

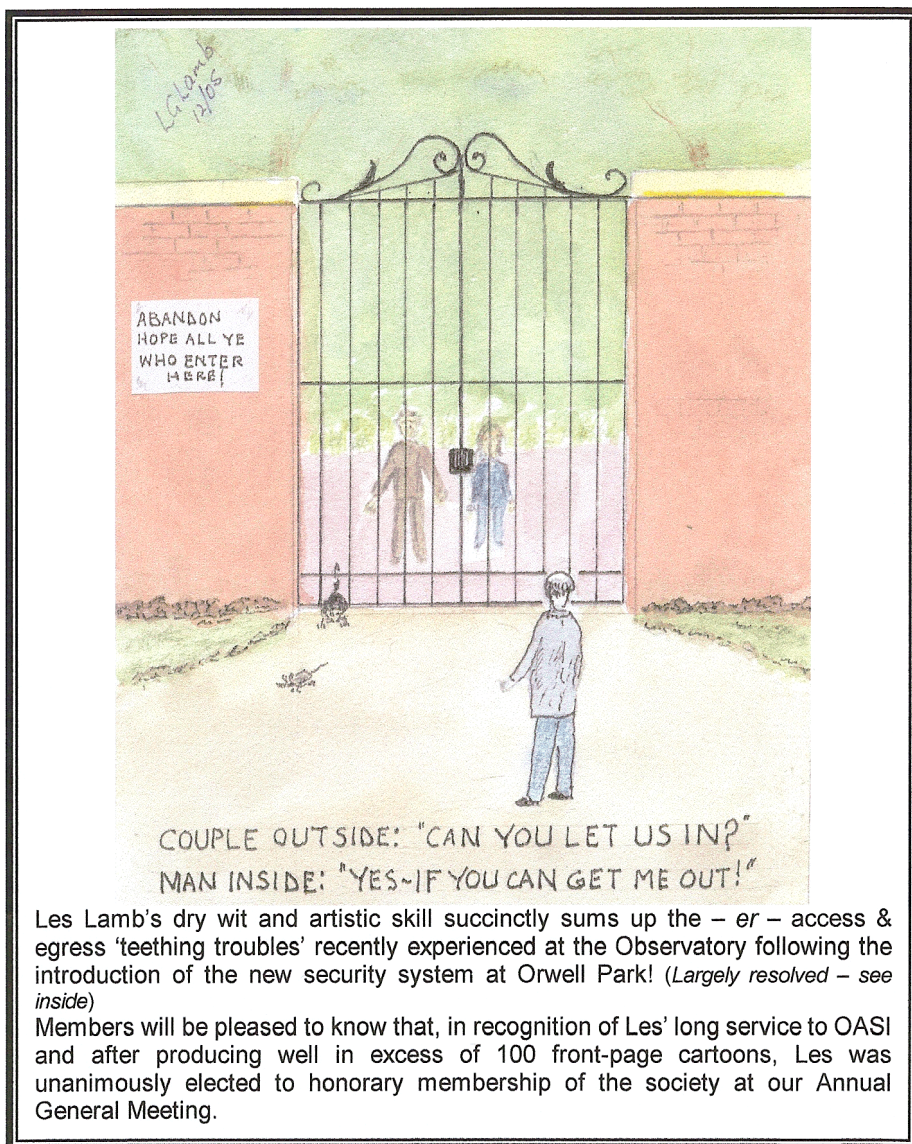


# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

Registered Charity No 271313  
www.oasi.org.uk

## NEWSLETTER 2006 FEBRUARY

No 405



## SOCIETY NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

### Roy Gooding

#### 1 Next Committee Meeting

At the time of writing no date had been set for the next meeting

#### 2 Subscription Renewal for 2006

If you not already paid for 2006, please return the renewal form enclosed to Martin Cook, together with monies

#### 3 Society Equipment Inventory

I would like to compile an inventory of society member's astronomical equipment. If you would like to participate please supply me with a list of what observational equipment you have. This inventory list with the relevant names will remain with in the society. Though the total numbers of each class of instrument maybe added to the Society Web site.

#### 4 Welcome to New Members

No new members have joined since the last newsletter.

#### 5 Events for 2006

Meeting	Venue	Date
Lecture meeting An Introduction to Radio Astronomy in the BAA	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 20:00
AstroFest	Kensington Town Hall Hornton Street London	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Astronomy Workshop Elementary Imaging Processing ( No hard sums) Presented by Nigel Stubbington	Venue: School science class room	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 20:00
Lecture Meeting Members Short talks	Methodist Church Hall Blackhorse Lane	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 20:00
Astronomy Workshop Sights and Sounds of the Aurora Paul Whiting	Venue: School science class room	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 20:00
Astronomy Workshop Origin of the Solar System Paddy O'Sullivan	Venue: School science class room	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Society Excursion	Herstmonceux	May
Summer Barbecue	No venue yet	July ?
BAA Exhibition Meeting		Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June

Open Weekend		Provisional date Saturday and Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 1 <sup>st</sup> October
FAS Convention	Institute of Astronomy Cambridge ?	October
New series of Astronomy Workshop meetings		
Christmas Meal	Levington Ship	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December

This event list will be updated through out next year

## 6 Lecture Meeting Venue

Our town lecture venue is now at the Methodist Church, in Blackhorse Lane. The church has a car park, bigger enough to take about 30 cars in Black Horse Lane Alternatively there is a Park & Display car park at the top of Black Horse Lane, next too the Town Council Offices. This is about 100 yards form the church.

Black Horse Lane has only one entrance, which is from Elm Street. This is just past the Police Station, if you are arriving from Civic Drive. The church car park is on the right, just past the Black Horse pub.

Meeting starts at 20:00, doors open at 19:30

## 7 Astronomy Workshops 2005 / 2006 Season

The new season of workshop meetings is in the planning stage. Ted Sampson has handed over the co-ordination of these meetings to Mick Whybray. Any questions you may have about the new season please contact Mick. If you would like to volunteer to be a principle speaker for any of these meetings please also contact Mike

## 8 New Session of Night Sky Section Meetings

If there is sufficient interest again I will restart meetings of the Night Sky Section this autumn. These will follow the same format as last year. The venue will again be on Nacton shores. No formal dates will be set, as meetings will take place on an ad hoc basis on Wednesdays. All you have to do is to ask me, and we can go down to Nacton shores for an observing session.



I would recommend bringing along a pair of binoculars, a torch and suitable footwear for walking down a potentially muddy lane.

For those who are new to the society, here is a little background for the reason I implemented these meetings last year.

New members have often 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.

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

## 9 Access into the School Grounds

If the Gym Gate into the School grounds is locked, you will have to phone someone in the observatory to let you in. My mobile number is [REDACTED]. (Roy Gooding)

## 10 Society Email Distribution list

If you have an email addresses and would like to be included on the society email distribution list. Please forward your name and email address to [REDACTED]

## 11 Events for Next Year 2007

2007 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the Orwell Astronomical Society. A number of events will be held throughout the year to celebrate this. At present, any plans are at a very preliminary stage.

If you have any ideas that can be considered please contact me.

All our usual yearly events could prefixed with 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary eg. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open Weekend, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Barbecue etc

The principle event may be a public exhibition come convention to be held in town.

## Night Sky (February)

All times GMT

### Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 07:30 to 06:50  
The sun will be setting approximately between 16:50 to 17:30

### Moon

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon
5 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>

**Mercury** Mercury moves back into the evening sky this month. Greatest eastern elongation is on the 24<sup>th</sup>, when it will be setting about 2 hours after sunset.

**Venus** Venus has now moved back in to the morning sky. Venus will be rising at about 04:30 at the end of the month, when it will be at magnitude -4.5

**Mars** Mars will be visible until the early hours of the morning. Its magnitude fades to 0.7 this month.

**Jupiter** Jupiter will be rising before midnight by the end of the month. Magnitude -2.2  
**Saturn** Saturn will be visible all night, setting at about 06:00 at the end of the month.  
 Magnitude -0.1  
**Uranus** Uranus will not be observable this month.  
**Neptune** Neptune it will be in conjunction on the 6<sup>th</sup>, so will not be observable this  
 Month.

### Meteor Showers

There are no prominent meteor showers visible this month

### OCCULTATIONS DURING FEBRUARY

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.

Date	Time (UT)	D /R	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (d)	Star Alt (d)	Mag	Star
01 Feb	18:57:05	D	0.14+	-21	16	7.9	Hip 117614
02 Feb	17:57:44	D	0.23+	-11	35	8.0	Hip 3208
02 Feb	20:27:43	D	0.24+	-34	17	8.2	Hip 3534
03 Feb	17:35:23	D	0.33+	-8	47	7.0	ZC 222
04 Feb	17:26:07	D	0.44+	-6	55	6.8	ZC 348
04 Feb	22:03:13	D	0.46+	-46	27	6.2	27 Ari
05 Feb	22:08:26	D	0.56+	-47	37	6.9	ZC 493
06 Feb	22:42:43	D	0.67+	-50	42	7.8	Hip 20258
06 Feb	23:34:02	D	0.67+	-53	35	5.4	59 Tau
06 Feb	23:34:14	D	0.67+	-53	35	8.5	1820-1419-1
07 Feb	00:46:14	D	0.67+	-53	24	7.9	ZC 655
07 Feb	18:36:23	D	0.75+	-16	62	7.0	ZC 773
10 Feb	00:06:16	D	0.91+	-52	54	5.8	47 Gem

James Appleton

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## ACCESS PROBLEMS AND OUR TENURE AT THE OBSERVATORY

A message from the OASI Chairman

Members will be interested to know that two members of the Committee, plus myself and one other OASI member recently met with the school Business Manager, Simon Dodsworth and Amelia Corton (School Security person), ostensibly to air access grievances. The school admits that the system is not perfect and I am grateful to those who have pointed out flaws and observing pitfalls exposed since the new system was inaugurated. Whilst there are still peripheral issues to be finalised it is now clear that the school very much want us to stay. Moreover, things have moved on apace and the Business Manager has invited David Payne (representing the OASI Trustees) and I to sit down and negotiate a brand-new Operating Licence, which will be drawn up in light of the afore mentioned security review. We shall also attempt to redress some of the flaws in the system I have alluded to. Simon has been at pains to emphasise that **ORWELL PARK SCHOOL RECOGNISES THE VALUE OF OASI – THAT THEY VERY MUCH WANT US TO CONTINUE OPERATING THE OBSERVATORY.**

I want to make clear firstly the rationale behind the new system and then the agreed access pathways for members using the Observatory or attending the monthly workshops. I should say at the outset that OASI is but one of a number of 'outside groups' adjusting to the new system. In light of the many and varied issues around the safety and security of children the school hierarchy have not brought in a security system just for the hell of it as I have previously explained at length. OASI fully recognises that the safety and security of the pupils is paramount. ALL schools are going through this process – my own kids are at a local Primary with such a system and when I had to go there in school time recently the rigour of getting in and being escorted reminded one of the scenes from the film 'Dead Man Walking'!

To clarify the school's position regarding contact between OASI members & pupils; the obvious and sensible principle is that no outside group (like ours) can get into the sleeping/dormitory areas of the school. Encounters (passing in corridors etc) during the evenings before 8.30pm are OK, insofar as school staffs supervise that period. Mr Dodsworth will ensure that the school is advised regarding pupils coming up into the Observatory tower within our access times – broadly that a member of staff should accompany them.

The school have imposed a **CORE TIME OF ACCESS**, which for us is **MONDAY TO FRIDAY BETWEEN 7.30PM AND 11PM**. After 11pm members will not be able to get in, although you should be able to get out. **IF**

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**YOU ARRIVE AT THE CAR PARK GATES BEFORE 7.30PM YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET IN.** The school recognises there will be other times we may want to go to the Observatory and they REQUIRE two days notice. To keep things simple admin-wise requests for access outside of core time MUST be made via Bill Barton and NOT direct to the school. This is because henceforth access will only be via the use of an electronic key fob system, centrally controlled by computer. The fobs are issued to INDIVIDUALS and carry a unique number, which is recorded and the system monitors/records all activations by those individual fobs. The two days notice is because the computer has to be updated to admit INDIVIDUAL fobs as desired. Those fobs cost a fiver each and thus far we have 26, which have been issued to all Committee members, Trustees, STON Directors and those members who asked for one at the AGM. The school will not release a fob for each of our members and insist on retaining a VERY tight control on 'fob proliferation'. We have agreed to compile a list of all those members who are 'regular' attendees at the Observatory and who wish to have such a fob. We will have to ask for a fiver from each potential fob recipient – but those fobs remain the property of the school – although controlled by us – and must be returned if a member leaves the society. They'll get their fiver back, by the way! If you are a regular attendee and want a fob, please contact Bill Barton or Martin Cook (see inside back page). For the benefit of members who do not want or need a fob because they rarely or only occasionally visit the Observatory, we have purchased a mobile phone for the clubroom and its number will henceforth be published on the back page of every newsletter. But please bear in mind that when you call for admittance, some poor soul will have to trek down and open the gate! Better, then, if you know someone who regularly goes and – *if practicable* - team up with them for the evening.

**The ONLY car park we may use is at the far end of the lane, third gate along – the car park at the Gymnasium.** (See map) Again, fobs are needed to activate the gate on entry, although the gates open automatically for vehicles leaving the car park and via fob for pedestrians. The school are ACTIVELY looking to expand capacity, in the short term by clearing away the assorted detritus blocking some spaces and by marking out parking places. In the longer term they hope to expand the parking area by clearing away a lot of shrubbery when a new maintenance workshop is built in a copse at the back of the area. Meantime we'll have to look to common sense – a bit of pragmatism – and a lot of patience! An effort towards **car sharing** would ease current problems. We may also want to consider moving the Workshop session to an alternative venue or evening and Mike Whybray & Ted Sampson are consulting on this issue.

**Our route AT ALL TIMES into the Observatory is via the pathway around the back of the gym and into the base of the Observatory Tower via a fob controlled doorway. The main school gate and the second gate into**

**the courtyard area where our old entrance was is now OUT OF BOUNDS for most purposes.** (Footpath route indicated on map)

Our access to **TOILET FACILITIES** is now much improved over the previous system. Male and female cubicles are available for our use in the classroom block – use your access fobs to enter the classroom double doors off our footpath route and the toilets are clearly marked directly in front of you. (See map)

We have raised a number of concerns regarding the state of the access pathway, lighting – particularly at the base of the Observatory tower - and fire issues and they are being addressed. Regarding fire escape, we will have to marry our procedures with the new school system and our Safety/Security rep (Bill Barton) will meet his school opposite number shortly. Until plans have been settled **OUR FIRE ESCAPE ROUTE IS OUT VIA THE MAIN SCHOOL CORRIDOR AND THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY TO FORM UP OUTSIDE THE ORANGERY. THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM IS PROGRAMMED SO THAT ALARM ACTIVATION RELEASES ALL LOCKS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL AND ALL THE EXTERNAL GATES UNLOCK.** In other cases of emergency, the school Warden (Chris Tripp) resides on the premises – but he is not on duty 24/7 and members are asked to use their common sense before calling him out late at night. Mr Tripp's contact numbers will be displayed in the clubroom.

Whilst the above arrangements seem radical and whilst they obviously mean a sea-change from previous practices, we have to accept that the world has moved on and – *sadly* – it's the way of things these days. For sure the system will bed down, problems will resolve over time and a while from now it'll be 'the norm' for us.

The school has invited Peter Richards to meet with Consultants recently appointed by them to review all aspects of school lighting and to advise/liase on a comprehensive revision of arrangements. This I view as a significant leap forward and am confident that much good will eventually come from this partnership approach.

I wish to thank all those members who were able to come along to the AGM, not only for their support by re electing all our Officers & Management Committee, but also for the very positive responses and suggestions made. Particularly the excellent suggestion that we should seek to develop the social side of society activity and the Committee will consider this carefully. We will also look at expanding our observing methods – particularly into Web Cam and CCD imaging – looking to source equipment appropriate to our particular needs (thanks to the generosity of one or two members we already have some CCD

equipment). The purchase of a Laptop Computer for Workshops, Lecture meetings and imaging has been authorised.

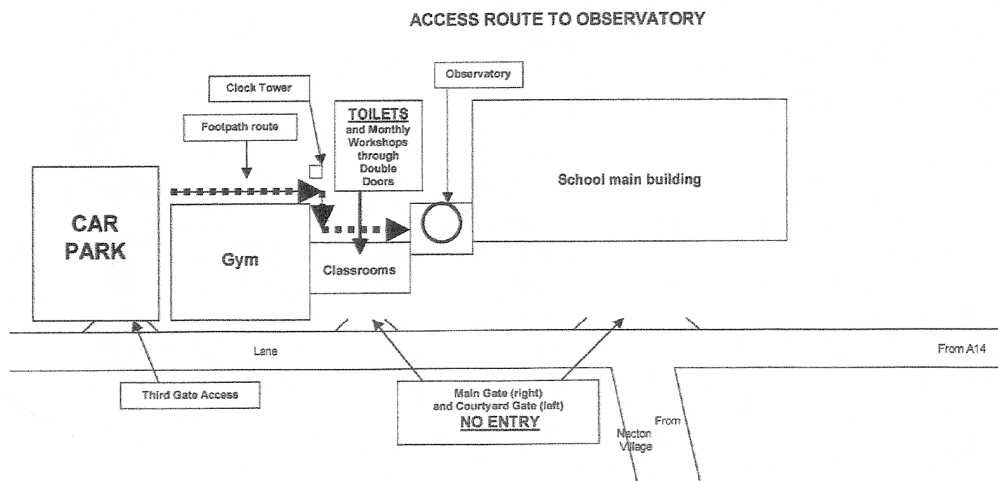
Looking further ahead, it strikes me that 2007 marks the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OASI** and that surely is something we ought to celebrate in some way? Perhaps we may have some sort of dinner or dinner/dance evening or maybe a public event? The time to begin to plan for that is NOW and your Committee would appreciate feedback from the whole membership.

- **Do you want a celebration?**
- **If you do – in what form should it be?**

If we get no feedback we can't even begin to plan!

Thank you

*Kenneth J. Goward FRAS*



NB. Quite obviously not to scale!

### THANKS FROM LES LAMB

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the committee and members for the honorary life membership granted to me.

I feel quite diffident in accepting, for it is felt there are a number of members more deserving, except that none of them are ninety two years of age. I have always enjoyed the Wednesday evenings and derived a lot of pleasure from drawing the many cartoons, some good and others not so good. I shall not be attending so frequently in future but will show up from time to time.

Once again many thanks.

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## Workshops – New Start Time 8pm

Those who attended the last workshop led by Ted Sampson will know that there was a lot of hassle getting in that night. Our access codes and key fobs don't start working till 7:30pm, so those like me who arrived before that to set up had a fine old time getting in! Because of this, I have had to shift the start time back to 8pm, to allow time for myself and others to prepare the room and set up the projector.

Workshops are held in the usual school classroom. Park in the area outside the sport hall, entering this by means of the 'third' set of gates about 100 metres along the narrow road to the left as you face the main Orwell Park School gates. Open the gates using pass code [redacted] on the keypad or using an access keyfob if you have one. Or wait for someone else, or phone my mobile. Walk along the path at the back right of the parking area, past the sports hall, and there is a door into the school, which should be signposted on workshop nights. Follow further signs to the classroom. To exit the gates, drive your car cautiously towards them and they will detect your car and open.

Car parking is a particular problem at the school at present. For the moment we'll continue to hold workshops at the school, and see how it goes. However, we did canvas opinion at the last workshop about changing the venue and/or the day if need be and there was strong support. One option is to move the workshops to a hall. For example Nacton Village Hall is nearby, has heating and refreshment facilities, would enable a social gathering after the workshop, and is close enough that people could still visit the observatory afterwards if they wished to. Downside is the £17 a night hire charge.

To run a new season of workshops next Autumn I do need more volunteers to lead them - so if you always wanted to dig a bit deeper into an area of astronomy that interests you, use this as a motivator to learn and then share that subject, and step forward. Your society needs you! As Ted showed, you can give a thought provoking and entertaining talk without using a computer and projector!

**Normal workshop start time is now 8pm, and they typically last 1 to 1.5 hours.**

Date	Title	Presenter
8th February	Elementary Image Processing (no hard sums!)	Nigel Stubbington
22nd March	Sights and Sounds of the Aurora	Paul Whiting
12th April	Origin of the Solar System	Paddy O'Sullivan

Mike Whybray [redacted] (Mobile)

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## OASI COMMITTEE CONTACTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Kenneth J Goward FRAS	Chairman	☎	Press Publicity with the Secretary. Open Weekend.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎	<b>Main point of Society Contact.</b> Press Publicity with the Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Garry Coleman	Treasurer	☎	Finance. Supervision of Grant Applications.
James Appleton	Committee	☎	Committee Meeting Minutes. Web site.
Martin Cook	Committee	☎	Membership. Tomline Refractor Maintenance.
Neil Morley	Committee	☎	Equipment Curator.
Ted Sampson	Committee	☎	Tomline Refractor tutoring.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎	Newsletter
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎	Librarian. Workshops
Paul Whiting FRAS	Committee	☎	Visits by outside groups.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎	Safety & Security
Peter Richards	Co-opted	☎	Lecture Meetings School Lighting liaison Email Distribution Lists

### \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*

To aid with access to the observatory a mobile phone has been obtained. Its primary intended function is for members who are having difficulty in getting through the school gates and doors to ring the dome and have someone come out and meet them.

The number is [REDACTED]. It is a Siemens A62 working on the Orange network. It has a small amount of outgoing call credit.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Observation for each session to ensure the following:

- 1, That the phone is present at the start of each observation session.
- 2, That the phone is switched on and the battery is charged, if not then use the charger to top it up.
- 3, That the phone is switched off and is left for the next director to easily find.

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Bill Barton FRAS

## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> from 8PM Constellation - Gemini ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED]
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> from 8PM ☎ Martin Cook 01473 711511 (mobile) [REDACTED] OR Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED]
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>Science Classroom</b> <b>FROM 8.00PM</b>	<b>OASI WORKSHOP</b> <b>'Elementary Image Processing'</b> By Nigel Stubbington ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED] <i>(Please note workshops change of start time)</i>
<b>FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>8pm</b> <b>Methodist Church</b> <b>Hall, Black Horse</b> <b>Lane, Ipswich</b>	<b>***LECTURE MEETING***</b> <b>'STAR TURNS' OASI Members/friends Short Talks</b> Speakers: Dr Nigel Evans - subject TBA Ken Goward - 'A Star at home - Patrick's pad' ☎ Peter Richards [REDACTED]

### SOCIETY PRIMARY CONTACTS

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

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

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

#### Society Trustees

Roy Adams David Brown David Payne

Hon President

Professor Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

#### Observatory Telephone Number

(Meeting nights only)

[REDACTED]

Well worth a visit: European Astrofest 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February at Kensington Town Hall – close to High Street Kensington Tube Station. OASI Hon President Professor Allan Chapman will present a lecture 'The English Copernicans' there on Friday afternoon (3<sup>rd</sup>).

More details in Astronomy Now Magazine or  
[www.astronomynow.com/astrofest](http://www.astronomynow.com/astrofest)