

# NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN Rises approximately between 05.40 - 04.30  
Sets approximately between 18.30 - 19.30

## MOON



2nd



10th



18th



25th

MERCURY Mercury will be very well placed for observing in the evening sky towards the end of the month. It will be at greatest eastern elongation on the 13th (20°). Mag. -0.5

VENUS Venus will remain visible low down in the morning sky before sunrise. Mag. -4.0

MARS Mars will also be visible low down in the morning sky. It will be rising at about 03.30 in mid month. Mag. 0.9

JUPITER Jupiter remains well placed for observation in the evening sky all month. It will be setting a little after midnight at the end of the month. Mag. -2.1

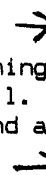
SATURN Saturn will be rising at about 02.00 during the middle of the month. Mag. 0.6

URANUS Rises about ½ hour before Saturn.

NEPTUNE Rise at about the same time as Saturn

## COMET AUSTIN

There is at present a potentially very bright comet approaching the sun. I have included a sketch map for its location in April. It will be an evening object at the beginning of the month and a morning object towards the end.



# SOCIETY NEWS

## 1 1990 LECTURE PROGRAMME

All meetings will be held at the Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road Ipswich.

a) The programme for this meeting has not yet been finalised. It is proposed to include 1 or 2 short lectures given by members followed by a video on either Mars or the Voyagers missions.

Friday 20th April at 8.00pm

## 2 RAYLEIGH ASTRONOMICAL CONVENTION

The Rayleigh Astronomical Society will be holding their 21st anniversary convention on Sunday 6th May. A summary of the days events is as follows:-

LECTURES - Victor Clube Catastrophism  
Neil Bone Aurorae  
Harry Ford Work at the R.G.O.

There will also be the usual selection of trade stands. Frequent attenders at these conventions will need no introduction to these.

The cost is £1.50 and 75p for young members and OAP's, plus transport, which will be arranged nearer the date. Interested members please contact Roy Gooding A.S.A.P.

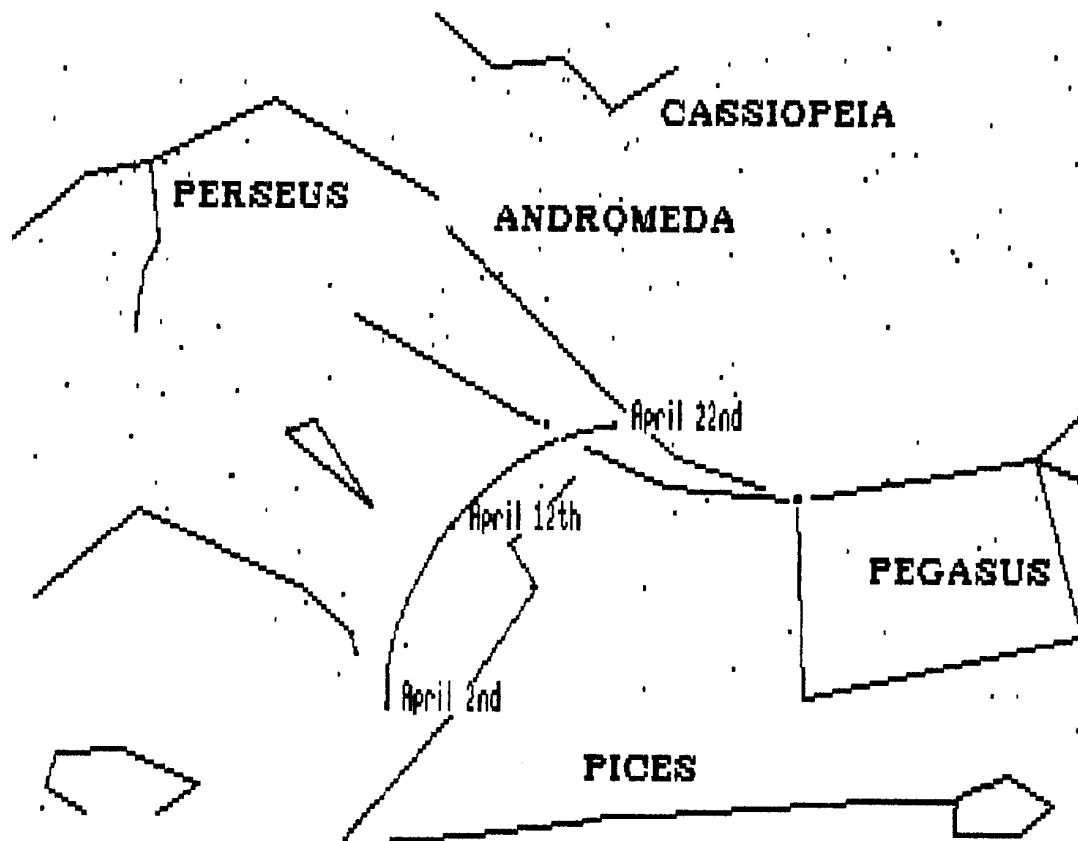
## 3 COMMITTEE MEETING

the next committee meeting will be saturday 19th May at the observatory, starting at 19.30. As usual this will be an open meeting and any member may attend if they wish.

April	R	A	Dec.	Mag.
	h	m		
4	1	49.0	+18 33	2.0
9	1	43.3	+25 21	1.4
14	1	28.9	+30 52	1.3
19	1	08.2	+34 17	1.6
24	0	44.3	+35 52	2.0
29	0	18.4	+36 04	2.4

R.Gooding

## TRACK OF COMET AUSTIN



The Moon - Our Partner in Space.  
By J.Walsh.

The night is cloudy, I raise the Binoculars to the sky again it looks like another Lunar Eclipse clouded out again, the forecast said it would be clear tonight. I look at the light from the Moon shining through the cloud, still no let up.

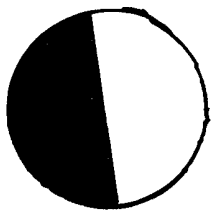
I look at the Moon as the ancient's must have done million's of years ago thinking of the history of our partner in space. Our Moon is the only world outside the Earth that we, the Human Race, have been to and explored, it has been our faithful companion since the Solar System was formed 4½ Billion years ago. Completely without Atmosphere and hence, any water, the footprints our Astronauts left there over twenty years ago, would still be there undisturbed.

Most people are beginning to think that instead of the Moon orbiting the Earth every twenty eight days etc. The Earth and the Moon are orbiting each other around a common centre of gravity. We are not the only Moon and Planet system to do this. In 1978 when Charon, Pluto's moon was discovered, it was found that like us, Pluto and Charon follow each other around a common centre of gravity. So the Earth and Moon are not unique in this.

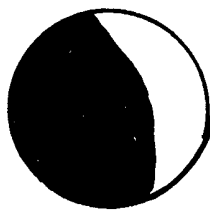
The Moons mean distance from Earth is 238,840 Miles (384,294 KM) and is locked in what is known as a Synchronous Orbit round the Earth, which means only one side of the Moon can ever be seen from Earth although spacecraft both manned and unmanned have taken detailed photographs from the far side of the Moon and now we have some very detailed maps of this previously unknown part of the Moon.

Suddenly I am back to the present again, it's 1800 hours on the 9th February 1990, I can see the Moon quite clearly between the broken cloud, it is at half eclipse, there is a lot of cloud still and after a couple of minutes it has clouded over again, but this time it looks hopeful. 1807 hours the sky has cleared again, and the Moon now is more than half eclipse, on the darkened side the surface features can easily be seen in the reddish brown shadow, the sky is clearing nicely. 1826 hours the Moon is now at three quarter eclipse there is now a lot of moisture in the air and some of the surface features are not so clear. 1840 hours only a thin sliver of the sunlit surface left. 1855 hours, Moon now at total eclipse. Due to rapidly deteriorating atmospheric conditions I had to stop observing at 1900 hours. Although this time the eclipse was visible, because of the very damp Atmosphere the Eclipse was not a very good one this time. We will have to wait until 1991 for the next Lunar Eclipse.

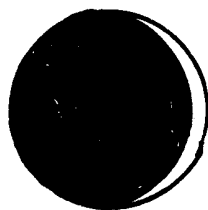
The times and phases of the Lunar Eclipse 9-2-90 from 1800 hours



1800 hours



1826 hours



1840 hours

All times shown are G.M.T. Drawings by Lucy Walsh.

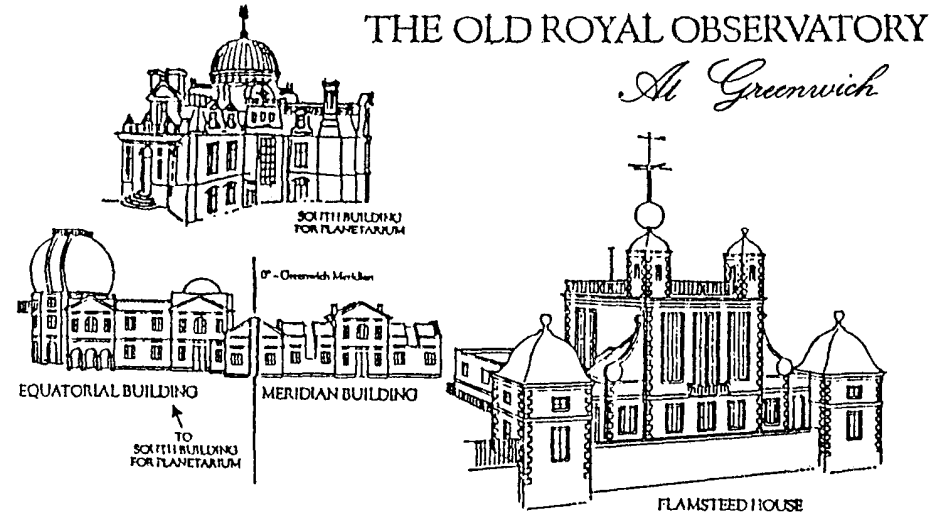
to Total Eclipse at 1855 hours.

## LIBRARY RECALL NOTICE

Would the borrowers of the following books please return them as they are now overdue ( the Committee have been unable to contact the people concerned directly ) :

'Exploring the Nighth Sky With Binoculars',  
by Patrick Moore.

'Astronomy with Your Personal Computer'  
by Peter Duffet-Smith.



### HISTORY

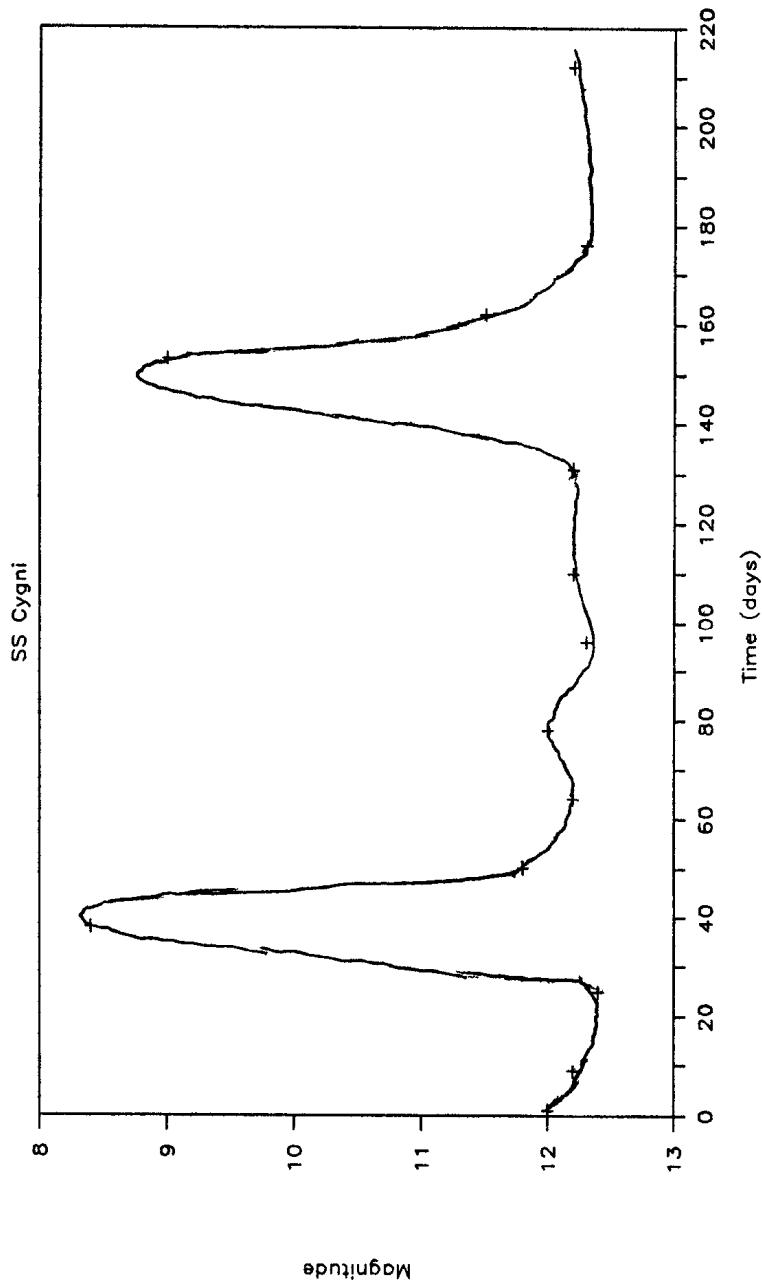
The history of the Royal Observatory begins in 1675, when King Charles II founded it "in order to the finding out of the longitude of places for perfecting navigation and Astronomy." Charles II appointed John Flamsteed as "Astronomical Observator" to carry out the purpose of the observatory. He directed Sir Christopher Wren to "build a small observatory within our park at Greenwich, upon the highest ground, at or near the place where the castle stood". For the first 200 years the work of the observatory was almost exclusively related to the needs of navigation, though the by-products, for example the Greenwich Meridian and the world's time zone system based on it, were of tremendous value to those ashore and to astronomy.

### YOUR VISIT

You should first begin your visit at Flamsteed House. On your way there you will cross from the Eastern hemisphere into the Western hemisphere, i.e. the famous Greenwich Meridian where east meets west. Also if you happen to be in the courtyard at one o'clock you can see the Greenwich Time Ball drop. This was the world's first visual time signal. All vessels in sight had an opportunity of regulating and rating their chronometers by the Time Ball.

More Next Month If Space Is Available.

# VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS



## PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

DAY	DIRECTORS	SECTION	PHONE No.s
Mondays from 8.00pm			
2-9	Mr R Newman	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 9DY.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
16-23	Mr J King	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
30			
Tuesdays from 8.00pm			
3-10	Mr R Newman	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
17-24	Mr J King	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Wednesdays from 8.00pm			
4-11	Mr M Cook	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PZ.	Tel. Ips. [Redacted]
18-25	Mr D Payne	[Redacted], Wickham Market, IP13 0SD.	Tel. W.M. [Redacted]
Fridays from 8.00pm			
6-13	Mr P Richards	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 1QB.	Tel. Ips. [Redacted]
20-27	Mr R A Lobbett	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 8UJ.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
	Mr G Marriott	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 4JB. [Assistant Director]	Tel. Ips. [Redacted]

All nights are open to all members, but, on nights other than Wednesdays, ring directors to confirm. Directors will also be able to tell you if a group visit is taking place. All sections observe anything of interest, but the title indicates the main specialism.

### Lectures and other events:

Friday 20th April at 8.00pm  
 Friends Meeting House Fonnereau Road Ipswich.  
 Programme still to be finalised.

## 1990 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN /VISITS CO-ORD	D Barnard	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PP.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP1 6AE.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[Redacted], Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
MAINTENANCE CO-ORD	M Cook	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
JOURNAL CO-ORD	E Sims	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP1 4HA.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	J King	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	A Smith	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP2 0ES.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]