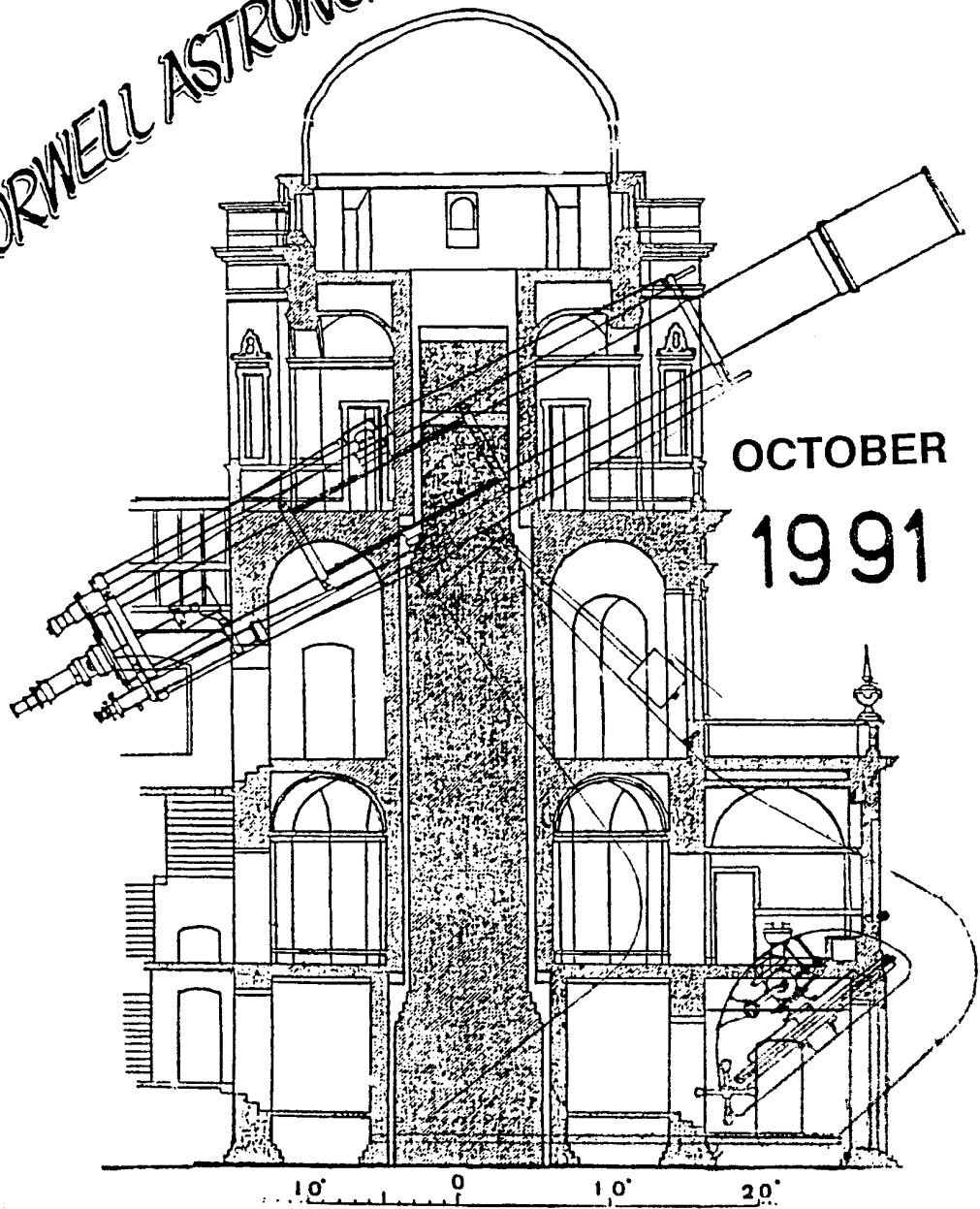


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IPSWICH



OCTOBER
1991

SOCIETY NEWS

1 COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 23th November with a start at 7.30pm in the club room. As usual this is an open meeting and any member who wishes to attend will be welcome.

2 CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Christmas meal will be at the Marlborough Hotel Felixstowe, On Wednesday 11th December. There will only be a limited number of places available, so it will be first come first served. The price will be £13.95. The function will be in the Landguard room, which has been booked for the whole evening. Interested members please contact Roy Gooding as soon as possible.

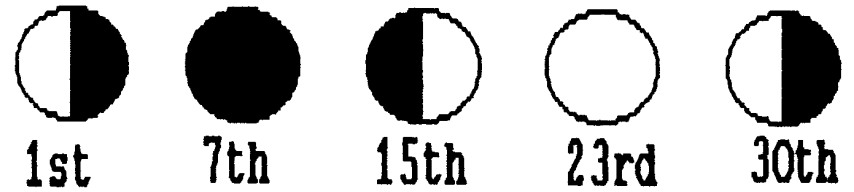
NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately at 06.00 - 07.00
Sets approximately at 17.50 - 16.40

MOON



MERCURY

Mercury is at superior conjunction on the 3rd, and will not be easily seen for the rest of the month.

VENUS

Venus is very prominent in the morning sky. By the end of the month it will be rising about 4 hours before the sun. Mag. -4.5

MARS Mars will be setting only a few minutes after the sun this month and will not be visible.

JUPITER Jupiter will be visible in the morning sky this month. It will be rising at about 02.00 in mid month. Mag. -1.7

SATURN Saturn will be visible all month evening, setting at about 23.00 in mid month. It is very low down in the south, near the border of Capricornus and Sagittarius. Mag 0.5

URANUS Uranus is in Sagittarius, setting at about 2 hours before Saturn. Mag. 5.7

NEPTUNE Neptune is also in Sagittarius, Setting at about 2 hours Saturn. Mag 7.9

R.Gooding

THE FAS CAMBRIDGE CONVENTION

In the 1980's the FAS held annual astronomical conventions at the RGO at Herstmonceux. Attending these meetings became a regular part of the society events calendar. The last of these meetings was held in 1988, prior to the moving of the RGO to Cambridge. This year saw the resumption of the FAS autumn conventions at a new venue, in Cambridge. The meeting was held at the Cavendish Laboratories on 21st September, and was attended by 13 members. Cambridge is a larger centre of astronomy than Herstmonceux was with the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy with the optical telescopes, the Mallard Radio Observatory at Lords Bridge and the new RGO building. The only disadvantage being that these sites are not all easily accessible by foot, where as the site at Herstmonceux was self contained in its own grounds. Excursions to Herstmonceux were usually undertaken in a mini bus. As it was not cost effective to hire a mini bus for Cambridge, four cars were taken.

The days programme consisted of five lectures, with visits to the Institute of Astronomy, the RGO and the Mallard Radio observatory, in the afternoon. There were five lectures, the first of which started at 10.15. Dr. David Malin titled his talk "Things To See and To Do In The Dark" In recent years

David Malin has had published many colour photographs of various deep sky objects, using techniques that he has developed himself. The talk was about the work he does in the dark, in a dark room. Several of his colour photographs, were shown for the first time, some of which may be published in Sky & Telescope in the neat future.

After a short break, the second lecture began at 12.00. This was given by Prof. Martin Rees, and titled " Dark Matter, Quasars & Cosmology". The first half of the talk deviated from the main theme with an account of the possible discovery of a planet orbiting a pulsar by Jodrell Bank Observatory. There followed a break for lunch. Lunch was either packed or a visit to a local pub.

The third lecture was given by Dr. David Dewhirst, on "700 Years of Cambridge Astronomy". The title was rather a misnomer as the majority of the time discussed was the last 300 years. The fourth lecture was missed by most members as they either went on one of the conducted tours or spent some time at the trade stands. The last lecture started at 17.00 by Prof. Andrew Fabian, on "Galaxy Clusters & Dark Matter"

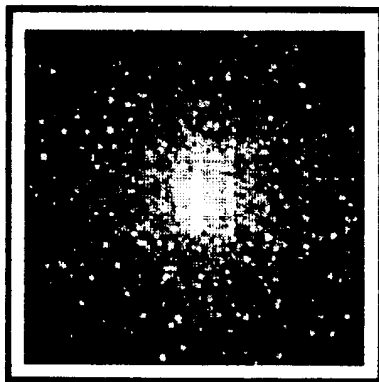
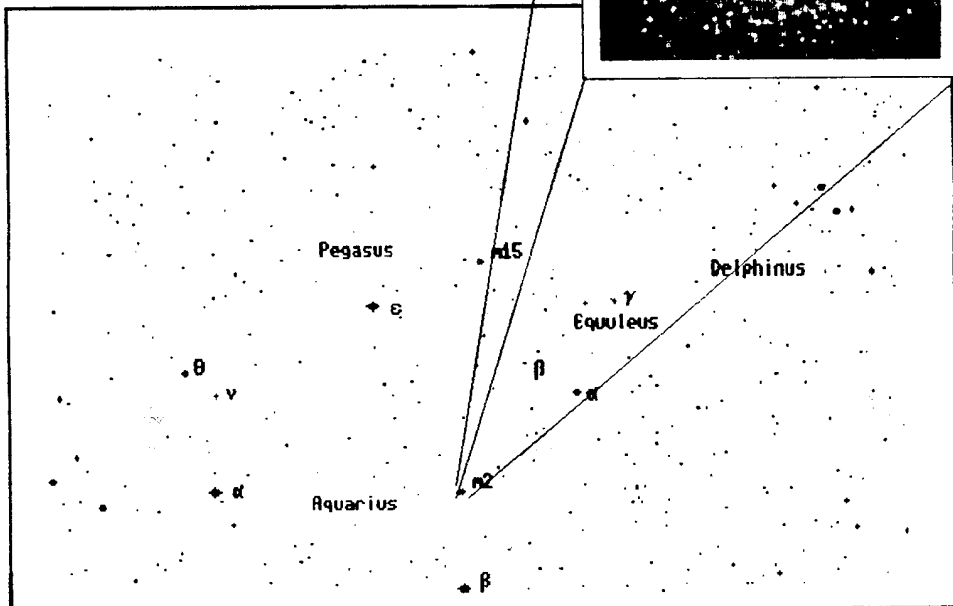
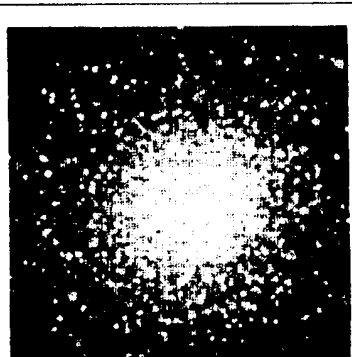
R.Gooding

Two Globular Clusters for October

David Payne

Pegasus and Aquarius are well placed for observing during October. Although both constellations are large they only contain 4 Messier objects between them, one in Pegasus (M15) and three in Aquarius (M2, M72 and M73). M72 is not a true cluster but a small grouping of four stars. M73, M2 and M15 are all globular clusters of which M2 and M15 are the finest objects, both lying high in the sky during October. M2 can easily be found 4.5 degrees north of β Aquarii. It is a fine bright cluster of magnitude 6

easily visible in binoculars and small telescopes as a little fuzzy ball. Visually it is about 7' in diameter but requires an 8 to 10 inch telescope to provide some resolution of the outer edges. It lies at a distance of 50,000 light years and contains at least 100,000 stars within a diameter of about 170 light years.



The globular cluster M15 lies at the western edge of Pegasus and is easily found about 4 degrees north west of ϵ Pegasi. This is again a beautiful bright globular cluster amongst the finest in the northern skies. It has an integrated magnitude of 6.5 with an apparent diameter of about 12' but has a brighter nucleus than M2. With a ten inch telescope it can be fairly well resolved to the nucleus and partial resolution can be achieved in a

6 inch. M15 is unusual in that it contains a small planetary nebular of photographic magnitude 13.8 and a diameter of 1", unfortunately not visible in normal instruments. The cluster lies at a distance of about 40,000 light years with a diameter of around 130 light years.

CASSIOPEIA

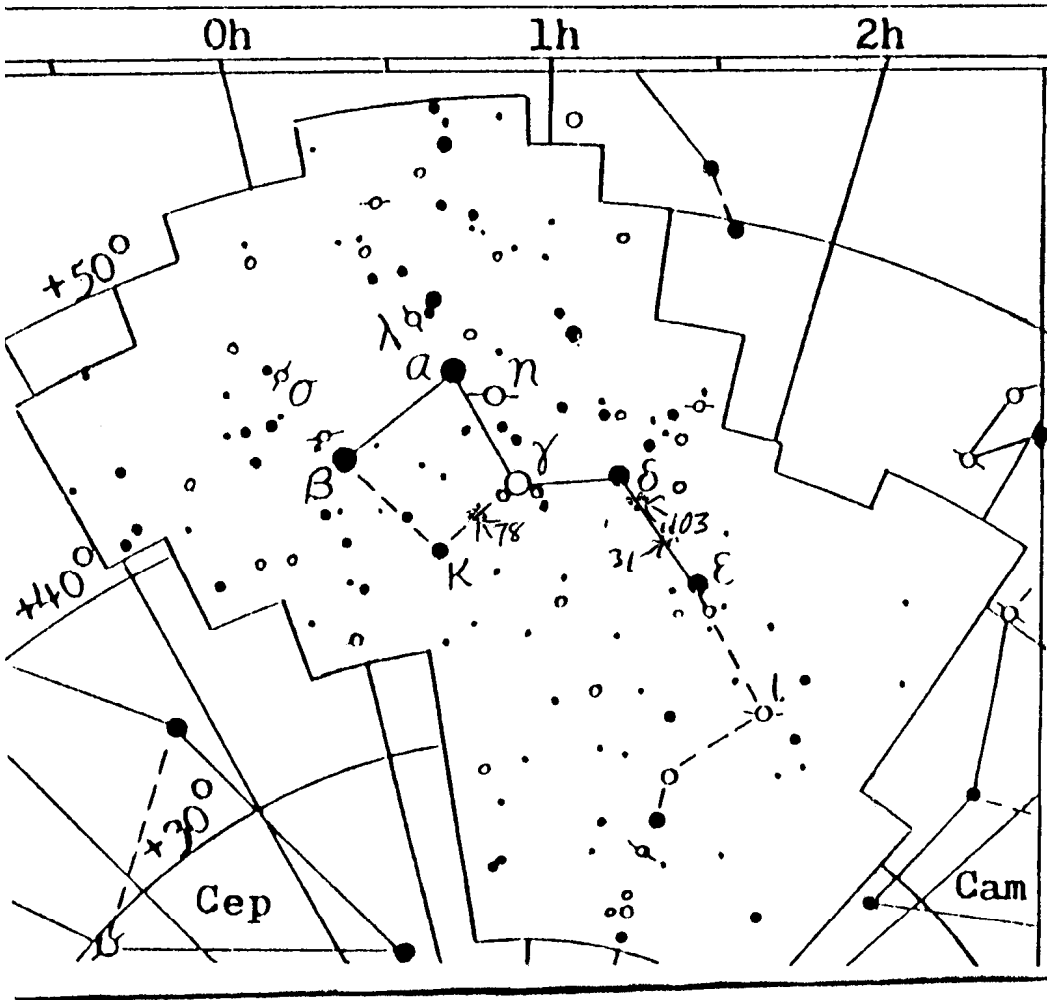
If you take a line from the centre of the Plough "Ursa Major" through the Pole Star and about the same distance again you come to the W of Cassiopeia. This is a constellation of five bright stars. In the year 1572 AD a new star, a supernova appeared and for some time it was as bright as Venus.

Three other interesting faint objects in this area are NGC 225 marked 78 on the map which is a fine cluster almost W shaped. Next is M 103 a galactic cluster which is rather loose but lies in a beautiful field, and the last one is NGC 663 marked 31 on the map which is another fine open cluster visible with a low power telescope.

Double Stars

Pos.	1	m 2	D	d"	P A	No.
000065	6.0-7.4	b	15.3	71	E3053	
0358	6.5-7.3	b	1.2	235	E3062	
2449	6.9-8.7	d	17.3	302	E30	
2954	5.5-5.8	b	0.5	171	λ	
4657	3.6-7.5	b	10.1	293	η	
014157	6.4-7.8	b	1.0	38	B870	
5873	6.2-9.3	b	5.4	192	E191	
022467	4.7-7.0	b	2.3	240	l	
	4.6-8.2	d	7.2	116		
235655	5.1-7.2	b	3.1	332	σ	
E3053	Yellow, blue.					
η	ACHIRD: Yellow, purple.					
l	Yellowish with two blue-white companions.					
σ	Intense green, blue.					
a	SCHEDIR is a wide 62" pair. reddish, blue. (Not listed)					

CASSIOPEIA



PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER

DAY/DATE	DIRECTORS	SECTION	PHONE
Mondays from 8.00pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
7-14	Mr R Newman	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 9DY.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
21-28	Mr J King	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Tuesdays from 8.00pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
1-8-15	Mr R Newman	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
22-29	Mr J King	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Wednesdays from 8.00pm		NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION	
2-9-16	Mr M Cook	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PZ.	Tel. Ips.711511
23-30	Mr D Payne	[Redacted], Wickham Market, IP13 0SD.	Tel.W.Mkt.747019
Fridays from 8.00pm		PLANETARY AND LUNAR SECTION	
4-11	Mr P Richards	[Redacted], Nacton, Ipswich, IP10 0HS.	Tel. Ips. [Redacted]
18-25	Mr R A Lobbett	[Redacted], Felixstowe, IP11 8UJ.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
	Mr G Marriott	[Redacted] Ipswich, IP4 4JB.	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 suggests popular subjects.

Lectures and other events : COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 23 November at the observatory starting at 19.30. As usual this will be an open meeting and any member may attend if they wish.

1991 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	D Barnard	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP3 8RN.	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]
PUBLICITY & VISITS CO-ORD	P Richards	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	J King	[Address above.]	Home: [Redacted]
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	A Smith	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5RZ	Home: [Redacted]