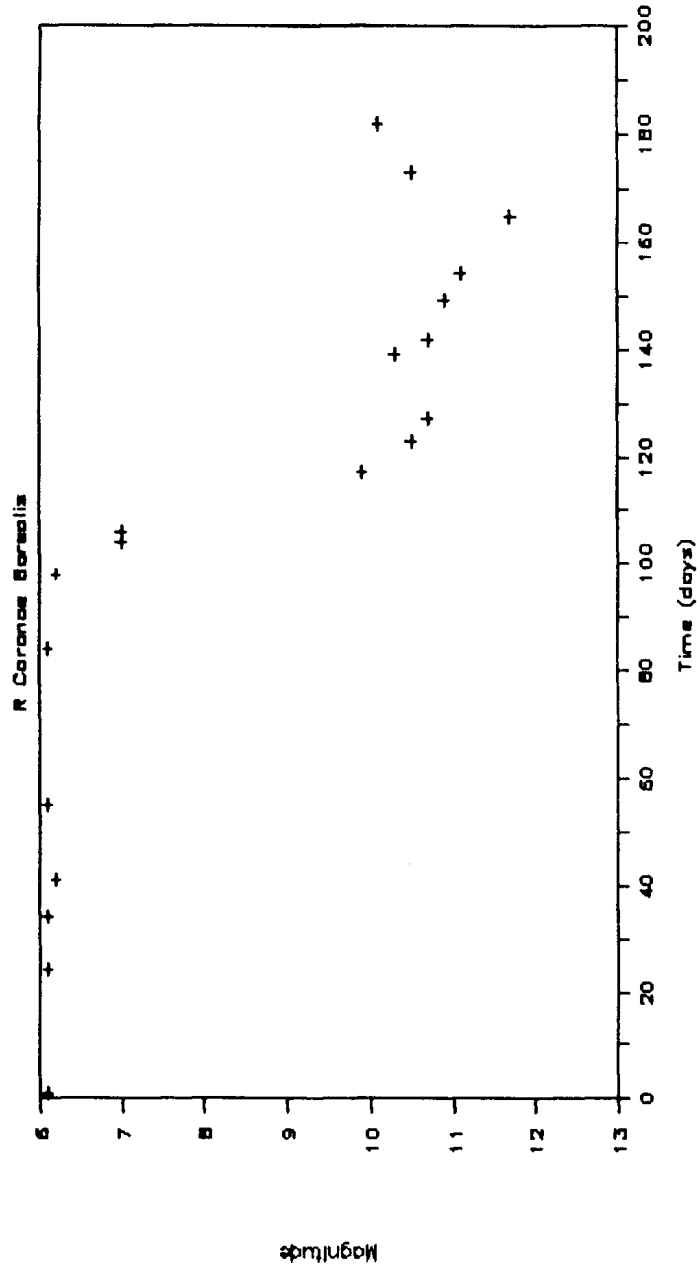
MICHAEL NICHOLLS
MARTIN COOK
ROB DAVIS
ANTONY ADAMS
ROY GOODING

PETER RICHARDS
JO WALSH
GARY MARRIOTT
LESLIE MAXIM
ALAN SMITH

JUDITH COOK
L. WALSH
ROY ADAMS
JOAN MAXIM

R. Gooding .

Variable Star Observations



This light curve shows R Coronae Borealis from April to October this year. Normally at magnitude 6, this star can fade unpredictably by up to 9 magnitudes.

Solution to Crossword number I4

Across I Saturn Nebula, 8 X Rays, 9 Satellite, IO Ansaes,
 II Lunation, I2 Total, I5 Titius, I7 Canopus,
 I9 Lyra, 2I Titania, 22 Twinkle, 23 Syzygy

Down I Sextant, 2 Transit, 3 Russell, 4 Neptune,
 5 Bellatrix, 6 Luminosity, 7 Rhea, I3 Opacity,
 I4 Anomaly, I6 Sea, I8 Skat, I9 Lynx, 20 Rule

Crossword Number I5

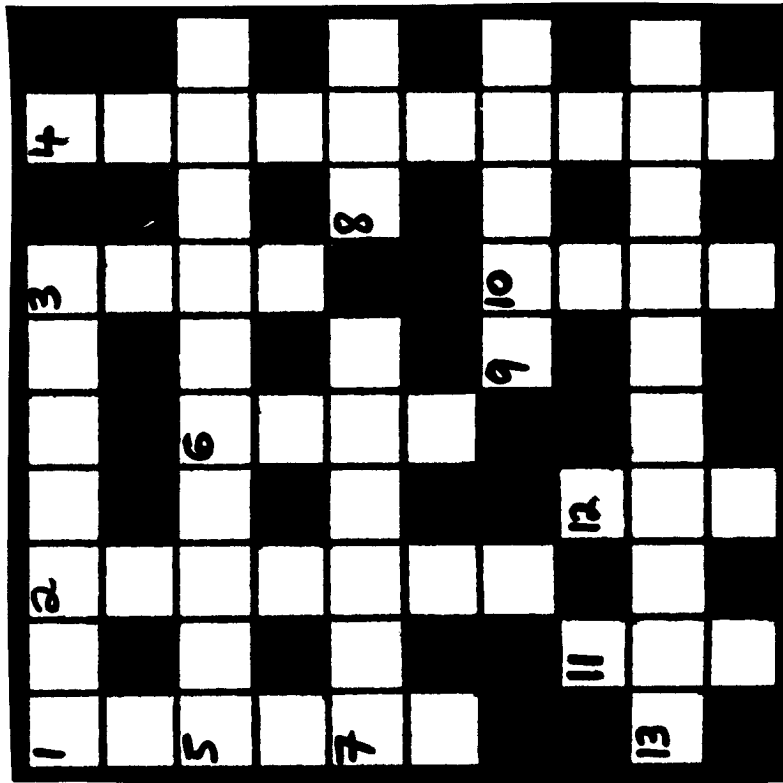
Across

- I The whole club consists of this type of astronomer (7)
- 5 A red giant variable in Orion (IO)
- 7 Swordfish-constellation (6)
- 8 Reticulum - constellation (3)
- 9 Shape of the portion of the moon or a planet illuminated by the sun from the Earth (5)
- I3 Point in the orbit of a planet or comet nearest the sun (IO)

Down

- I A measurement of an object's reflecting power (6)
- 2 A red giant star in the constellation scorpius (7)
- 3 Satellite of saturn discovered in I672 (4)
- 4 Separation of light into primary colours (IO)
- 6 Small satellite of jupiter discovered in I974 (4)
- IO American astronomer & outstanding solar observer (I868-1938) (4)

- II Both the moon and the Earth are covered in several of these areas (3)
- I2 A 2.5 magnitude star in cassiopeia which is variable & has a ninth magnitude companion 2" away (3)



XWORD
15

PROGRAMME FOR **NOVEMBER**

Mondays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
	Mr R Newman	[REDACTED], Felixstowe IP11 9DY	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
7-14	Mr J King	[REDACTED], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
21-28	Mr N Taylor	[REDACTED], Trimley IP10 0XY	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
Tuesdays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
1-8	Mr R Newman	[REDACTED], Felixstowe IP11 9DY	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
15-22	Mr J King	[REDACTED], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
29			
Wednesdays from 8pm		NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION / CLUB NIGHT	
2-9	Mr M Cook	[REDACTED], Ipswich IP4 5PZ	Tel. [REDACTED]
16-23	Mr D Payne	[REDACTED], Wickham Market IP13 0SD	Tel. [REDACTED]
30			
Fridays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
	Mr P R Richards	[REDACTED], Ipswich IP1 2HW	Tel. [REDACTED]
11-25	Mr M Harlow	[REDACTED], Trimley IP10 0XB	Tel. [REDACTED]
	Mr R A Lobbett	[REDACTED], Felixstowe IP11 8UJ	Tel. [REDACTED]

On nights other than Wednesday ring directors to confirm dates.

1988 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	(Address above)	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Barnard	[REDACTED], Ipswich IP4 5PP	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[REDACTED], Ipswich IP1 6AE	Home: [REDACTED]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[REDACTED], Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2EX	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	(Address above)	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
JOURNAL	E Sims	[REDACTED], Ipswich IP1 4NA	Home: [REDACTED]
CO-ORD			
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	(Address above)	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
EQUIPMENT	R Newman	(Address above)	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
CURATOR			
SPECIAL	N Taylor	(Address above)	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
EVENTS			