



The Newsletter

of the
Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

Registered charity No 271313
www.oasi.org.uk

2009 MAY

No 441



Ken beside his Folly about Christmas 1999

Society News (Roy Gooding)

1 Committee Meeting Sunday 20th September 2009 at 7:30pm

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting, on Sunday 20th September at 19:30 at Nacton Village Hall **Please note date, time and venue**

2 Observatory Keys

A new set of observatory key costs the society £18. If you have a set of keys that you no longer need please return them to Roy Gooding

3 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. The gate code is on the back of your membership card

4 Welcome to New Members

Stuart Dedman (rejoined)
Philip Cowles

Helen Clayton
Paula Richards

Sue Newell
Michael McNeill

Thomas Garside

Paul Garfield

Sue Collison

5 Lecture Meeting Venue

Our town lecture venue is now at the Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane. The Church has a car park, which can take about 30 cars.

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.

Meetings start at 20:00 doors open at 19:30

6 Events for International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA 2009)

Spring Meetings	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park Solar observing	The Reg Driver Visitors Centre Christchurch Park (Bolton Lane entrance)	Saturday 30 th & Sunday 31 st May 11:00 to 16:00
Autumn Meetings	Venue	Date
Autumn Open Weekend		Saturday & Sunday 24 th & 25th October 19:30 to 22:00
Talk and Telescope Evening	Nacton Village hall	Monday 26 th October 19:30
Talk and Telescope Evening	Nacton Village hall	Tuesday 27 th October 19:30
Sidewalk Astronomy (Night Observing)	The Ship Levington	Thursday 29 th October 19:30
Astronomy in the Park Solar observing	The Reg Driver Visitors Centre Christchurch Park (Bolton Lane entrance)	Saturday 31st October & Sunday 1 st November 11:00 to 15:00

The success of our contribution to IYA 2009 is dependent on the enthusiasm of our members. Please come along to as many events as you can.

Telescopes are needed for events at, The Ship, and Astronomy in the Park (preferably solar ones if available)

For more information please contact Paul Whiting or Roy Gooding

7 Other Society Events

Meeting	Venue	Date
Summer Barbecue	Newbourne Village Hall	Saturday Date to be confirmed
Perseid meteor	The "Dip" Felixstowe"	Saturday 15 th August 20:30
Geminid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	To be confirmed
Christmas Meal	Not yet confirmed	Wednesday 16 th December

Night Sky (May)

All times GMT

Moon

1st Quarter	Full Moon	3rd Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter
1 st	9 th	17 th	24 th	31 st

Object	Date	Times		Mag.	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	04:35	19:30		
	31	03:51	20:14		
Mercury	1	05:02	21:31		Mercury is at inferior conjunction on the 18 th
	31	03:31	18:17		
Venus	1	03:19	15:49	-4.5	Venus is visible for about an hour before sunrise.
	31	02:20	15:45		
Mars	1	03:42	16:06		Mars is not observable this month
	31	02:22	16:19		
Jupiter	1	02:26	12:01	-2.3	Jupiter is visible in the morning sky.
	31	00:34	10:18		
Saturn	1	13:50	03:21	0.9	Saturn is well placed in the evening sky for observation
	31	11:52	01:23		
Uranus	1	03:21	15:00	5.8	Uranus is low down in the pre-dawn twilight sky
	31	01:25	13:08		
Neptune	1	02:28	12:15	7.8	Neptune is in Capricornus, being visible in the predawn sky.
	31	00:31	10:19		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
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
Ophiuchids	May 19 th to July	June 9 th June 19 th	5

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

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Astronomy in the Park

Astronomy in the Park is on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May. The location is at the Reg Driver Visitor Centre in Christchurch Park. The principle observations will be devoted to the Sun.

The Reg Driver Visitor Centre is at the Bolton Lane entrance. Members who are able to bring equipment will be to use the car to park just inside, on the left of the Bolton Lane entrance drive.

An area will be cordoned off on the hill immediately above the visitor centre. This area is a little uneven, but gives a good unrestricted view from the southeast to southwest. It will probably be best to arrive at about 10:00 to set up any displays and telescopes.

The event starts from 11:00 to 16:00.

For any more details please contact Roy Gooding

OCCULTATIONS DURING MAY

The table lists lunar 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 May	22:25:52	D	0.51+	-20	29	5.7	omicron 2 Cnc
01 May	22:46:12	D	0.51+	-21	25	5.2	omicron 1 Cnc
04 May	21:24:14	D	0.81+	-15	35	6.2	ZC 1662

James Appleton

5

Tribute to Ken Goward, FRAS



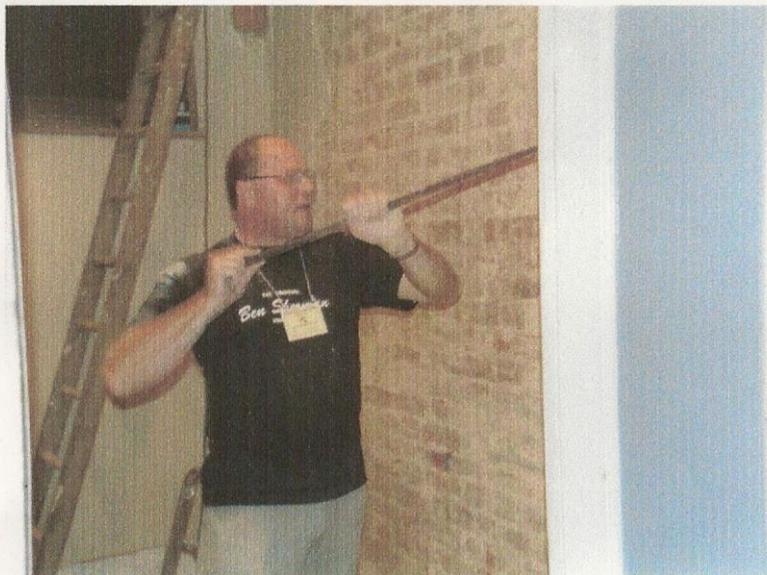
Like everyone in the Society that knew him, I was much shocked and saddened when I received the news that Ken Goward our former Chairman and Treasurer passed away during the night of 26/27th February. This was particularly hard news to bear because he'd taken the trouble to email the OASI Committee shortly after his recent pacemaker operation, and at the time he seemed to be making a very good recovery. Ken's funeral at Tuddenham Church on Tuesday 17th March was without doubt a memorable occasion. The attendance included representation from the Traction Engine Society, the Society for the History of Astronomy

of which he was Treasurer for a number of years, and OASI. Some had clearly travelled a considerable distance to attend. There was not one dry eye in the church when his younger brother read a poem he had specially composed. On behalf of everyone at OASI, I would like to specially thank Lorraine and family for accommodating everyone so well on the day.

So what is Ken's legacy? All of us who knew him have our own recollections. I remember Ken as someone with a great sense of humour, able to crack jokes at the drop of a hat, more often than not with a totally politically incorrect element, but always told in such a way that didn't offend. For someone who took on the role of Chairman as he termed "the new kid on the block", he achieved so much for OASI and the wider astronomical community. Not one afraid to get his hands dirty, initial achievements included fitting magazine racks and the central noticeboard in the Belvedere area. Ken forged links with the members of the Society of the History of Astronomy (SHA) and beyond raising OASI's profile. Through his passion for the history of astronomy, and his research into Orwell Park, he made us realise just what a unique facility we have; something to be truly proud of. He was instrumental in persuading Dr Allan Chapman to become our President. As a result we have been extremely fortunate to witness several memorable lectures as well as the official naming of the 10" Tomline Telescope. Ken also personally took an active role in the Library refurbishment and the opening ceremony with another SHA colleague, Peter Hingley. I particularly remember being part of the crowd enjoying the buffet in the dome! Ken always took an active role in supporting visits and open weekends, often encouraging traders to attend. He helped publicise events on radio Suffolk and even appeared on BBC Look East!

I remember one visit to the Leicester Space Centre. The main attraction was definitely not the Space Centre but the Victorian pumping station next door. Much to Ken's amusement his two boys took particular delight in a practical demonstration showing what happens to plastic brown stuff after it is flushed down the toilet ("flash in the pan" as Ken would have said). Ken was always supportive to me and others involved in constructing the 19" Millennium Telescope (MMT). He always enjoyed a laugh including

when Les Lamb published a cartoon in the Newsletter during a critical phase in the project featuring a 19" shaving mirror. I for one will miss his kindness, wit and good humour. He always said that the strength of OASI was in the membership, it was never down to him. A true gentleman.



Ken truly snookering the old lift shaft!

In order to do proper justice to Ken, here are some other personal recollections from Society members (thank you all).

Ken Goward.

(Remembered by Ted Sampson)

Ken joined the Astronomical society about three weeks after I had done so, in the late summer of 1997. I had not met him before, but soon realised

that this man was an enthusiast, and liked to become actively involved in the hobbies of his choice. He told me that he was treasurer of the East Anglian traction engine society, and was their publicity man. He had recently taken part in the three counties road run, a two day event. But I realised that he was a man in transition, and his loyalties were in the process of changing from steam to stars. He already had an interest in space exploration, and had worked as an apprentice for Marconi, studying the construction of electronic equipment associated with space flight. Two years prior to joining OASI he had bought himself a telescope, an eight inch reflector with equatorial mount. But he had found the night sky confusing, and joined the society in the hope that he would gain knowledge and skills in observing. He did make progress, and built the base for an observatory in his back garden in Mistley, with suitably sturdy telescope mount. But the arrival of twin boys in August 98 slightly distracted him, and he never completed the observatory, or used the telescope as he had hoped. In fact when he moved house a year later to Tuddenham, I took care of the telescope, and did so for two years – and I didn't use it either. It remains in its wrapping at his house. His wife Lorraine may be looking for a good home for it in the near future.

Ken and I enjoyed the society, and felt welcomed by the members and officers. We did notice however that if you wanted to learn, you had to make an effort yourself, and not just sit around hoping it would somehow come to you. I remember quite early on in our membership there was a lunar occultation on a Wednesday night, and Ken and I were allowed to observe it through the main telescope, which we looked upon with some reverence. That was his first piece of real astronomy, (and mine). With a thirst for more knowledge, Ken and I had wondered if the society would organise some sessions for beginners. The committee invited us both to attend the next committee meeting and discuss our ideas. We produced a paper: the committee accepted the idea, and gave us the task of organising it with their backing. Thus began what are now the 'workshops', which Ken thought we should give the tongue in cheek title of 'Informal interactive astronomy workshops'. Without Ken's enthusiasm and encouragement I don't think they would have happened. It was mainly during the six months when the idea of the workshops was developed that

I realised the level of his enthusiasm, and the value of such commitment and support in getting a project going.

Once the workshops had become established, probably three years later on, Ken turned his interest to the society's annual Open Weekend. There had been many elaborate and well organised Open weekends in times past. Unsurprisingly, they had become rather a matter of routine, and Ken offered to take on the task of organising the next one, recapturing some of the style of earlier years. With a lot of work, and liaising with the school, suppliers of astronomical books, and the local camera and telescope shop, he started a renewed style of open weekend which gave more variety for the visitors. This task he continued for three years, the high point being the inclusion of a sample of moon rock, for which we had to obtain a special 'safe' to ensure its return to NASA after the weekend.

Observing never became Ken's astronomical interest. But it is a multi faceted hobby, and Ken followed an earlier inclination. With his usual enthusiasm and dedication, he delved into the history of astronomy, and the stories behind the people who had made it an accepted science. He wrote articles for the society newsletter on the topics he was studying, as well as presenting respected papers to the wider astronomical world. Not all our members were as keen historians as he, and after a number of articles appeared in our newsletter, one member commented that perhaps it was time 'To make history, history'. It was a joke: but many of us knew what he meant.

The quality of his 'papers' however, resulted in him being accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, an achievement of some merit, and enabled him to exercise another skill, that of making connections. In a way which is still a mystery to some of us, Ken cultivated a friendship with Professor Alan Chapman, a world renowned authority on the history of science, and splendid public speaker. He persuaded him to become our society president. In that role he has delivered a bi-annual lecture, which is open to friends of members, and held in the grand hall of the school. Ken also persuaded Peter Hingley to open our newly refurbished library. Peter is curator of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) library, the largest

library in the UK on the topic of astronomy, and it seemed to Ken fitting that he should officially open what is probably the smallest! But he came, and performed the task with enthusiasm. A full report of the opening is on the society web site. Ken also became a friend and visitor to the home of Patrick Moore. This I know started when a small whirlwind destroyed the observatory in Patrick's garden. Ken, with no previous connection with him, wrote to Patrick expressing his concern at the damage, and wished him well with the re-build. Patrick was suitably pleased, replied, saying 'drop in if you are passing'. Ken being Ken did just that! And did so several times subsequently by invitation.

Ken's historical credentials prompted him to launch, together with some high profile figures, a national 'Society for the history of astronomy'. This was a high class initiative, and probably ranks as the highlight of his astronomical career, and maybe of his life. He became the treasurer and committee member, and attended meetings all over the country. He could also present an excellent lecture, and did so more than once to our own society, and to the astronomy workshops.

Ken took on the task of treasurer to our society, a post which he held until being elected chairman. It was a matter of much regret and sadness that ill health took such a hold of his life for the past two years. His ability to attend society meeting seriously reduced in 2008, and he reluctantly decided to step down from effectively being chairman in October, the committee holding the position corporately until the AGM when Neil was elected.

We were all shocked at his sudden death, especially as the recent pacemaker was beginning to take effect. However, on visits to his home I was aware of how ill he had been, and what an uphill struggle life had been for him, and for his wife Lorraine, and the boys.

I feel privileged to have known him, and very much enjoyed my friendship with him as a member of the Astronomical Society to which he dedicated so much of his time and energy.



Ken appearing on BBC Look East, 2002

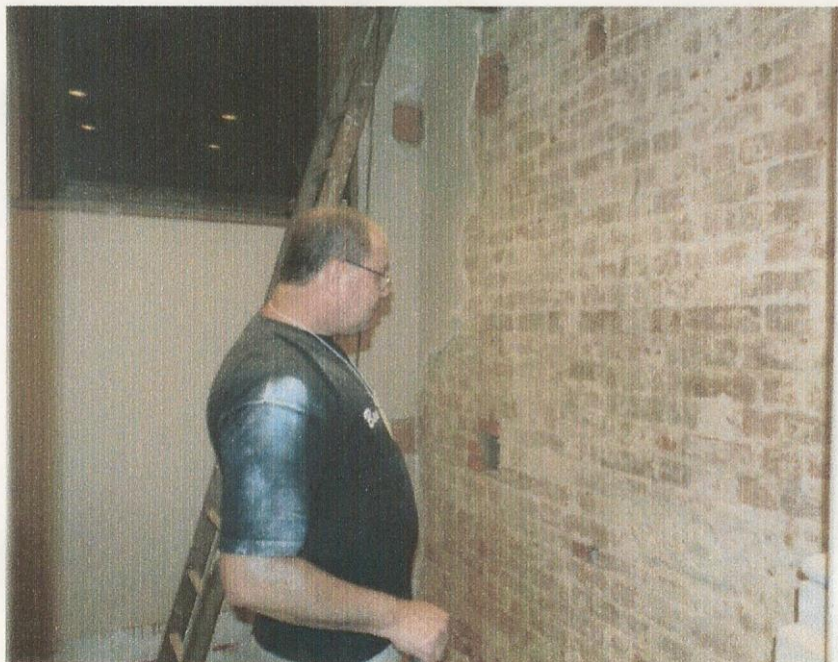
Ken Goward.

(Remembered by James Appleton)

On the front cover of this newsletter, there's a photo I took of Ken beside his "folly", taken circa Xmas 1999 while we visited him at his then home in Mistle. At that time, Ken had not very long been a member of OASI (he joined in 1998), and had not quite grasped the true anarchic nature of the Society. As an enthusiastic newcomer to the hobby, he intended to construct his own observatory and equip it with a telescope he had every intention of actually using (unlike the telescopes of most members!) Being

Ken, he had forged ahead with the groundwork and indeed had constructed some very massive foundations. Alas, needless to say, the observatory was never completed. In time, the reality of back-garden observing dawned and plans to complete the observatory were shelved indefinitely. In 2002, Ken, Lorraine and the boys moved from Mistley to Tuddenham and that put the seal on matters. Anyway, I always told Ken that I'd use the photo to embarrass him at a later date, so I'm sure that he'd approve it going in the Newsletter now!

Neil's note, I am sure Ken is up there having a laugh!



Surveying the damage "pretty nice brickwork"!

Ken Goward.

(Remembered by Bill Barton)

I also knew Ken from around 1998 when he was researching into Sir George Airy. Most of my contact with him was on astronomical days out when we went the Leeds Astromet or BAA out of town meetings in Birmingham. Ken was a stickler for arriving early (so as to be on time) and I once remember stopping at a roadside café for a 'comfort' break only to find the establishment not yet open - so we waited - then getting bored of that both used a convenient bush to 'go' behind! There were also several trips to Oxford and Cambridge once the SHA was founded.

The Institute of Astronomy (IoA) at Cambridge is always an awkward place to get to as it is on the opposite side of the city from Ipswich, but early mornings with empty roads were never a problem leaving was another matter however. Every time we seemed to take a different route and one time we got lost and found ourselves back outside the entrance to the IoA just as Pete Richards was leaving, we stopped and wound down a window to make some appropriate comment which I cannot now recall.

Only once do I remember going up the hill at Greenwich with him and even then we took the longer less steep route round the back of the observatory, but even so we stopped several times for Ken to catch his breath. Although like everyone else I never heard him complaining about a condition which was obviously stopping him from doing what he wanted to. My chief memory of Ken was as someone who was always cheerful and ready to have fun; a laughing or giggling were never in short supply. He also used to describe himself as an Apollo-nut, so no doubt the trip to Cape Canaveral featured on his funeral order of service was his happiest time.



L-R Martin Mobberley, Dr Allan Chapman and Ken Goward

Neil Morley with contributions from James Appleton, Bill Barton, Martin Cook, Roy Gooding and Ted Sampson.

Chairman's Chat

Some of the more observant among you will have noticed the absence of Chairman's Chat in the last OASI Journal. Nevertheless I can assure you there has been a lot going on in the "background".

In this newsletter I have included a tribute to Ken Goward, our former chairman. I hope you will enjoy reading it as Ken gave so much to OASI over the years.

Also David Payne (OASI Trustee) and I attended a meeting with Simon Dodsworth, Orwell Park School Business Manager to review the license governing our tenure at the school. This has been ongoing for some time and needs resolving. Details will start to follow in the next issue, but one clear outcome was all members possessing key fobs requiring access to the observatory before 8:30pm must have Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. This coincides with the time when the school security system is activated at bedtime.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) activities to-date. The first half of this year's IYA activities culminated in a memorable open weekend that I am sure Ken would have been proud of. Judging by the feedback I received from visitors on the open weekend, they enjoyed the activities and as a result, we've added to our membership (a warm welcome to all new members!) Don't forget the next IYA event is Astronomy in Christchurch Park Ipswich on 30-31 May 2009 (IYA2009). The theme is Solar Observing using special telescopes equipped with filters and the event runs between 11am and 4pm on both days. Please contact Roy Gooding or Paul Whiting if you are able to help in any way.

If you have any further questions or suggestions on the running of the Society, please get in touch with any committee member or me!

Finally, I would like to assure you that the OASI Space Programme is well and truly underway. Due to the present economic climate, the costs have had to be trimmed right back, as the high street banks wouldn't lend me any money to build a launch pad on Sealand (off the coast of Felixstowe). Astronaut training has been limited to gliders and even simple aerobatics!



The photo shows my Wife Lynne and yours truly with our classic glider (Schleicher Ka6CR dating from 1965) and "Space Shuttle" (James Superlux Autocycle dating from 1950). The glider is either launched by aerotow (behind a light aircraft) or by using a stationary winch engine at the other end of the runway using multistrand steel cables. So where is this going?! Reduced and even zero G conditions can be experienced on a winch launch when the glider is at an attitude of 45-50 degrees to the horizon travelling at a forward airspeed of 55-60 knots. If the winch cable breaks which is not unknown (pilots are trained to deal with launch failures before being sent solo) a fairly dramatic lowering of the nose is needed to maintain airspeed and avoid stalling and generally crashing to the ground. It at this precise moment of moving the control column forward that significantly reduced and possibly even zero G conditions can be experienced for a second or two! Any specks of dried mud on the cockpit floor have a tendency to make their presence felt by floating to the height of and sometimes above the pilots head. This is a gentle reminder to Hoover the cockpit before flying next time!

Kind regards,
Neil Morley

Ken was a devoted husband and father and always had time for everyone. He had always been interested in astronomy and after he was retired from the police force bought a telescope. Its only been used a few times, but he enjoyed it. Its then he decided to join the local society to learn how to use the telescope and to meet people of like minds. A hobby he loved and also on a Wednesday night would get him away from the house changing nappies and feeding after our boys were born. Ken liked going to the Orwell Park Observatory and it was rather frustrating for him when in the last few years, he was no longer able to manage the stairs. He loved writing articles and researching the history side of astronomy, including history of astronomers such as GB Airey, Will Hay and the Orwell Park Observatory. Still not sure how it all began (being at work all day, you never knew what he got up to!), but through various connections became one of the founding members of the SHA and through that met people like Dr Allan Chapman and Sir Patrick Moore. Once he got involved in something, there was no stopping him! I am very happy that he managed to realise his dream of going to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. To say that he was 'over the moon' at actually being able to get there is an understatement. I don't think he stopped talking about it for months after! He did have other interests such as traction engines and steam trains. He was never was able to finish building the railway in our loft for our boys. Ken always was there to make you laugh and we will miss him greatly.

Lorraine Goward

OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	Chairman	☎	
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎	MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT Press Publicity with Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer	☎	Finance. Supervision of Grant Applications. Visits by outside groups. IYA 2009 Coordinator
James Appleton	Committee	☎	Committee Meeting Minutes. Web Site.
Martin Cook	Committee	☎	Membership. Tomline Refractor Maintenance.
Peter Richards	Committee	☎	Lecture Meetings. Email Distribution Lists.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎	Newsletter.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎	Librarian & Workshops.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎	Safety & Security.
John Wainwright	Committee	☎	Forward planning & Strategy Equipment Curator

DIARY FOR MAY

Monday	<u>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</u> Will resume in October ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [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	<u>OASI WORKSHOP</u> Will resume in the autumn ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
Thursday	<u>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP</u> No outside visits this month <u>Taster evening</u> Will resume in the autumn ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]
Sunday 20th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm	COMMITTEE MEETING Nacton Village Hall

Astronomy in the park at Christchurch Park in Ipswich
May 30th & 31st 10.00am to 4.00pm

Society Primary Contacts

Chairman: Neil Morley ☎ [REDACTED]

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

Meeting nights only

Observatory Telephone Number

[REDACTED]