



# The Newsletter



of the

**Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)**

2011

Registered charity no. 271313

OCTOBER

[www.oasi.org.uk](http://www.oasi.org.uk)

No 467

## OASI Bucks The Recession?

OASI's newest revenue-raising venture, spotted during my recent summer holidays in Sicily. No doubt operated in collaboration with a large Italian organisation based in the region?



James Appleton

# Society News (Roy Gooding)

## 1 Annual General Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 22

All members are invited to attend the AGM

Start time 20:00 Venue: Methodist Church Hall.

## 2 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. In recent weeks the gate code has not been working. Hopefully, now the Autumn term has started, the School will rectify this.

## 3 Welcome to New Members

Alan Osborne Gery Ducate

## 4 Events Programme for 2011

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
Open Weekend	Orwell Park Observatory	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 19:30 to 22:00
Lecture Meeting Telescopes from Hell: (what to watch out for when buying a telescope) by Martin Mobberley	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 20:00
FAS Convention	Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October
SHA Autumn Conference & AGM  Entrance £10	Birmingham & Midland Institute Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS	29 <sup>th</sup> October 09:30 to 17:00
Lecture Meeting Are We Star Dust or Nuclear Waste? (Stellar Evolution) by Robin Catchpole	Methodist Church Halls, Blackhorse Lane	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 20:00
Christmas Meal Social event	Venue Ski Lodge TBC	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 20:00

## **OPEN WEEKEND 2011**

This event has now been confirmed with the School and will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Doors open for the public at 19:30

Set up time from 18:30

As usual as much help as possible is required to make this another successful Open Weekend.

If you are only available to help for a short time your presence will still be appreciated.

Posters can be obtained from either Eric Sims or Roy Gooding

### **PUBLIC OPEN WEEKEND**

**Orwell Park Observatory will be Open to the Public on**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 7:30pm to 10:00pm**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7:30pm to 10:00pm**

**The weekends observing programme will include:**

### **Observations of the Moon, Jupiter, Uranus and the Night Sky**

**Observations will be made using the 10" Tomline Refractor  
and a wide selection of other smaller telescopes**

## 6 Christmas Meal 7<sup>th</sup> December (Note date change)

### Starters

Potato & spinach soup  
King prawns, chilli, soy & ginger dip  
Chicken & cognac pate, fig chutney, toasted ciabatta  
Smoked cheese & onion potato cake on machinist rosti balsamic dressing

### Main Course

Turkey with all the trimmings  
Pork belly, apple & onion veloute, seasonal vegetables, roast new potatoes  
Pan seared red snapper, creamed leeks & pancetta, new potatoes  
Rabbit thyme & shallot causoulet, dijon mash, seasonal vegetables  
Balsamic roasted vegetables halloumi stack, red pepper source, sweet potato wedges

### Dessert

Plum pudding, amaretto ice cream, bunt sugar & toffee source  
Selection of sweets  
Mixed cheese & biscuits, seasonal chutney

Tea or Coffee with minced pie

Total cost £26.50

Deposit £5.00

Please see me ( Roy Gooding) to book. First come first served!

## 7 Proposed Out Reach Meetings for 2012

I will contact the Ipswich's Parks department after the Open Weekend

### Christchurch Park

In early January the BBC will be running a new series of Stargazer.

Saturday evening meetings (19:00 to 21:00)

1<sup>st</sup> option 28<sup>th</sup> January

2<sup>nd</sup> option 25<sup>th</sup> February

3<sup>rd</sup> option 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Chantry Park

Saturday evening meetings (20:00 to 22:00)

1<sup>st</sup> option 21<sup>st</sup> April

2<sup>nd</sup> option 28<sup>th</sup> April

### Christchurch Park

Astronomy in the park (11:00 to 16:00)

1<sup>st</sup> option May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> option May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

# Night Sky (October)

All times GMT

## Moon

New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
4 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag	Notes
Sun	1	05:56	17:34		
	31	06:48	16:29		
Mercury	1	06:05	17:43		Mercury is not observable this month.
	31	08:51	16:57		
Venus	1	07:05	17:59		Venus is too close to the Sun this month to observe
	31	08:45	17:13		
Mars	1	01:12	15:49	1.3	Mars is a morning sky object this month. It is in Cancer.
	31	23:43	14:30		
Jupiter	1	08:57	08:57	-2.9	Jupiter is at opposition on the 29 <sup>th</sup> . The planet is in Aries
	31	16:24	06:37		
Saturn	1	06:52	18:04		Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun, on the 13 <sup>th</sup> . Is not observable this month
	31	05:15	16:13		
Uranus	1	17:20	05:32	5.7	Uranus is an evening object in Pisces
	31	15:20	03:28		
Neptune	1	16:21	02:19	7.8	Neptune remains an evening object, in Aquarius
	31	14:22	00:19		

## Meteor Showers

Shower	Maximum	Limits	ZHR
Piscids	Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. to Oct.	10
	Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>		5
	Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>		?
Draconids (Giacobinids)	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> 19 h	Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> to 10	200-600?
Orionids	Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup>	25

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

# OASI & SOCIAL MEDIA



At present, OASI has no presence among social media sites. This is a major lost opportunity, given the interactive and collaborative nature of many of our activities. Potential applications of social media for OASI could include:

- Increased visibility of OASI's activities to potential members.
- Hosting images and videos of OASI activities and observations.
- Dialogue with prospective members and people requesting information about the Society.
- Advice to members of the public (members and non-members of OASI) on the purchase of telescopes, and guidance subsequently on use of the instruments purchased.
- Feedback on the activities of the Society. Requests for projects, purchases, information, etc, etc. Exchange of ideas to improve the experience of members.

If you have experience of creating social media sites (or even if you haven't!) and are willing to spend time establishing and running a social media presence for OASI, please get in touch with any member of the Committee. (Contact details on inside back page.)

James Appleton  
12 September 2011

## OCCULTATIONS DURING OCTOBER

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
02 Oct	18:01:41	D	0.35+	-6	12	6.7	ZC 2507
05 Oct	19:54:53	D	0.67+	-24	21	7.5	ZC 2952
07 Oct	18:43:19	D	0.84+	-14	24	6.5	ZC 3199
08 Oct	19:54:57	D	0.90+	-25	31	5.0	kappa Aqr
09 Oct	23:27:50	D	0.96+	-44	37	4.9	kappa Psc
24 Oct	05:19:58	D	0.10-	-12	16	4.8	87 Leo
30 Oct	17:55:44	D	0.20+	-13	8	5.7	ZC 2595

James Appleton

### 2011 Convention & AGM

The 2011 FAS Convention will be held at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, on Saturday 15th October.

Speakers: Carolin Crawford (IOA), Nick Hewitt (BAA) Nik Szymanek, Prof. Albert Zijlstra (Head of Astrophysics, Jodrell Bank) and Lord Martin Rees.

Traders: TBC

Tickets: £5 on the door

AGM: an important part of the convention is our Annual General Meeting, this is when you get to have your say how the FAS is run. The Annual Accounts for the AGM are available .

Venue Information: Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA

Directions to venue: The IoA website gives detailed instructions on how to get to them via both car and public transport, see here . In particular of note is the free on site car parking .

#### Schedule:

9.00 Doors open	1.30 Albert Zjelstra
9.45 Welcome and Introduction	2.30 AGM
9.50 Carolin Crawford	3.00 Break
11.00 Break	3.20 Nick Hewitt
11.20 Nik Szymanek	4.30 Martin Rees
12.30 Lunch	5.30 Closing comments

# ASTEROID OBSERVING PROJECT

Some members of OASI were able to observe asteroids during the first few months of 2011. Bodies observed included: (7) Iris, (20) Massalia and (3) Juno. Several other asteroids are visible during the remaining months of 2011 and will provide an interesting observing opportunity as the nights grow darker.

The table lists all asteroids with opposition magnitude 9.0 or brighter during the second half of 2011.

Asteroid	Opposition date	Opp Mag	Dates brighter than mag 9.5	Constellation
<u>(4) Vesta</u>	2011 Aug 05	5.6	At all times.	Sagittarius/ Capricornus/Aquarius
<u>(192) Nausikaa</u>	2011 Sep 02	8.3	2011 Aug 05 to Oct 08	Aquarius
<u>(1) Ceres</u>	2011 Sep 16	7.6	At all times.	Aquarius/Cetus
<u>(1036) Ganymed</u>	2011 Oct 29	8.3	2011 Sep 18 to Nov 13	Cassiopeia/Perseus/ Andromeda/ Triangulum
<u>(29) Amphitrite</u>	2011 Nov 05	8.7	2011 Sep 29 to Dec 13	Aries
<u>(15) Eunomia</u>	2011 Nov 29	7.9	2011 Aug 18 to 2012 Feb 12	Taurus/Perseus

## Visibility of asteroids with opposition magnitude 9.0 or brighter.

All the asteroids in the table should be relatively easy to locate in large binoculars or small telescopes when near opposition. It should also be possible to photograph them against the background star field using a simple digital camera with a time exposure of a few seconds.

The OASI Open Field Observing Sessions at Newbourne Village Hall on 26 September, 24 October and 21 November will include asteroids among the observing targets.

Excellent finder charts for the asteroids may be found on the Heavens Above web site: [www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com).

James Appleton  
08 September 2011



# THE GRAZE OF 40 ARIETIS

A grazing lunar occultation of the star 40 Arietis was predicted for 03:50 (02:50 UT) on the morning of Saturday 17 September 2011. Although the star was not exceptionally bright (magnitude 5.8), the configuration of the graze was generally good so there was considerable enthusiasm to observe the event. The prospective observing team amounted to seven members of OASI: James Appleton, Martin Cook, Roy Gooding, Matthew Leeks, Neil Morley, Alan Smith and Joe Startin. Seven graze observers is approximately double the number that has been active in the last couple of decades!

In recent years, Google Earth has revolutionised the process of selecting an observing site for a graze. The track of the event can be produced as a .kml file to be overlaid directly on digital maps, enabling prospective observers to “fly” along it and pause to zoom in on potential observing sites. Using this process, we initially identified six potential observing sites. After a reconnoitre by Alan Smith, we finally settled on an observing site just off Brand Road, SE of Great Livermere.

Clouds filled the sky on the morning of Friday 16 September. The early forecasts showed the sky remaining cloudy until 22:00, then becoming clear at 01:00, then clouding over again by 04:00 with rain setting in by 07:00. With a little variation, this defined the pattern which persisted throughout the day.

At 22:00 on Friday night, the observers held a telephone conference to discuss whether or not to go ahead with the observation. The latest weather forecasts and IR weather satellite images were not encouraging. It soon became apparent that the observers divided into two camps: *well 'ard astronomers* (Martin and Alan) determined to observe if at all possible, who agreed to reconsider the weather at 02:00 and then decide whether or not to journey to Great Livermere; and *the wusses* (everyone else) who concluded that there was no chance of the cloud lifting at the time of the graze and were therefore content to take to their beds and enjoy a good night's uninterrupted sleep.

And so it was. At 02:00, Martin and Alan spoke by telephone, and although the sky was then clear, weather satellites showed a dense bank of cloud approaching, so they cancelled further observations. Alan rose again at 03:50 to check the sky, and found that it was completely overcast. So we'd made the correct decision!

There are no very good grazes during 2012. However, at 20:30 on Sunday 01 April 2012, there is a N limb graze of the magnitude 5.9 star 29 Cancri by a 70% waxing Moon. The graze line passes within 8 km of Orwell Park Observatory and therefore presents a convenient observing opportunity, even though the sky will not be completely dark at the time.

James Appleton  
17 September 2011

## **Another Snippet of Orwell Park History**

Roy Gooding

I have come across another piece of the history Orwell Park completely by chance. We can now add another prominent person of history to the visitors list. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of September were Heritage Open Days. During this weekend various historic buildings, that are not usually open to the public, open their doors to visitors. One of the buildings I visited was "The Admiral's House" at 13 Tower street. The house was named after one of its previous owners, Admiral Benjamin William Page, who had purchased it in 1845. I found this snippet of information, on the display about the history of the house. The Duke of Wellington, was a visitor to Orwell Park.

In 1796, Wellington was posted to India, where he stayed until 1805. and had return home from India, with Page. On January 20<sup>th</sup> 1820 Wellington while passing through Ipswich, having come from a visit to Lord Granville at Wherstead Lodge, went to visit the Admiral and Mrs Page.

Some time during January, probably when visiting Lord Granville, Wellington also visited Sir Robert Harland at Orwell Park for a shooting party. Before moving to Orwell Park, Sir Robert Harland had lived at Wherstead Lodge.

## Small Telescope Observing Nights (STONs) – Oct to Dec 2011

These are held on Monday evenings during the darker parts of the year (Oct – Apr) at the Orwell Park Observatory on the Belvedere level.

They give the opportunity particularly for those without telescopes and beginners to use and familiarise themselves with OASI's 10 inch Dobsonian and Meade 125 EC. They can give an appreciation of observing techniques, problems and possibilities given our sky situation and allow members to become more familiar with the various constellations, deep sky objects and planets.

Suggestions for other areas of study are always welcome especially if participants come armed with some prepared material or information. (much is readily available via the internet.)

STON nights and subjects for the half year to the end of December 2011 will be:-(in collaboration with the Open Field Observation sessions (OFOs))

Sept -----	No STON,	(OFOs 26th Sept )
Oct -----	STON Oct 3rd & 31st (Targets Lyra & Cygnus)	(OFOs 24th Oct)
Nov -----	STON Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	(Pegasus & Andromeda) (OFOs 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov)
Dec -----	STON 5th Dec	(Cassiopeia and Perseus)

Gerry Pilling

## **Open Field Observing – It's Back!**

I have arranged three more “Open Field” observing sessions at Newbourne Village Hall. The arrangements are as follows:

### Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm to 11pm

Observing targets: Scutum, Vulpecula, Aquila, Jupiter, Comet C/2009 P1 Garradd, (4) Vesta, (1) Ceres and satellites (to be confirmed).

### Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm to 11pm

Observing targets: Lyra, Cygnus and (1036) Ganymed.

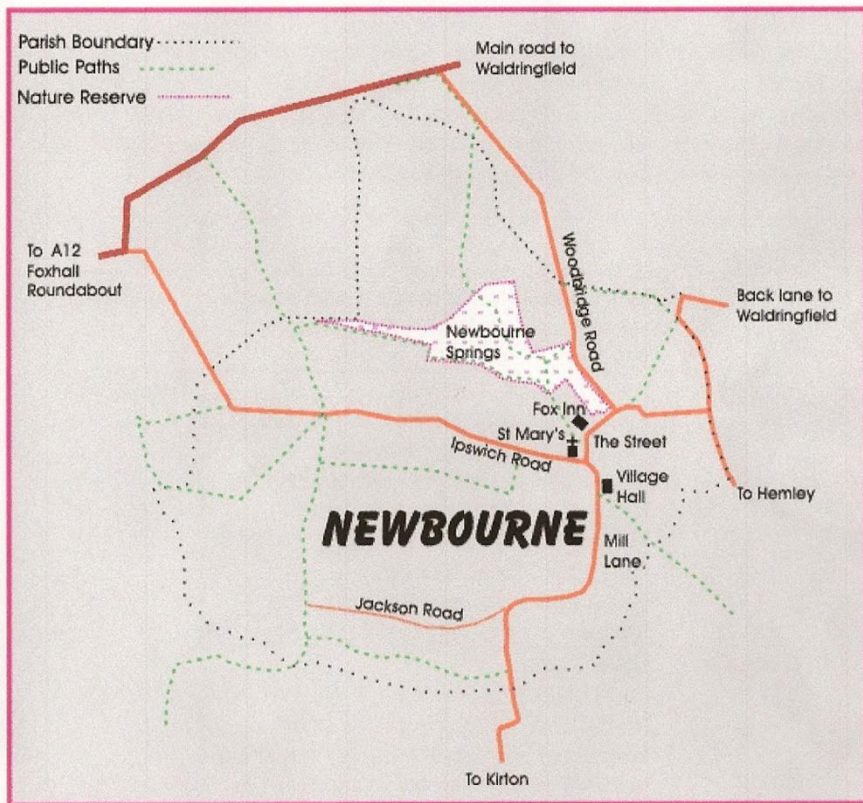
### Monday November 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:30pm to 11pm

Observing targets: Pegasus, Andromeda, Cassiopeia, Perseus, (29) Amphitrite and (15) Eunomia.

These events are open to all Society members. The idea is to encourage more active observing at a dark site location and build up observing skills. The choice of a village hall like Newbourne also provides added benefits such as a suitable retreat for a break, refreshments, somewhere to foster some general banter and impromptu talks when the weather precludes observing.

The location is shown opposite. Parking is in the field adjacent to the Village Hall. Please bring along equipment whether it be binoculars, cameras, tripods, telescopes or otherwise. Even if you don't have any suitable equipment please do come along. Astronomy is a broad church and this is an opportunity to push observing skills at all levels and share experiences. The targets for these events include further Asteroids and are designed to align with the Small Telescope Opening Nights. Maybe you are getting to know your way around the night sky and need help, or have an

interest in particular classes of astronomical object. Alternatively, you might be looking for the right environment to get to know how to get the best out of your equipment.



If you know of any other possible sites, or have any ideas about the running of our Society, please get in touch with me or any Committee member. Words by Neil Morley

# Astronomy Workshops

**Doors open at 7:30pm.**

**Workshops START at 7:45pm**

**Venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL IP10 0EU**

If you are a new OASI member, or haven't been to one of these workshops before – they are a mixture of events of different characters including beginners talks, interactive workshops, hands-on observing sessions, films etc., suitable for all. They are also a chance to chat with other members over a cup of tea and a biscuit, in a venue rather warmer than the observatory dome on a winter's night!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Run by...</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>A Little Mathematical Astronomy</b> - how some simple measurements we can all make can lead to fairly accurate estimates of cosmological quantities	<b>Paul Whiting</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>Astronomical Imaging</b> Taking photos of nebulae and galaxies is, to most people, something NASA and professional astronomers do with expensive equipment. You'll be amazed to find it can actually be done with very little experience and a digital camera from your back garden!	<b>Ben Jarvis</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b> A pub quiz style evening – several rounds of questions for teams to pool their knowledge on. Teams will be formed on the night so any number of people welcome. Questions may include some astronomy but most will be 'general knowledge'. Bring your own drinks/alcohol/nibbles/food.	<b>Paul Whiting</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>	<b>Measuring the speed of light – the experiments continue!</b> After my workshop last year which left some loose ends, I'll try and tie these up. Back to the garage...	<b>Mike Whybray</b>

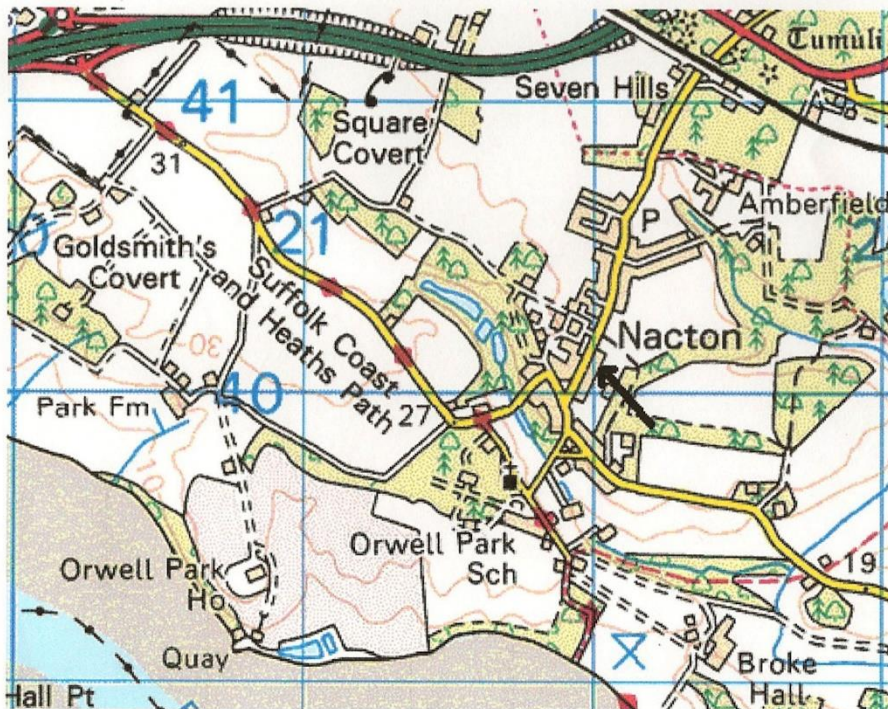


<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Constructing Dobsonian Telescopes and Equatorial Platforms.</b> Details to follow.	<b>John Wainwright and Martin Cook</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>All about Waves.</b> Details to follow.	<b>Mike O'Mahoney</b>

Mike Whybray  
Workshops organiser  
[Redacted] (Mobile)  
[Redacted] (Home)

Workshops venue: NACTON VILLAGE HALL IP10 0EU (next to the small village school, just below and left of the N in Nacton on the map).

Please park on the same side of the road as the hall, but avoid parking on the white lines which mark clear spaces for various driveways and passing places. The police do occasionally check up on this!



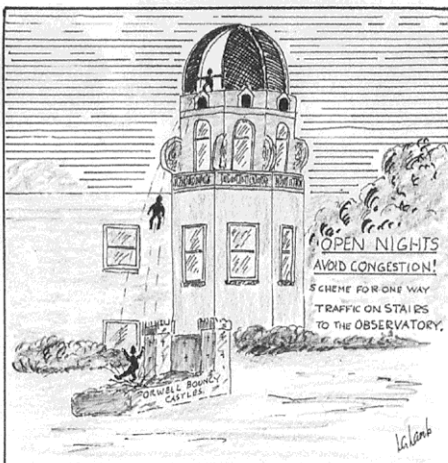
# MEMORIES OF LES LAMB

Like all members of OASI who knew Les Lamb, I was greatly saddened by the recent news of his death, having not quite scored a century. Les joined OASI in 1991, and was made an honorary member after ill-health meant that he was no longer able to ascend the spiral staircase at Orwell Park.

In the early 2000s, Les and I jointly led Astronomy Workshops on observing constellations. I greatly enjoyed working with Les to create our scripts, as I could always rely upon him to keep us firmly rooted in the practical realities of observational astronomy and far away from wild flights of fancy. Although Les was in his 80s at this stage, he was never fazed by new technology, and soon was remarkably comfortable with production of our scripts and slides by computer.

For many years, Les's wonderful cartoons graced the front cover of the OASI *Newsletter*, and it is through this rich vein of entertaining commentary on the astronomical events of the day that many members will remember him. In his role as cartoonist, he was ever alert to the often strange and bizarre happenings associated with OASI, and many members looked forward to the next issue of the *Newsletter* to learn how Les would portray events of the previous month. His incisive sense of humour never failed to delight.

Six of my favourite cartoons are reproduced below. I know that Les would enjoy the fact that his work can still entertain members of OASI, and I'm sure that, even now, in a better place, he's having a real chuckle at this thought....

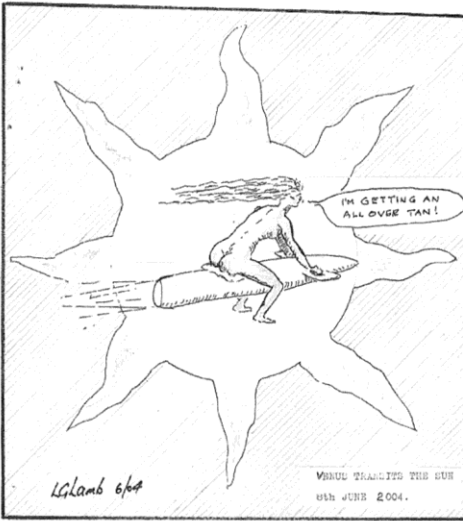


Proposal for addressing congestion on the staircase at Orwell Park during Open Evenings

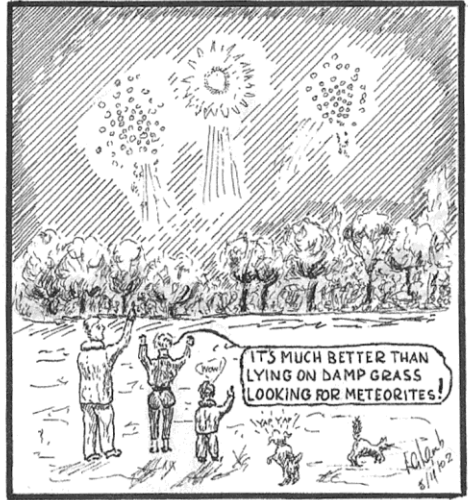


Summarising the UK solar eclipse in 1999





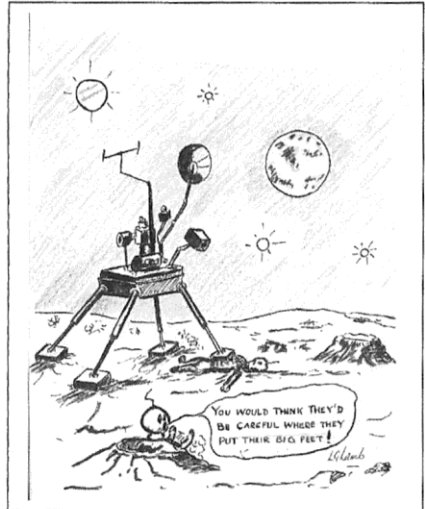
Transit of Venus, 08 June 2004



Firework Night



Training Members to open the dome at Orwell Park



Space probe lands on an alien planet

James Appleton, 08 September 2011

Les Lamb

(18 April 1913 - 21 August 2011).

Les had been a member of the Astronomical Society since 1996, having moved to the area for family reasons. He was made a life member after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, commenting in his usual humorous style that it was a cost effective decision of the committee to leave it until then.

He became a keen and knowledgeable observer, with frequent observing sessions in his back garden.

Of many fond memories of him I would pick the following:

His telescope. Home constructed from a kitchen cabinet he always claimed, a rectangular tube 8 inch Dobsonian, the lower bearing being a twelve inch vinyl LP. It was featured at least once at an open weekend, and twice at workshop sessions about telescope construction, where Les teamed up with James for a presentation. A picture of it was, for a long time, on the wall at the observatory. He frequently expressed his appreciation for the help he received from society members in its construction.

His cartoons. He was a handy artist with paint and pencil. For several years he contributed a cartoon, with caption, for the Society Newsletter, all on topics of interest in the life of the observatory, or with an astronomical theme. One which particularly amused me following its introduction as society practice, featured a picture of the Tomline telescope with a huge dent at the top end after a collision with the observing ladder. The caption was: 'No, you have NOT passed your telescope operators test'.

His memoirs, or 'Memories' as he entitled the document. At 91, he decided to write about his life. With no previous experience of the things, he bought a Dell home computer, read the sparse instructions accompanying it, and began word processing a lengthy document –

more than sixty pages eventually. Although he mastered it fairly well considering all, I was summoned many times to his house to explain, or retrieve the disappearance of pages of recently typed text, or to work out why paragraphs or page numbering didn't present as expected. Not being too competent myself, it was a testing time for his never failing sense of humor, and a tribute to his tenacity.

His sense of humor. As already mentioned, and most evident in the cartoons, he had an eye for the amusing side of life, and a way of expressing it, sometimes in an acerbic way. At the latter end of his visits to the observatory, and the climb up the stairs and down again, he slipped, and fell the last few steps, amazingly without injury. This event was a matter of serious concern and lengthy discussion at committee. For all the reasons we know well, it was decided against the society constructing a safety feature when it was a school responsibility. The week following the incident, a notice appeared on the wall at the beginning of the flight of steps up to the Belvedere room, advising all those thinking of making the trip up and down, to be sure they could complete it safely. Les commented: 'cheaper than a hand rail'.

Les had not visited the observatory for several years, but will be fondly remembered by many long standing society members. Living fairly near to me, I was able to give him a lift every week to society meetings after he took the decision to give up driving (remember the cartoon of him in a wheelbarrow?). I therefore had the pleasure of hearing much about his early working life in London during the war, and his childhood experiences. I knew his wife Louie, who sadly died in 2003. In his final years he was lovingly cared for by his daughter and husband at their home in Hadleigh.

For me, he is high on the list of interesting friends I have known, and I will be one of many who will miss him.

I would be pleased to loan to the society library, perhaps on a reference basis, my copy of his 'Memories', and a book he kindly gave me of his cartoons. Ted Sampson.

# SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETING 10 SEP 2011

Present: Neil Morley, Martin Cook, Roy Gooding, Bill Barton, James Appleton, Roy & Merlyn Adams, John Wainwright, Eric Sims, Pete & Nicky Richards.

Apologies: Mike Whybray, Paul Whiting, Tina Hammond

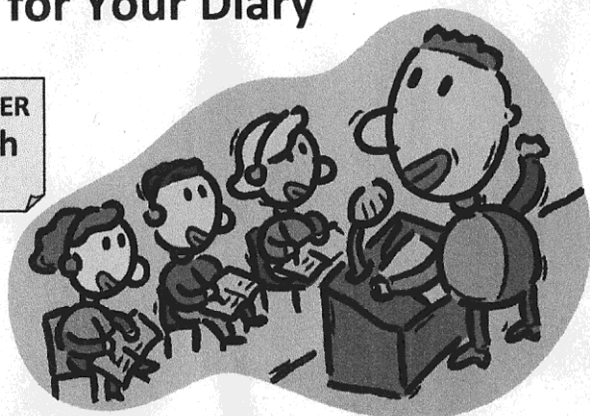
- Chairman Neil Morley noted with great sadness that OASI member Les Lamb had died on 21 August. Les had been one of the stalwarts of OASI for many years and had visited Orwell Park Observatory regularly well into his 90s.
- Neil will meet with the new headmaster of Orwell Park School on 14 October to begin building a working relationship with him, particularly concerning renovation of the Observatory.
- The SHA picnic at Orwell Park on 16 July had been very successful. The SHA had made a most generous donation to OASI of £200. Neil has received approval in principle from Orwell Park to host the RAS 2012 picnic there.
- The Open Field Observing Sessions (OFOS) at Newbourne Hall earlier in the year had been very successful. Neil has organised three further OFOS events for the remainder of 2011. (See elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for details.)
- Secretary Roy Gooding has booked the OASI 2011 Xmas meal at *The Lodge*, Bourne Hill for 07 December. (See elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for details.)
- Treasurer Paul Whiting was not present but had sent a report in advance. OASI funds are, in broad terms, very healthy. The *582 account*, earmarked for restoration projects, holds £712.00.
- OASI currently has 138 members (including honoraries).
- Mike Whybray has arranged an impressive programme of Astronomy Workshops for 2011-12. (See elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for details.)
- The OASI web site is up to date, and the events list now has 22 entries! The web site now enables memberships to be taken out/renewed electronically via Paypal. James Appleton will ask for a volunteer to develop an OASI presence on social media sites. (See elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for details.)
- Any members of OASI with suggestions for purchase of astronomical equipment should contact a member of the Committee.

For further details of any of the above matters please contact any member of the Committee.

James Appleton  
18 September 2011

## A Date for Your Diary

OCTOBER  
14<sup>th</sup>



Do you want some hot tips on what to look out for when buying a telescope?

Would you like to hear an entertaining and informative lecture by a top British astronomy writer and amateur observer?

If your answer to either or both the above is yes, then you'll want to put **Friday 14 October 2011 8pm** in your diary: this is when **Martin Mobberley** - past President of the British Astronomical Association and "Tech Talk" columnist for Astronomy Now - is coming to give a guest speaker talk to our society. The venue for the talk is **The Methodist Church Halls in Blackhorse Lane Ipswich.**



# Society for the History of Astronomy

## SHA Autumn Conference and A.G.M. 2011

**Saturday 29 October**

Birmingham & Midland Institute  
Margaret Street, Birmingham B33BS

Time	Speaker	Subject	Note
09.30 to 10.00		REGISTRATION	Delegates are asked to use the Cafe for refreshments
10.00	Gilbert Satterthwaite MSc FRAS Chairman S.H.A.	Welcome to BMI	
10.15 to 11.00	Dr. Clive Davenall FRAS	<i>'Lost World: Images of Mars Before the Space Age'</i>	
11.00 to 12.00	Brian Sheen FRAS Director of the Roseland Observatory, Cornwall.	<i>"The life and times of John Couch Adams from 1819 to 1847"</i>	
12.00 to 13.30		LUNCH BREAK	Delegates are asked to make their own arrangements
13.30	Gilbert Satterthwaite Chairman S.H.A.	Welcome back	
13.30 to 15.00	SHA COUNCIL	<b>2011 Annual General Meeting</b>	
15.00 to 15.30		AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS	Tea or coffee and biscuits will be provided
15.30 to 16.45	Dr Allan Chapman FRAS President S.H.A.	<i>"Airy's Greenwich Staff"</i>	
17.00	Gilbert Satterthwaite	CONCLUSIONS & DISPERSAL	

Commencing in 2010 the AGM has a regular time and venue; the Autumn Conference on the last Saturday in October, at the BMI. Members are invited to raise any issues concerning the Society during the AGM. Minutes of the 2010 AGM will be published in advance.

The above programme offers an interesting mixed bag that should appeal to all. Booking in advance, at £10 per person to subsidise room hire and catering, helps enormously to facilitate arrangements.

If you would like to give a talk at the next conference, do please contact me.

Kevin J Kilburn FRAS  
General Secretary, the Society for the History of Astronomy

████████████████████  
New Mills  
High Peak  
Derbyshire SK22 4JF  
Tel ██████████

e-mail ██████████

# OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	Chairman	☎		Chair committee meetings. Represent OASI to external bodies.
Roy Gooding	Secretary	☎		Respond to enquiries. Press & publicity. Observatory decoration. Open days.
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer	☎		Finance. Visits by outside groups.
James Appleton	Committee	☎		Minutes of committee meetings. Web site.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎		Safety & security.
Martin Cook	Committee	☎		Membership. Tomline Refractor maintenance.
Tina Hammond	Committee	☎		Librarian.
Peter Richards	Committee	☎		Lecture meetings. Email distribution lists.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎		Newsletter.
John Wainwright	Committee	☎		Equipment curator.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎	Workshops.	

## Trustees

Mr Roy Adams  
Mr David Brown  
Mr David Payne

## Honorary President

Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS



## DIARY for October

<b>STONS</b> <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</b> Main observing targets: Lyra & Cygnus ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>From 8.00pm</b>	<b>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</b> Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear. ASTEROID OBSERVING PROJECT. ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>Doors open 7.30pm</b> <b>Start 8.00pm</b>	<b>OASI WORKSHOP</b> At Nacton Village Hall A Little Mathematical Astronomy -how some simple measurements we can all make, can lead to fairly accurate estimates of cosmological quantities. ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
<b>Thursday</b>  6 <sup>th</sup> October 19.00 20 <sup>th</sup> October 19.00 27 <sup>th</sup> October 20.00	<b>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Capel Cubs Norwich Astronomical Society (special) Felixtowe Langard Rotary ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]
<b>Saturday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>8.00pm</b>	<b>PROVISIONAL DATE FOR A.G.M.</b> <b>Venue: The Methodist Church Hall</b> <b>Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</b>

**OPEN WEEKEND Orwell Park Observatory**  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**7.30pm to 10.00pm**

**OPEN FIELD OBSERVING**  
**Newbourne Village Hall**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 7.30pm to 11.00pm.**  
**Suggested Targets – Lyra and Cygnus**

### Society Contact Details

Observatory tel. no. (meeting nights only): [REDACTED]  
Secretary: Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (day) [REDACTED] (evening)  
E-mail queries: [info@oasi.org.uk](mailto:info@oasi.org.uk)  
Chairman: Neil Morley [REDACTED]