



# The Newsletter



of the

## Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

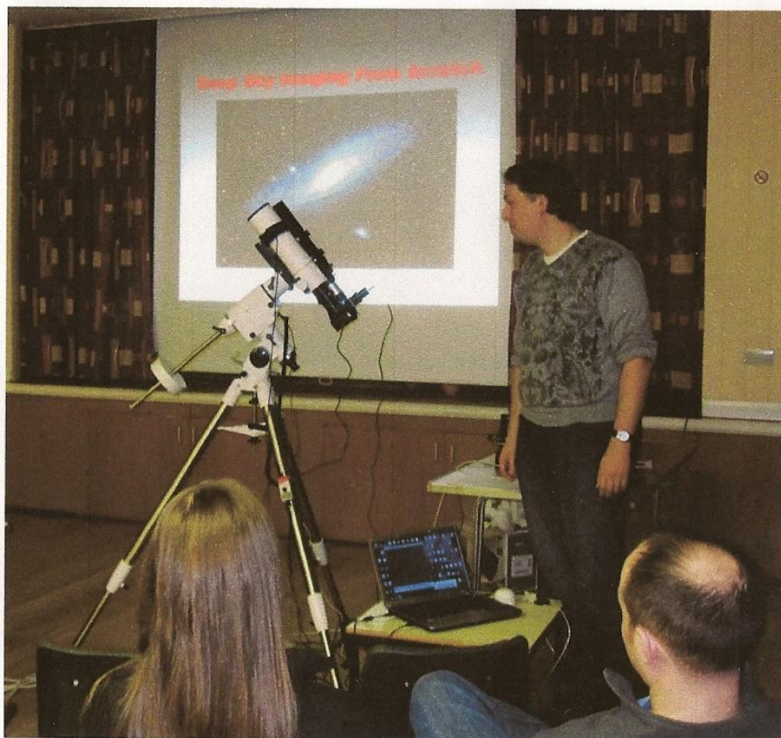
2011

DECEMBER

Registered charity no. 271313

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

No 469



Workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Nacton village hall.  
On Astronomical Imaging.  
By Ben Jarvis

## Society News (Roy Gooding)

### 1 Annual General Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012

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.

### 3 Welcome to New Members

|                         |                       |                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Charles Robertson       | Catherine White       | Matthew Thomas |
| Jennifer Richmond-Hardy | Martin Richmond-Hardy |                |
| Matthew Barker          | George Monger         |                |

### 4 Events Programme for 2011

This provisional event list will be updated through out the year

| Meeting                        | Venue           | Date  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Christmas Meal<br>Social event | Venue Ski Lodge | Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December<br>20:00<br>This event is now fully booked |

### 5 Observational Out Reach Meetings 2012

#### Winter Star Party: Christchurch Park

| Meeting   | Venue                                   | Date   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Winter Star Party</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> option                              | Christchurch Park<br>On top of the hill | Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January<br>19:00 to 21:00  |
| <b>Winter Star Party</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> option if 1 <sup>st</sup> is cloudy | Christchurch Park<br>On top of the hill | Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February<br>19:00 to 21:00   |
| <b>Winter Star Party</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> option if 2 <sup>nd</sup> is cloudy | Christchurch Park<br>On top of the hill | Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>February 20:00 to 22:00<br>(the clocks will have changed) |

## Directions

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| What entrance should we use | Meet at the Westerfield Road entrance at about 18:30. The park ranges will be at the entrance   |
| Set up time.                | If you plan to bring a telescope, and arrive at about 18:30. This will give you about 30 minutes to set up.<br><br>If you would like to come along just to help, please do so. It may be useful to have your membership card to show the Park Rangers. The park gates will be closed at 19:30 and will not be re-opened until the end |
| Observing Location          | On the hill   |
| Start time                  | 19:00 (20:00 for option 3)  |
| End time                    | 21:00 (22:00 for option 3)<br>May be earlier if visitors have all left  |

If you are able to help either with or without a telescope please meet at the Westerfield Road entrance at 18:30

## Spring Star Party: Chantry Park

### Directions:

- Enter Chantry Park from the Hadleigh road entrance. It is the drive way to the Sue Rider home.
- This drive does not have any gates so access is always open
- At the top of the drive take the left hand road. There are about 3 speed humps along here.  
At the end of this road, which is about 200 yards long, there is a parking area.

| Meeting   | Venue        | Date  |
|---|--------------|---|
| <b>Spring Star Party</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Option                              | Chantry Park | Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April<br>20:00 to 22:00 |
| <b>Spring Star Party</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> option if 1 <sup>st</sup> is cloudy | Chantry Park | Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> April<br>20:00 to 22:00 |

## Astronomy in the Park: Spring Event

| Meeting   | Venue                                  | Date   |
|---|--|--|
| Astronomy in the Park<br>“Observing the sun”<br>1 <sup>st</sup> option                              | Christchurch Park<br>Reg Driver Centre | Saturday / Sunday<br>19 <sup>h</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> May<br>11:00 to 16:00  |
| Astronomy in the Park<br>“Observing the sun”<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> option if 1 <sup>st</sup> is cloudy | Christchurch Park<br>Reg Driver Centre | Saturday / Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup><br>/ 27 <sup>th</sup> May<br>11:00 to 16:00 |

# Night Sky (December)

All times GMT

## Moon

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter | Full Moon        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter | New Moon         |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 18 <sup>th</sup>        | 25 <sup>th</sup> |

| Object  | Date |       |       | Mag  | Notes   |
|---------|------|-------|-------|------|---|
|         |      | Rise  | Set   |      |   |
| Sun     | 1    | 07:41 | 15:48 |      |   |
|         | 31   | 08:04 | 15:53 |      |   |
| Mercury | 1    | 08:18 | 16:09 | 0.0  | Mercury is greatest western elongation on the 23 <sup>rd</sup>      |
|         | 31   | 00:00 | 00:00 |      |   |
| Venus   | 1    | 00:00 | 00:00 | -3.9 | Venus is becoming better placed in the early evening sky            |
|         | 31   | 10:00 | 18:45 |      |   |
| Mars    | 1    | 12:59 | 12:59 | 0.7  | By the of the month Mars will be moving back into the evening sky   |
|         | 31   | 22:06 | 11:23 |      |   |
| Jupiter | 1    | 00:00 | 04:16 | -2.5 | Jupiter is still well placed for observation through out the night. |
|         | 31   | 12:13 | 02:12 |      |   |
| Saturn  | 1    | 03:32 | 14:17 | 1.0  | Saturn is visible after midnight.                                   |
|         | 31   | 01:48 | 12:25 |      |   |
| Uranus  | 1    | 13:17 | 0     | 5.8  | Uranus is an evening object in Pisces                               |
|         | 31   | 11:19 | 23:22 |      |   |
| Neptune | 1    | 12:21 | 22:14 | 7.9  | Neptune remains an evening object, in Aquarius                      |
|         | 31   | 10:24 | 20:19 |      |   |

## Meteor Showers

| Shower   | Limits  | Maximum                                      | ZHR |
|----------|---|--|-----|
| Geminids | December 7 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>  | December 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | 100 |
| Ursids   | December 17 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> | December 22 <sup>nd</sup> / 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10  |

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

## OCCULTATIONS DURING DECEMBER

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<br>(UT) | D<br>R | Lunar<br>Phase | Sun<br>Alt<br>(d) | Star<br>Alt<br>(d) | Mag | Star    |
|--------|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----|---------|
| 02 Dec | 21:44:22     | D      | 0.54+          | -52               | 20                 | 6.4 | ZC 3371 |
| 03 Dec | 16:39:52     | D      | 0.62+          | -8                | 34                 | 5.7 | 16 Psc  |
| 03 Dec | 23:52:08     | D      | 0.64+          | -60               | 12                 | 4.9 | 19 Psc  |
| 04 Dec | 20:53:32     | D      | 0.72+          | -46               | 42                 | 6.8 | 45 Psc  |
| 07 Dec | 02:39:56     | D      | 0.89+          | -46               | 16                 | 7.1 | ZC 313  |
| 07 Dec | 21:26:45     | D      | 0.93+          | -50               | 56                 | 5.8 | 40 Ari  |
| 09 Dec | 19:09:56     | D      | 0.99+          | -30               | 35                 | 5.7 | ZC 665  |
| 19 Dec | 02:58:52     | R      | 0.37-          | -44               | 12                 | 5.5 | 21 Vir  |
| 28 Dec | 16:51:55     | R      | 0.17+          | -9                | 25                 | 5.1 | 46 Cap  |

James Appleton

# 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>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>     | <b>Quiz Night</b><br>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><br>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> |

**Mike Whybray**

**Workshops organiser**

 (Mobile)

 (Home)

More information in Octobers newsletter.

# OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

|                      |           |   |            |  |
|----------------------|-----------|---|------------|--|
| Neil Morley          | Chairman  | ☎ |            | Chair committee meetings.<br>Represent OASI to external bodies.                      |
| Roy Gooding          | Secretary | ☎ |            | Respond to enquiries.<br>Press & publicity.<br>Observatory decoration.<br>Open days. |
| Paul Whiting<br>FRAS | Treasurer | ☎ |            | Finance.<br>Visits by outside groups.  |
| James Appleton       | Committee | ☎ |            | Minutes of committee meetings.<br>Web site.  |
| Bill Barton<br>FRAS  | Committee | ☎ |            | Safety & security.   |
| Martin Cook          | Committee | ☎ |            | Membership.<br>Tomline Refractor<br>maintenance.                                     |
| Tina Hammond         | Committee | ☎ |            | Librarian.   |
| Peter Richards       | Committee | ☎ |            | Lecture meetings.<br>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 DECEMBER

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>STONS</b><br/>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup></p>   | <p><b>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</b></p> <p>Main observing targets: Cassiopeia and Perseus</p> <p>☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED]<br/>☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]</p>  |
| <p><b>Wednesdays</b><br/><b>From 8.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b><br/><b>Observatory closed</b><br/><b>Christmas meal.</b></p> | <p><b>OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</b></p> <p>Observing with the Tomline Refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear.<br/>ASTEROID OBSERVING PROJECT.</p> <p>☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED]<br/>☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED], mobile [REDACTED]</p> |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/><b>14<sup>th</sup></b><br/><b>Doors open 7.30pm</b><br/><b>Start 7.45pm</b></p>   | <p><b>OASI QUIZ NIGHT</b></p> <p>At Nacton Village Hall<br/>To be run by Dr Paul Whiting FRAS</p> <p>☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]</p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Dec 8.00</b></p>  | <p><b>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>11<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Scouts</b></p> <p>☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]</p>   |
| <p><b>Saturday</b><br/><b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b><br/><b>8.00pm</b></p>   | <p><b>DATE FOR A.G.M.</b></p> <p><b>Venue: The Methodist Church Hall</b><br/><b>Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</b></p>   |

### 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]