

ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

MARCH 2002



Society News

1 Next Committee Meeting [NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 16th March from 19:30 in the clubroom. This is an open meeting and any one who is interested is invited to attend.

2 Membership Subscription for 2002

Subscriptions for 2001 are due from 1st of January. If you have already paid please ignore this request.

The rates for 2001 are:

Junior & Concessionary	£11.00
Adult	£15.00
Family	£17.00

A renewal form is included with the January newsletter. Return this form with your 2002 subscription, 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 **with the renewal form** to

Martin Cook

Ipswich
IP4 5PZ

If you have not yet paid your 2002 subscription, this will be the last Newsletter you will receive.

Night Sky

All times GMT

Sun The sun will be rising approximately between 06:50 to 05:40
The sun will be setting approximately between 17:30 to 18:30

Moon

3 rd Quarter	New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon
6 th	14 th	22 nd	28 th

Mercury Mercury moves back into the early morning sky, this month. It will be too near the sun to be seen .

Venus Venus will be setting at about 2 hours after the sun by the end of the month
Magnitude -3.8.

Mars Mars remains in Aris this month. It will be setting at about 22:20 through out the this month. Magnitude 1.3

- Jupiter** Jupiter remains prominently visible in Gemini. The planet will be observable most of the night, setting at about 02:00 by the end of the month.
Magnitude -2.3
- Saturn** Saturn will be visible during the evening this month. It will be setting at about 00:00 by the end of the Magnitude 0.1
- Uranus** Uranus is visible in the morning twilight, this month.
- Neptune** Neptune will be rising at about 04:00 at the end of the month.

3 Events for 2002

Event	Details	Date
Astronomy Workshop	School science room 19:45 to 21:00 Hubble Telescope Paul Whiting	Wednesday 6 th February
Training Evening	If you are interested in receiving training in operating the telescope and observatory, please come along.	Wednesday 13 th February
Astronomy Workshop	School science room 19:45 to 21:00 Aurora Pete Richards	Wednesday 6 th March
Astronomy Workshop	School science room 19:45 to 21:00 Time Ted Sampson & others	Wednesday 3 rd April
BAA Winchester Weekend		6 th to 8 th April
Astronomy Workshop	School science room 19:45 to 21:00 Computer Packages Paddy O' Sullivan	Wednesday 1 st May
Summer Barbecue	Ken Goward's garden Tuddenham	Saturday 13 th July
BAA Exhibition Meeting	Cavendish Laboratory Cambridge	Saturday 21st September
Summer Excursion	Provisional destination is Oxford	Date to be fixed in September
FAS Convention	Venue: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Oxfordshire	5 th October?
Open Weekend		Date to be fixed.
Equinox Star Party	Thetford Organiser; Loughton A.S	6 th to 13 th September
Christmas Meal	Provisional date	11 th December

This events list, is updated monthly, so watch this space.

4 Telescope Review Articles (Old and New)

Society members own a verity of telescopes, both old and new. I would like to request a series of review articles, from members on their telescopes.

The eventual aim would be to product a booklet on member's equipment that can be given to prospective new members, who ask for advice on telescopes.

The first of these articles was recently written by Neil Morley. Neil reviewed his short focal length 80mm refractor.

5 Attending Meetings at the Observatory

When you attend meetings at the observatory, please remember to bring along your membership card. Every membership card, this year, was issued with a holder.

OCCULTATIONS DURING MARCH

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

D / R	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Min Dist rad	Star	Mag
D R	05 Mar 02:06 03:15	0.60-	-38 -30	8 14	0.06N	beta 1 Sco	2.6
D R	05 Mar 02:06 03:15	0.60-	-38 -30	8 14	0.07N	beta 2 Sco	4.9
D R	19 Mar 19:50 20:10	0.27+	-16 -19	35 32	0.96S	ZC 593	5.9
D	21 Mar 00:18	0.38+	-38	6	0.50S	iota Tau	4.6
D	21 Mar 21:07	0.47+	-26	43	0.49S	ZC 887	7.0
D	22 Mar 23:13	0.59+	-36	33	0.77N	ZC 1052	6.8
D	26 Mar 03:28	0.90+	-21	15	0.35N	ZC 1479	6.4
D R	27 Mar 19:15 20:16	0.99+	-9 -18	23 31	0.22N	nu Vir	4.0

James Appleton

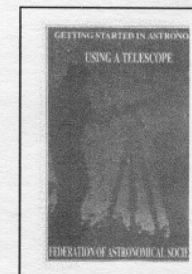
BEGINNER AND NOT SO BEGINNER BOOKLETS

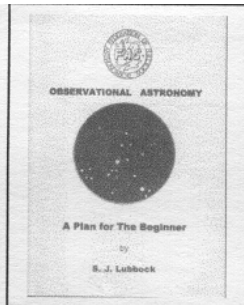
Available for purchase from the Society Treasurer – a handy range of information booklets, published by the Federation of Astronomical Societies:

USING A TELESCOPE

46+ pages of invaluable information. From basics to specifics on the Sun, Moon and planets. Deep sky objects are also covered. A whole chapter is given to telescope setting-up and maintenance.
A5 Format

£2.50 each





OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY A Plan for the Beginner

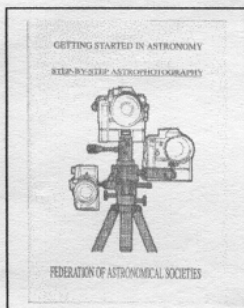
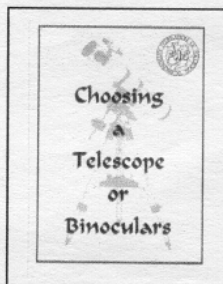
50+ pages giving details of what to look for, why and how. Plus how to organise your observing. A basic guide to get you going in the right direction.
A5 Format

£2.60 each

CHOOSING & USING A TELESCOPE OR BINOCULARS

12 pages giving a general discussion on the types of instruments available, with advantages and disadvantages, plus what to avoid. It does not give views or make recommendations.
A5 Format

65p each



STEP BY STEP ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

16+ pages giving full details and hints on Astrophotography, including details on making a Scotch Mount. This will get you started on great shots.
A5 Format

£1.65 each

Available direct from the Treasurer - let him know in advance, so that he can bring your order on club nights – or by post to

Mr K J Goward
Tuddenham St Martin, Ipswich, IP6 9BJ

Please add 50P for postage. Cheques/POs made payable to
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

A PRESIDENT FOR OASI

Following a unanimous vote at our recent AGM and the acceptance of subsequent formal invitations, it is with considerable pleasure that we are able to announce the appointment of a Honorary Society President and three new Honorary members viz:

Hon President; Dr Allan Chapman MA D.Phil FRAS
Hon members; Mr James Airy, Mrs Elizabeth Amati & Ms Nicole Airy Swengley



Allan Chapman signing the visitor book at the Telescope naming ceremony 18.05.01. Society Chairman David Payne and Elizabeth Amati look on.
Photo Ken Goward

Allan Chapman is a professional historian of science at the Faculty of Modern History, Oxford and is a member of Wadham College. He obtained his BA (first class) at Lancaster University and a D.Phil in the History of Science at Oxford in 1972. His MA came at Oxford in 1983. Allan has written a number of authoritative books on the history of astronomy, including *Dividing the Circle* (1995), *Astronomical Instruments and Their Users* (1996) and *The Victorian Amateur Astronomer* (1998). He has also written a very large number of articles & papers for international academic journals and is popularly known for his regular articles in *Astronomy Now*.

Allan gave the Wilkins Prize Lecture in the history of science at the Royal Society in 1994, speaking on Edmond Halley. He became the Medal Lecturer at the Royal Institution in 1997. His fame goes before him on the astronomy society lecture circuit and (although he wouldn't admit it) he is very much the 'star turn' at Astrofest each year. He has also made a number of TV appearances on Open University Programmes and *The Sky at Night*. Sometime in April (Sunday evenings) he will be appearing in a new three part documentary series on Channel 4 entitled 'Gods in the Sky', which explores early religious beliefs and the relationship to astronomical thinking.

From time to time, as his extremely busy diary may allow, Allan has agreed give Presidential Lectures to our society. Such lectures, subject to confirmation, would be held at the delightful Orwell Park School Orangery and in association with the school. Further details will be announced when they become available.

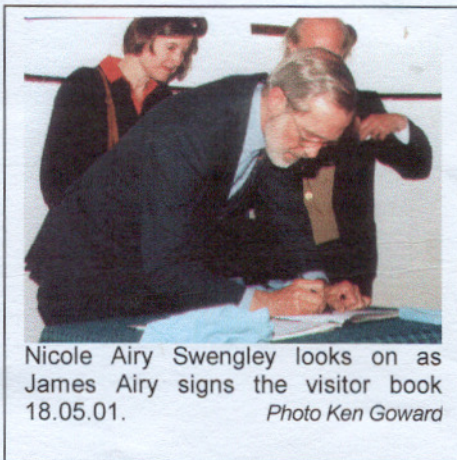
Allan holds our society in high regard, not least for our historic link to the family of Sir George Biddell Airy (7th Astronomer Royal) and upon whom he is widely regarded as the leading authority. The long-term restoration and operation of the Orwell Park Observatory by our members has made a major impression upon him. In accepting our Chairman's formal invitation to become Hon President Allan writes,

'I shall, of course, be absolutely honoured and delighted to accept the Presidency of the Orwell Astronomical Society. Thank you very much, and please convey my appreciation, and best wishes, for their kind and unanimous vote, to the members'.
 'It was also a delightful gesture by the Society to extend honorary membership of the Society to members of the Airy family'.

Nicole Airy Swengley is Sir G B Airy's Great Great Granddaughter and lives in London. She writes,

'I feel sure the compliment being paid to Sir George Airy's great-great-granddaughter would be a source of satisfaction to him. Please will you thank the society members who have been so kind in wholeheartedly endorsing this tribute to his memory'.

James Airy and Elizabeth Amati are brother & sister. They are, respectively, Godson and Goddaughter to Anna Airy, Wilfrid Airy's daughter (Wilfrid was the designing engineer for the building of the Orwell Park Observatory).



Nicole Airy Swengley looks on as James Airy signs the visitor book 18.05.01. Photo Ken Goward

James lives in Hampshire and writes,

'I would consider it to be an honour to be associated with your society and the observatory which you have brought so splendidly back to life'.

Elizabeth lives in London and has written,

'I feel very honoured to accept the privilege of being made an honorary member of the Orwell Astronomical Society Ipswich. Thank you!'

It is surely a major feather in the Orwell AS cap to have the support of an internationally respected expert on the history of science and of the Airy family.

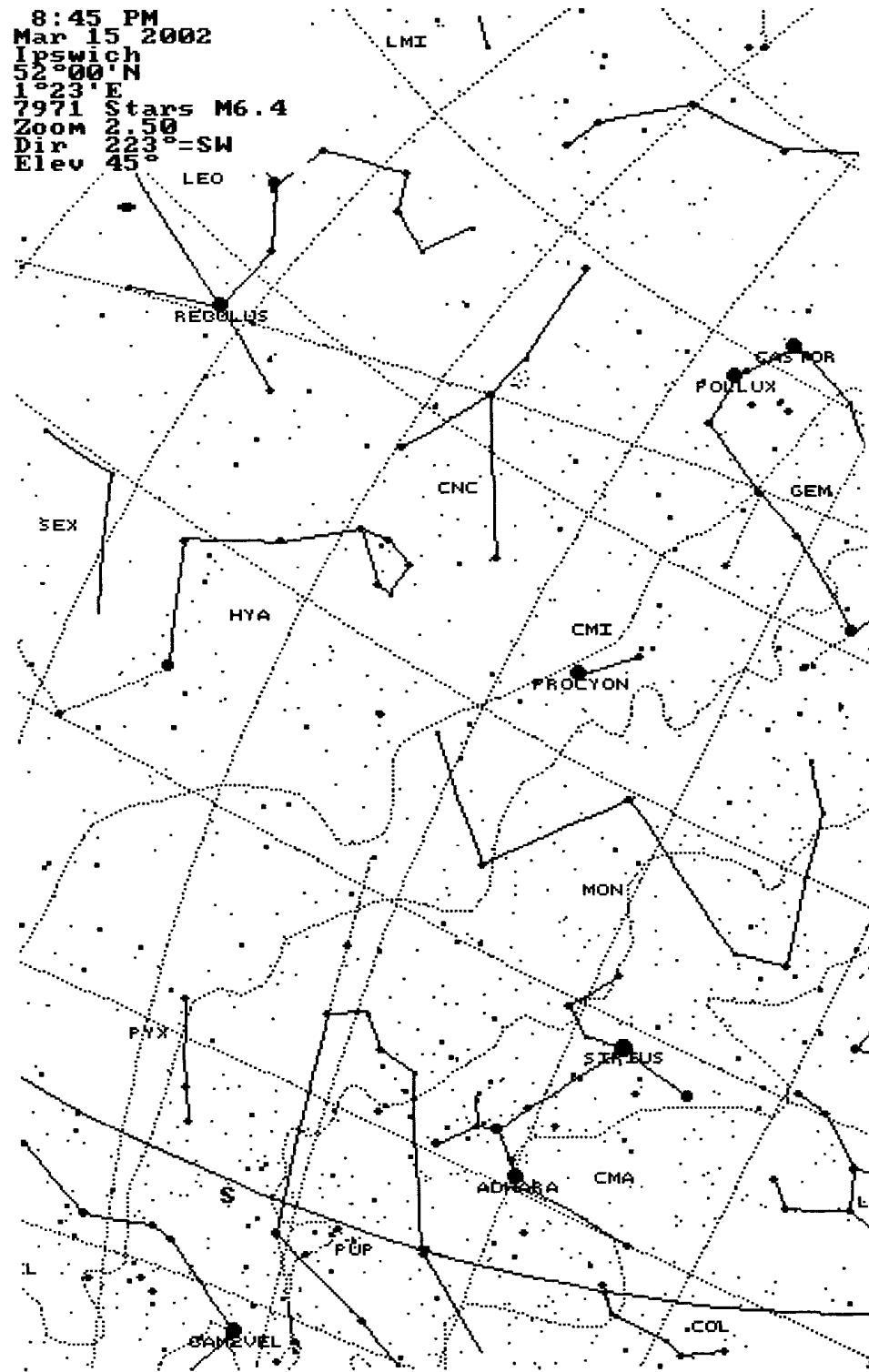
Allan, Nicole, James and Elizabeth. We look forward to a long and happy association with you.

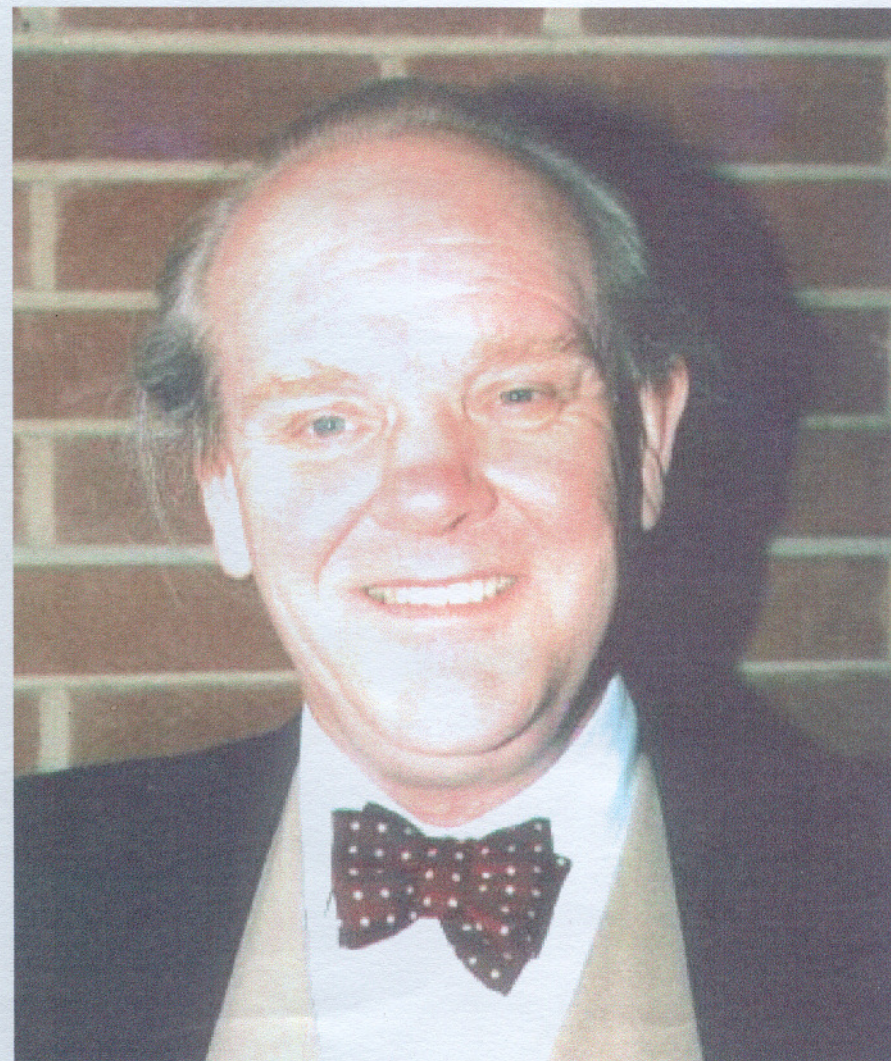
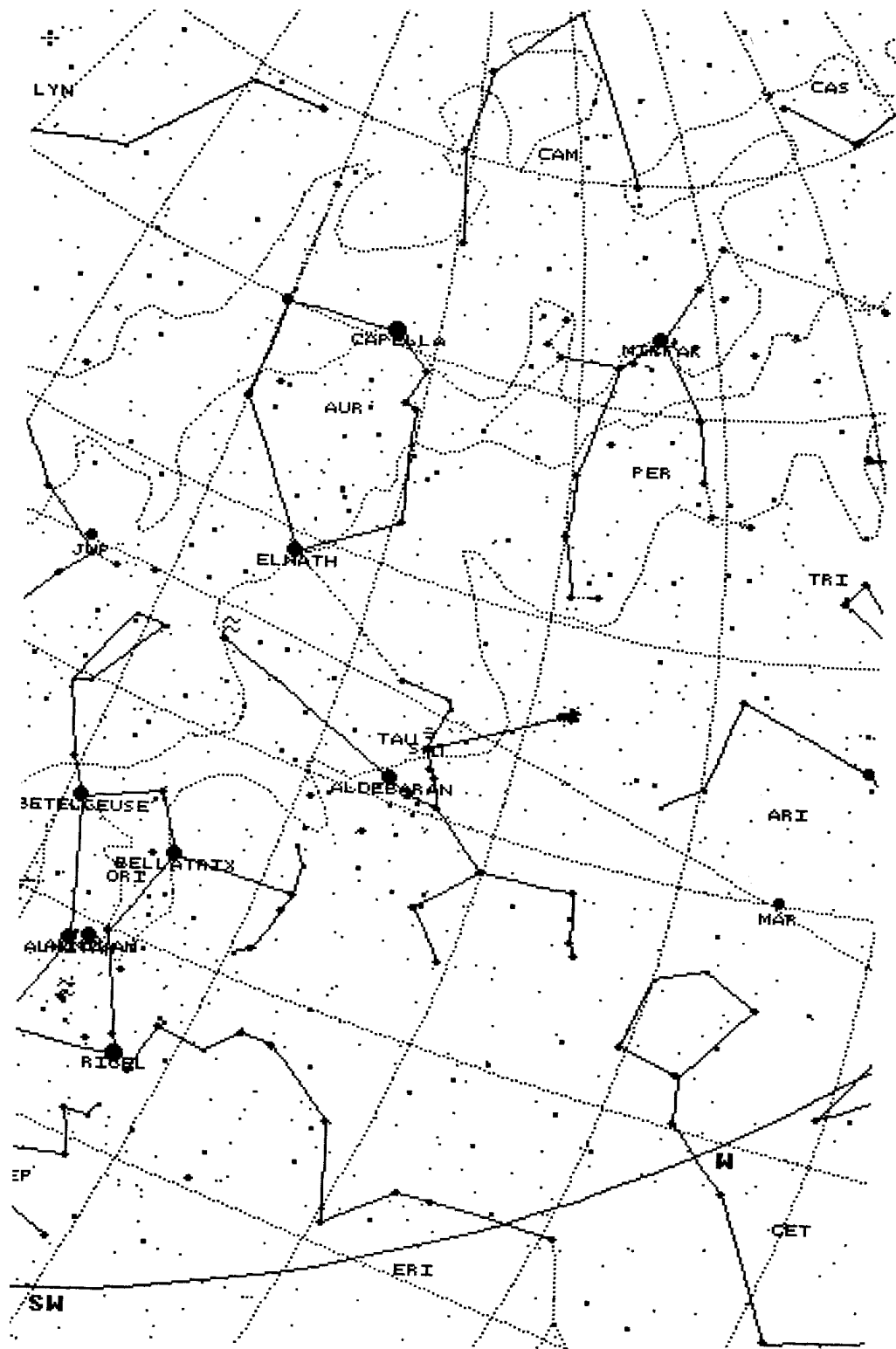
Ken Goward
 For the Committee

ORWELL PARK SECURITY

Members are reminded that whilst on the observatory/school premises, you must wear your membership cards. Cars parked on school premises must have OASI parking permits clearly displayed.

8:45 PM
 Mar 15 2002
 Ipswich
 52°00'N
 1°23'E
 7971 Stars M6.4
 Zoom 22.50 = SW
 Dir 45
 Elev 45





Dr Allan Chapman MA D.Phil FRAS
Hon President
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

OASI Presidential Portrait
Photographed at European Astrofest 2002
By Ken Goward

List of visits to Observatory Winter Season 2001/2002

ORGANISATION	DATE of VISIT	HOSTS	REMARKS
Updated 20/01/02	Thursday 8pm Unless stated otherwise		
	YEAR 2002		
Civil Service Club	21 st February	Paul Whiting Mike Whybray Paddy O'Sullivan	
6 th Felixstowe Scouts	25 th February Monday	Pete Richards Garry Coleman Jerry Pilling	This visit is on a Monday
Ipswich Society	5 th March Wednesday	Dave Payne Martin cook	This visit on a club & workshop evening
Mid Suffolk Rangers	14 th March	James Appleton Garry Coleman Volunteer Required	
Sudbury Astronomy Class	25 th March	Volunteers required	
Box Office Club	18 th April	Paul Whiting James Appleton Monica Lustig	

The society does need hosts to help out with group visits.
All members are always welcome to come along and help on these visit evenings.
Please contact Garry Coleman on [redacted] or e-mail [redacted]

2001 COMMITTEE

		Home Phone	Work Phone
CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[redacted]	[redacted]
SECRETARY & WORK PARTY ORGANISER	R Gooding	[redacted]	[redacted]
TREASURER & PUBLICITY	K Goward	[redacted]	[redacted]
MECHANICS	M Cook	[redacted]	[redacted]
NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR	E Sims	[redacted]	[redacted]
BEGINNERS MEETING CO-ORD & VISIT CO-ORD	T Sampson	[redacted]	[redacted]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	G Coleman	[redacted]	[redacted]
LIBRARIAN	J Walsh	[redacted]	[redacted]
	M Whybray	[redacted]	[redacted]
CO-OPTED MEMBER			
LECTURE CO-ORDINATOR & DARK SKIES	P Richards	[redacted]	[redacted]
JOURNAL ARTICLES TO CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	E Sims [redacted] Ipswich Suffolk IP1 4HA		
	R Gooding OASI Secretary [redacted] Ipswich Suffolk IP1 6AE		
MEMBERSHIP	M. Cook [redacted] Ipswich IP4 5PZ		

Observing Programme For March

Dates	Observing Director	Activities
Monday		Nothing Booked
Tuesday		Nothing Booked
Wednesdays 6th 13th 20th 27th from 8.00pm	M Cook [redacted] D Payne [redacted]	Nebular & Faint Objects
Thursday 14th	Mid Suffolk Rangers	Group Visit
Friday		Nothing Booked

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

Special Events

1. COMMITTEE MEETING

The Next Committee Meeting is to be held on Saturday the 16th of March at 7.30 PM in the club room at the observatory. All members are welcome to attend

2. ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP March 6th

The next Astronomy Workshop is "Aurora" by Pete Richards. This is held in the School Science Room 7.45pm to 9.00pm.

Society Contact Details

	Home Phone	Work Phone
Chairman	D Payne [redacted]	[redacted]
Secretary	R Gooding [redacted]	[redacted]
Contact details for the full committee are inside the back page.		
e-mail queries:	ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk	
WWW address:	http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich/	