

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

MARCH 1998



SOCIETY NEWS

1 Next Committee Meeting 14th March

The next committee meeting will be on Saturday 14th March with a 19:30 start. This is an open meeting and any interest member is invited to come along.

2 1998 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1998 will be due from 1st of January, for members who have not already paid. The rates for 1998 have been kept at the 1997 prices

The rates for the new year will be:-

Junior & OAP	£8.00
Adult	£12.00
Family	£14.00

A renewal form was included with the January newsletter. It would be appreciated if you could return this so that the society

membership records can kept up to date.

Please make cheques & P.O.'s payable to the ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH).

Please return all subscriptions to

Martin Cook

Ipswich
IP4 5PZ

2 Events for 1998

BAA Winchester Weekend	3-4-98
Summer Excursion ?	Date to be fixed
Summer barbecue	Date to be fixed
BAA Exhibition Meeting	27-6-98
Astro Camp	16-8-98
Horncastle Weekend	11-9-98
FAS Cambridge Meeting	3-10-98
Open Weekend	October / November Date to be fixed
Christmas Meal	9-12-98

Lecture Meetings Pete Richards is arranging these.

NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately at 06.40 to 05.50
Sets approximately at 17.50 to 18.20

MOON

First quarter 5th
Full moon 13th
Last quarter 21th
New moon 28th

MERCURY Mercury is visible in the evening this month. Greatest eastern elongation is on the 20th. Mag -1.5 at the beginning of the month.

VENUS Venus will be visible in the morning sky until the end of October. Greatest western elongation is on the 27th. Mag. -4.6

MARS Mars will be visible low down in the western sky all of this month. At the end of the month it will be setting about an hour after sunset. Mag. 1.2

JUPITER Jupiter moves back into the morning sky this month. It will be rising about an hour before sun rise by the end of the month. Mag. -2.0

SATURN Saturn is still visible low down in the west this month. It will be setting less than an hour after the sun at the end of the month. Mag. 0.6.

URANUS Uranus will be rising about 2 hours before the sun by the end of the month. Mag. 5.9.

NEPTUNE Neptune will be rising about half an hour before Uranus this month. Mag. 7.9.

R. Gooding

Meteor Diary - March

The only meteors to be seen in March are likely sporadic: unless a currently unknown shower is there waiting to be discovered. Or perhaps a stray Corona-Australid from the southern sky!

OCCULTATIONS DURING MARCH 1998

The table lists stellar occultation disappearance events which occur during the month under favourable circumstances. The data relates to Orwell Park Observatory, but will be similar at nearby locations.

D or R	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (d)	Star Alt (d)	Min Dist (r)	Star	Mag
D R	04 Mar 20:30 21:25	.44+	-26 -33	39 32	.59S .59S	71 Tau	4.7
D R	04 Mar 21:37 22:39	.44+	-35 -41	30 21	.14N	theta 2 Tau	3.3
D R	04 Mar 21:39 22:34	.44+	-35 -40	30 22	.48N	theta 1 Tau	4.0
D R	04 Mar 22:31 23:03	.45+	-40 -42	22 17	.85S	80 Tau	5.7
D R	04 Mar 22:39 23:22	.45+	-41 -43	21 14	.69S	81 Tau	5.5
D	04 Mar 23:06	.45+	-43	17	.17S	85 Tau	6.0
D	05 Mar 21:15	.55+	-32	42	.08S	111 Tau	5.1
D	05 Mar 23:12	.56+	-43	25	.64S	117 Tau	6.0
D	10 Mar 20:50	.95+	-27	45	.63N	R Leo	4.4
D	31 Mar 21:08	.19+	-23	15	.53N	SAO 93775	6.0

The 4th and 5th of March promise particularly fruitful observing. On both evenings, there are a series of occultations of faint stars in addition to the brighter events listed above.

James Appleton

VISIT TO THE HOME OF THE FATHER OF MODERN
BRITISH AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

by

Nigel Gage

June 14th 1979

After the tour of his garden we returned to his house and in particular to his lounge, which was quite a large room surrounded by Oak panelling making it rather dark and foreboding, at least this is how it first appeared to me at the time. However, later I was aware of the sheer amount of furniture and fitting contained within this room in addition to a large concert style Xylophone, upon which Patrick demonstrated his prowess as he began to play some of his many compositions, including 'The Penguin', a Military march composed for a British Regiment and a wedding march for one of his friends son or daughter. He had at this time been approached in all seriousness by a well known record label to release one of his compositions on a single, but he told me "I had laughed this off as I had no desire to appear on Top of the Pop". In spite of Patrick's bulk he moved about the instrument with a great deal of grace and I was able to recognise some of the tunes he played but others I could not identify. It was then my turn to be royally treated to Tea and scones by Woody and managed to nearly hold my own in conversation with Patrick and one of his house guests, a former British Table tennis champion.

We later adjourned to his study for further conversation with regards to a multitude of Astronomical subjects. Patrick's study was surrounded on three sides by large floor to ceiling bookshelves which contained all of his Astronomical studies and a large number of novels, and there was my next surprise, he wishes to be remembered as an author of Science fiction novels who became an Amateur Astronomer. It was extremely humbling to be seated in a chair which had in the past been patronised by many distinguished members of the Scientific fraternity and other well-known luminary's from the World of Space exploration and not forgetting Television, for many of the Sky at Night programs had been filmed from his study. So there I sat surrounded by his many souvenirs of the USSR and USA space programs, including those presented to him by NASA and their USSR counterparts for his undying close co-operation in their past operations.

Alas, to soon it was time for me to leave, I still remember the depressing feeling that came over me when it arrived, how quickly the time had passed, I had luxuriated in the company of man of his stature and wealth of Astronomical experience. So sadly I made my farewells and made ready to return to my lowly world. It was then I received the second surprise of the evening, Patrick presented me with a signed copy of The Guide to Mars (US edition) which together with my Guide to Mars, already signed by him, are my treasured possessions to this very day. Prior to my departure Patrick told that if any other member of OASI just happened to be in the Selsey area they were always welcome to pop-in to see him.

I believe that even nearly twenty years later this invitation still remains.....

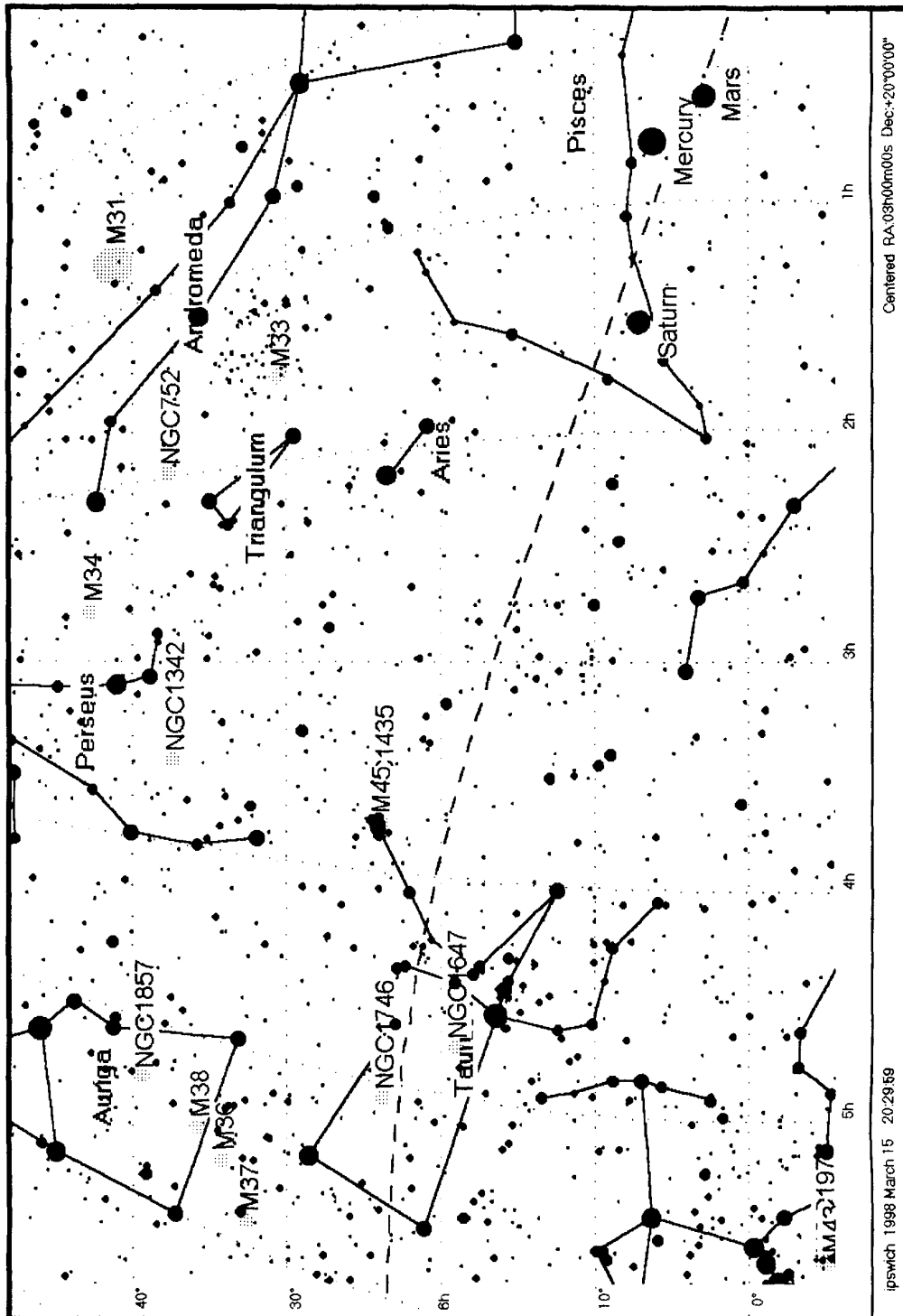
Thus ended my visit with the great man

Nigel Gage December 1997.

FOR SALE: 6" f/8 Meade Newtonian reflector. Equatorial mount, integral battery (AA) powered drive, plus 25mm and 9.5mm multi-coated Plössls; baffled 2x Barlow, camera adapter and instruction manual.

£ 649.- o.n.o.

Seinet, [REDACTED], Burstall. Tel: [REDACTED] daytime and evenings.



Centered RA:03h00m00s Dec:+20°00'00"

Ipswich 1998 March 15 20:29:59

PROGRAMME FOR MARCH

Mondays from 7.30pm Mr N Gage	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION Mr G Tilt
Tuesdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
Wednesdays from 8.00pm Mr M Cook	NEBULA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION Mr D Payne
Thursdays from 7.30pm Mr P Richards	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS
Fridays from 7.30pm 6th - 20th Mr J Hood	DOUBLE STARS

All members are welcome on any night, but on nights other than Wednesday please check with the director of the night that the observatory will be open.

Lectures and other events:

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is to be held on Saturday 14th March in the club room at the observatory at 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Visit by Framlingham Camera Club on Thursday 26th March.

e-mail enquires to oasieng@btbcs.bt.co.uk
 WWW url <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk:80/~ipswich/>

1998 COMMITTEE

	Home Phone	Work Phone
CHAIRMAN	D Payne	
SECRETARY	R Gooding	
TREASURER	M Nicholls	
MAINTENANCE CO-ORD	M Cook	
JOURNAL CO-ORDINATOR	E Sims	
PUBLICITY & DARK SKYS	P Richards	
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	M Harlow	
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	J Walsh	
LIBRARIAN & COMP SOFTWARE	J Appleton	
JOURNAL ARTICLES TO	E Sims	Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA
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