



The Newsletter



of the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

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2007 October

No 423

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPACEFLIGHT



Whilst it is arguable that the German V2 Rockets were the first man made vehicles to reach space (albeit briefly on their insidious flights) launched 1957, October 4th, the Soviet Union's 'Sputnik 1' (above left) was certainly the first true step in man's exploration of the universe. Sputnik weighed 183 lbs and travelled in an elliptical 98 minute orbit, transmitting it's 'bleep bleep' signal to an amazed and, in places, terrified world.

The man behind the Soviet Space Programme (above right) at that time was Sergei Pavlovitch Korolev, (1906-1966), a pioneer of rocketry since the 1920s and who until recent times had been largely unknown or celebrated in the Western world.

Illustrations courtesy of NASA

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 Committee Meeting Saturday 20th October

This meeting will be held in Nacton Village Hall

Start time will be at 20:00. This is an open meeting and any member may attend if they wish

2 Events for 2007

This event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
FAS Convention	Birmingham & Midland Institute	Saturday 13 th October 09:00 opening
Lecture meeting Exo Planets and their Aurora By Sam George	Methodist Church Hall	Friday 26 th October 20:00
2007 / 2008 Workshops	To be planned	To be planned
Lecture Meeting Dr. David Whitehouse	Orwell Park School	Friday 16 th November 20:00
Christmas Meal See menu choice	The Lodge Bourne Hill	Wednesday 12 th from 20:00

3 Welcome to New Members

There have been no new members since the last Newsletter issue.

4 Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

Please use the third gate into the school grounds, this is the gate behind the Gym. 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) alternatively the Observatory mobile is [REDACTED] during meeting hours.

5 Lecture Meeting Venue

Our town lecture venue is now at the Methodist Church, in Blackhorse Lane. The church has a car park can accommodate 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

6 Observing Projects for 2007

Occultation's

Graze

Date	Star	Track Time
Tuesday 2 nd October	ZC797	01:34:12
Thursday 1 st November	ZC1221	01:53:24
Sunday 30 th December	μ Leo	03:04:37

Pleiades

Date	Time
27 th October	23:30
21 st December	21:00

Meteor Watches

Shower	Maximum Date	Moon Age	Observing Date
Geminids	December 14 th	5 days	Saturday 15 th



12 inch Dobsonian

Night Sky (October)

The Moon

Last Quarter	New	First Quarter	Full
3 rd	11 th	19 th	26 th

Object	Date	Times		Mag.	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	06:05	17:43		
	31	06:57	16:39		
Mercury	1	08:46	18:06	0.1	Mercury will be at inferior conjunction on the 23 rd
	31	05:35	16:18		
Venus	1	02:14	16:06	-4.4	Venus will be at greatest western elongation on the 28 th
	31	02:31	15:19		
Mars	1	21:10	13:50	-0.3	Mars is in Gemini
	31	19:50	12:39		
Jupiter	1	12:19	20:15	-2.0	Jupiter is in Ophiuchus
	31	10:47	18:35		
Saturn	1	02:46	16:52	0.8	Saturn remains in Leo
	31	01:05	15:00		
Uranus	1	17:03	04:07	5.7	Uranus is in Aquarius
	31	15:03	02:04		
Neptune	1	16:10	01:37	7.8	Neptune is in Capricornus
	31	14:12	23:34		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
Orionids	October 16 th to 27 th	October 20 th	25

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

Christmas Meal Wednesday 12th December

Venue: The Lodge Bourne Hill Wherstead 20:00 start

Starters

- Leak & potato soup and rustic bread
- Duck & port pate dressed leaves and chutney
- Sweet chilli prawn cocktail
- Flat cap mushroom, stilton & cherry tomato

Main

- Traditional roast turkey & trimmings
- Pork steak in a redcurrant & orange jus, roasted new potatoes & vegetables
- Pan fried bass with basil parmesan & tomato butter
- Beef, port & winter vegetable pie mustard mash & seasonal vegetables
- Roasted pepper, fennel & tomato stew served with new potatoes and dipping bread

Puddings

- Plum pudding, cinnamon ice cream with rum and toffee sauce
- Mixed cheese, chutney & biscuits
- Selection of sweets

Mince pies

Coffee and mints

Cost £19.95

Deposit £5.00

If you would like to attend please contact me (Roy Gooding) as soon as possible
The restaurant requires the deposit of £5 person as soon as I can get it to them to
have the booking confirmed.

A GOOD FRIEND MOVES ON



Cheers Andrew!

Photograph courtesy of Roy Gooding

At an impromptu ceremony in the Equatorial Room in July, OASI members had the chance to say a fond farewell to Orwell Park School's retiring Headmaster, Andrew Auster and his wife. Mr and Mrs Auster have departed from Orwell Park after 15 years to take on a challenging five year contract to open an English speaking School in Kazakhstan.

OASI Chairman, Ken Goward, presented Andrew with an engraved Pewter Tankard to remind him of his time at Orwell Park and to thank him for his many years of friendship and helpfulness towards our society. The engraving on the tankard reads

'Andrew Auster, a good friend of the Orwell Astronomical Society'

Andrew expressed his gratitude for the memento and spoke of his wish that OASI would continue in residence at the Observatory and that the society would go from strength to strength. He had greatly enjoyed his many visits to the observatory and was grateful for OASI member's help over the years. To christen his tankard, Andrew kindly supplied a small quantity of ale and a toast was made for success in his bold new venture.

We welcome Orwell Park's new Headmaster, Mr Paul Forte, and look forward to the opportunity for him to visit us and to get to know OASI as well as his predecessor...

OASI Observations Of The Perseid Meteors, 2007

On Saturday 11 August 2007, OASI held a very successful meteor watch for the Perseid meteor shower. The peak of the meteor shower was predicted for 02:00 UT (03:00 BST) on Monday 13 August, with a zenithal hourly rate (ZHR) of 80¹. However, observations on a Saturday evening rather than a Monday morning proved more attractive to members of OASI with responsibilities in terms of family and employment, even if the expected flux of meteors was considerably lower than its predicted peak value!

The observers used the location on High Road East, Felixstowe (behind the beach huts) which has been employed in recent meteor watches. The first observers arrived at around 19:00 UT, and observers continued to arrive until 20:30 UT. Observers made themselves comfortable in preparation for the watch as best they could in a variety of reclining chairs. The sunny weather during the day resulted in an onshore breeze which provided a significant wind-chill. As a result, despite the fact that it was peak summer, members of OASI were to be found huddling under blankets, swaddled in heavy-duty anoraks, and generally employing serious measures to keep warm! The observers finished the meteor watch at 23:05 UT.

Both Nicky Gillard and James Appleton recorded event times and notes on observations of meteors during the watch. The following list of meteor observations is a compilation/reconciliation of Nicky's and James' records, based primarily on Nicky's. Times are in UT. S=sporadic and P=Perseid. The observer first spotting each meteor is recorded, where known.

20:24:??	P, east-ish to west-ish. First meteor seen.
20:53:??	P, estimated mag 3
21:00:??	S, heading towards Perseus, spotted by Pete Richards
21:03:??	P
21:05:??	P
21:06:??	S
21:07:??	P, overhead, east to west
21:08:??	P, overhead
21:15:05	P, overhead, east to west
21:22:20	P, bright with train lasting approx. 1 sec
21:23:25	P, spotted by Martin Cook

¹ Data from the BAA Handbook for 2007. The ZHR is the expected flux of meteors recorded by an experienced observer under ideal conditions with the radiant at the zenith.

21:23:55 P
 21:25:17 P, bright with persistent train (1 to 2 seconds) & coma
 21:25:55 P, spotted by Martin Cook
 21:30:40 P
 21:31:02 P
 21:32:20 Unsure whether P or S
 21:33:05 S, south to north
 21:39:40 P, spotted by Martin Cook & Pete Richards
 21:40:25 S
 21:41:41 P, quite slow, just south of Vega
 21:43:?? P
 21:46:55 P, just below Lyra. Train persisted for a second or so.
 21:48:25 S, spotted by Martin Cook
 22:51:?? S, spotted by Roy Gooding
 22:57:10 P, fast
 22:01:05 P, bright, spotted to the north by James Appleton
 22:02:55 S
 22:04:40 S, spotted by Paul Whiting
 22:04:20 P
 22:07:40 P, bright
 22:08:?? P, faint and very fast
 22:09:10 P
 22:12:09 S
 22:13:20 P, bright
 22:15:?? S
 22:15:20 P
 22:18:15 S
 22:20:?? P
 22:21:25 P, with train
 22:22:30 S
 22:22:35 P
 22:24:00 P, passed from Delphinus into Aquila
 22:30:36 P
 22:31:05 S, bright
 22:36:30 P? Slow.
 22:38:10 S, moved towards Perseus, left train
 22:41:30 P
 22:44:00 P? Passed by Deneb.
 22:47:50 P
 22:50:50 S
 22:58:25 P. Last meteor seen.

Meteor rates between the first and last meteors observed were 6 sporadic per hour plus 15 Perseids per hour.

At 21:44 the observers witnessed a passage of the International Space Station plus docked space shuttle (STS118) begin above the western horizon, pass overhead and proceed towards the eastern horizon. The object became noticeably brighter than Jupiter (mag -2.3) as it rose to high altitude and then faded as it headed for the eastern horizon. It became too dark to see, flickered visibly briefly and then became finally invisible at an altitude of approximately 30°.

Late in the evening sky conditions and the relative absence of light pollution made for enjoyable naked-eye stargazing. Both M31 and the Double Cluster in Perseus were easily visible to the naked eye using averted vision. The location offering an unobstructed SE horizon, the summer constellations of Sagittarius, Capricornus and Aquarius, often difficult to locate from built-up urban locations, were well seen. The Milky Way was prominent, and the rift in Cygnus was quite obvious.

OASI members present were as follows (in alphabetic order): James Appleton, Martin Cook, Nicky Gillard, Roy Gooding, Pete Richards, Eric Sims, John Spicer plus guest, Paul Whiting, and Michael Whitman-Rivers plus guest.

Members of OASI reported other observations of the Perseids as follows:

1. Roy Gooding, Friday 10 August, watched from 21:45 to 22:30 UT. Saw two meteors as follows:

22:04 P, very bright (approx mag -2), left a trail

22:14 P

2. Paul Whiting, Monday 13 August, observed from 00:30 to 00:32 UT (cloud rolled in curtailing observations). Observed one "miserable squib" of a sporadic meteor.

3. Mike and Andrea Whybray observed from their back garden in Nacton from 22:00 to 22:30 UT on 12 August. Their observing report is as follows:

We observed lying in deckchairs facing North-West (our most open prospect). There were some clouds before 22:00 UT but by then it had cleared completely. Between us in that half hour we observed 12 meteors ranging from a few short faint ones up to a couple of good bright long ones covering about 70 degrees of sky. The more memorable ones went from right to left across our field of view, but some of the smaller ones appeared to be in random directions. By 22:30 UT cloud started encroaching and we decided to retire. It was good to see a few bright ones but overall it seemed a long time waiting between meteors!

James Appleton
03 September 2007

Astronomy Workshops

Workshops run on (usually) the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:30pm.

Venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL (next to the small village school).

Every Autumn and Winter we run a series of monthly 'workshops' covering a wide range of topics - hopefully of interest to amateur astronomers! I have a few topics lined up for the start of 2008 which will be more along the traditional 'presentation' style, but to kick things off I have three rather varied ones – see below. I hope you will dip your toe in if you are a newcomer to the society, or don't usually get along to these workshop nights. The current venue is very comfortable and makes for a good informal social gathering as much as a workshop.

The village hall is just below and left of the N in Nacton on the map.

Date	Event	Run by...
3 rd October 07	NASA Films Night – Recapture the Magic! Having recently acquired a set of 16mm NASA films covering Apollo missions 8 to 14 and other missions and activities, I'll be introducing the collection then screening two 30 minute films – probably the Apollo 11 mission, plus one chosen by popular demand on the night. Interval refreshments!	Mike Whybray
7 th November 07	OASI Millennium Telescope Observing Night We'll set up the 19 inch Millennium Telescope outside the back of Nacton Village Hall, for general observing. Other telescopes welcome. Bring binoculars and sky maps. If it's cloudy we'll have some alternative activity – maybe another film.	Neil Morley and the Millennium Telescope Construction Team

5th December 07

Quiz Night

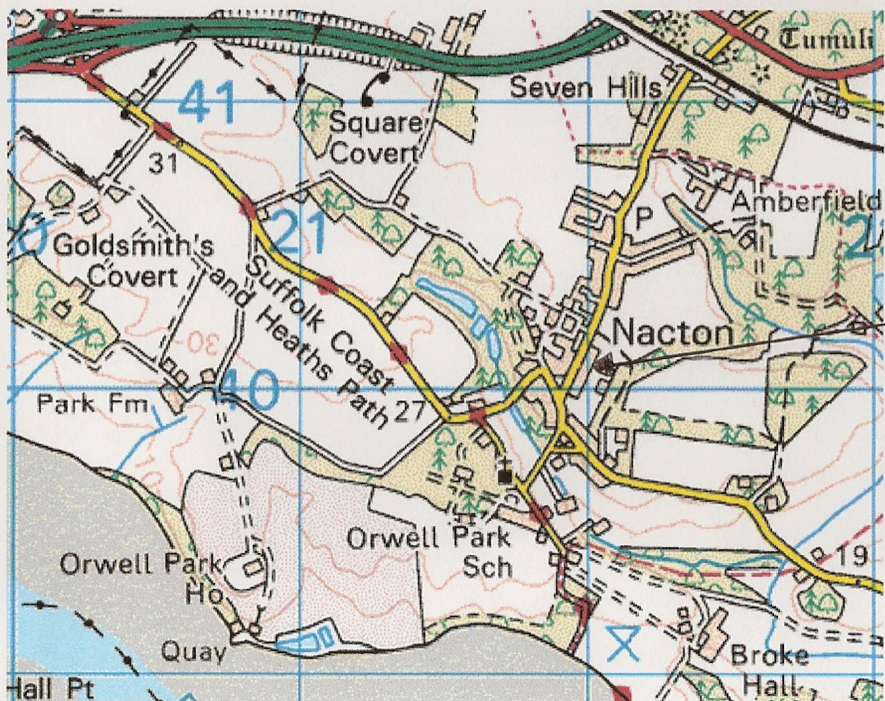
Back by popular demand - a pub quiz style evening – with teams formed on the night, so everyone welcome. Just turn up with something to drink and some nibbles. About 6 quiz rounds including general knowledge, pictures, and of course a bit of astronomy. A prize for the winner! Also a raffle (please bring anything you can donate to the raffle as a prize).

Paul Whiting is your Quizmaster

Mike Whybray

(Mobile)

(Home)



OCCULTATIONS DURING OCTOBER

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	UT	D R	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (d)	Star Alt (d)	Mag	Star
07 Oct	05:24:16	D	0.14-	-7	31	1.4	Regulus
	05:51:39	R		-3	35		
21 Oct	18:35:34	D	0.75+	-17	22	7.5	Hip 108647
21 Oct	21:22:10	D	0.75+	-40	23	7.5	ZC 3231
22 Oct	18:40:14	D	0.84+	-18	25	3.7	Lambda Aqr
	19:48:31	R		-28	29		
22 Oct	19:58:13	D	0.84+	-30	30	6.2	78 Aqr
27 Oct	22:56:13	D	0.95-	-50	51	3.7	Electra
	23:05:28	R		-50	53		
27 Oct	23:05:18	D	0.95-	-50	53	3.9	Maia
28 Oct	00:06:25	R		-51	59		

There is one grazing occultation visible from East Anglia during October. The following table provides details of the event.

Date	UT	Lunar Phase	Sun Alt (deg)	Star Alt (deg)	Star Az (deg)	L	Mag	Star
02 Oct	01:44	0.65-	-35	50	110	N	6.3	ZC 797

The graze track is as follows: White Colne, Nayland, Hintlesham, Claydon, Otley Botton, Rendham, Kelsale, Westleton and out to sea at Walberswick.

James Appleton

The Enigma of John Isaac Plummer's Longitude Determinations

Paul Whiting FRAS

Following on from several papers and articles published about John Isaac Plummer's work at Orwell Park, one enigma arising from Plummer's published work is the accuracy of his estimation of the position of the Orwell Park Observatory. Specifically, he needed to calculate the observatory's longitude to enable him to calculate the local sidereal time, and hence accurately to measure the position of stars and comets. To enable him to do this he had at his disposal a "small transit instrument" – the one that can be seen in room off the Equatorial Room at the observatory.

The first estimate he published in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* in 1875 was $0^{\circ} 4' 55.8''$ East. Four years later he refined his estimate using the "Moon and culminators method", publishing the revised value in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* as $0^{\circ} 4' 57.75''$ East. He comments that this value was 2 seconds different from the Ordnance Survey value at that time. This is an interesting result; the 2006 value derived from a global positioning system (G.P.S.) gives the longitude of the observatory as $1^{\circ} 13' 50.0''$ East - more than 68 minutes difference! According to the Ordnance Survey map for Ipswich and Colchester (sheet 68) for 1838, Orwell Park Observatory is at longitude $1^{\circ} 13' 58.8''$, only about 8" different from the G.P.S. value.

What is the origin of the remarkable discrepancy? Was Plummer inept in his observational techniques, or in his calculations? The latter is unlikely, because during his time at Hong Kong Observatory he was congratulated for his mathematical skills in reducing stellar positions. Was there an editorial or printing problem at the Royal Astronomical Society? Again, this is unlikely, as he published similar values on two occasions four years apart. The spotlight of suspicion must now fall upon the accuracy, or otherwise, of the Orwell Park Observatory transit instrument, although this does not explain the comment about the 2 second discrepancy with the Ordnance Survey map. However, he did comment on the inaccuracies of the transit instrument in several of his annual reports. It is also possible that the sidereal clock contributed to these anomalies. This mystery is still unresolved. Until now that is

Further research has revealed that Plummer was not mistaken, the problem lies in the representation of the data. Up to the mid-twentieth century astronomers and mariners quoted longitude in terms of time difference rather than angular distance. The problem arises from both systems using a common terminology – namely minutes and seconds, one of time and the other of arc. This has caused a number of misinterpretations, by me included, of the data.

Applying the translation confirms that Plummer did in fact calculate the longitude of the Observatory to within 2 seconds (of time) (or 27.45 seconds of arc) of the then extant OS value. He was 36.25 seconds of arc out from the current G.P.S. value.

Faith in Plummer's mathematical prowess (and the transit instrument !) has been restored.

Autumn Equinox Star Camp

(Via Dad's Army) Roy Gooding

The Autumn Equinox Star Camp has been organised by the Loughton Astronomical Society since 1994. Up to 2004 the venue was at Thetford. These star camps are now held on Kelling Heath, near Weybourne in north Norfolk. Having known about these events for many years, I decide it was about time to go and have a look. The event this year was from Monday 10 September 2007 until Thursday 20 September 2007, I went along on the Saturday.

Before going on to Kelling Heath I stopped at my usual watering hole in Sheringham, namely "The Lobster" pub, for lunch. While walking down the main street my attention was drawn to the great number of people dressed in 1940's civilian and military uniforms. It was just like visiting Walmington-on-Sea. It turned out that on this Saturday Sheringham was holding a 1940's theme day.

Walking to Kelling Heath from Weybourne involved passing the North Norfolk Railway Weybourne station. On approaching the station, the air was filled with sound of gunfire. A group of Dad's Army enthusiasts were staging a re-enactment of capturing an enemy agent. There was an audience of several hundred people, on the station platforms and the footbridge, watching the performance. The venue had the added authenticity of steam trains passing by, on the way between Sheringham and Holt. As is normal at such events many vintage military vehicle restorers, were zooming around in their American jeeps

I reached Kelling Heath Holiday Park at about 14:00. Not knowing the layout of the park I made enquires at the reception office. Here I was given a vague sketch map of the site with 2 large pen drawn circles with instructions that the people with the telescopes may be here or here. I went out to find them, taking one of the many nature trails across the heath. After about twenty minutes I stumbled across a group of caravans with various telescopes scattered outside on the grass. It turned out to be the smaller of three areas forming the Autumn Equinox Star Camp. I proceeded to walk past all the rows of campers and their telescopes. The range of telescopes was quite amazing, from the smallest Skywatcher to 14" Meades with all the CCD equipment money could buy and many solar telescopes. The most prominent telescopes were the large Dobsonians I estimated that the sizes of many were over 20". The current trend seems to have large Dobsonians equipped with automatic tracking devices.

I was not expecting to meet any familiar faces, however a passing car suddenly stopped, the occupant jumped out and came rushing over to me with the exclamation of "Hello Roy" At first I did not recognise who this person was, but he did look familiar. It turned out to be Colin Green. Together with his wife, they were our special guests at the BAA Back to Basics meeting.

After our meeting I made my way to the trade stand area. Over the years I have attended many dozens of astronomical events, but his one was the first where the trade stands looked like the local car boot sale. Everyone was outside, trading from tables. I purchased a filter that, it is claimed, should reduce some of the chromatic aberration inherent in refractors. At the time of writing I have not yet tried it out. Should be interesting to use it on the Tomline refractor.

I walked back to Weybourne by an alternative route, one that took me along side the North Norfolk Railway. As I walked along the path two of their steam trains thundered pass and as the track is less than 20 feet away in places you get a very good view. Keeping to the theme of TV programmes, "The Railway Children" kept coming to mind. The weather on Saturday was a perfect later summer sunny day. Finally you may be wondering how does the independent traveller get to Kelling Heath easy: shank's pony, two trains, one bus followed by shank's pony again. Total cost £13.70. I left home at about 08:00, returning at 20:30



Trade stand



Telescopes



Mobile Observatory

See page 3

Summary of Committee Meeting Held 21 July 2007

Present: Ken Goward, Paul Whiting, John Barbrook, Martin Cook, Eric Sims, Bill Barton, Roy Gooding, Neil Morley, Mike Whybray, James Appleton

Apologies: Mike Harlow, Pete Richards

1. Chairman's Report – Ken Goward

The Committee abandoned efforts to produce a commemorative 40th anniversary edition of the OASI Newsletter.

Negotiations between OASI and Orwell Park School to agree a new License for our use of the Observatory are ongoing. The Committee discussed a response to the latest proposals from the School. There is now general agreement over most of the terms of the proposed Licence, and further discussions with the School are likely to centre on the annual rental fee.

Ken had made a presentation on behalf of OASI to Andrew Auster on his retirement from Orwell Park School.

2. Secretary's Report – Roy Gooding

Since the last committee meeting, Roy has received nine enquiries from people interested in joining OASI.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mike Harlow

Mike was not present at the meeting but had sent a report in advance.

In recent months, OASI has purchased some astronomical equipment and has spent funds on the Presidential Lecture and the presentation to Andrew Auster. However, finances are reasonably healthy.

The Committee noted with sadness that Mike was going to resign from OASI at the end of 2007. The Committee welcomes nominations for the post from any member of OASI.

4. Membership – Martin Cook

OASI has 94 members including 10 honoraries.

5. Workshops & Library – Mike Whybray

Mike had arranged for the Anglia TV *Bygones* programme on Orwell Park Observatory (dating from the late 1960s) to be transferred to DVD. He will put the DVD in the library and is willing to make a copy for any member of OASI who wants one.

Mike has updated the library stock list and will move the infrequently used items into storage boxes above the bookcases.

Mike is working on a schedule for the next series of Astronomy Workshops.

6. Web Site – James Appleton

Nothing significant to report. As always, James would welcome material for the web site from any member of OASI.

7. Newsletter – Eric Sims

Nothing significant to report. As always, Eric would welcome material for the Newsletter from any member of OASI.

8. Equipment & Maintenance – Neil Morley

Paul Whiting has purchased a 1.25 inch Hydrogen- β filter and a 2 inch 2x Barlow lens for OASI.

The Committee discussed whether to make some of OASI's "small" telescopes available for loan to members. Neil will make specific proposals and consult the membership on the question.

The RA drive on the Tomline Refractor runs erratically when first switched on. Neil Morley, Dave Payne, Martin Cook & Gerry Pilling are investigating.

9. Security & Safety – Bill Barton

Nothing significant to report.

10. Lectures – Pete Richards

Pete was not present at the meeting.

Pete has arranged with Orwell Park School for David Whitehouse to deliver a lecture to members of OASI and schoolchildren on 16 November 2007.

Paul Whiting is organising a lecture by Sam George (FAS Secretary) on 26 October 2007, entitled *Aurora On Exoplanets*.

11. Visits – Paul Whiting

There are two confirmed visits to Orwell Park Observatory booked at present and several more in the offing.

12. Observing Projects

- 02 Oct: grazing occultation of ZC979, 01:44 UT
- 27 Oct: Pleiades occultation, 22:30 UT
- 01 Nov: grazing occultation of 9 Cnc, 02:06 UT
- 18 Nov: Leonids maximum, 05:00 UT
- 21 Dec: Pleiades occultation, 21:00 UT
- 30 Dec: grazing occultation of Ups Leo, 03:17 UT

13. Events

Xmas Meal: Wednesday 12 December 2007, venue TBD.

40th Anniversary party, 22 September 2007, Nacton Village Hall.

14. AOB

The Committee passed a vote of thanks to John Barbrook for his research into the history of IDAS (Ipswich and District Astronomy Society) which occasionally used Orwell Park Observatory from the late 1940s to the late 1950s.

15. DONM

8.00pm on Saturday 20 October 2007. All members of OASI are welcome to attend.

More Information

Contact any member of the Committee if you would like any more information on the above committee meeting or any other aspect of the running of OASI.

James Appleton
23 August 2007

OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Kenneth J. Goward FRAS	Chairman	☎	Press & Publicity with Secretary.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎	MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT Press Publicity with Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Mike Harlow	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.
Peter Richards	Committee	☎	Lecture Meetings. School Lighting liaison. Email Distribution Lists.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎	Newsletter.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎	Librarian & Workshops.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Committee	☎	Visits by outside groups.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎	Safety & Security.

Further Reminder: We would still like your ideas (no replies as yet!) on how OASI might contribute to The International Year of Astronomy, 2009 – 400th Anniversary of the Telescope.

- What kind of local event or commemoration would you wish to see?
- Your opinion counts!!

Diary for October

Monday 1st & 15th FROM 8.15PM	<u>SMALL TELESCOPE OBSERVING SESSIONS</u> (STONS) Observing Target: Jupiter and currently nearby objects. ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED]
Wednesdays FROM 8PM	<u>MAIN OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</u> Primary Observational targets: Nebulae and faint objects. ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED]
Wednesday 3rd FROM 7.30PM NACTON VILLAGE HALL	<u>MONTHLY WORKSHOP</u> Subject: NASA Films Night – Recapture the Magic! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A first look at 16mm films of the Apollo Missions recently donated to OASI.• Interval refreshments!• See Mike Whybray's article inside for further details. ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
SATURDAY 20th FROM 8PM VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED	<u>OASI COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Any OASI member is entitled to attend. ☎ Ken Goward [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

Society Trustees

Mr Roy Adams Mr David Brown Mr David Payne

Society Honorary President

Professor Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

Observatory Telephone Number

Meeting nights only
[REDACTED]

NB

If you fancy a trip, why not visit the Annual Convention of the Federation of Astronomical Societies, which is being held at the Birmingham & Midland Institute in Birmingham City Centre (10 mins walk from New St Station) on Saturday 13th October 9.30am to 5pm. Tickets available at the door, priced £12. Many trade stands and top name lecturers, including Professor Colin Pillinger of Beagle II fame - An excellent Astronomical day out! See www.fedastro.org.uk

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR FOR THE ATTENTION
OF ALL OASI MEMBERS**

2007, Wednesday 19th October

Dear Fellow Members,

As many of you will be aware, for some time now your Committee, with valued help from our Trustees, has been in negotiations with the Orwell Park School Governors via the School Business Manger regarding our occupation of the Orwell Park Observatory and our licence to operate there.

Those discussions have come to a head in the last week and the implications of what the school authorities are proposing regarding our occupation of the Observatory under a new Tenancy Agreement are such that I feel the whole society should have the opportunity to learn of our progress and to decide a way forward.

I feel bound, therefore, within the terms of Section 10 of the Society Constitution to call for an **Extraordinary General Meeting** of the Society **for 8pm on Saturday 20th October**. Subject to confirmation, I would hope we shall be able to meet at the **Methodist Church Hall**.

Please make an effort to attend if you can, the future progress of OASI is dear to all of us and we need to discuss this as widely as possible.

Thank you

Kenneth J. Goward FRAS
Chairman
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)