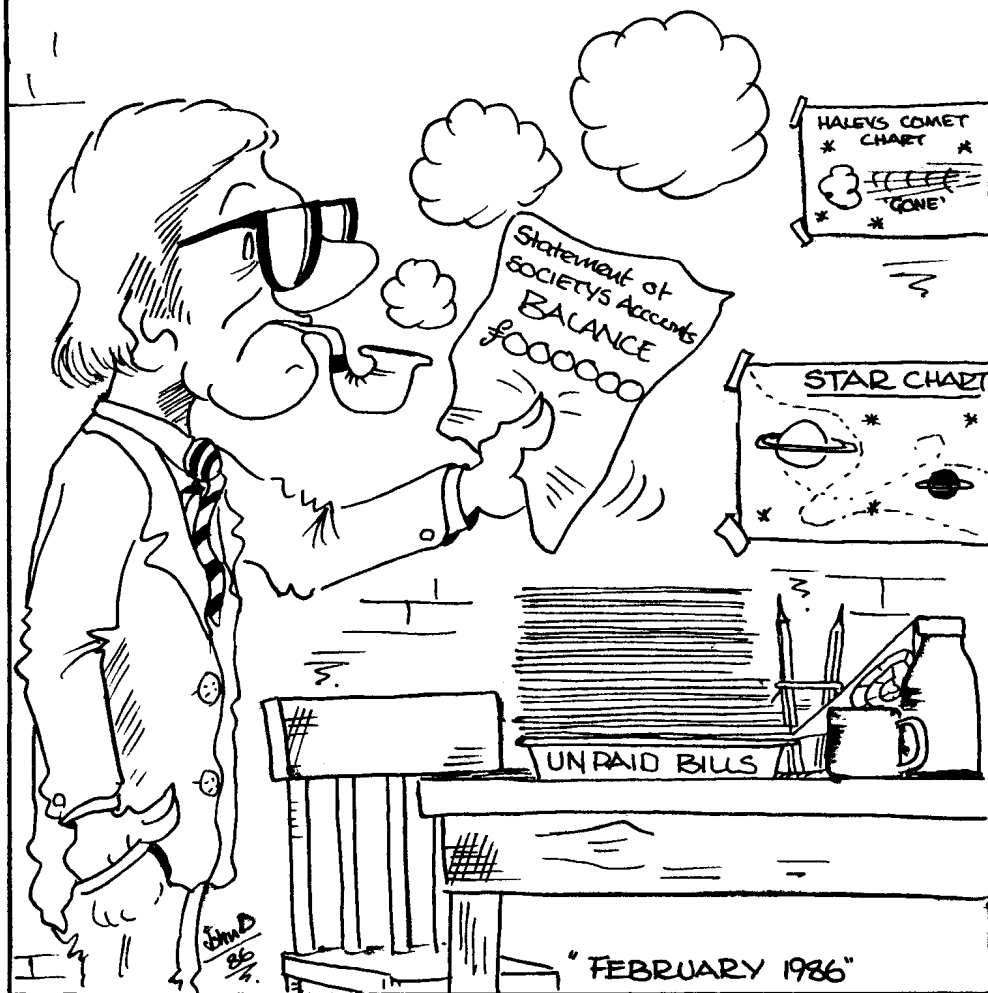


# DID YOU KNOW YOUR DUES ARE DUE ?



## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1 1986 Subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please forward your money to David Barnard as soon as possible. Rates are:-  
 Under 18 £3.50, Adult £5.50, Family £6.50, + £1.60 for newsletter postage.

## NIGHT SKY

Constellations (all times G.M.T.)

The principle winter constellations of Taurus, Orion, Auriga are still available for easy observation.

Sun Rises between 0750 - 0700

Sets between 1640 - 1730

Moon 2nd 9th 16th 24th

Occultations		mag.		
13th	ZC204	7.3	D	20hr 16.5m
15th	429	6.9	D	21hr 22.5m
20th	1088	55.6	D	17hr 54.8m
20th	1105	6.5	D	21hr 17.0m
20th	1108	6.9	D	22hr 38.6m

Mercury Superior conjunction on the 1st. Sets about 2 hours after sunset at end of the month. Mag. -0.4

Venus Sets less than 1 hour after sunset.

Mars Rises at about 0230

Jupiter Conjunction with sun on the 18th.

Saturn Rises at about 0200 by the end of the month. Mag. 0.5

Uranus Rises at about 0400 in mid month. Mag. 5.8

Neptune Rises at about 0445 in mid month. Mag. 7.7

MORE ARTICLES PLEASE!! R. Gooding

Could we please have more articles for inclusion in YOUR journal. Anything remotely connected with astronomy will do. In particular observational material is most welcome and could be included in future issues of a special supplement of the FAS news letter. Any contributions can be either to my self or any committee member (addresses on the back page).

thankyou  
 David Payne

### New Members

We welcome the following to the society:

Mr M Stow  
Mr S Fedida  
Mr G Marriott  
Miss H C Capener  
Mr A R J Paine  
Mr J King  
Mr M C Arnold  
Mr C Clarke.

### Stamp Issue

On February 18th, the Post Office will issue four new stamps to mark the return of Halley's Comet. The values and designs are:- 17p Edmond Halley as the Comet, 22p The Giotto Spacecraft, 31p "Maybe Twice in a Lifetime?" and 34p Comet's Orbit.

### New Night

The observatory is now open on Tuesday evenings. For details see back page. There are three directors for this day viz. Mr R Newman, Mr N Gage and new member Mr J King.

### Committee

The 1986 committee has two additions since the AGM, Mr M Harlow and Mr R Lobbett. The next open committee meeting is on Saturday February 15th at 7.30pm.

### 1986 Subscriptions

As you no doubt noticed on the cover of this newsletter, 1986 Subs. are now due. Rates are:- Under 18 and those in Full Time Education= £3.50. Full Membership= £5.50. Family Membership= £6.50. Postage costs an additional £1.60. If the postage is not paid the monthly newsletters are left in the Clubroom at the observatory. Please send cheques to Mr D Barnard, [REDACTED], IPSWICH IP4 5PP .

( David Barnard )

On Sat the 7th of December, the onlu clear night of the month! several members of the society met at the observatoru to attempt to photograph p. Halley. After several exposures the temperature of the dome had fallen to onlu a few degrees below zero, and two of us decided to take a break.

Whilst propping up the balcony around the clubroom our attention was drawn to the area of sku behind the dome by a very bright flash. Looking up we saw the terminal flare of a mag. -8 fireball. It was bright yellow and had fragmented at least once before we observed it. The societv fireball camera was running and the photograph taken appears below. It clearly shows fragmentation and the shutter breaks allow its speed to be determined. If any further observations were made, could they be reported to me.

A. J. SMITH.

2147 hrs 7/8 Dec 1985

ARIES



TAURUS

December was generally a hopeless month for astronomical observations, at least from the Ipswich area! On the few nights that it was possible to observe the comet we were inundated with visitors wishing to get a glimpse of the elusive object. Not wishing to turn the interested visitors away has meant that we have not been able to carry out a serious observational programme as intended.

Despite the generally awful weather during December, there was one night, Saturday 7th Dec., that had excellent seeing conditions. I started observing the comet at 9:00pm with binoculars, The comet was easily visible about 1/2 degree east of the pair of stars 31 and 32 Pisces. About 15 minutes later I could distinctly see the comet with the unaided eye! My one and only naked eye observation so far. In my ten inch reflector the comet was a glorious sight and for the first time I could make out significant structure. By this time I had half a dozen visitors all wishing to have the comet pointed out to them and a view of it through the telescope. This meant that I was unable to draw the comet until just after 10:00pm unfortunately by this time the comet was beginning to sink down into a slight haze in the south west and I was unable to see the detail that I could see earlier. The drawing below shows a rough sketch of what was still observable. The nucleus of the comet was almost stellar in the 10 inch using a 50x magnification Erfle eyepiece. Surrounding the nucleus was a bright coma fading to a fainter and more diffuse region that stretched to a tail at least 1.5 degrees long in the north east direction. In 'front' of the comet was an arc of material about 1 degree wide which appeared almost detached from the coma/tail region. This was with out doubt was the best observation I have had of Halley's comet and could well be the best I will get unless we get some excellent observing conditions in April.

As an indication of the excellent seeing conditions of that evening, when observing the Orion Nebula M42 I could see the two 'extra' 11th mag stars in the trapezium clearly and steadily. Also for the first time ever I could distinctly glimpse the Merope nebula in the Pleiades!

10" Reflector

50x Mag

10:00pm

7-12-85

Seeing Excellent  
but slight Haze  
is SW

## December Open Evenings

After having only one clear evening during our 4 open nights in November, it was decided to hold an addition 4 public observation sessions in December. Unfortunately in the ensuing month the weather showed no signs of improving. The skies cleared for only an hour on the Wednesday and Sunday, with the remaining time filled with cloud and rain. Quite often the observatory was completely empty except for the members on duty.

However the following Wednesday, 13th December, the skies did clear. The dome was once again busy with visitors for about an hour, as people took up our offer to turn up on any clear Wednesday.

M42

Taken on 29th December  
at Nacton.

HP5 rated at 3200 ASA

5 minute exposure

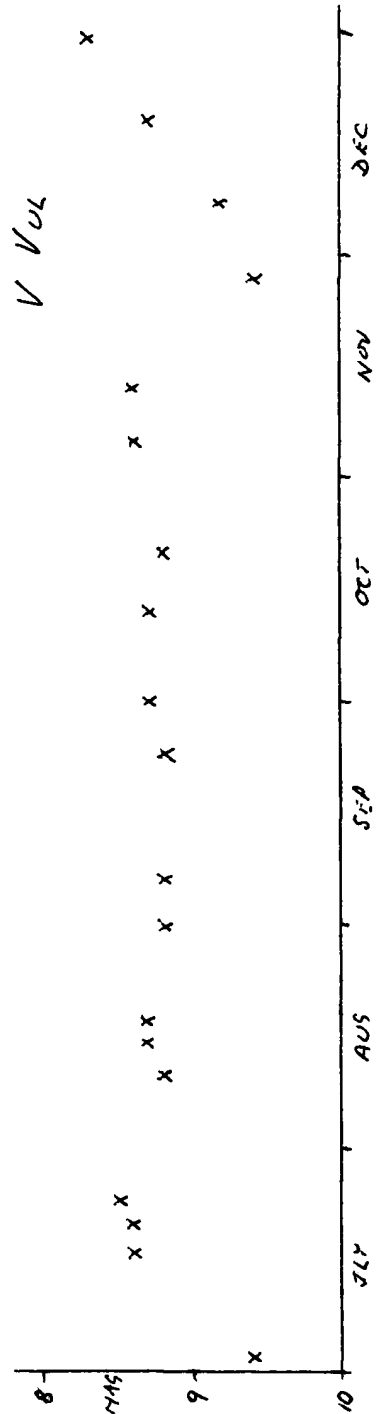
R. Gooding

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS

by Mike Nicholls

This light curve shows V Vulpeculae from July to December 1985. This star is a member of the RV Tauri type of variable which is in turn a sub group of the larger semi-regular class. This particular type is characterised by having alternate deep and shallow minima. The light curve shown certainly illustrates two deep minima but it is difficult to be convinced about any shallow ones. This is because of the lack of observations to fill the gaps, and also the spread of the existing observations. A normal shallow minimum is of the order of magnitude 8.5 - 9.0 and the deep ones, about 9.5 as shown. A period of 76 days (about 2½ months) is quoted between deep minima, and thus it looks as though one has been missed.

The observations were made using an 8" reflector.



PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY

MONDAYS from 8pm 3, 10, 17, 24	DOUBLE STAR & PLANETS SECTION Mr N Taylor [redacted], Farlands Trimley Mr T Gillan [redacted], Felixstowe	Tel: Fel. [redacted] Tel: Fel. [redacted]
TUESDAYS from 7pm 4, 11, 18, 25	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION Mr N Gage, [redacted], Trimley Mr R Newman [redacted], Felixstowe Mr J King, [redacted], Felixstowe	Tel: Fel. [redacted] Tel: Fel. [redacted]
WEDNESDAYS from 8pm 5, 12, 19, 26	NEBULEA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION Mr M Cook, [redacted], Ipswich Mr D Payne, [redacted], Wickham Market.	Tel: Ips. [redacted] Tel: W.Mkt [redacted]
FRIDAYS from 8pm 7, 21,	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION Mr R A Lobbett, [redacted], Felixstowe. Mr J Hood, [redacted], Ipswich. Mr M Harlow, [redacted], Felixstowe	Tel: Fel. [redacted] Tel: Ips. [redacted] Tel: Fel. [redacted]

1985 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[redacted], Wickham Market, IP13 0SD	Works: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN	R Cheesman	[redacted], Corringham, Essex SS17 9BU	Works: [redacted] Extn: [redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[redacted], Ipswich IP1 6AE	Works: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[redacted], Capel St. Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX	Works: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
MEMBERSHIP SEC. /P.R.O	D Barnard	[redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PP	Home: [redacted] Works: [redacted]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	[redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5QA	Home: [redacted] Works: [redacted]
LIBRARIAN	E Sims	[redacted], Ipswich, IP1 4HA	Home: [redacted]
FUNCTIONS	R Lobbett	[redacted], Felixstowe	Home: [redacted] Home: [redacted]
F.A.S. ARTICALS	M Harlow	[redacted], Felixstowe	Home: [redacted]