



OASI News

The newsletter of Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)
Registered Charity 271313



Andy Gibbs – Baader white light solar filter on Seestar S50 – showing Sunspot AR4482
15th July 2026

Trustees:

Mr Neil Morley Mr David Payne Mr Bill Barton

Contents

Society Notices.....	3
Committee 2026	3
Committee Meeting.....	3
New Members	3
Society Contact details.....	4
Social Media.....	4
Articles for OASI News	4
Reproducing articles from OASI News	4
Meetings and events	5
OASI @ Orwell Park	6
Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower	6
OASI @ Newbourne	7
Forthcoming Outreach Programmes 2026	7
BAA news, events & webinars	8
The BAA Radio Astronomy Section	8
The Night Sky in August 2026	9
Sun, Moon and planets	9
Occultations during August 2026.....	9
Meteor showers during August 2026	10
Comets	10
Visible ISS passes >30° max altitude for August 2026	11
Blue Ghost Mission 2	12
Andy Willshire.....	12
A Vaseline Diagonal	16
Bill Barton.	16
Members observations.....	20
Neil Morley	20

Society Notices

Dear Members,

I hope you have been making the most of the Sunny days, (although the heat has been a bit overwhelming at times), to do some Solar observing. We have passed Solar maximum now, but the Sun is still fairly active, with some interesting sunspot groups to observe and, for those with Hydrogen alpha equipment, some large prominences and filaments.

We have three Solar events coming up in August.

On Saturday 8th August, we are supporting the Moon exhibition at the Hold in Ipswich, with Solar observing.

On Wednesday 12th August, we will be attempting to observe the partial solar eclipse, (full details of observing location will be emailed to members). This is open to members and their families. As a successful observation depends on the weather, we will make a go/no go decision on the day of the event.

On Monday 31st August, we will be at Bawdsey Radar Museum, with another Solar outreach event.

As always, we would be grateful of any help from members at our outreach events.

I hope to see you at one of meetings or events in the coming month.

Clear skies!

Andy Gibbs, Chairman.

Committee 2026

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
	Andy Willshire	Librarian
	Adam Honeybell	Newsletter
	Paul Whiting	OASI @ Newbourne

Committee Meeting

Our next committee meeting is Friday 4th September at 20:00 on Zoom. All members are invited to attend.

New Members

Gabriela Crane

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 August).

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.

Note – This month, several Wednesday sessions are at Newbourne NOT Orwell Park

Date, Time & Location	Contact	Event
Wednesday 5th August 19:30 Newbourne Village Hall	Martin Cook	General observing for members of OASI. NB: Orwell Park Observatory will be closed tonight.
Saturday 8th August 2026 11:00-16:00 On the patio area outside the café at <i>The Hold</i>	Andy Gibbs	Public access event. Solar observing. Event is in association with Suffolk Archives' exhibition <i>The Moon: Our Nearest Neighbour</i> . Booking not necessary.
Monday 10th August 2026 19:30 Newbourne Village Hall	Paul Whiting	Newbourne meeting - beginners and new members welcome! 19:30 Doors open.
Wednesday 12th August 19:30, 17:30 TBA	Martin Cook	Observing the partial solar eclipse (first contact at 18:12). This event is open to members of OASI only. Details will be provided by email to members. If the weather is poor, the usual Wednesday meeting will be held at Orwell Park Observatory.
Monday 17th August 2026 20:00 Zoom	Paul Whiting	Pre-recorded talk: <i>Sunny, with a Chance of Catastrophe</i> by Sean Elvidge. (Zoom login details are provided by email to members.)
Wednesday 19th August 19:30 Newbourne Village Hall	Martin Cook	General observing for members of OASI. NB: Orwell Park Observatory will be closed tonight.
Monday 24th August 2026 19:30 Newbourne Village Hall	Paul Whiting	Newbourne meeting - beginners and new members welcome! 19:30 Doors open. <i>19:45 Sky Notes</i> followed by <i>The Other Side of Basil Brown</i> , both by Bill Barton, FRAS. The presentation about Suffolk archaeologist Basil Brown (1888-1977), concentrating on his work in astronomy, is a repeat of that presented on 30 June 2026 in <i>The Hold</i> , Fore Street, as part of the summer 2026 exhibition by Suffolk Archives , <i>The Moon: Our Nearest Neighbour</i>
Wednesday 26th August 2026 20:00 Orwell Park Observatory	Martin Cook	General observing for members of OASI.
Monday 31st August 2026 11:00-16:00 Bawdsey Radar Museum	Paul Whiting	Public access event. Solar observing. This event is run by Bawdsey Radar. Booking not necessary.

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

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

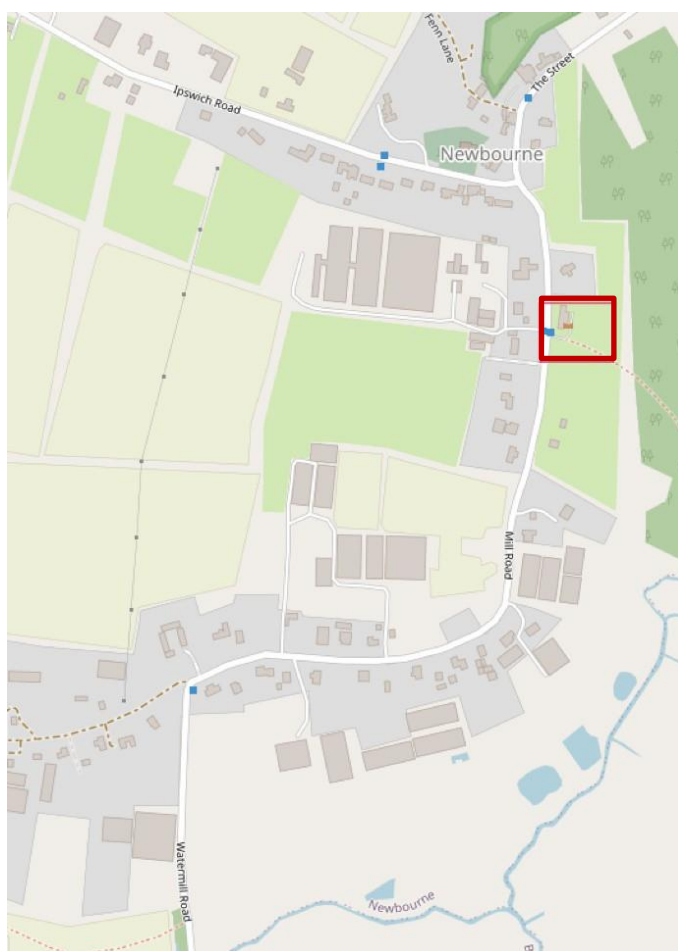
We meet at Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Lane, IP12 4NP on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 19:30.

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				
August	05#	10	19#	24(S)
September	14	28(S,A)		
October	12	26(S)		
November	09	23(S, A)		
December	14(Q)			



We open up for all meetings at 7:30pm.

Astro News (A) / Sky Notes (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 2026

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 August 2026 11:00-16:00 The Hold, Fore Street, Ipswich	Andy Gibbs	Public access event. Solar observing. Event is in association with Suffolk Archives' exhibition The Moon: Our Nearest Neighbour. Booking not necessary.
Monday 31st August 2026 TBC Bawdsey Radar Museum	Paul Whiting	Public access event. Solar observing. This event is run by Bawdsey Radar.
Thursday 3rd September 2026 11:00 The Hold, Fore Street, Ipswich	Bill Barton	Public access event. Bill Barton, FRAS, The Astronomy of an Edwardian Lady. A presentation by Bill about the Suffolk amateur astronomer Alice Grace Cook (1877-1958), featuring her discoveries and what led to her becoming one of the first female Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society.

BAA news, events & webinars

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

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

Date	Event
Friday 18 September	Autumn 2026 Meeting
Saturday 3 October	Radio Astronomy Section Day Meeting
Wednesday 28 October	BAA Meeting and Annual General Meeting

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 August 2026

Event times are for Orwell Park Observatory at 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>

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun ☉	1	04:17	19:45		Wednesday 12 August – Partial Solar Eclipse around 91% totality First contact of umbra (U1) Aug 12, 16:58:01 Maximum eclipse Aug 12, 17:45:50 Last contact of umbra (U4) Aug 12, 18:34:01
	31	05:05	18:45		
Moon ☾	1	20:43	07:24		Last Quarter : 06 August 02:22 Perigee : 10 August 11:19 New Moon : 12 August 17:37 First Quarter : 20 August 02:46 Apogee : 22 August 08:21 Full Moon : 28 August 04:19
	31	19:27	09:06		
Mercury ☿	1	02:47	18:29	0.5	
	31	05:23	18:55	-1.5	
Venus ♀	1	08:41	21:04	-4.1	
	31	09:36	19:31	-4.3	
Mars ♂	1	00:31	16:58	1.3	
	31	23:57	16:26	1.3	
Jupiter ♃	1	04:07	19:35	-1.6	
	31	02:46	17:53	-1.6	
Saturn ♄	1	21:53	10:29	0.6	
	31	19:54	08:25	0.5	
Uranus ♅	1	23:27	15:22	5.8	
	31	21:30	13:28	5.7	
Neptune ♆	1	21:28	09:33	7.8	
	31	19:29	07:32	7.8	

Occultations during August 2026

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 August 2026

The Quadrantids are visible in early January, however they'll have passed by the time this newsletter is published. But for posterity (and because they happen every year) I've posted them here:

Name	Date of Maximum	Dates visible	Max z	Description
Alpha Capricornids	30 July	3 Jul-15 Aug	5	Yellow slow fireballs
Southern Delta Aquariids	30 July	12 Jul-23 Aug	25	Steady stream of meteors over several days but a low rate per hour
Perseids	12-13 August	17 Jul-24 Aug	150	Many bright fast meteors with trains. Associated with Comet Swift-Tuttle

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>.

Comet	Brightness	Date of last reported observation	Angular separation from sun	Constellation
10P Tempel 2	8.3	2026-Jul-24	161.0	Capricornus
88P Howell	13.2	2026-Jul-24	80.0	Aries
C/2014 UN271 Bernardinelli-Bernstein	13.8	2026-Jul-21	90.0	Volans
C/2023 R1 PANSTARRS	13.9	2026-Jul-22	118.0	Scorpius
C/2024 J3 ATLAS	13.9	2026-Jul-23	117.0	Lyra
78P Gehrels	14.0	2026-Jul-19	46.0	Taurus
29P Schwassmann-Wachmann 1	14.2	2026-Jul-24	50.0	Leo
220P McNaught	14.3	2026-Jul-24	88.0	Cetus
C/2024 T5 ATLAS	14.4	2026-Jul-24	58.0	Lepus
260P McNaught	14.7	2026-Jul-24	78.0	Aries
169P NEAT	14.9	2026-Jul-23	122.0	Hercules
C/2024 R4 PANSTARRS	15.1	2026-Jul-23	111.0	Cygnus
63P Wild	15.5	2026-Jul-06	36.0	Leo

Visible ISS passes >30° max altitude for August 2026

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

Times are **GMT**.

Predictions are approximate (07/04/25) due to craft adjustments. Check the day before.

There are more passes than this, but they're below 30 degrees, so will be harder to spot unless you have good weather and can see the horizon. As with stella/planetary brightness, the more negative the magnitude, the brighter it is.

Date	Brightness	Start			Highest point			End		
	(mag)	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.
23 Aug	-3.1	03:44:30	15°	SW	03:46:59	43°	SSE	03:50:11	10°	E
24 Aug	-2.7	02:58:16	28°	S	02:59:00	32°	SSE	03:02:01	10°	E
25 Aug	-3.7	03:44:56	16°	WSW	03:47:27	68°	SSE	03:50:47	10°	E
26 Aug	-3.6	02:58:39	43°	SSW	02:59:22	54°	SSE	03:02:39	10°	E
27 Aug	-2.4	02:12:21	31°	ESE	02:12:21	31°	ESE	02:14:29	10°	E
27 Aug	-3.8	03:45:15	15°	W	03:47:55	85°	S	03:51:16	10°	E
28 Aug	-3.9	02:58:57	48°	WSW	02:59:45	78°	S	03:03:07	10°	E
29 Aug	-2.7	02:12:40	39°	E	02:12:40	39°	E	02:14:56	10°	E
29 Aug	-3.8	03:45:35	14°	W	03:48:20	83°	S	03:51:41	10°	E
30 Aug	-3.9	02:59:19	49°	W	03:00:09	86°	S	03:03:30	10°	E
31 Aug	-2.5	02:13:07	37°	E	02:13:07	37°	E	02:15:17	10°	E
31 Aug	-3.8	03:46:02	15°	W	03:48:39	64°	SSW	03:51:58	10°	ESE

Blue Ghost Mission 2

Another short article from the Library.

Andy Willshire.

On Wednesday January 15th 2025 at 06:11:39 UTC the Blue Ghost Lander was launched from Kennedy Space Centre Complex 39A, aboard a Space X Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket. It orbited the Earth for 25 days at which point a trans-lunar injection manoeuvre was performed. Four days after this it slid into lunar orbit and sixteen days later on March 2nd 2025 it executed a powered drop and landed at 08:34 UTC to the north of Mons Latreille which is situated in the 556 km basin of the Mare Crisium, found in the North –Eastern quadrant of the Moon's near side. Its speed dropped from 1700 m/s to 40 m/s and then finally to 1m/s for touchdown. This was the first of the Blue Ghost missions by 'Firefly Aerospace to the Moon', and was part of NASA'S commercial Lunar payload services program, conveying ten scientific and technological experiments to gain data for the forthcoming Artemis program. This mission ended at 23:25 on March 16th 2025 due to power loss after the lunar sunset.

This mission efficiently delivered payloads to the surface of the Moon as well as instruments to gain data about lunar surface structure, radiation and thermal characteristics. This information would be especially useful for crewed missions of the Artemis program. It was also able to transmit high-resolution pictures and provided experience for its next Blue Ghost mission 2.

Firefly Aerospace Blue Ghost is a lunar lander designed and manufactured by Firefly aerospace, an American company. Its function is to carry small payloads to the surface of the Moon. This makes Firefly the main contractor for this service. Blue Ghost's design is modifiable for any customer's requirements, making it ideal for many types of mission including lunar night operations and sample return. From August 18th 2025 Firefly was given the go ahead to provide NASA with four lunar landing missions.

Blue Ghost is capable of providing power, data and thermal reserves whilst the payload is in transit, in lunar orbit and when landed on the Moon's surface. Its main propulsion is by a LEROS 4-ET bipropellant engine using mixed oxides of nitrogen and hydrazine. The engine is supplied by the firm Nammo U.K. A thrust exceeding 1000 N can be utilised for both insertion into lunar orbit and to power down to the surface of the Moon. Its manoeuvring capabilities are achieved by eight Spectre thrusters which allows for a soft landing. Engine shutdown is accomplished upon landing on its four carbon composite legs.

Blue Ghost Mission 2 is a successive venture to the Blue Ghost program. Its main objective is to build on the results of mission 1 and to again demonstrate that lunar objectives are available commercially, as well as provide scientific data. The craft configuration is Blue Ghost lunar lander stacked on a Firefly Space Elytra Dark orbital vehicle, which will position the lunar lander and Lunar Pathfinder satellite in lunar orbit. Firefly's Space utility vehicle, known as Elytra, has three basic models. These are Elytra Dawn, Dusk and Dark. The utilisation of these craft is dependent upon which task is required. Elytra dawn is for very basic and light enterprises, while Elytra Dark is designed for more rugged assignments with maximum manoeuvrability, to transfer equipment from local Earth orbit to lunar orbit. These vehicles can be customised to support each customer's requirements.

The launch window is scheduled for no earlier than late 2026 with propulsion being the same as the previous flight; Space X Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket. Upon lunar arrival Blue Ghost 2 will now touch down on the far side of the Moon and commence its operating function for at least a further 10 days. Blue Ghost 2 has several mission objectives using the payload equipment.

- The one main objective, having pre-selected a landing site, is to deposit its payload reliably and accurately.
- One of its scientific objectives is to support the Australian Space Agency's 'Moon to Mars' enterprise which is aligned with the NASA Artemis project to enable human habitation on the Moon. This is known as SPIDER

(Seismic Payload for Interplanetary Discovery, Exploration, and Research). Once landed, SPIDER will be able to gather data from the lunar surface about seismic activity for up to 14 days. This will also include mineral profile and regolith data.

- LuSEE-Night (Lunar Surface Electromagnetic Experiment at Night}. Once positioned on the far side, LuSEE will become the first functioning radio telescope situated on the Moon. Low frequency radio emissions (<50 MHz) from the inner solar system will be quantified and data obtained from the 21-cm red-shifted fragment from the big-bang. This data will enhance our knowledge about the early universe and star formation.
- Rashid Rover 2. This Rover is designed to show mobility on the Moon. Its wheels are formed of various materials to show how each product becomes degraded. The data obtained will be evaluated and results used to further technological designs.
- The User Terminal (UT), is designed to allow for continuous communications on the far side of the Moon.
- Lunar Pathfinder. The Lunar Pathfinder satellite enables uninterrupted communications with both polar and far side groups by utilising surface terminals. It will use S-band and UHF frequencies.

The basic design for the spacecraft is as follows:

- ✚ NASA's LuSEE night telescope which will remain secured to Blue Ghost in order to measure radio emissions from the surface of the Moon. This sits at the top of the stack. (see picture).
- ✚ Next in line, Blue Ghost is connected to Elytra by its dual payload fitting (DPAF) and will provide necessary power, data and thermal resources for the payloads when established on the Moon.
- ✚ Continuing in the stack, Lunar Pathfinder satellite which is attached by the DPAF, will at the appropriate time be deployed into lunar orbit allowing communications for this and future missions.
- ✚ Last in the stack is Elytra Dark which serves as the transfer vehicle and the communication centre whilst remaining in lunar orbit.



Picture credit: [Blue Ghost Mission 2 - Firefly Aerospace](#)

The Elytra Dark orbital vehicle will travel with Firefly's Blue Ghost Lander, the latter being deployed with the ESA's Lunar Pathfinder satellite in lunar orbit. Blue Ghost will then land on the far side of the Moon, and commence operation. Elytra will remain in lunar orbit providing communications relay. A new imaging system called Ocula may be available as early as 2026, and be able to provide both ultra violet and visible spectra images.

Blue Ghost 2 is designed to demonstrate accuracy in landing and handling both technical and scientific modules. It is a continuance of exploratory missions that should validate both practical and commercial steps forward.

References:

[Blue Ghost Mission 2 - Firefly Aerospace](#)

[Firefly Aerospace – Blue Ghost Mission 2 Overview](#)

[NASA – CLPS Flight: Blue Ghost Mission 2](#)

[Elytra - Firefly Aerospace](#)

[Firefly Aerospace - Wikipedia](#)

[Ocula Lunar Imaging Service.](#)

ANSWERS TO DITLOIDS. 2A

1	206 B I T H B	206 Bones in the human body
2	16 I T C R O 4096	16 Is the cube root of 4096
3	8 T O A O	8 Tentacles on an octopus
4	3 T A L	3 Times a lady
5	4 S O A D B	4 Strings on a double base
6	101 D	101 Dalmatians
7	6 W O H T E	6 Wives of Henry the Eight
8	0 D S	10 Downing street.
9	64 S O A C B	64 Squares on a chess board
10	4 F O A P	4 Faces on a pyramid
11	8 B I A B	8 Bits in a Byte
12	36 B K O A P	36 Black keys on a piano
13	225 S O A S B	225 Squares on a scrabble board
14	12 S O T Z	12 Signs of the Zodiac
15	13 C I A S	13 Cards in a suit
16	3 S A O	3 Strikes and out
17	16 O I A P	16 Ounces in a pound
18	9 F H O A R	9 Finger holes on a recorder

A Vaseline Diagonal

Bill Barton.

A commonly used accessory for solar observing is the Herschel Wedge, but as many members will already know, on its own it fails to reduce the brightness of the solar image to a level acceptable to human eyes (transmitting around 5% of the incoming light). Modern manufacturers overcome this by permanently inserting an ND 3 filter (transmitting 0.1%) after the wedge to reduce the image brightness to a comfortable level. In the past other methods have been used to achieve this reduction. This piece is about one such example.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's the Italian priest astronomer Padre Agostino Colzi of Arezzo, Tuscany knew that light only reflects or refracts when it passes from one transparent material to another when the materials are different. Light is unaware of a boundary when the materials are of the same (or similar) optical nature. Materials are rated using a number (the refractive index).

Colzi's idea was to still start with a Herschel wedge, but then back it up with a star diagonal that passed only a very little light onto the eyepiece. He avoided the total internal reflection that normally occurs at the hypotenuse of the prism of some star diagonals by attaching a vessel filled with Vaseline oil behind it (hence my choice of title). To obviate the expansion of the oil that would result from the heating due to the intense sunlight passing through it a clear flexible membrane was built into the wall opposite the prism. A major drawback of his device was the extra distance the light had to travel through his two elements. In some telescopes this made focussing an image impossible. This could be overcome, however, by adding a weak negative lens before the Herschel wedge element to extend the objective's apparent focal length. Colzi made his idea freely available, which, apparently, dissuaded British opticians from undertaking commercial production. European manufacturers weren't put off though and the Colzi prisms that can still be occasionally found on the antiques market are by the German firm Zeiss. They came in two sizes to cope with objectives of two different focal lengths (the sole factor in deciding the size of the 'solar prime focus image'). A plane mirror was also incorporated behind the wedge element to deflect away unwanted light. Zeiss also supplied the focus extending lens as well as the liquid to replenish the prism should the need ever arise.

	Small	Large
OG focal length	6½ft (2m)	13ft (4m)
prime focus image dia	¾in (20mm)	1¾in (35mm)
extra focal length	2¾in (70mm)	4in (100mm)
telescope attachment	screw thread	tri-sector bayonet

The one I own is of the small size, has the serial number 1992, is inscribed 'Polaris-Sonnen-

Prisma nach Colzi (Solar Prism after Colzi), and takes a 25mm barrel eyepiece secured by friction. My prism's mass is 595g (1lb 5oz). It almost attaches to my Zeiss Telementor 'scope although it won't screw in all the way.

In the nineteen-sixties the Danish astronomer Per Darnell revived the idea, but integrated it into a solar reflecting telescope which had:-

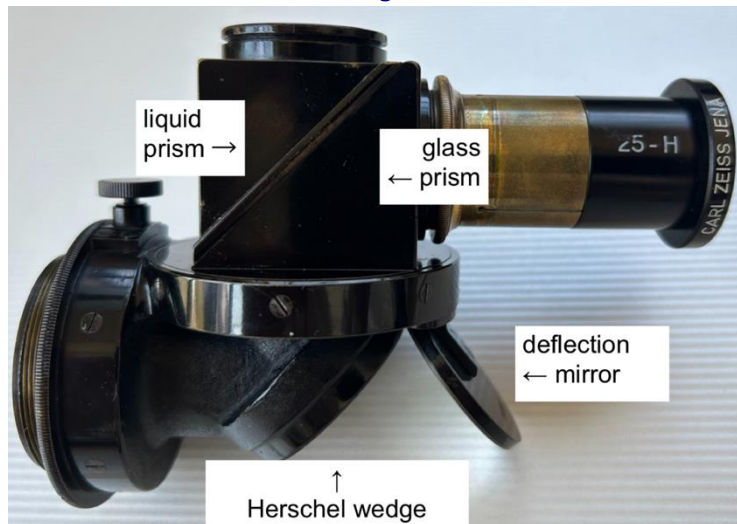
- i, an unsilvered primary mirror.
- ii, a Herschel wedge in place of the secondary mirror.
- iii, a final star diagonal-Vaseline element.

He also recommended the use of castor oil in place of the Vaseline.

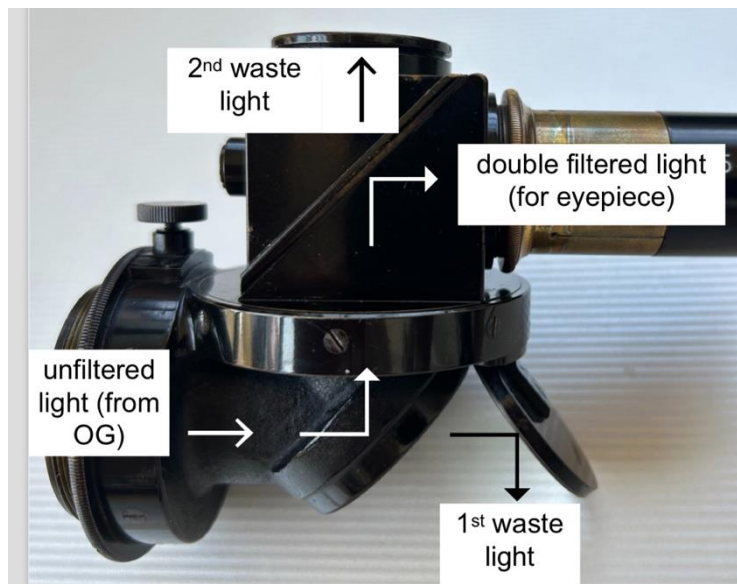
Would I use mine to observe the Sun? No, without doubt over the one hundred plus years it was built the optical performance of the (presumably original) oil may well have changed.



Colzi Solar Prism attached to a Carl Zeiss Telementor



Colzi Solar Prism, identification of components



Colzi Solar Prism, showing light path

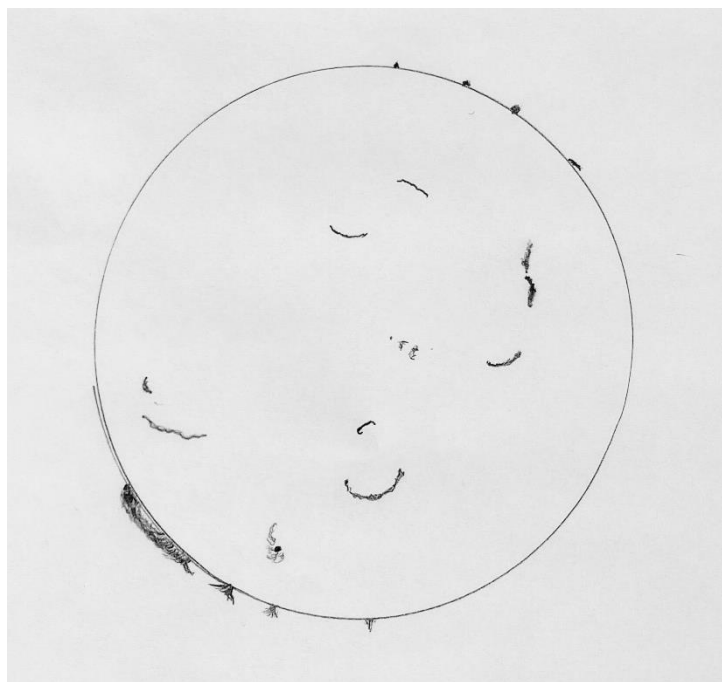
Internet references:-

- 1, Description of an Eye-piece for Observing the Sun, Hodgson, R., [Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society](#) 15 (1854), p.45
- 2, Letter to the Editor relating to the employment, in a communication to the Society, of the expression "the Hodgson solar eyepiece," , [Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society](#) 20 (1860), p.251
- 3, [The Total Solar Eclipse of July 18th, 1860](#) de la Rue, W., London 1862, pgs. 18-21
- 4, Sulla Struttura della Fotosfera Solare, Secchi, A., [Bullettino Meteorologico](#) vol 3, no.11 (30 November 1864), p.81

- 5, [Zeiss Catalogue](#) Astro 30, date unknown (1920?), p.68-9
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- 12, [The Sun](#) Giorgio Abetti (Trans. Sidgwick, J B) 1957, p.41
- 13, [Journal of the British Astronomical Association](#) Applications of the Colzi Principle on existing solar reflectors, Darnell, Per, vol 76 (1965), no 4, p.28. Denmark, joined BAA circa 1967?

Members observations

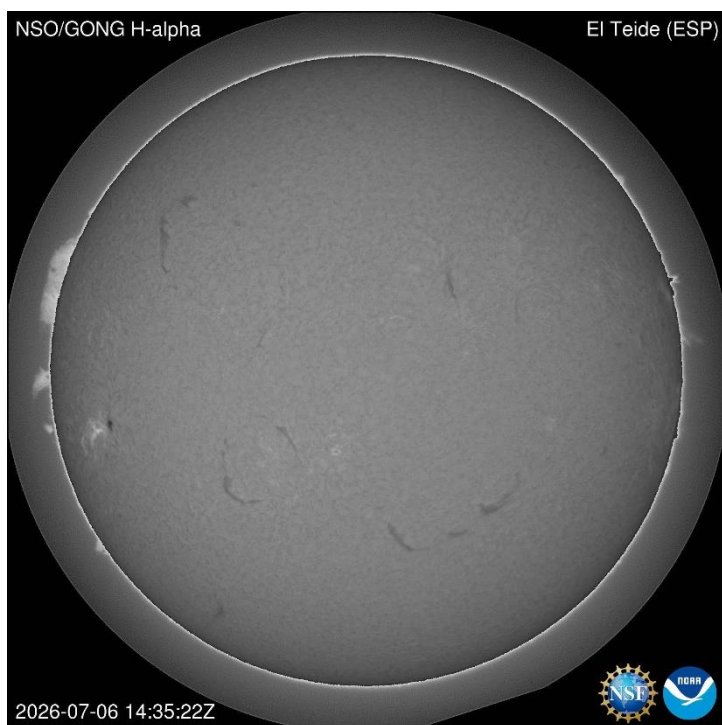
Neil Morley

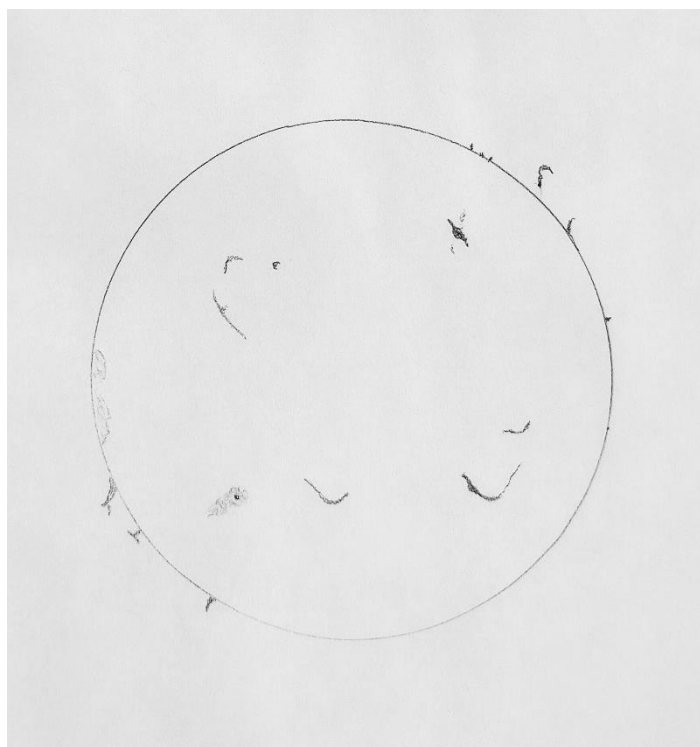


Monday 6th July

Hydrogen-Alpha solar sketch was completed between 14:05 and 14:20 UT using OASI's Coronado PST and a 20mm Plossl providing a full disk at a magnification of 20x. The Sun shows a lot of activity with multiple filaments on the surface (prominences viewed edge on) with a particularly impressive "hedgerow" prominence at the 8-o-clock position.

NSO GONG image attached for comparison purposes.

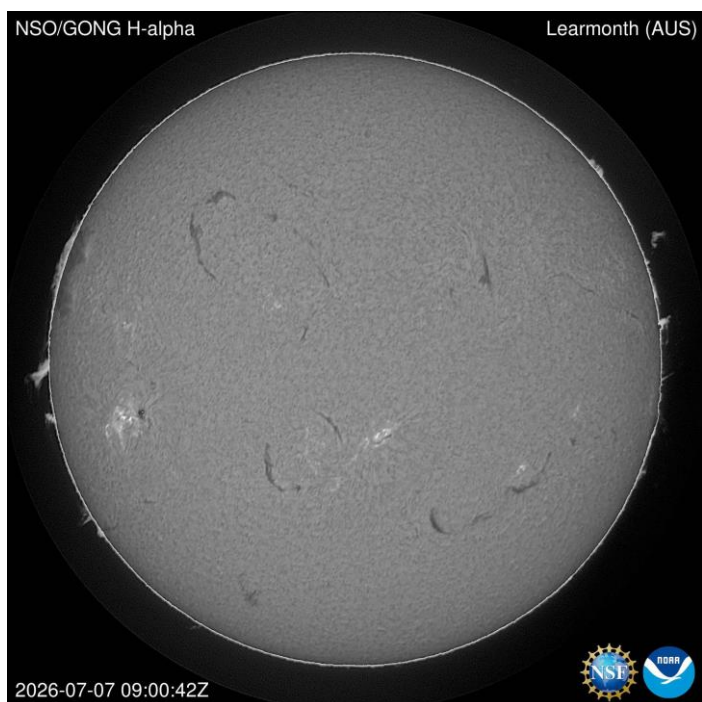


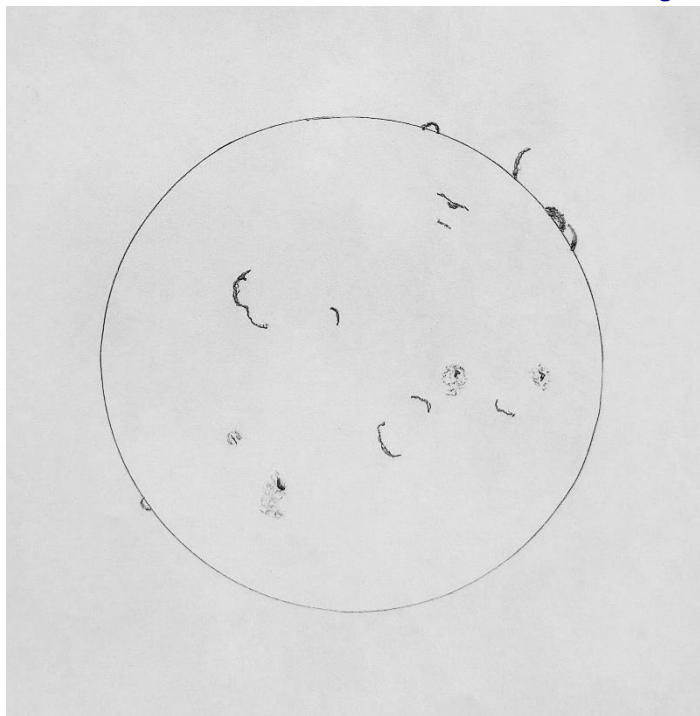


Tuesday 7th July

Trying to make the best of the weather this week!

Today's solar sketch looks rather different! Completed between 09:35 and 09:50 UT using OASI's Coronado PST with a 20mm Plossl eyepiece providing 20x magnification. The "hedgerow" prominence has moved onto the surface of the disk in the 9-o-clock position, and remains visible as a darkened region. I did not note any signs of the prominence showing beyond the limb. There's an example of a detached prominence around the 1-o-clock





Wednesday 8th July

As of today, the Sun has undergone a further transformation! Today's Hydrogen-Alpha sketch was completed between 05:55 and 06:10 UT. The darkened region where the "hedgerow" prominence had disappeared, and I did look very carefully! Equipment: Coronado PST, 20mm Plossl, 20x magnification, Mk 1 eyeball, 2B pencil on standard printer paper.

Today's NSO GONG image is also attached courtesy of the Learmouth observatory in Australia. The darkened region denoting the large "hedgerow" prominence is still visible around the 9-o'clock position, but has significantly reduced in size

