



OASI News

The newsletter of Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)



Andy Gibbs. Jupiter imaged on 21-11-24. The moon Europa is to the left, with its shadow beginning to transit the planet.

Trustees: Mr Neil Morley Mr David Payne
Honorary President: Dr Allan Chapman D. Phil MA FRAS

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Society Notices

Dear Members,

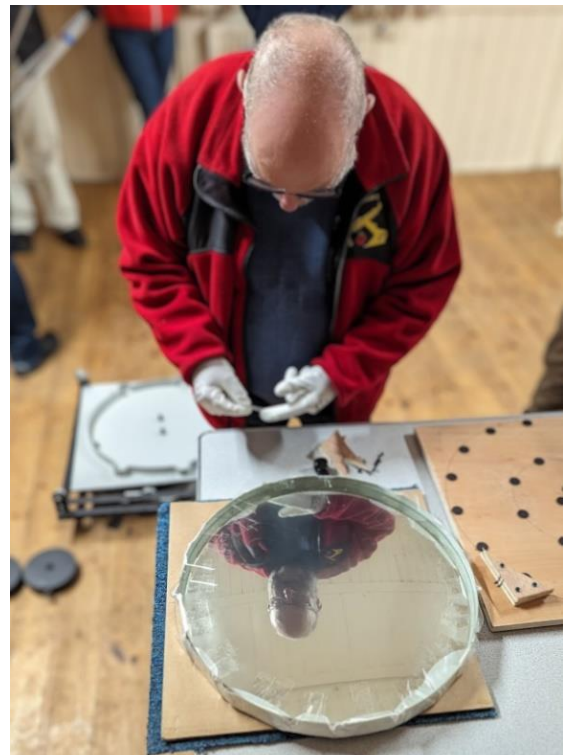
It is with great sadness that I have to announce the passing of our friend and Committee member, John Wainwright. John was a stalwart of the Society, who was always willing to help out new and old members with their astronomical equipment and usually managed to produce a tool or spare part from his vast inventory! He was also a valued member of our outreach team, rarely missing an event.

R.I.P. John, we are all going to miss you.

Finally, I would like to wish all members and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Andy Gibbs,

Chairman.



John Wainwright at Mendlesham Fayre in 2024 and adjusting the Millenium Scope's mirror.

Committee 2024

Chairman	Andy Gibbs	Set overall agenda for OASI, Chair committee meetings, Press and publicity
Secretary	Roy Gooding	Outreach meetings (jointly with Chairman), observatory decoration
Treasurer	Paul Whiting	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
	Martin Cook	Membership, Tomline refractor maintenance & user testing
	Matt Leeks	Safety & security
	Peter Richards	Lecture meetings
	Mike Whybray	Astronomy Workshops, Child protection officer, Orwell Park School Astronomy Club
	Andy Willshere	Librarian
	Adam Honeybell	Newsletter
	Paul Whiting	OASI @ Newbourne

Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be the AGM on Monday 27th January 2025 at Newbourne Village Hall at 7:00pm. All members welcome.

New members

No new members this month

Society Contact details

Website:	https://www.oasi.org.uk
Events:	https://www.oasi.org.uk/Events/Events.php
Email queries:	info@oasi.org.uk
Submissions for Newsletter:	news@oasi.org.uk
Members-only message board:	https://groups.io/g/OASI
Observatory (meeting nights only):	☎ 07960 083714

Social Media

For other astronomy news and astro pictures try our socials:

Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/445056098989371
YouTube:	https://www.youtube.com/@orwellastronomical425
WhatsApp:	There is a WhatsApp group. Please email to be added.

We'd like to use social media a little more, since it's a more direct and immediate way to interact with members and potential members. Feel free to post pictures, comments or interesting articles. The more it's used, the more other people will be inclined to use it as well.

Articles for OASI News

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

Please send tables as separate files in one of these formats (Excel, .csv, OpenOffice)

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."

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 (i.e. 15th December).

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.

Meetings and events

We have regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (usually) at **Newbourne Village Hall**, and every Wednesday at **Orwell Park**. Night sky observing will usually take place when the skies are clear. See [website](#) for more events.

Date, Time & Location	Contact	Event
Weekly, every Wednesday, from 20:00, Orwell Park Observatory, Nacton	Martin Cook	Observatory open
Monday 2nd December 20:00 Orwell Park Observatory	Paul Whiting	Taster evening . Places must be booked in advance by email: tour@oasi.org.uk .
Thursday 5th December 20:00 The Fox Newbourne	Roy Gooding	Xmas meal. Open to members of OASI and their guests. Places must be booked in advance. Menu .
Monday 9th December 19:30 Newbourne Village Hall	Paul Whiting	Newbourne meeting - beginners and new members welcome! Festive quiz night - bring the family, drinks and nibbles!
Thursday 19th December 20:00 Zoom	Paul Whiting	Monthly Zoom meeting.
Monday 6th January 20:00 Orwell Park Observatory	Paul Whiting	Taster evening . Places must be booked in advance by email: tour@oasi.org.uk .

OASI @ Orwell Park

There are regular meetings every Wednesday evening from 8pm. Access is controlled by a gate and a fob. The entrance is gate 2 is on Church Road, What3Words is [tour.fuse.banks](https://www.what3words.com/en/943-333-333)

Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

The route is 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.

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.

What3Words [scars.atlas.printing](https://www.what3words.com/scars.atlas.printing)

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 2024

December	09 (Q)	
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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).

indicates a change to the normal monthly pattern.

Forthcoming Outreach Programmes 2025

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 some enthusiasm! Just respond to the email call for help prior to the event.

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

Saturday 8th February

BAA news, events & webinars

BAA: <https://britastro.org/events/future-events>

Events correct at time of publication, please go to website for latest information.

6 December 2024	RAZoom – Cosmic ray muon measurement at a global scale and the associated applications	Radio Astronomy Section meeting on Zoom, link by request from Paul Hearn [paul@hearn.org.uk]
7 December 2024	Christmas Meeting	We will be holding our 2024 Christmas Meeting on Saturday 7th December from 2pm at the Institute of Physics in London
10 January 2025	RAZoom – Developing and deploying an instrument for measuring ionisation in the atmosphere	Radio Astronomy Section meeting on Zoom, link by request from Paul Hearn [paul@hearn.org.uk]
18 January 2025	BAA Meeting	We will be holding a meeting on Saturday 18th January 2023 from 14:30 to 18:00 at the Institute of P
25 January 2025	Society for Popular Astronomy Meeting	The Society for Popular Astronomy is holding a meeting on 25th January 2025, 14:00–17:30

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>.

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The Night Sky in December

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

Sun, Moon and planets

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

December 2024

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun ☉	1	07:41	15:47		
	31	08:03	15:53		
Moon ☾	1	08:26	15:15		First Quarter : 08 December 15:27 Perigee : 12 December 13:21 Full Moon : 15 December 09:02
	31	09:11	15:58		Last Quarter : 22 December 22:18 Apogee : 24 December 07:25
Mercury ☿	1	08:42	16:13	2.1	
	31	06:28	14:22	-0.3	
Venus ♀	1	11:11	18:35	-4.1	
	31	10:26	19:58	-4.2	
Mars ♂	1	19:45	11:47	-0.5	
	31	17:16	09:49	-1.2	
Jupiter ♃	1	16:08	08:21	-2.7	
	31	13:57	06:04	-2.6	
Saturn ♄	1	12:56	23:23	1.0	
	31	11:00	21:35	1.1	
Uranus ♅	1	14:57	06:23	5.6	
	31	12:57	04:19	5.6	
Neptune ♆	1	13:15	00:51	7.9	
	31	11:17	22:50	7.9	

Occultations during December 2024

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 December 2024

Shower	Normal limits	Maximum	ZHR at Max	Notes
Geminids	4-20 ^h December	14-15 December	150	Fast with fine trains. Associated with Comet Halley
Taurids	20 October 10 December	12-13 November	5	Very slow meteors
Ursids	17-26 December	23 December	10	Sparse shower. Associated with comet 8P/Tuttle
Quadrantids	26 December 12 January	4 January	120	Bluish- or yellowish-white meteors with fine trains

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_spa1/meteor/radio-meteor-observing-2020/.

Comets

Source : https://heavens-above.com/Comets.aspx_on_02/10/24.

Comet	Brightness	Date of last reported observation	Angular separation from Sun	Constellation
C/2023 A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS	9	2024-Dec-01	46°	Aquila
C/2024 G3 ATLAS	9.7	2024-Dec-02	20°	Lupus
29P Schwassmann-Wachmann 1	11.2	2024-Dec-02	99°	Leo
333P LINEAR	11.6	2024-Dec-02	86°	Canes Venatici
C/2023 Q1 PANSTARRS	12.4	2024-Nov-30	120°	Camelopardalis
C/2022 E2 ATLAS	12.6	2024-Dec-01	134°	Camelopardalis
37P Forbes	13.8	2024-Nov-28	41°	Sagittarius
487P SidingSpring	14.5	2024-Dec-01	150°	Perseus
C/2024 M1 ATLAS	15	2024-Dec-01	163°	Orion
C/2022 N2 PANSTARRS	15	2024-Nov-30	90°	Aquarius
C/2017 K2 PANSTARRS	15.1	2024-Dec-01	160°	Orion
C/2021 S3 PANSTARRS	15.2	2024-Nov-30	81°	Cygnus
C/2022 QE78 ATLAS	15.2	2024-Dec-01	144°	Monoceros
472P NEAT-LINEAR	15.2	2024-Nov-28	149°	Monoceros
C/2020 V2 ZTF	15.6	2024-Nov-22	59°	Pavo
P/2023 S1	15.7	2024-Nov-30	115°	Cancer
43P Wolf-Harrington	15.8	2024-Nov-30	139°	Pisces
P/2012 US27 Siding Spring	15.9	2024-Nov-05	150°	Perseus
130P McNaught-Hughes	16	2024-Nov-30	137°	Pisces

Visible ISS passes >30° max altitude for December 2024

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

Times are **GMT**.

Predictions are approximate (02/12/24) due to craft adjustments. Check the day before.

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End		
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.
02-Dec	-2	16:43:08	10°	W	16:46:15	34°	SSW	16:49:21	10°	SE
16-Dec	-2.3	06:57:28	10°	SW	07:00:37	38°	SSE	07:03:46	10°	E
18-Dec	-3.3	06:55:48	10°	WSW	06:59:06	62°	SSE	07:02:25	10°	E
19-Dec	-2.9	06:07:56	19°	SW	06:10:03	48°	SSE	06:13:19	10°	E
20-Dec	-2.4	05:21:07	36°	SSE	05:21:07	36°	SSE	05:24:07	10°	E
20-Dec	-3.7	06:54:11	10°	W	06:57:31	82°	S	07:00:53	10°	E
21-Dec	-3.7	06:07:01	33°	WSW	06:08:22	72°	SSE	06:11:43	10°	E
22-Dec	-2.7	05:19:56	45°	ESE	05:19:56	45°	ESE	05:22:30	10°	E
22-Dec	-3.8	06:52:47	12°	W	06:55:50	86°	S	06:59:11	10°	E
23-Dec	-3.8	06:05:35	43°	W	06:06:35	86°	S	06:09:56	10°	E
24-Dec	-2.6	05:18:19	42°	E	05:18:19	42°	E	05:20:40	10°	E
24-Dec	-3.7	06:51:10	14°	W	06:53:59	73°	SSW	06:57:19	10°	ESE
25-Dec	-3.8	06:03:50	47°	W	06:04:41	82°	S	06:08:01	10°	E
26-Dec	-2.4	05:16:27	39°	E	05:16:27	39°	E	05:18:40	10°	E
26-Dec	-3.2	06:49:17	14°	W	06:51:55	49°	SSW	06:55:09	10°	SE
27-Dec	-3.6	06:01:52	47°	WSW	06:02:35	63°	SSW	06:05:54	10°	ESE
28-Dec	-2.2	05:14:26	35°	ESE	05:14:26	35°	ESE	05:16:32	10°	ESE
29-Dec	-3.1	05:59:49	37°	SW	06:00:16	40°	SSW	06:03:25	10°	SE

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>