

Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

Registered Charity No. 271313

<http://www.oasi.org.uk>

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2006

No.407



All eyes on the Transit of Venus 8th June 2004

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 Events for 2006

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy Workshop Origin of the Solar System Paddy O'Sullivan	Venue: School science class room	Wednesday 12 th April
Society Excursion	Herstmonceux	Saturday 13 th May
Summer Barbecue	No venue yet Any volunteers?	July?
BAA Exhibition Meeting Open Weekend		Saturday 24 th June Provisional date Saturday and Sunday 30 th September, 1 st October
New series of Astronomy Workshop meetings	Not yet in the planning stage	
Christmas Meal	Levington Ship	Wednesday 13 th December

This event list will be updated through out next year

2 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

3 Access into the School Grounds an Observatory Tower

The gate code is [REDACTED]. If the Black door entrance at the base of the observatory tower is locked, you will have to phone someone in the observatory to let you in. My mobile number is [REDACTED]. (Roy Gooding)

4 Society Email Distribution list

Society information is often distributed at an earlier date than can be achieved by the monthly Newsletter. If you would like to be received society emails, please forward your name and email address to [REDACTED]

5 Welcome to New Members

Nick Hammond
Rebecca Watson

6 2006 Excursion to Herstmonceux

The proposed society excursion year will be to Herstmonceux, if there is sufficient interest. The date will be on Saturday 13th May. If you would like to attend, please contact me, I will only book a coach if there is sufficient interest. The minimum number to make this trip feasible will be 30. I will be asking for a deposit of £5. Apart from the hire of the coach there will also be an entrance fee for Herstmonceux. Entrance payment will be left to individual members upon our arrival.

At the time of writing I have had insufficient response to run this event. I will make April 15th the cut off point, after which I will postpone this excursion. A future date will be tried later in the year, when hopefully more members may be available to attend.

Herstmonceux web site: <http://www.the-observatory.org/>

7 Society's 40th Anniversary Year 2007 Some random thoughts open for discussion.

2007 will be the 40th 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

- Since the last Newsletter, a joint meeting with the BAA in January is in the preliminary planning stage.
- All events could be prefixed with "40th Anniversary"
- A society meal could be held during the year.
- A formal Astronomical Convention could be held.
- A more informal exhibition meeting could be held that is aimed more for the general public.

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

Night Sky (April)

All times GMT

Sun

The sun will be rising approximately between 05:40 to 04:40
The sun will be setting approximately between 18:30 to 19:30

Moon

1 st Quarter	Full Moon	3 rd Quarter	New Moon
5 th	13 th	21 st	27 th

Mercury Mercury will be too close to the sun in the early morning this month, and will not be observable.

Venus Venus remains a prominent object, low down, in the pre-sunrise morning sky. Magnitude -4.2

Mars Mars will be setting at about 00:30 towards the end of the month. It is presently in Taurus and moves into Gemini this month. Magnitude is 1.5

Jupiter Jupiter will be rising at about sunset this month, and in Libra. Magnitude -2.54

Saturn Saturn will be visible all night, setting at about 02:00 at the end of the month. Saturn is in Cancer at magnitude 0.2

Uranus Uranus will be rising at about 03:00 at the end of the month. It is in Aquarius at magnitude 5.7

Neptune Neptune will be rising at about 02:00 in mid month. It is in Capricornus at magnitude 7.8

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
Lyrids	April 19 th to 25 th	April 22 nd	10
η Aquarids	April 24 th to May 20 th	May 4 th	40
α Scorpids	April 20 th to May 19 th	April 27 th & May 12 th	5

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

OCCULTATIONS DURING APRIL

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 Apr	20:18:55	D	0.15+	-17	23	6.7	9 Tau
03 Apr	20:22:27	D	0.33+	-17	43	8.1	Hip 26162
03 Apr	20:27:42	D	0.33+	-17	42	8.4	1856-0469-1
03 Apr	21:21:41	D	0.34+	-24	34	8.2	Hip 26351
03 Apr	23:07:38	D	0.34+	-31	19	8.2	1869-1325-1
03 Apr	23:39:27	D	0.34+	-32	14	8.3	Hip 26852
04 Apr	20:30:37	D	0.43+	-17	50	8.0	1887-0862-1
04 Apr	20:38:35	D	0.43+	-18	49	8.5	1887-0992-1
04 Apr	20:43:52	D	0.43+	-19	48	7.6	1887-1176-1
04 Apr	20:50:00	D	0.43+	-20	47	7.5	Hip 31287
04 Apr	21:36:47	D	0.44+	-25	40	5.3	49 Aur
	22:33:43	R		-29	31	5.3	
04 Apr	23:18:31	D	0.44+	-31	25	7.3	1888-1358-1
05 Apr	00:43:34	D	0.45+	-31	13	8.5	1888-0902-1
05 Apr	22:55:06	D	0.54+	-30	35	8.3	Hip 36725
06 Apr	19:32:04	D	0.63+	-9	62	7.9	Hip 40833
06 Apr	19:41:33	D	0.63+	-10	62	5.9	19 Cnc
06 Apr	21:41:58	D	0.63+	-25	51	8.0	Hip 41133
06 Apr	22:48:24	D	0.64+	-29	41	8.4	1941-2239-1
06 Apr	23:56:12	D	0.64+	-31	31	8.1	ZC 1267
08 Apr	21:02:08	D	0.80+	-20	53	7.4	26 Leo
09 Apr	20:41:17	D	0.87+	-17	47	7.1	ZC 1562
30 Apr	20:06:05	D	0.11+	-7	25	7.0	ZC 773

James Appleton

Revised Workshop Date

Paul Whiting who is presenting the next workshop, on Sights & Sounds of the Aurora is unfortunately unable to run it on the 22nd March, so we have had to move it back a day to Thursday 23rd March. I know this will mean some people may not be able to make it, and of course we cannot go to the Observatory afterwards, but of the various options this is the one we have to run with. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Start time is 8pm. Code for the gate to the car park (3rd set of gates) is [REDACTED] which I believe still works. The follow the signs.

Thursday 23rd March	Sights and Sounds of the Aurora	Paul Whiting
Wednesday 12th April	Origin of the Solar System	Paddy O'Sullivan

Mike Whybray. [REDACTED] (work hours) or [REDACTED] (evenings) or [REDACTED] (Mobile)

Don't Be Fobbed Off!

In the last few months, since fobs have become more readily available, access to the observatory has become easier so don't be put off turning up at the observatory.

The school has informed us that a new higher- powered fob will be available to us at £10 each. These fobs will be slightly larger than a mobile phone and have a range of only 2km. Some of the members living in Nacton have expressed an interest as they could leave the fobs at home and arrive at the observatory where the gates will already be open.

Anyone interested in purchasing the new fobs should contact our Security Officer or any other committee member.

OASI COMMITTEE CONTACTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Kenneth J Goward FRAS	Chairman	☎		Press & Publicity with the Secretary. Open Weekend.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎		MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT. 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. Social Activities.
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

Diary for April

Monday	Small Telescope Observing Evenings 3 rd & 24 th from 21:00 ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan		
Wednesday 12th	OASI Workshop Origin of the Solar System By Paddy O'Sullivan ☎ Mike Whybray		
Wednesday	Observatory Club Nights (Nebulae & Faint Objects Section) 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th		
	☎	Home	Mobile
	Martin Cook Roy Gooding		
Thursday	Outside Group Observatory Visits 6 th Nacton WI ☎ Paul Whiting		

Society Primary Contacts

	☎	Day	Evening	Mobile
Chairman	Kenneth Goward FRAS			
Secretary	Roy Gooding			
Email Queries Ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk				
Contact details for the full Committee may be found on the inside back cover				

Society Trustees

Roy Adams David Brown David Payne
Hon. President
 Professor Alan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

☎ Observatory Meeting evenings only

HERSTMONCEUX TRIP

SATURDAY 13TH MAY

BOOK NOW TO ENSURE THE VIABILITY OF THIS YEAR'S COACH OUTING - IF WE GET A POOR BOOKING RESPONSE WE CANNOT ARRANGE THE TRIP.

PLEASE CONTACT ROY GOODING asp

A deposit £5 per head is required.