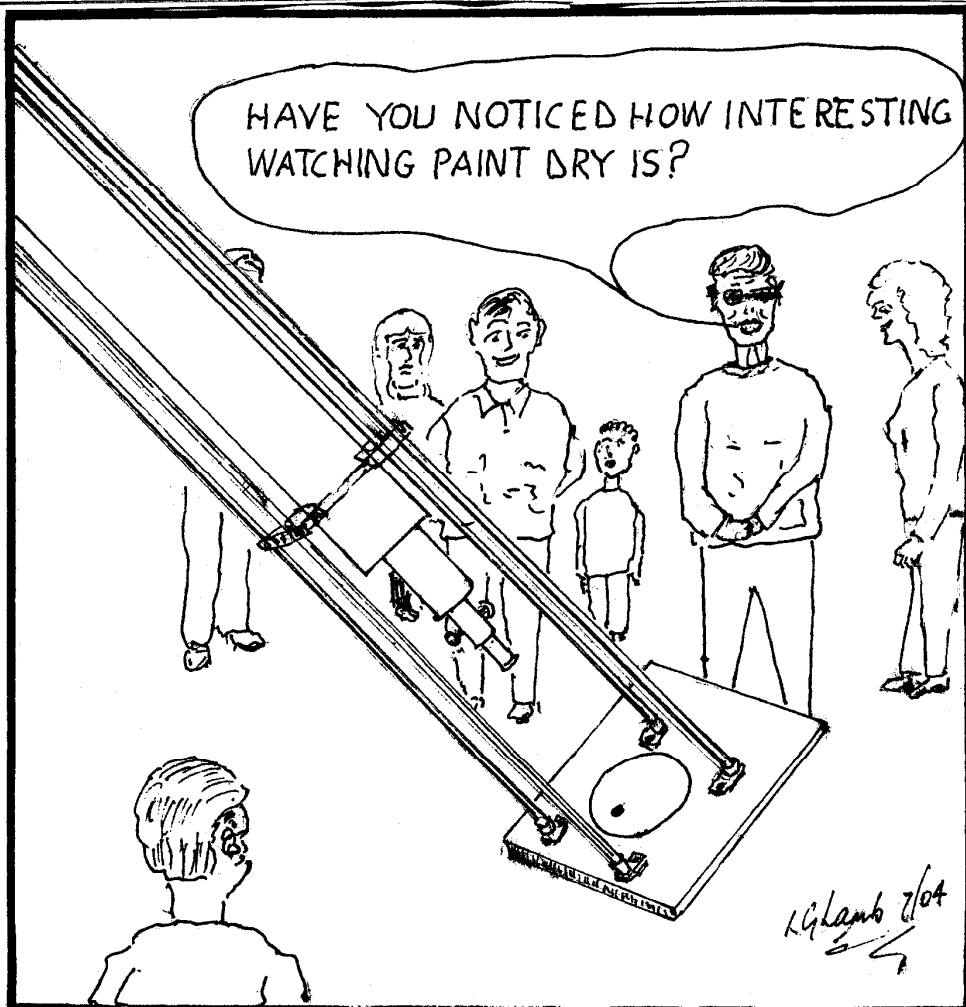


# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL

## SOCIETY IPSWICH

Charity No 271313

### JULY 2004



### Society News

#### 1 Next Committee Meeting Saturday 25th September 2004

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 19:30 in a classroom in the courtyard. This is an open meeting and any one who is interested is invited to attend

#### 2 Events for 2004

Meeting	Venue	Date
BAA Exhibition Meeting	The Cavendish Laboratory Cambridge	June 26 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 to 18:00
Summer Barbecue	Mike Whybray's garden. His address is [redacted] [redacted], Nacton, IPSWICH	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> in July From 15:00 See poster for more details
Equinox Sky Camp	Kelling Heath Leisure Park Weybourne, Holt, Norfolk	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Astronomy Workshops	The new session is the planning stage.	
FAS Convention	Institute of Astronomy Cambridge	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Christmas Meal	Red Lion Martlesham	15 <sup>th</sup> December at 20:00

#### 3 FAS Convention Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Venue: The Institute of Astronomy,  
Madingley Road Cambridge

This annual event is well worth attending, especially if you have not been before. There are a limited number of tickets available (180) Tickets cost £7. If you would like to come please contact me ( Roy Gooding) and I will order the tickets.

## Lecture Programme

Speaker	Lecture
Prof. Douglas Gough	TBA
Dr. Paul Murdin	The Reality of Black Holes
Guy Hurst	Supernovae
Dr. Cathie Clark	Formation of stars and Brown Dwarfs

Several trade stands will also be present.

### 4 Proposal to hold "Find Your Way Round the Night Sky" Meetings

In recent months several new members have joined OASI. They mentioned that they are interested in Astronomy, but being beginners, they have only limited knowledge. One of their reasons to join us was to find like-minded people, with a greater knowledge than they have. Finding their way around the night sky held a high priority.



At our public Open Weekends I usually take visitors outside to show them the night sky, and identifying the principle constellations. All that is required for this is the naked eye and binoculars.

I would like to do something similar for any members who would like to increase their identification of the constellations. As everyone knows the observatory tower is not a good site for viewing the whole sky

A possible venue could be the picnic site at Nacton shores. This is only a few minutes walk from the observatory car park.

If any one is interested in doing this, please contact me ( Roy Gooding)

The first meeting would not start until September.

Since I included the above item in last months Newsletter, there has been a much interest in this proposition. I will defiantly organise several meetings during the coming Autumn. This will probably be extended into the winter observing season as well

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## 5 New Decorating Season

Its that time of year again when the observatory refurbishment commences. When you attend Wednesday evenings any helping hand would be appreciated. Help is requested to man (or woman) the power tools, hammers, and paint brushes.



Members who attend will be encouraged to lend a hand. If you intend to come along to the observatory during summer period please come in old clothes Volunteers are needed for the following jobs

### Observatory Maintenance Jobs for 2004

This list is based on last years one

Location	Jobs	Names	Completed
Computer room	New eyepiece cupboard	Neil Morley	
Transit room	Paint door panels		
	Rebuild telescope pillar		
Observatory	Construct new RA drive control		
	Repair gutter		
	Paint door frame at the top of the stairs		
	Build set of mobile stairs for telescope	Martin Cook	
	Stain and varnish floor		
Belvedere	Paint all balcony doors. Use white Ranch paint		
	East balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	South east balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	South balcony	Garry Coleman	

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	Paint balcony door, inside and outside Door needs repairing.		
	South west balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	West balcony Paint balcony door, inside and outside.		
	Complete painting the stone work		
<b>Bottom room</b>	Varnish door	Roy Gooding	
	Make good room walls, stabilise and paint	Roy Gooding	

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
Ophiuchids	May 19 <sup>th</sup> to July	June 9 <sup>th</sup> June 19 <sup>th</sup>	5
$\alpha$ Cygnids	July to August	July 21 <sup>st</sup> to Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup>	5
Capricornids	July to August	July 8 <sup>th</sup> July 15 <sup>th</sup> July 26 <sup>th</sup>	5
$\delta$ Aquarids	July 15 <sup>th</sup> to August 20 <sup>th</sup>	July 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	20 10

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

### Night Sky (July)

All times GMT

#### Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 03:50 and 04:15  
The sun will be setting approximately between 20:20 and 20:00

#### Moon

Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon
2nd	9 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>

**Mercury.** Mercury may be visible low down in the NW at magnitude 0.0 after sunset in the first half of the month. Greatest eastern elongation in on the 27<sup>th</sup>

**Venus** Venus returns to the early morning sky this month. It will be rising about 3 hours before the sun at the end of the month. Venus will be at greatest magnitude on the 15<sup>th</sup>, at -4.5.

**Mars** Mars has moves into Leo joining Jupiter, at the end of the month. It will be difficult to see as it remains in bright twilight until September.

**Jupiter** Jupiter will be setting about 3 hours after the sun at the beginning of the month. By the end of the month it will have moved into evening twilight Magnitude -1.8

**Saturn** Saturn will be conjunction with the sun on the 8<sup>th</sup>

**Uranus** Uranus rises at about sunset at the beginning of month . Magnitude 5.7

**Neptune** Neptune rising at about sunset at the end of month. Magnitude 7.8

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### OCCULTATIONS DURING JULY

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 (°)	Star	Mag
D	10 Jul 02:47	0.42-	-7	28	omicron Psc	4.3
D	13 Jul 01:34	0.16-	-13	8	37 Tau, A1 Tau	4.4
R	02:28		-9	16		
D	13 Jul 01:54	0.16-	-12	11	39 Tau, A2 Tau	5.9
R	02:33		-9	17		
D	14 Jul 02:55	0.10-	-7	15	98 Tau, k Tau	5.8

James Appleton

### Transit of Venus Video

A 15 minute video of the recent Transit of Venus (8<sup>th</sup> June 2004) based on the image projected by the Tomeline telescope will soon be available. Please contact Garry Coleman for details, and supply your own VHS tape.

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# Summary of Committee Meeting Held 2004 June 05

**Present:** Ken Goward, Garry Coleman, Mike Whybray, Ted Sampson, Eric Sims, Neil Morley, Monica Lustig, Roy Gooding, James Appleton

**Apologies:** Paul Whiting, Pete Richards, Martin Cook

## 1. Chairman's Report – Ken Goward

Ceremonies on 14-15 May 2004 to open the new OASI Library were superb. Ken expressed thanks to all who contributed, especially Garry Coleman who had put up Peter Hingley on the evening of 14 May. The Committee passed unanimously a vote of thanks to all who had been involved in the construction and opening of the new Library.

Steeplejacks visited the Observatory Tower in May without OASI being informed. Ken has taken the matter up with Orwell Park School, who promised to forward a copy of the steeplejack's report. There was a general consensus in the Committee to consider security and control of access to the Dome once the licence has been re-negotiated with the School.

## 2. Secretary's Report – Roy Gooding

Roy continues to receive several enquiries each month about membership of OASI – many such enquiries result in new members.

Roy has sent info about OASI by email to Suffolk Library Service.

Roy is proposing to run observing sessions for new members of OASI, starting in Autumn 2004. He will take new members to the foreshore at Nacton on Wednesday evenings to show them around the night sky with the naked eye and binoculars.

## 3. Membership – Martin Cook

OASI currently has 105 members including 8 honoraries. 23 members from last year have not renewed, and are deemed to have left the Society.

The committee noted with great sadness the death on 15 May of our long standing and valued member, Roy Tremlett.

## 4. Training and Workshops - Ted Sampson

Bill Barton has attempted twice to make daylight observations of Venus being occulted by the Moon.

Training in use of the Tomline Refractor has proceeded recently as requested by the Committee. Ted expects some trainees to ask to be tested soon. There was general agreement in the Committee to initiate another round of training if there is sufficient demand for it.

Ted is asking for volunteers to host another series of Astronomy Workshops.

## 5. Newsletter – Eric Sims

This year, as in the last two years, Eric will print a combined August/September newsletter.

James Appleton will produce a summary article for the Newsletter on members' experiences of the Transit of Venus. See the request in this Newsletter for members' observing reports on the Transit.

## 6. Web Site – James Appleton

The Web site generates a steady stream of requests for information from potential new members of OASI.

As always, fresh material from members of OASI for the Web site is most welcome.

The Web site is accessible at <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich>.

## 7. Equipment & Maintenance – Neil Morley

Paddy O'Sullivan has purchased a solar filter for the ETX.

Neil has attached a Telrad finder on a temporary basis to the 4.5" reflector. Mike Harlow is happy for the finder to be attached permanently.

The Committee gave approval for Neil to purchase a set of collimation tools (needed to collimate the Millennium Telescope).

Neil has purchased two Rugby Time Signal clocks (one for the Dome and one for the balconies).

Roy Gooding has placed a notice in the Newsletter requesting volunteers to assist with maintenance work over the Summer.

The floor of the Dome is looking very worn and ideally needs to be sanded and varnished/stained. Ken Goward will take a vote of the full committee by email to decide whether or not to go ahead with renovating the floor.

#### **8. Security & Safety – Monica Lustig**

The Committee expressed thanks to Monica for her obvious hard work recently on Health and Safety.

The mezzanine floor above the library is no longer considered a safety hazard as it has been effectively sealed off by extending the ceiling to the window and removing the access ladder.

#### **9. Library – Mike Whybray**

Mike is considering building a secure area in one of the bookcases to hold valuable/rare books.

Mike has started cataloguing the books in the library in a spreadsheet.

James Airy offered in a recent letter to Ken Goward to donate a copy of *The Cogwheel Brain* (about Charles Babbage and George Biddell Airy) to the Library.

#### **10. Visits – Paul Whiting**

Three groups have booked visits for the 2004-05 season. As usual, Paul is calling for volunteers to host visits.

#### **11. Lectures – Pete Richards**

Pete hopes to arrange a members' lecture night later in the year.

Ken Goward will try to arrange for a lecture by Allan Chapman in Spring 2005.

#### **12. Observing Strategy**

The Committee expressed thanks to James Appleton, Martin Cook and Garry Coleman for help in preparing the Observatory Dome for the transit of Venus.

#### **13. Dark Skies**

No report.

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#### **14. OASI Events**

Mike Whybray is hosting the OASI BBQ on Saturday 10 July 2004. The Committee expressed thanks to Mike.

Looking forward to 2005, Ken proposed a return trip to the National Space Science Centre in Leicester.

#### **15. AOB**

Garry Coleman expressed discontent at the often untidy state of the Club Room. Mike Whybray will consider filing the magazines more frequently to minimize the quantity of paper and reduce the incentive for people to remove/borrow magazines.

Neil Morley reported on the Millennium Telescope. Mike Harlow had previously anticipated completing the mirror by the end of May, but this date has now slipped. Neil will catch up with Mike and decide how best to complete the mirror.

#### **16. Date of Next Meeting**

Saturday 25 September 2004 starting at 7:30pm. All members of OASI are invited to attend.

Full minutes of all committee meetings are posted on the noticeboard in Orwell Park Observatory. Please contact any member of the committee if you require any further information about the above committee meeting or any other aspect of the running of OASI.

James Appleton

2004 June 20

### **LECTURE MEETING VENUES** **YOUR VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED?**

At our AGM back in January it was suggested that OASI should look at alternative venues to our usual meeting place for lectures, the Friends Meeting House in Fonnereau Road Ipswich?

Whilst the facilities at Fonnereau Road are quite adequate for our needs, good value for money and the building is central to Ipswich and convenient for picking up and dropping off lecturers travelling by train, the main objection to that venue seems to be the lack of adequate car parking space thereabouts. We have tried a change of venue in the past but the alternatives proved less suitable than FMH, but it is time to look at the alternatives available now.

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Our hard-working lecture coordinator, Peter Richards, is aware of the problems encountered by members trying to park around the FMH, but would like certain criteria to be born in mind when considering alternatives:

- It should be within 10 minutes of Ipswich Town Centre and the rail station by bus, taxi or car.
- It must be available on Friday evenings.
- It would have to have a car park!
- It would have to have adequate facilities for tea making and sufficient room to accommodate around 50 people with sundry projection equipment etc.
- It has to be affordable.
- A bar would be nice – but NOT essential...!

Rushmere Hall in Humber Doucy Lane has been suggested and – yes – it would meet the above criteria, although Peter feels that the distance from the rail station is a disadvantage, on the plus side - there is a pub within 5 mins walk...!

- **CAN ANYONE SUGGEST ANY OTHER SUITABLE VENUE?**
- **IF YOU HAVE SUCH A VENUE IN MIND, PLEASE LET ME HAVE CONTACT DETAILS AND, IF POSSIBLE, PRICING LEVELS ETC.**
- **IN THE EVENT THAT NOBODY REPLIES TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, I SHALL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE ALL SATISFIED WITH CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS?**

Going on from that, I also suggested at the AGM that the **2005 AGM** should be made more of an attractive event for OASI members to come along to, rather than a glorified Committee meeting, which it has become. What I have in mind is a Saturday afternoon meeting away from the school at a venue like Rushmere Hall (FMH is not available for weekend hire). The AGM would be trimmed to – say – about an hour and a half or so and would be enhanced by having a couple of visiting speakers along. We could also arrange a buffet between us to give members the chance of a good old chinwag afterwards?

**AGAIN – I WOULD VALUE YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND OPINIONS ON THIS PROPOSED CHANGE?  
AND NON-RESPONSES WILL BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF SATISFACTION WITH PREVIOUS AGM FORMATS?**

My contact details are shown on the back page of this newsletter.

Kenneth J Goward FRAS  
Chairman

## Request Reports on Observations of Transit of Venus

Anyone who visited Orwell Park Observatory on Tuesday 08 June will know that many members of OASI enjoyed a very successful observation of the Transit of Venus. Members operated the Tomline Refractor, the 250mm Dobsonian, the ETX-125 and Bill Barton used his H-alpha equipment. The weather was excellent and all the equipment (including the new sun-blind for the Dome and the projection screen for the Tomline Refractor) worked very well, enabling members to make sketches of the event, to record timings of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> contact and to take photographs and videos.

Many members of OASI attended to observe the Transit - some 17 signed into the Observatory log book but anecdotal evidence suggests that several more attended who did not sign in! Many children from Orwell Park School together with their teachers and a handful of parents briefly joined members of OASI to observe (and enjoy) the transit.

Other members of OASI successfully observed the Transit from other locations.

I aim to compile an article for the Newsletter summarising the experiences of OASI members who observed the Transit. Several members of OASI have already sent me their observing reports – thanks very much to them. Please would everyone else who observed the transit kindly send me any reports, data, images or drawings of the event. I will compile all material received into an article for the Newsletter. I can accept material either paper-based or electronically by any of the following methods:

- Leave material marked *FAO James Appleton* in the club room at Orwell Park Observatory.
- By post to James Appleton, [REDACTED], Rushmere, Ipswich, IP4 5TU
- Email: [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you!

James Appleton  
14 June 2004

## Venus Transit Day Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June Roy Gooding

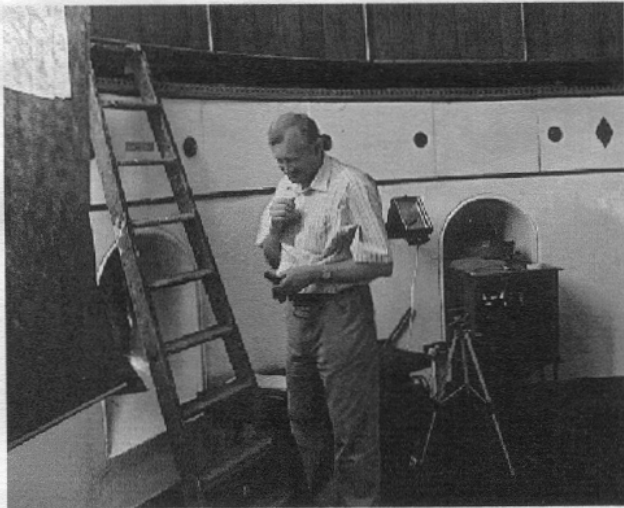
I intend to concentrate on the people at the event and not the event itself. Other reports will concentrate on the event itself

All planned astronomical events are normally pre-ordained to be harbingers of bad weather conditions, e.g the 1999 Total Eclipse. With sufficient patience and tenacity, once in a while everything goes right. I woke up at 03:30 and looked out of the window, the sky was clear!

I made my way to Martin Cook's, arriving at the observatory at about 05:45. This was the start of a busy period. In fact the next 3 hours had the atmosphere of typical Open Weekend. Society members were arriving, some staying the whole morning, while others called in on their way to work. Students from Amberfield School arrived with two of their teachers for an hour or so. Through out the morning various members of Orwell Park School staff and several classes came up to have a see the Transit.

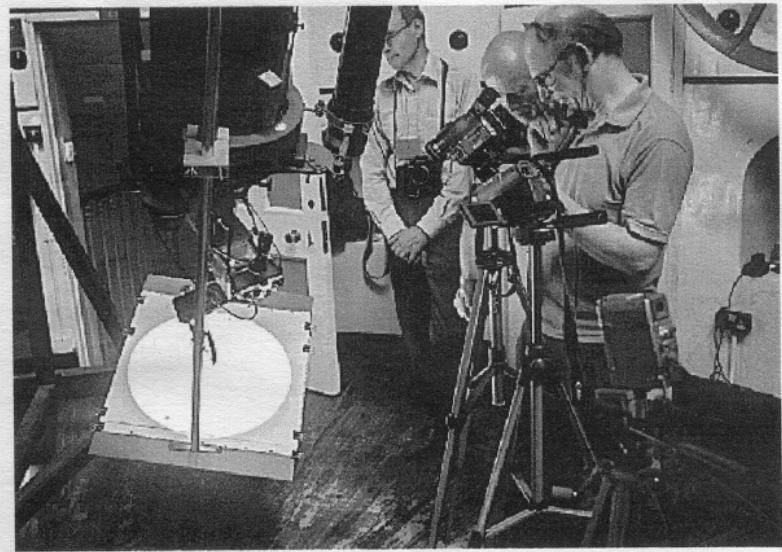
A little before 09:00 James Appleton took part in a live interview with BBC Radio Suffolk.

The experience of the Mercury Transit last year was good dummy run for this event. This gave valuable information on what modifications needed to be made to the observatory. The inside of the observatory needed to be shaded. The dome shutter opening was covered with a long length of material into which a hole was cut for the telescope. The observatory windows were blacked out to complete dimming of the interior. A fixed projection screen was bolted onto the end of the telescope. Other telescopes with suitable filters were in use on the balconies. This included Bill Barton's solar telescope.

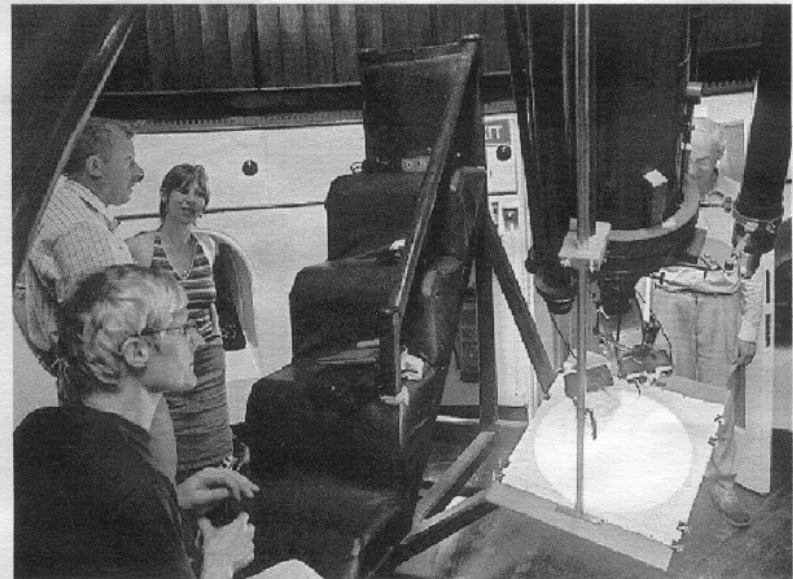


James's radio broadcast.

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All eyes looking at the projection screen before 3<sup>rd</sup> contact



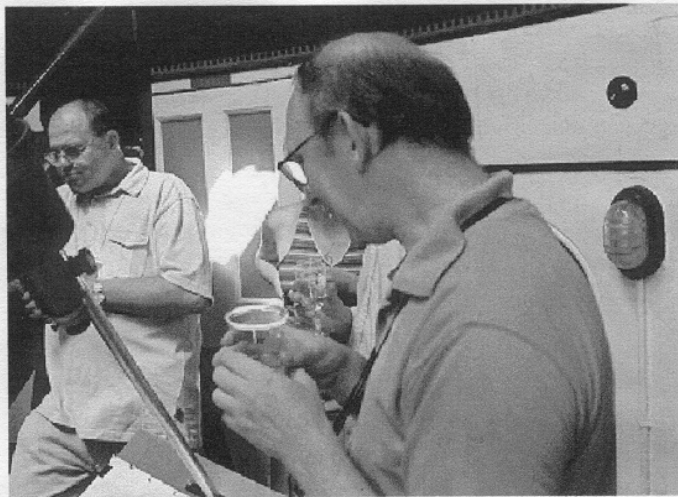
3<sup>rd</sup> contact approaches

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Observations on one of the balconies



Conclusion of a successful event

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## DIARY FOR 2004 JULY

**WEDNESDAY**

### **OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS**

from 8pm

7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

☎ Martin Cook

**SATURDAY**

10<sup>th</sup>



### **ANNUAL OASI BARBEQUE**

Mike & Andrea Whybray's garden

(Nacton Village – just along on the right hand side towards the observatory from the Post Office)

from 3PM until about 8PM

**BRING YOUR OWN FOODS TO BARBEQUE**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

**SALAD, BREAD AND SUNDRIES WILL BE PROVIDED**

NB *In case of inclement weather, please ring Mike on the morning to find out if the event is still going ahead*

☎

### **SOCIETY PRIMARY CONTACTS**

**CHAIRMAN** Kenneth J Goward FRAS ☎ (daytime & evenings)  
**SECRETARY** Roy Gooding ☎ (daytime) (evenings)

**E-MAIL QUERIES** [ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk)

**WEB SITE** [www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich](http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich)

*Contact details for the full Committee may be found on the inside back page*

Registered Charity No 271313

Society Trustees

Roy Adams David Brown David Payne

Hon President

Professor Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

**See you at the Barbeque?**

***Bon appetite!***