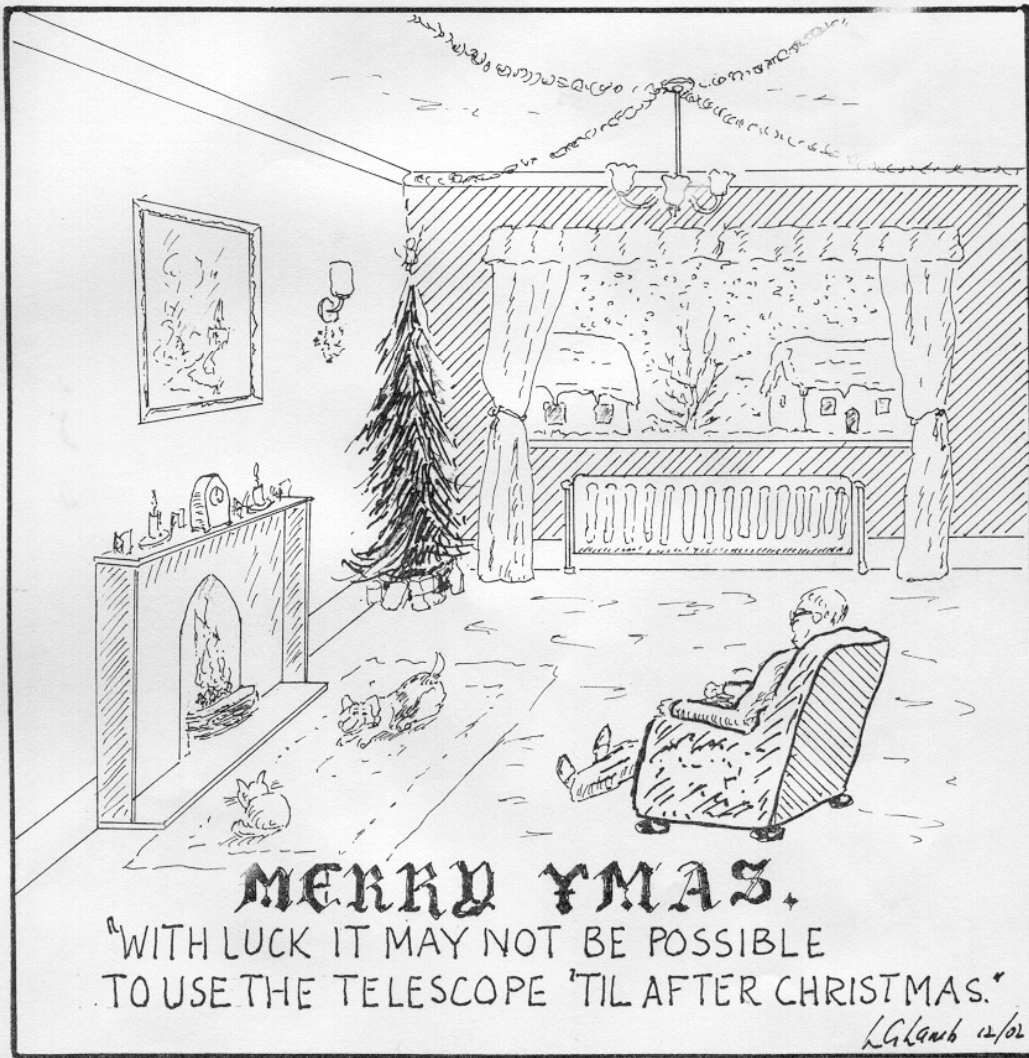


ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

DECEMBER 2002



Society News

1 AGM 11th January 2003

The 2003 AGM will be held on Saturday 11th January 2003, from 20:00. One of the classrooms in the courtyard will be used. Every member is welcome.

As usual the agenda of the AGM will include a review of this years activities, and a look forward to those of the new year.

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Events for 2002

Event	Details	Date
Astronomy Workshop	Inside the Sun Presented by Mike Whybray	Wednesday 4 th December
Christmas Meal	Oyster Reach Restaurant	11 th December

Events for 2003

Astronomy Workshop	Collimation of Telescope Optics Presenter St John Robinson	Wednesday 8 th January
Astronomy Workshop	Transit Telescopes Presented by Bill Barton	Wednesday 5 th February
AstroFest	Kensington Town Hall Hornton Street London	7th & 8th February
Astronomy Workshop	Hertsprung Russell Star Sequences Presented by Paddy O'Sullivan	Wednesday 5 th March
First Presidential Lecture	Dr. Allan Chapman The Victorian Amateur Tradition At Orwell Park School	Friday 7th March 2003
Astronomy Workshop	Comets, Asteroids and Impacts Presented by Richard Lyzinski	Wednesday 2 nd April
Astronomy Workshop	Radio Propagation Presented by Paul Whiting	Wednesday 7 th May

Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 07:40 and 08:05

The sun will be setting approximately between 15:52 and 15:54

Moon

New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon	3 rd Quarter
4 th	11 th	19 th	27 th

Mercury Mercury returns to the evening sky this month. During the last week of the month it will be visible low in the SW after sunset. It will be at greatest eastern elongation on the 26th at 20°.

Venus Venus is visible in the morning sky this month. It will reach its greatest brightness of magnitude -4.6 on the 7th.

Mars Mars is visible in the early morning sky. By the end of the month it will be rising at about 04:00. Magnitude 1.6

Jupiter Jupiter will be rising about 19:30 at the end of the month. Magnitude -2.5

Saturn Saturn will be at opposition on the 17th. Magnitude -0.4

Uranus Uranus will be setting at about 20:00 at the end of the month. Magnitude 5.7

Neptune Neptune will be setting at about 19:00 in mid month. Magnitude 7.8

Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Geminids	December 14 th	December 7 th – 16 th	100
Ursids	December 22 nd	December 17 th – 25 th	10

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

The dates of Open Weekends are normally arranged several months in advanced. The only criteria being that the first quarter moon and as many planets as possible are visible. This year's theme was observing the moon and Saturn. Having experienced last years Open Weekend 's complete wash out, things could only get better couldn't they? The week leading up to the weekend was typical November weather of days of rain and wind with isolated short clear skies.

Since we had restarted to combine the old stile of Open Day and Open Weekend programme, each of the last 3 years has seen an expanded display and exhibition area. This year we were hosts to 3 trade stands Anglia Cameras, Earth and Sky and Aurora Books.

Advertising for the event this year reached new highs. Ken Goward was able to get two camera crews one from the BBC and one from Anglia TV to do a short film report form the observatory. Both crews descended on the observatory at the same time on the Saturday morning. Was this insidious or was it just a coincidence. Ken Goward and Martin Cook took the lead in looking after the reporters. All our normal advertising methods were also in full use, local radio, local Tourist Information Offices, local libraries and a full page article in the Evening Star. The only order not pre-bookable was the weather.

Saturday morning started off clear, which did not bode well for the same order in 12 hours time. However the weather stayed on our side on Saturday evening. The evening was the busiest we have had for several years. It was estimated that over 300 visitors arrived during the evening.

The weather reverted to type on the Sunday evening. This did not stop an estimated 150 visitors. Spode had the last laugh. After all the visitors had departed and the three classrooms had been returned to their approximate original layout, we all ventured outside to presented with an all most complete clear sky! If only the skies had cleared 3 hours earlier.

A short discussion was held on Sunday evening about next years Open Day. An Open Weekend could be held to observe the Moon, Jupiter and Saturn without any exhibition in March (8th and 9th?) There will be another National Astronomy Week at the end of August 2003 to coincide with the close approach of Mars.

OCCULTATIONS DURING DECEMBER

The following 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.

Articles For Journal

Every month I am looking for articles for the journal. If you can help in any way it would be very much appreciated. What we need are any items of astronomical interest that you have had while observing, events you have been to, things you have planned for the future, or even what you would like to do no matter how impossible it might seem at the moment.

Building your own telescope, building an observatory, improving on the equipment that that you already have or just getting more use out of what you have.

Meeting your hero's in the astronomical world who could be inventors, scientists, astronauts, or any one of thousands of people who have contributed to our knowledge and interest in things astronomical.

Now we are in the third millennium. If you think about it, almost any thing is possible. Holidays abroad could be any where in the universe. The only thing holding you back is your imagination.

As you can see we need more people to help keeping the journal in articles as the more of you that contribute, it would make it so much easier on the few who have given so much of there time in the past.

So now I hope to hear from a lot more of you in the future which will make my job much easier and the journal much more interesting.

All entries need to be in A5 format which will save me having to retype any articles and stop me making any mistakes or misinterpretation of any thing I don't understand.

Journal co-ordinator
E. Sims

D / R	Date & Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Min Dist rad	Star	Mag
D R	10 Dec 17:34 18:47	0.41+	-16 -27	24 22	0.37N	tau 1 Aqr	5.7
D R	10 Dec 19:41 19:52	0.41+	-35 -37	18 17	0.99N	tau 2 Aqr	4.1
D	11 Dec 20:58	0.51+	-47	20	0.39S	ZC 3484	6.9
D	13 Dec 20:14	0.70+	-40	38	0.87S	26 Cet	6.1
D	16 Dec 00:15	0.86+	-61	34	0.63N	31 Ari	5.6
D	18 Dec 02:18	0.97+	-50	36	0.27S	omega 2 Tau	4.9
D	18 Dec 04:52	0.97+	-27	13	0.11S	ZC 646	5.9
R	20 Dec 17:29	0.99-	-15	9	0.43N	epsilon Gem	3.1
R	21 Dec 18:36	0.96-	-25	10	0.25N	kappa Gem	3.6
D R	26 Dec 05:00 05:52	0.59-	-27 -19	44 44	0.69N	nu Vir	4.0
D R	28 Dec 01:57 02:40	0.37-	-53 -48	6 12	0.68N	65 Vir	5.9
D R	28 Dec 02:34 03:28	0.37-	-48 -41	11 18	0.48N	66 Vir	5.8
D	28 Dec 07:07	0.35-	-8	32	0.82N	74 Vir	4.7

Note that the occultation of Tau2 Aqr on 10th December will be seen as a graze from locations some 30km north-west of Orwell Park. Detailed circumstances are as follows:

Date	Time (UT)	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (°)	Star Alt (°)	Star Azi (°)	Limb	Star	Mag
10 Dec	19:47	0.41+	-36	18	215	N	Tau2 Aquarii	4.1

The graze track crosses East Anglia through Harlow, Great Dunmow, Castle Heddingham, North of Sudbury, Long Melford, Lavenham, North of Stowmarket, Wickham Skeith, Eye, Harleston, North of Bungay, South of Loddon, Reedham and out to sea between Great Yarmouth and Caister. I will calculate a more detailed track if there is interest from members of OASI in mounting an observing expedition.

James Appleton

Observing Programme For December

Dates	Observing Director	Activities
Monday 9th December		Small Telescopes Night
Tuesday		Nothing Booked
Wednesdays 4th 18th 25th	M Cook D Payne	Nebular & Faint Objects from 8.00
Thursday		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. CHRISTMAS MEAL DECEMBER 11TH

The Christmas meal is arranged for December 11th at the Oyster Reach Restaurant Bourne Hill Werstead Ipswich at 20.00.

2. ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP 4th December

The Astronomy Workshops starts at 7.45pm on Wednesday 4th December. The topic is "Inside The Sun". The presenter is Mike Whybray.

3. COMMITTEE MEETING 26th NOVEMBER

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on Saturday the 26th of November at 7.30pm in the club room at the observatory. All members are welcome to attend.

2002 COMMITTEE

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

Society Contact Details

	Home Phone	Work Phone
Chairman	D Payne	
Secretary	R Gooding	
Contact details for the full committee are inside the back page.		

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