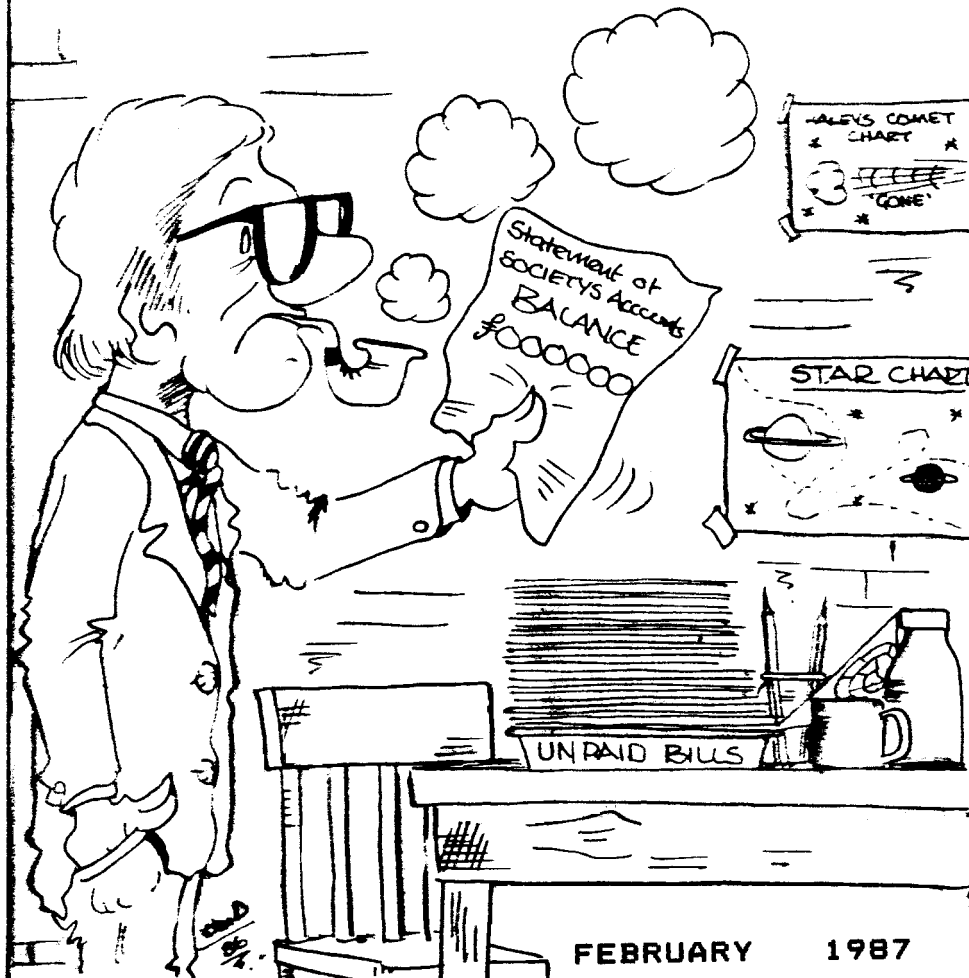


DID YOU KNOW YOUR DUES ARE DUE ?



1. Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions were due on January 1st.

Rates for 1987 are:

Junior and O.A.P. £4.00

Adult £6.50

Family £7.50

Plus £1.60 for Newsletter postage, if you do not wish to collect it from the dome. Payment should be sent to David Barnard.

2. 1986 LECTURE MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Collinson Room at The Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Road.

a. Friday, 13th February at 8.00 p.m.

Short talks by members

I Schmidt Cameras: Michael Harlow

II Halley's Comet slides: Roy Gooding

III Eyepieces: David Payne

b. Friday March 13th at 8.00 p.m.

A second chance to hear the account of Roy and Alan's Australian trip.

c. Friday April 10th at 8.00 p.m.

Solar System Geology (IV) by Bob. Markham

3. New Member ?

Congratulations to Carol and Eric Sims on their new arrival - a boy- born on January 2nd.

4. Committee Meeting/Directors Meeting

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 7th February at 7.30 at the dome. Could ALL observation directors please attend this meeting. Increased security at the school will be discussed.

5. Norwich Trip

Hopefully a clear Friday will present itself this year so that a visit can be made to the Norwich Astronomical Society. Friday 20th or 27th February will be the first dates to be tried this year.


Please contact R. Gooding for more details.

R. Gooding

NIGHT SKY

(all times G.M.T.)

Sun rises approximately between 07.50 - 07.00
sets approximately between 16.30 - 17.30

Moon  5th 13th 21st 28th

Mercury Greatest eastern elongation on the 12th (18°)
It sets about 2 hours after sunset on the
12th. Mag. -0.2

Venus Brilliant morning object. Rises about 2 hours
before the sun. Mag. -4.2

Mars Sets at about 23.00 during month. Mag. 1.1

Jupiter Sets at about 20.00 during month. Mag. -2.1

Saturn Becoming more prominent morning object.
Rises at about 03.20 in mid month. Mag. 0.5

Uranus Rises at about 04.20 in mid month. Mag. 5.8

Neptune Rises at about 05.00 in mid month. Mag. 7.7
R. Gooding

ADDITIONAL LOCAL ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY

Whilst on holiday over the Christmas period I spent a morning at the Suffolk Record Office. The information I found was very incomplete and in two cases presents a conflict towards our observatory history as is presently perceived.

The first part of this report has no relevance to our observatory history unless additional information comes to light. The Chaldaean Society existed to popularize and to undertake observational astronomy. It was based in London and encouraged the formation of regional sections. For many years this society must have been a rival to the B.A.A. I have not found out when this society formed, but it was disbanded in 1944. The B.A.A. has been in existence since 1890.

At the beginning of August 1921 an advertisement appeared in the local press giving details about an exhibition of astronomical photographs at Ipswich Museum together with a preliminary meeting about forming an Ipswich section of the Chaldaean Society. The meeting was held on 4th August. Founder members of the Ipswich section included:-

Mr. G.D. Petters, F.R.A.S.	Mr. Hicks.
Miss A.G. Cook, F.R.A.S.	Mr. Wolsely
Mr. J.P.M. Prentice	Mr. Blacklock
Mr. R. Elliston	Mr. Burgham
Mr. E.H. Collinson	

Mr. Collinson has informed me that this was the first astronomical society that he joined. He has been an active planetary and variable star observer, and held the position of Director of the B.A.A. Mars Section from 1956 - 1979. Mr. Collinson has been a member of the O.A.S.I. for many years.

Miss A.G. Cook was one of the first women to be elected to the F.R.A.S. and held the post of section correspondent for the Ipswich section of the Chaldaean Society. Between 1914 - 1918, she was acting Director of the B.A.A. Meteor Section and became full Director between 1921 - 1923. Miss Cook wrote numerous articles on astronomy for the local press, especially the E.A.D.T. using the name of Mary Star. Her report after having observed Halley's Comet in 1910 was one of disappointment. The Comet's tail and nucleus were fainter and less distinct than she had been expecting.

Mr. J.P.M. Prentice held the post of meteor section Director for the B.A.A. between 1923 - 1954.

The Ipswich section held meetings at the Ipswich Museum at about monthly intervals. These included talks from outside speakers and from members. Two additional sections were formed in Suffolk that had close links with the Ipswich group, at Yoxford and Stowmarket. The first Ipswich section meeting was held on 5/11/21. The group visited Orwell Park Observatory on 28th October 1922. When the main London Society disbanded in 1944 all the regional sections followed suit.

Much of the Ipswich section's library was donated to The Ipswich & District Astronomical Society upon its formation in 1950. Many of the active members from the Chaldaean Society became the founders of the I.D.A.S.

The Ipswich Scientific Society may have had an astronomical section at an earlier date than 1921. This has yet to be positively confirmed.

Two additional facts about the Orwell Park Observatory have come to light. However, I have yet to discover how these can be incorporated into our present history without a reappraisal of parts.

The first is a book written by a Mr.A.J. Swinburne and published by the author at Snape Priory. The title of the book was 'Memories of a School Inspector'. Colonel Tomlin would often play host to numerous shooting parties on his estate. The targets were probably estate reared pheasants. Shoots require the use of beaters. Tomlin overcame this problem by co-opting the children of all his tenants. This must have been a regular occurrence as it came to the notice of the local school inspector. The report mentions the inspector's fiery interview with Tomline and his shaken retirement and subsequent loss of way in the numerous corridors in Orwell Park Mansion. The Inspector was finally rescued from the pantries.

The school inspector had to return to Orwell Park the following day for an appointment with a Mr. Glass, Tomlin's school manager. The report continues by saying that Mr. Glass was also Tomlin's astronomer. No mention is made about John Plummer. Assuming Tomlin was out, the two made their way up to the telescope where they stayed for about 2 hours. On their way down, the voice of Tomline roared up from below, 'Is it you Glass?' The inspector was apprehensive about confronting Tomlin again. This never occurred, as the Colonel had departed to another part of the mansion by the time the two had reached the bottom of the spiral stairs. No date for this anecdote was available.

The second item refers to a period after Tomlin's death. A. Mr. Wiseman worked on the Orwell Park Estate for 50 years. During some of this period he looked after the telescope for the Pretyman's. When the Pretyman's were entertaining guests, Mr. Wiseman would operate the observatory for him and his guests. Our present history states that a Mr. Hancock looked after the observatory for the Pretyman's. Whether Messrs. Wiseman and Hancock undertook this job together or consecutively has yet to be determined.

R. Gooding.

ACROSS

- 1 One of Jupiter's four brightest satellites (6)
- 4 Beehive - open star cluster within cancer (8)
- 8 The constellation Eridanus winds it's way across the heavens (5)
- 9 This type of telescope was built at Norwich observatory (10)
- 10 Ptolematic system whereby the Earth lies in the centre of the Universe (10)
- 12 Time taken for the Earth to complete one revolution of the sun (4)
- 13 Aries - constellation (3)
- 15 Ursa Minor constellation (6,4)
- 18 It is 180 degrees of longitude from Greenwich (13,4,4)
- 23 Spanish for "fish dolphin" - southern constellation (6)
- 25 Eclipse of a star or planet by the moon (11)
- 27 The apparent & real irregularities of the moon's motions which reveals 4/7 of it's surface from the Earth (9)
- 29 The shepherd star within cepheus - if you see cepheus as a lopsided house this star is it's apex (5)
- 30 Lack of transparency (7)
- 31 An apple probably gave him a bruise on his head (6)
- 32 It's apparent visual magnitude is -26.9 (3)
- 33 A minor planet which can come within 16 million miles of the Earth (4)

Down

- 1 This famous satellite made transatlantic TV possible for the first time (9)
- 2 Type of telescope at the club (9)
- 3 Eyesight test within Ursa Major, it's companion is Mizar (5)
- 4 Wedge shaped glass solid used to form spectra in a spectrograph (5)
- 5 The "Demon star " within Perseus - an eclipsing binary (5)
- 6 Cupid's arrow - constellation (7)
- 7 This comet has the shortest period known, 3.3 years (5)
- 8 Dangerous oscillating tides caused by Sun & moon acting upon an enclosed bay of water (5)

11 Very short telescope (10)

14 This is the altar of the centaur - southern constellation (3)

16 It was the belly of aries, now it's part of his tail (6)

17 The compass or dividers - southern constellation (8)

19 Point in the sky from which a meteor swarm seems to emanate (7)

20 This type of star is the corpse at the centre of the debris of a supernova (7)

21 This type of movement refers to the component's of a star's

motion at right angles to the line of sight (7)

22 Virtually anything to do with the moon (5)

24 Winter constellation (5)

26 Leo is one (4)

28 On a clear night it still obstructs our view of the heavens (3)

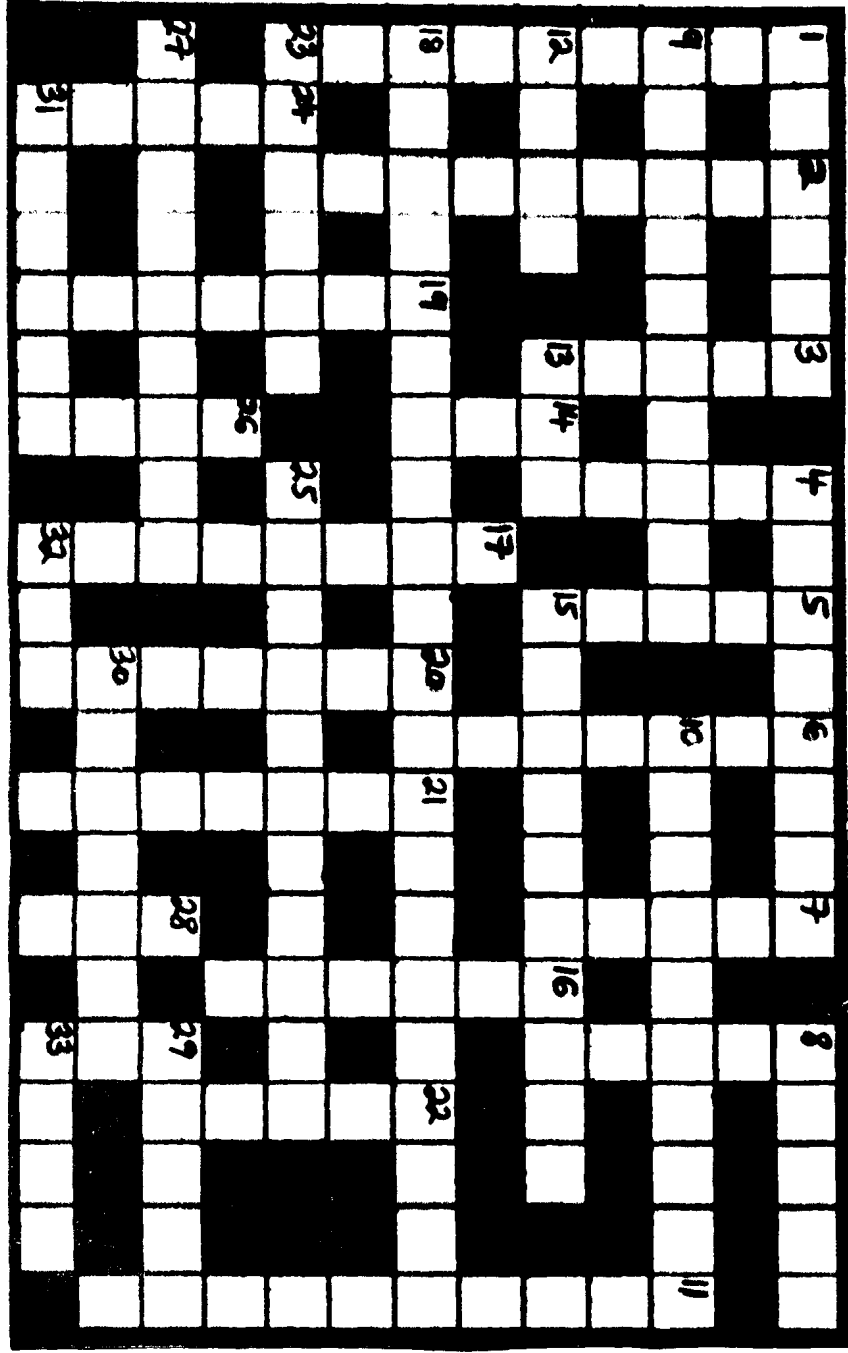
29 Dark adapted it has an aperture of about 7mm (3)

Solution to crossword number 5

Across - 3 Rasales, 4 Symbols, 6 Altar, 9 Lenses, 11 Houston,
13 Hubble, 15 Apus, 16 R - Makes "MERRY XMAS", 18 Komarov,
20 Ariel, 23 Aspect, 26 Io, 27 Nashira, 28 Totality,
29 Nubulae, 30 Ara, 31 Hare, 34 Julian, 35 Red, 37 East,
38 Era.

Down - 1 Stratosphere, 2 Mensa, 3 Ray, 4 System, 5 Messier,
7 Tethys, 8 Rana, 10 Ebb, 12 Dust, 13 Homam, 14 Burin,

17 Leo, 19 Visible, 20 Axial, 21 Image, 22 Lateral,
23 Astraea, 24 Pulsar, 25 Cetus, 31 Hunter, 32 Rills,
33 Bee, 36 Day.



GIOTTO LECTURE

GIOTTO LECTURE

On the 12th of March at The University of Essex, Colchester, The Institute of Physics will be presenting a lecture on ' EPONA, COMET HALLEY AND GIOTTO '. The speaker will be Dr. Susan McKenna-Lawler of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, who is the Principle Investigator on The Energetic Particles Experiment. This will be a public meeting for which no booking or entrance fee is required.

The energetic particle experiment EPONA on the Giotto Mission to Comet Halley was designed to measure the energy distribution of electrons, protons and heavier nuclei during the cruise phase from earth to the comet (July 1985 - March 1986) and also in the cometary environment during the encounter.

The instrument, switched on from Darmstadt on August 22nd, 1985, recorded many outstanding bursts of particle radiation associated with solar flares. One of these events was so energetic that it was accompanied by an aurora seen in Southern England, an almost unprecedented occurrence so close to a time of sunspot minimum.

At Halley encounter the experiment recorded beautiful data and was one of the only two experiments surviving the barrage as Giotto passed within 600km of the nucleus.

The results of these studies will be presented and also the cruise phase cosmic ray events will be discussed.

The level of the lecture is aimed to be suitable for fifth form pupils so the scientific and technical content should not be too heavy. If you are interested then contact me, Peter Richards either at the observatory or at my address given at the end of this newsletter.

