

No. 493

Registered Charity 271313

February 2014



# OASI News

The newsletter of the Orwell Astronomical Society



M42 from Walberswick by David Murton

Orion HDRI combination of 2 images using Pictureaut 3.2

**Trustees:**

**Mr Roy Adams**

**Mr David Brown**

**Mr David Payne**

**Honorary President:**

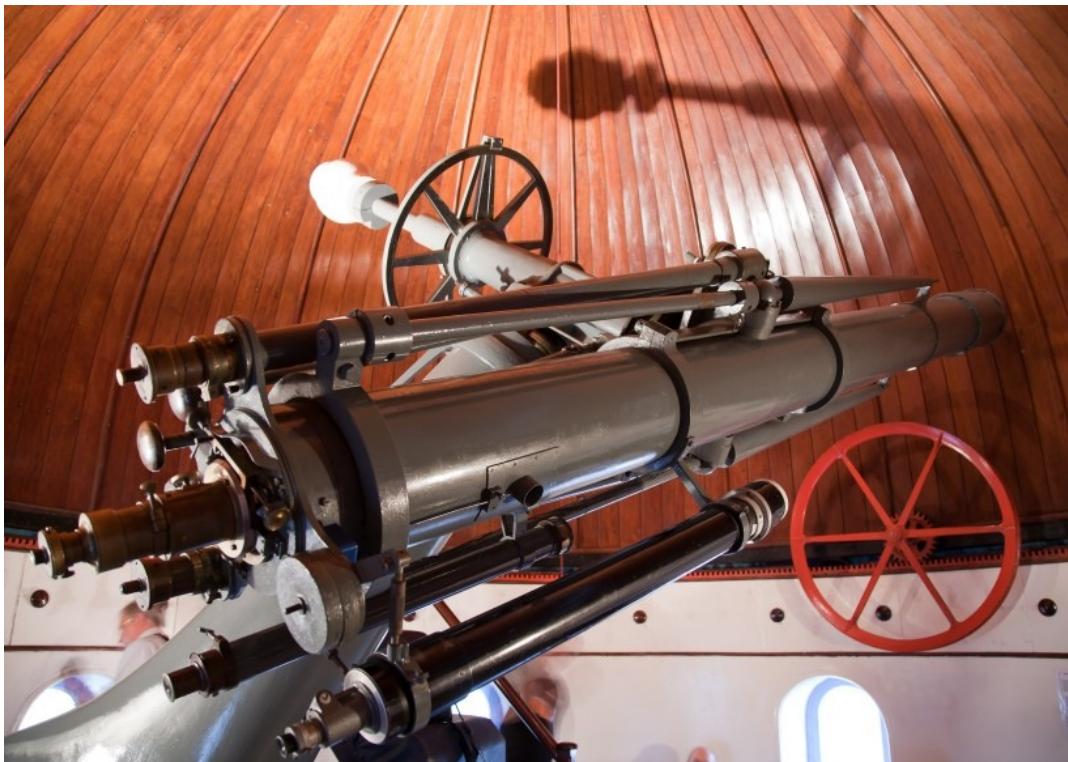
**Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS**



**Cloud & rain again at Newbourne but Paul to the rescue!**

## **Tomline Training**

Would you like to learn to drive this?



Download the Operating Manual from [www.oasi.org.uk/OPO/Operating\\_Manual\\_v5.doc](http://www.oasi.org.uk/OPO/Operating_Manual_v5.doc)

Have a read, then contact Bill Barton FRAS or Martin Cook for training.

If you pass your test you get a certificate!

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## Society Contact details

Observatory (meeting nights only)  
07967 519249  
Email queries: [info@oasi.org.uk](mailto:info@oasi.org.uk)  
Facebook.com/orwell astronomical  
Twitter: [@OASIipswich](https://twitter.com/OASIipswich)  
Forum: [forum.oasi.org.uk/index.php](http://forum.oasi.org.uk/index.php)

**Please send material for the OASI web site and newsletter**  
**e.g. observations, notices of events, general interest articles, to**  
**[news@oasi.org.uk](mailto:news@oasi.org.uk)**

## Articles for OASI News

News, pictures and articles for this newsletter are always welcome. Please send them to

[news@oasi.org.uk](mailto:news@oasi.org.uk)

**The CLOSING date is the 20th day of the month**

Please submit your articles in any of the following formats:-

Text: txt, rtf, rtf, doc, docx, odt, Pages  
Spreadsheets: xls, xlsx, OpenOffice/LibreOffice, Numbers  
Images: tiff, png, jpg

Please send tables as separate files in one of the above formats.

## Paper vs pdf

The Newsletter is published 11 times a year - currently about 170 copies per edition - at a cost, in 2013, of £1,083 including postage (£794). Costs for printing will increase this year due to using a commercial printer.

I would encourage readers to take the e-version (pdf file) which can be read by any type of computer/tablet (Windows, Mac, Linux, iMac, Kindle, Android, etc.) You can always print it yourself if you have an aversion to tablets and screens. We appreciate that some members are only able to accept the paper version so there are no plans to stop.

From January 2014 the maximum size of a printed newsletter will be 24 pages and only the cover (both sides) will be in colour. This is due to the cost of printing.

## Newsletter archive on DVD

James Appleton

The electronic archive of OASI *Newsletters* is complete from edition 1 (February 1972) to edition 484 (April 2013) inclusive. From May 2013 onwards, *Newsletter* production was undertaken electronically and editions are available for download from the OASI Yahoo files. The archive contains a scan of every non-blank page of the *Newsletter* and an index in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet facilitates locating articles by keyword searches using the Excel *Find* function. The archive can now be searched online at [www.oasi.org.uk/NL/NL\\_form.shtml](http://www.oasi.org.uk/NL/NL_form.shtml)

A DVD containing the archive is in the OASI library for loan to members. Anybody wanting their own copy, please let me know and I can either provide an additional DVD or load the archive onto a memory stick.

## Committee 2014

Chairman	David Murton	Chair committee meetings, represent OASI to external bodies
Secretary	Roy Gooding	Respond to enquiries, Press & publicity, Outreach meetings, Open days
Treasurer	Paul Whiting FRAS	Finance, Visits by outside groups, Supervision of applications for grants, Taster evenings, Public appreciation of astronomy.
Committee	James Appleton Bill Barton FRAS Martin Cook <u>Tina Hammond</u> <u>Peter Richards</u> <u>Martin Richmond-Hardy</u> John Wainwright <u>Mike Whybray</u> Mike Norris	Web site Safety & security Membership, Tomline refractor maintenance Librarian Lecture meetings, Email distribution lists Newsletter Equipment curator Workshops Newbourne Observing Group

## Committee Meeting Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting. Start time 20:00 Venue: Methodist Church Hall.

The removable of Junior membership from the society constitution will be discussed

## Subscriptions are due for 2014

Martin Cook, Membership Secretary

A renewal form was included with January's newsletter. Please correct and return with subs.

Please ensure that you complete your membership renewal form with your choice of newsletter delivery (see below) and return it to Martin Cook.

Electronic newsletters are posted on Yahoos group (see below for information on joining) or alternatively contact me at [oasi.m.cook@gmail.com](mailto:oasi.m.cook@gmail.com) giving your name, membership ID and your email address so that the newsletter can be sent directly to you.

## Retiring Chairman's Report

Neil Morley

Throughout the year, the ongoing preservation and conservation of a deteriorating Victorian observatory has remained a major concern. To ignore it is disrespectful to those members who worked tirelessly over many years to maintain and preserve it.

On Thursday 13th June, the OASI Trustees and myself met Adrian Brown (Headmaster) and Justine Barber (Bursar) to highlight significant concerns (including windows). I supplied written meeting notes afterwards. This led to a detailed structural survey of the observatory exterior and interior over the Summer period and a schedule of prioritised and costed repairs. The school need to raise a large sum of money around £300k and have agreed to provide OASI a copy of the report. I subsequently responded to a call for help from Justine Barber by delivering a covering letter signed by the Trustees accompanied by comprehensive supporting evidence to help fund raising. The next steps include monitoring the situation and being prepared to help.

During the meeting, Justine clarified any newly elected Committee members should apply for an enhanced DBS check. Any of the CRB-cleared members do not need separate DBS clearance.

I'd like to extend thanks to Martin Cook for singlehandedly resolving a number of outstanding access requests with the school.

In April, I presented a report on OASI's activities at the Nacton Parish Council meeting. Also an OASI poster and business card to help publicity.

I organised preparations for the Allan Chapman June Presidential lecture on great Scientific Communicators including Sir Patrick Moore which I'm sure you would agree was another memorable event. Thanks to everyone who helped out and made this a success.

In July, James Appleton (Webmaster) forwarded an email from a Public Protection Officer (PPO), Suffolk Constabulary about safeguarding. The PPO was in charge of a sex offender recently released from prison who had seen our website and was interested in joining. Due to our circumstances and the risks, I wasn't prepared to accept them as a member. At that time, OASI did not have a Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection policy (CVAPP). Therefore I propose adopting the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) policy, released just after this incident occurred.

In November I researched Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescopes and large binocular options and subsequently purchased a pair of 25 x 100 Helios Quantum 4 binocs for the Society.

I continue my monthly "Skywatch" shows on Ipswich Community Radio. Earlier in the year, I appeared on BBC Radio Suffolk publicising our Stargazing event at Christchurch Park.

Since taking on the role of Chairman, I've been delighted to see OASI growing into a much more outward looking and confident Society with an events list full to the brim. This reflects the continued enthusiasm in the membership and should be encouraged. As you are aware, due to significant changes in my work circumstances, I am stepping down as Chairman and from the Committee. This was not an easy decision. I wish my successor every new success and am happy to support them in whatever way I can. I am happy to maintain continuity with the school by remaining a Society contact to help with the Observatory preservation.

Special thanks to you all!

Neil

## Visits Report 2013

Paul Whiting

2013 was another successful year for the observatory visits team - my thanks to permanent helper Bill and the occasional helpers last year, Mike and John.

We had 17 visits in all over the year, raising £542 in donations. 381 visitors came from 14 school and youth groups and 3 adult groups.

Seven taster evenings attracted around 20 new members.

There were also 3 red-letter evenings, giving an amazing gift of a night at the observatory to a loved one.

## OASI Treasurer's Report 2013

Paul Whiting

2013 has once again been a good year financially, despite some major purchases, the balance was up almost £830.

Income continued to be healthy. This was helped by the usual tax refund and the continued income from visit donations. Taster Session Evenings also continued to be successful, which either raised income from new memberships or by donations on the night.

The Gift Aid tax reclamation facility continued to be a major income source. We reclaimed a tax refund from eligible membership subscriptions this year, the sum of £618.25. Additionally from now on we will be able to claim a tax refund on non-specific, anonymous donations.

In summary visits and donations raised £1093.05 for the club.

The biggest single income was again from the open weekend, last year raising £303, a little up on last year. Thanks to all who volunteered their time.

So what did we spend our money on this last year? We continued to pay the licence fee of £100 to the School. There was the usual expenditure on memberships, magazines, periodicals and book purchases. Also general running costs such as room hire, speakers, insurance and the newsletter.

NOG hall bookings were a major new expenditure, increasing our room hire expenditure to £919 for the year, but I believe it is well worth it.

There were a couple of major purchases in the year, amounting to some £480 on astronomical equipment. There is still however an outstanding invoice (not yet received) for the new reflecting telescope.

Notwithstanding this expenditure, once again the Society did not touch its reserve account at all during the year, and despite falling interest rates, it attracted over 80p in interest. The current account balance is 15% up on the start of the year.

### Current Account

brought forward	5549.89
2013 adjust	842.67
carry forward	6392.56

### Reserve Account

brought forward	1184.16
2013 adjust	0.00
carry forward	1184.16

### Cash in Hand

brought forward	115.73
2013 adjust	-13.10
carry forward	102.63

**Grand Total**      **7679.35**

### The 582 Fund

brought forward	965.40
2013 adjust	0.00
carry forward	965.40

The Society has established the 582 Fund to collect donations towards restoration work. The name is taken from the IAU observatory code for the facility.

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

Please consider donating to the fund (Paypal "donate" button on home page or feel free to contact us by email if you can assist with fund raising in any way: [info@oasi.org.uk](mailto:info@oasi.org.uk).

## Constitution changes

The first committee meeting in 2014 will discuss changes to the constitution e.g., remove junior membership in order for the FAS child protection guidelines to be adopted (see below). The proposals will be put to the membership either at an EGM or the next AGM.

## From the retiring Chairman

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the extremely kind presentation at the AGM last night and for the engraved beer mug (accompanied by beer of course!) and framed photo print which will appear in the "Hall of Fame" in the observatory staircase! You really are a special bunch and I feel extremely privileged to have served you as Chairman over the past five years. During that period, OASI has spread its wings and become a much more outward looking and confident Society. We have astronomy in the park, astronomy in the dark, taster evenings, visits, workshops, field outings, lectures, and a successful series of Newbourne Observing Group activities. If that were not enough, an electronic newsletter, school astronomy club, active web site, forum, library, historical research, social events, and more. You have only to look at the events list on our website and in the newsletter to appreciate what has changed. All this has been achieved by your efforts and both OASI members and the wider community have benefitted. I have largely tried not to intervene unless required, but rather more encourage and support our activities as best I can. It's all been down to you and long may it continue!

I am sure you will join me in wishing David Murton, my successor all the very best success as your new Chairman.

With kind regards,  
Neil Morley.

## Child Protection in OASI

Any member of OASI may come into contact with children at events we organise or participate in. The safety and well-being of children in general is rightly paramount, and this article introduces what to do if you are concerned about a child's well-being or have related concerns. In addition, to avoid any misunderstandings leading to potential allegations against members, it is important that members understand what is and is not acceptable when interacting with children at OASI events.

The OASI committee recognised in 2013 that we probably should have an explicit child protection policy and fortuitously within weeks the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) issued a ready-made policy document for member societies to adopt if they chose. The OASI committee has decided to adopt this policy and I have volunteered to be the designated Lead Person for Child Protection - because I have already had some training in this area in my day job as a science technician at a school.

My role can be summarised as:

- Ensure our Child Protection policy and documents are in place and available to members.
- Communicate the basic ideas to our membership and be available for further clarifications.
- Ensure the process for members to raise any concerns is clear and to then liaise with the Local Authority as necessary.
- Ensure members understand what is and is not acceptable when interacting with children at OASI events by giving simple guidelines.

So - here goes in a bit more depth...

## Child Protection – what's it all about?

It can hardly have escaped people's attention that despite the public at large condemning the abuse of children in any form, and it now being very easy to find out how to report such abuse or suspicions thereof, the media continue to report new cases daily and these are just the tip of the iceberg. So it is not something we should think of as 'it can't happen here'. Abuse can take

many forms, for example physical or sexual, but also in less obvious ways such as neglect and emotional abuse. If you have reasonable grounds to suspect a child is subject to abuse then you should raise your concern in confidence either with myself (Mike Whybray), our chairman (David Murton), or direct with the local authorities or police.

This applies whether the suspected abuser or child is a member of OASI or not.

In the context of Child Protection, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

## OASI Child Protection Policy

OASI has adopted the Child Protection Guidelines document issued by the FAS in October 2013 (V1.0). This 16 page document is available on the OASI web site, along with the 1 page document stating that OASI adopts this policy and naming myself as the Lead Person.

OASI does not have an explicit junior section or activities. If we did, then all members involved in running those activities would need to be 'Enhanced DBS' checked. As we have no junior section, according to the FAS guidelines contact between OASI members and children is therefore categorised as 'incidental' rather than 'frequent' and no blanket DBS checks are required. [DBS = Disclosure and Barring Service. This simplified and transferable check has now replaced the previous CRB = Criminal Records Bureau check system].

For visits to the observatory, by Scouts for example, the Scout Leader or equivalent will have been DBS checked and is responsible for the welfare of the children, so no DBS checks are needed for OASI volunteers hosting the visitors.

An exception to the above is the Astronomy Club which a few members run for the children of Orwell Park School itself. This is not open to other children, and is supervised by staff from the school, but all OASI members who assist with this have and must continue to have a DBS or CRB check in place because this activity counts as 'frequent' contact.

Although OASI does not have a 'junior section', we currently have a Concession for child membership. This opens the possibility that a child could attend an event without a parent/guardian present. To avoid this possibility I recommended at the 2014 AGM that OASI drop the Child Concession, only allow Family Membership, and require that the parent/guardian is always present at an event the child attends. (See paragraph at the end of this article).

As a final point I quote the following from the FAS guidelines: "If a member of an astronomical society is asked to look after a child by a friend or relative and the friend or relative is the parent of that child, the Society member can take that child to an astronomical meeting. This is considered to be a private arrangement between the parent and the member of the astronomical society and there is no requirement for any DBS checks upon that astronomical society member - this is known as Mutually Agreed Contact."

## OASI members behaviour

To both prevent the possibility of inadvertent abuse, and to protect members from misunderstandings and the possibility of false allegations, I have included the FAS guidelines virtually word for word below:

It is impossible to describe all behaviours which should either be promoted or avoided. The following are given as some obvious examples. Astronomical society members should take a common sense approach to both aspects.

### Avoid:

1. Engaging in rough physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
2. Allowing or engaging in any form of inappropriate touching
3. Allowing children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
4. Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
5. Reducing a child to tears as a form of control
6. Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
7. Doing things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves

8. Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home or other venue for 'private' stargazing etc...
9. Taking on a care giving or supervisory role without formal processes being put in place first (see definition on Regulated Activity in the FAS Child Protection Guidelines)

### Promote good practice by:

1. When attending externally organised events (Scouts/Guides groups etc.) the astronomical society should always stipulate that the external group itself must provide the DBS checked adults and they must be present at all times.
2. Ensuring parents/carers take responsibility for their own children
3. Always putting the welfare of each young person first
4. Always working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication
5. Treating all young people equally with respect and dignity
6. Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with children
7. Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision making
8. Making astronomy fun and enjoyable
9. Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support (such as at a telescope) is required, it should be provided openly and the child and parent must always be consulted and their agreement gained
10. Being an excellent role model - this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people
11. Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
12. Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and not 'pushing' them against their will
13. Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given (in the OASI accident book)

Society members should take a common sense approach to the administration of first aid to children. Example: If parents/guardians are present, they could administer the first aid, or with their agreement a member could do it. If the parents are not present, first aid should be given with the agreement of the child. It is a point of good practice to record what had occurred and what first aid was administered. [Note - antiseptic wipes should not be used and only hypo-allergenic plasters].

### Raising a concern

A key principle of child protection is that the child's interests are paramount. If abuse is obvious then immediate steps must be taken e.g. Separating the abuser from the child; Reporting the incident to the OASI Lead Person for Child Protection and/or the authorities immediately. If abuse is at the level of a suspicion or concern, then the OASI Lead and/or the authorities should still be informed quickly so that the facts can be recorded and any action required evaluated.

In Suffolk the relevant authority is the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board. They have a FLOWCHART FOR REFERRAL which I include below:

#### 1. Concerns

Suspicion/allegation of abuse by: child disclosure, observation, report by another person, anonymous communication.

RECORD Sign and Date

#### 2. Consult

Your organisation or group should have a policy for child protection. If appropriate, speak with the person nominated to be the child protection advisor/coordinator. All can speak informally with Children and Young People's Services.

IMPORTANT: Any consultation should not delay a referral.

RECORD Sign and Date

### 3. Action

#### DO NOT INVESTIGATE

Refer to Children and Young People's Services and/or Police. You or your 'coordinator' should make the referral. Parents and carers should be advised that you are doing this unless this might put the child at risk or cause any delay in referring.

RECORD Sign and Date

### 4. Confirm

#### DO NOT INVESTIGATE

Verbal referrals must be followed by a written referral within 24 hours.

RECORD Sign and Date

### 5. Commitment

You may be required to provide other information, as required.

RECORD Sign and Date

**In the event that a child discloses some concerning information, DO NOT quiz them for further details (this may compromise any following legal investigation), and DO NOT promise not to tell anyone. Just listen, subsequently make a written record of what they said and SIGN and DATE, and follow the flowchart above.**

## Contacts

- Mike Whybray - OASI Lead Person for Child Protection: 01473 659679  
(Or contact OASI Chairman David Murton who is the deputy for Child Protection)
- Suffolk Children's Service: 0808 800 4005  
(Also <http://suffolksafeguardingchildrenboard.onesuffolk.net/>)
- Suffolk Police: 01473 613500

## Final Thoughts

Hoping that you've read this far, some may be thinking this is all over the top. My view is that child abuse is manifestly real and it is responsible of our society to ensure it does not happen as part of OASI activities, and that members know what to do if they suspect it. Secondly that members know what behaviour is OK and what could be misconstrued, and act accordingly - so that we can continue to help children appreciate the wonders of astronomy.

Following these guidelines not only protects children but protects yourself.

If anyone has any thoughts, comments or questions please let me know. You might also like to read the full FAS Guidelines document which I will make available on the OASI web site [oasi.org.uk](http://oasi.org.uk)

To fully implement this policy we need to make a small change to the OASI Constitution, deleting the class of Junior Membership. Family Membership remains unchanged. We might need to add words to clarify that a child can only join as part of a family membership, and that their parent/guardian must always be present.

If anyone has any objections to this please contact me so that we can discuss it. In any event the change to the constitution wording cannot be made until we have an AGM or EGM and give 14 days notice of the proposed change.

Mike Whybray  
January 2014

## Society Notices

### The Newsletter

The society is trying to move from paper newsletters to electronic.

We now use an outside printer. The cost of doing so means that only the cover pages can be printed in colour. The full colour version is available from the OASI Yahoo group.

To receive the electronic version of the newsletter (which you can also print in A4 or A5 booklet format) you will have to be a member of the oasi yahoo group.

To subscribe to this group please email [oasi-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:oasi-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### Discussion Forum

We have a new web-based forum for general discussions and some initial specialist areas.

OASI members can join this forum at <http://forum.oasi.org.uk/index.php>

- OASI General
- Newbourne Observing Group
- Observing - Night Sky
- Observing - Solar
- Events
- Imaging
- Small Telescopes Observing Nights
- For Sale / Wanted
- Equipment

### Welcome to New Members

Prof. Ian Henning	Mr Robert Hall	Mrs Leanne McLeavy	Mr Jeremy Startup
Mr Peter Smith	Mr Richard Gruuber	Mr Gary Hawes	Mr Graham King
Mr Ray Brown	Mr Peter Cates	Mr Steve Cates	

### OASI Corporate Clothing

There has been a recent interest in ordering a new batch of clothing with the OASI logo. This firm has a copy of our logo Suffolk Insignia. Their URL is [www.suffolkinsignia.co.uk/](http://www.suffolkinsignia.co.uk/)

If you would like to order any clothing with the society logo embroidery, please browse their web site and give me (Roy Gooding) the item type, size, colour and item number.

I will then contact Suffolk Insignia to obtain a price quote, before a formal order is placed.

### Society Events

For the latest event details, please see [www.oasi.org.uk/Events/Events.shtml](http://www.oasi.org.uk/Events/Events.shtml)

For other astronomy news and astro pictures try our

Twitter feed	<a href="https://twitter.com/OASIPswich">https://twitter.com/OASIPswich</a>
Facebook page	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Orwell-Astronomical/">http://www.facebook.com/Orwell-Astronomical/</a>
Discussion Forum	<a href="http://forum.oasi.org.uk/index.php">http://forum.oasi.org.uk/index.php</a>

Date and Time	Location	Contact	Event
Weekly, every Wednesday, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Martin Cook, Roy Gooding	General observation (weather permitting) using a variety of telescopes.
Tuesday 04 February, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Gerry Pilling, Paddy O'Sullivan & Dave Robinson	Small Telescopes Observing Night. Main observing targets: Cancer and any lurking comets.
Tuesday 04 February, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Paul Whiting	<u>Taster evening for people considering joining OASI.</u>
7 & 8 February	Kensington Conference Centre, London		AstroFest 2014
Monday 10 February, 19:00-late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
Friday 21 February, 20:00	<u>Methodist Church Hall, Museum St, Ipswich</u>	Pete Richards	<b>Lecture Meeting:</b> Greg Smye-Rumsby (Royal Observatory/Astronomy Now) “Building the Solar System”
Thursday 27 February, 19:00-late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
Saturday 01 March, 20:00-22:00	<u>Christchurch Park, Westerfield Road entrance</u>	Roy Gooding	<b>Public access event:</b> star party marking <u>National Astronomy Week 2014</u> . (Will postpone to 08 March if weather unsuitable.) Booking not necessary.
Tuesday 04 March, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Gerry Pilling, Paddy O'Sullivan & Dave Robinson	Small Telescopes Observing Night. Main observing target: constellation Leo.
Tuesday 04 March, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Paul Whiting	<u>Taster evening for people considering joining OASI.</u>
Monday 10 March, 19:00-late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
15 March 20:00	<u>Methodist Church Hall</u>		Committee meeting

Date and Time	Location	Contact	Event
Thursday 27 March, 19:00-late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
27-31 March	Kelling Heath	<a href="http://www.starparty.org">www.starparty.org</a>	Spring Star Party
Tuesday 01 April, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Gerry Pilling, Paddy O'Sullivan & Dave Robinson	Small Telescopes Observing Night. Main observing targets: Saturn, Mars and Sasco.
Tuesday 01 April, 20:00	<u>Orwell Park Observatory</u>	Paul Whiting	<u>Taster evening for people considering joining OASI.</u>
Monday 14 April, 19:00- late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
Friday - Monday 25-28 April	Haw Wood Farm Caravan Park, Hinton, Saxmundham IP17 3QT <a href="http://www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk">www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.brecklandastro.org.uk/">www.brecklandastro.org.uk/</a>	Breckland Astronomical Society Spring Star Party See page 18 for details
Thursday 01 May, 19:00- late	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	<u>Mike Norris</u> Mike O'Mahony	Newbourne Observing Group. Bring your telescope to our dark-sky site. (Talks on astronomy if skies are cloudy.)
Friday 09 May, 20:00	<u>Methodist Church Hall</u>	Pete Richards	Lecture Meeting. Prof Ralph Spencer: <i>Black Swans - Black Holes in the Constellation Cygnus.</i>
Saturday-Sunday 17-18 May, 11:00-16:00	<u>Christchurch Park, Reg Driver Centre</u>	Roy Gooding	<b>Public access event:</b> observing the sun safely. (Will postpone to 24-25 May if weather unsuitable.) Booking not necessary.
Saturday 19 July	<u>Newbourne Village Hall</u>	Pete Richards	Summer BBQ
Friday - Monday 19-22 September or, if poor skies in Sept: Friday-Monday 24-27 October	Haw Wood Farm Caravan Park, Hinton, Saxmundham IP17 3QT <a href="http://www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk">www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.brecklandastro.org.uk/">www.brecklandastro.org.uk/</a>	Breckland Astronomical Society Autumn Star Party See page 18 for details

Date and Time	Location	Contact	Event
22 Sept - 3 Oct Main weekend 26-28 Sept	Kelling Heath	<a href="mailto:starparty.las-astro.org.uk">starparty.las-astro.org.uk</a>	Autumn Equinox Sky Camp (web site still showing 2013 event)
Friday 21 November 2014, 20:00	<u>Methodist Church Hall,</u> Museum St, Ipswich	Pete Richards	Lecture Meeting. Alan McGuire Using the Sloan Digital Sky Survey to Study Quasars and the Early Universe.

## Night Sky in February

Roy Gooding

### Moon

New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
1 Mar 08:00	6 Feb 19:22	14 Feb 23:53	22 Feb 17:15

### Sun and planets

Source: [heavens-above.com](http://heavens-above.com), location: OPS observatory

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun	1	07:35	16:43		
	28	06:43	17:33		
Mercury	1	08:15	18:23	-0.5	Mercury will low down on the western sky at the beginning of the month
	28	05:54	15:28	1.1	
Venus	1	05:30	14:38	-4.5	Venus will very prominent in the pre-dawn sky
	28	04:39	13:39	-4.4	
Mars	1	23:11	10:04	0.3	Mars is in Virgo and brightens during the month.
	28	21:47	08:27	-0.5	
Jupiter	1	13:48	06:14	-2.4	Jupiter remains well placed to observe all night.
	28	11:53	04:22	-2.2	
Saturn	1	02:00	11:04	1.1	Saturn is visible on the early morning sky
	28	00:17	09:20	1.0	
Uranus	1	09:28	21:58	5.9	Uranus can be seen in evening sky this month
	28	07:44	20:19	5.9	
Neptune	1	08:30	18:36	8.0	Neptune is too close to the sun to see this month
	28	06:45	16:56	8.0	

See [in-the-sky.org/risesetcharts.php](http://in-the-sky.org/risesetcharts.php) for some nice graphs

## Meteor Shower

Source: BAA Handbook 2014 p95-7

None during February

## 2014 Comets

2014 does not offer much for the visual observer in the way of returning periodic comets, with the most interesting one being 209P/LINEAR, which could reach 11th magnitude when it passes 0.06 AU from the earth in May. See [www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~jds/preds14.pdf](http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~jds/preds14.pdf)

The latest edition of what is now the BAA Comet Section Journal, rather than its Newsletter, as it fills 50 pages. You can download it from [www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~jds/tail33.pdf](http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~jds/tail33.pdf)

## Occultations during February

James Appleton

The table lists lunar occultations which occur during the month under favourable circumstances. The data relate 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
04 Feb	21:51:03	D	0.30+	-45	12	7.4	ZC 205
06 Feb	18:05:55	D	0.49+	-12	53	7.3	ZC 445
07 Feb	18:31:27	D	0.59+	-15	55	6.0	ZC 577
07 Feb	23:04:18	D	0.61+	-51	29	6.3	ZC 590
08 Feb	19:58:22	D	0.69+	-28	56	6.0	ZC 718
08 Feb	21:18:49	D	0.70+	-40	50	6.9	ZC 726
10 Feb	00:22:29	D	0.79+	-52	33	6.7	ZC 871
10 Feb	00:50:44	D	0.79+	-52	29	7.5	Hip 27191
10 Feb	19:14:23	D	0.85+	-21	50	7.5	Hip 30749
11 Feb	20:10:09	D	0.91+	-29	50	3.6	54 Gem
	20:45:29	R		-34	52		
13 Feb	20:32:19	D	0.99+	-32	38	5.4	60 Cnc

## Asteroidal Occultation

At 03:08 UT on 07 March 2014, asteroid (9) Metis will occult the magnitude 7.9 star HIP 78193 (in Libra). The maximum duration of the occultation is predicted to be 25 seconds. The asteroid is of magnitude 11 and the star, when occulted, should dim by approximately three magnitudes. The shadow track is approximately 370 km wide and is predicted to cross SE England. The track prediction may change slightly due to the availability of more accurate orbital elements closer to the date of the event. See the following url for details of the track and other key parameters: [www.asteroidoccultation.com/2014\\_03/0307\\_9\\_32274.htm](http://www.asteroidoccultation.com/2014_03/0307_9_32274.htm)

## OASI Field trip to see the Northern Lights (hopefully)

By Paul Whiting FRAS

I am still taking names for the Aurora Field Trip that will take place in February 2015

Depart: Wednesday 11 February 2015 [next year!]

Return: Monday 16 February 2015

This will include 3 nights on board ship, followed by 2 nights in Tromsø, a total of 5 nights at or above 70° North.

Having just got back from the same trip, the aurora was absolutely amazing. February should be statistically better for both the lights and cloud cover, hence the decision on the date.

Details of the initial itinerary are below, and may be found on the website. Flights will be from Gatwick. I need to know names, numbers of cabins (single / double, inside / outside).

Costs will be: £1247 outside twin (per person)      £1495 outside single.

There will be an opportunity to add excursions later. I will need an initial 20% deposit.

Paul  
[trip@oasi.org.uk](mailto:trip@oasi.org.uk)

### Initial itinerary

#### Day 1 Tromsø, the gateway to the Arctic

Fly from the UK to Tromsø, the Gateway to the Arctic, and perhaps enjoy the sights of this lively, compact city before boarding the ship and departing late in the afternoon. (Dinner on board)

#### Day 2 Honningsvåg and the North Cape

Following the scenic sailing through Magerøysund and after an early stop in Hammerfest, you arrive in Honningsvåg. This small port is the gateway to the wonders of the spectacular North Cape (optional excursion). At 71° 10' 21" N it puts you a mere 2,000 kilometres from the Geographical North Pole. This evening, you pass Finnmarka, a rock formation that is sacred to the indigenous Sami people and now also the site of an impressive light show. (Breakfast and dinner included)

#### Day 3 Kirkenes, the voyage turning point

The last port on the Voyage North is Kirkenes. And at longitude 30° E, you are actually further east than Istanbul and St. Petersburg. The terrain, culture and geography of Kirkenes offer the opportunity to take part in some fabulous Arctic excursions. Departing Kirkenes at lunchtime, you retrace your steps along the Varanger peninsula reaching Berlevåg in the evening. (Breakfast and dinner included).

#### Day 4 Hammerfest and Tromsø

Your first major stop of the day is Hammerfest. Here, you can enjoy an optional excursion including a visit to Hammerfest's UNESCO World Heritage site, the Meridian Column, commemorating the conclusion of Struve's historical measurement of the globe. From here, your next major stop will be Tromsø where your voyage comes to an end. Transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay. (Breakfast and dinner included).

#### Day 5 Day in Tromsø

After breakfast in your hotel this morning, a choice of winter excursions are available before you are transferred to Tromsø airport for your direct flight back to the UK (Breakfast included).

Extend your stay in this lively and colourful city, surrounded by the dramatic Lyngen Alps. Tromsø has many sights to offer, including Arctic history, architecture, culture and exciting excursions. Visit a coastal farm and enjoy reindeer sledging or perhaps visit the Polaris Centre. An extra day in Tromsø will give you time to enjoy this beautiful city and more time to watch out for the Northern Lights.

#### Day 6 Depart

Further excursions are available before your flight back to the UK. (Breakfast included).

## Newbourne Observing Group

michael.norris17@btopenworld.com omahony.mike@gmail.com

We meet at The Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Lane, Newbourne, IP12 4NP

### January 2014 Meetings

Many thanks to the 20 members who again braved the awful weather (picture page 2).

In spite of which we did have two telescopes outside doing their best.

However Paul Whiting was on hand to give us a taster talk on the proposed society trip to Norway in February 2015 to see the Northern Lights. It all sounded fantastic particularly the food!

Our next meeting is Thursday 30th January starting at 7pm. All are welcome with or without telescopes. Full Newbourne programme on the OASI web site.

Our meeting dates are listed below and start at 7pm. All welcome, with or without telescopes.

Monday 10th Feb                              Thursday 27th Feb

Monday 10th Mar                              Thursday 27th Mar

Monday 14th Apr                              Thursday 1st May

## Small Telescope Observing Nights (STONs)

By Gerry Pilling

Jan 7th	Targets Orion, Gemini	Feb 4th	Target Cancer and any comets lurking
March 4th	Target Leo	April 1st	Targets Saturn, Mars and Sasco

## Lecture Meetings

These take place in The Methodist Halls, Upstairs room, Black Horse Lane, Ipswich

### Winter – 8pm Friday 21st February 2014

**Greg Smye-Rumsby (Royal Observatory & Astronomy Now)**

**Building the Solar System**

### Spring – 8pm Friday 9th May 2014

**Professor Ralph Spencer (University of Manchester)**

**Black Swans – black holes in the constellation of Cygnus**

### Autumn Lecture – 8pm Friday 21st November 2014

**Alan McGuire**

**Using the Sloan Digital Sky Survey to study Quasars and the early Universe**

## Breckland Astronomical Society



### 2014 SPRING & AUTUMN STAR PARTIES

Friday 25th – Monday 28th April

&

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd September

Friday 24th to Monday 27th October  
if poor skies in September



Come earlier or stop later if you want. Pitches £10 per night with hook up.

A Dark Sky Discovery Site.

Naked eye visibility 5.73, averted 5.99, best SQM reading 21.75

We had 6 clear all night sessions out of 7 in autumn 2013

### BOOKING

Direct to David Wiggins or Sue Orman at Haw Wood Farm.

Haw Wood Farm Caravan Park, Hinton, Saxmundham. IP17 3QT

Email, [davewiggins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davewiggins@hotmail.co.uk) Phone 01986 784 248

Website, [www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk](http://www.hawwoodfarm.co.uk)

Go to Haw Wood news for latest update and reviews of our star parties.

For information see the BAS website, [www.brecklandastro.org.uk](http://www.brecklandastro.org.uk)

### The Ten Commandments for Amateur Astronomers

Source: <http://northessexastro.wordpress.com/>

1. Thou shalt have no white light before thee, behind thee, or to the side of thee whilst sharing the night sky with thy fellow stargazers.
2. Thou shalt not love thy telescope more than thy spouse or thy children; as much as, maybe, but not more.
3. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's telescope, unless it exceeds in aperture or electronics twice that of your own.
4. Thou shalt not read "Astronomy Now" or "Sky at Night" on company time, for thine employer makes it possible to continue thine astronomy hobby.
5. Thou shalt have at least two telescopes so as to keep thy spouse interested when the same accompanies thee under the night sky or on eclipse expeditions to strange lands where exotic wild animals doth roam freely.
6. Thou shalt not allow either thy sons or thy daughters to get married during the Holy Days of Astrofest.
7. Thou shalt not reveal to thy spouse the true cost of thy telescope collection; only the individual components and that shall be done with great infrequency.
8. Thou shalt not buy thy spouse any lenses, filters, dew shields, maps, charts, or any other optical accessories for Christmas, anniversaries, or birthdays unless thy spouse needs them for their own telescope.
9. Thou shalt not deceive thy spouse into thinking that ye are taking them for a romantic Saturday night drive when indeed thou art heading for a dark-sky site.
10. Thou shalt not store thy telescope in thy living room, dining room, or bedroom, lest thou be sleeping with it full time.

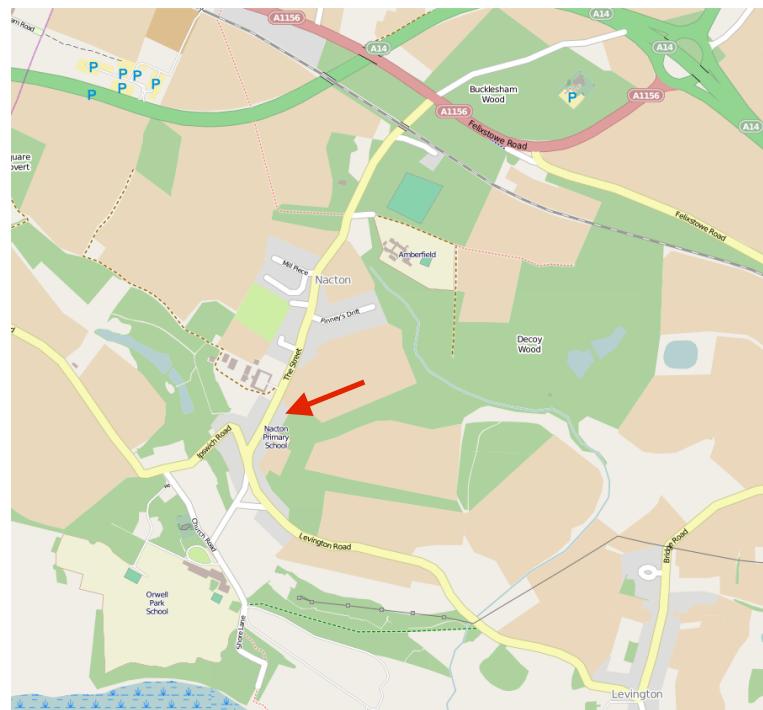
## Workshop Meetings

Doors open at 7:30pm.

Workshops START at 7:45pm

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

If you are a new OASI member, or  
haven't been to one of these  
informal workshops before, they are  
a mixture of events of different  
characters including beginners talks,  
interactively workshops, 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!



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!

### 29 January The Equation of Time

What is the equation of time?

How can you measure it?

What would it be on other planets?

**Joe Startin & Matthew Robertson**

How can you work it out?

What does it say about the Earth's orbit?

We'll try to answer these and other questions.

**Do you have a subject you could workshop? Give Mike Whybray a call!**

## John Dobson 1915–2014

Source: [www.sidewalkastronomers.us/](http://www.sidewalkastronomers.us/)

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

In Memoriam: John Dobson (1915 - 2014)

It is with heavy hearts that we must report the passing of John Dobson. He died peacefully this morning, Wednesday, January 15th, in Burbank, California. He was 98 years old. He leaves behind a son, numerous close friends, and fans and admirers worldwide.

On March 8th, in honor of John, this year's ISAN (International Sidewalk Astronomy Night) will be dedicated to his memory.

Amateur astronomers around the globe can join in and celebrate John's life and continue to carry the torch that he lit back in 1968 when he co-founded the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers.

Dobson authored the 1991 book *How and Why to Make a User-Friendly Sidewalk Telescope* (ISBN 0-913399-64-7) with editor Norman Sperling. This book helped popularize what came to be known as the Dobsonian mount.

Pictured: 50 cm Obsession Dobsonian [www.oasi.org.uk/ATM/MT/MT.shtml](http://www.oasi.org.uk/ATM/MT/MT.shtml)



## RAG 2014 – 17 May 2014

The BAA Radio Astronomy Group's General Meeting will again be held at the **National Space Centre, Leicester on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. We will be keeping the same format with two keynote speakers supported by a number of presentations from members of the Group.

### Speakers

**Dr Klaas Wiersema** (University of Leicester) will describe how new radio telescope technologies enable the exploration of the "transient" radio Universe, from the mysterious millisecond duration "fast radio bursts" to the energetic afterglows of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) which are sometimes visible for years. The presentation will show how new technology is allowing us to study afterglows and other transients in a completely new way.

**Dr Eloy de Lera Acedo** (Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge) will discuss the design of the antennas and Low Noise Amplifiers used in modern low frequency (metre and centimetre wavelengths) radio telescope arrays, including the requirements and limitations for these parts of the receiver chain. He will finish by looking at the future of low frequency radio telescopes beyond the instruments currently being deployed.

Supporting papers so far offered are:

- an ultra-low cost Hydrogen Line radio telescope (Peter East);
- the modelling of our local galactic topology (Gordon Dennis);
- the design of an Arduino-based magnetometer (Jonathan Rawlinson);
- making and analysing observations with Starbase (Laurence Newell);
- experiments with a small SDR radio telescope (David Morgan);
- and reports on developments at both the East Anglian Amateur Radio Observatory (Jason Williams) and the Harold Clayton Observatory (Dave James).

Tickets for the event cost £12 for BAA members and £15 for non-members, including free parking at the NSC and free admission to the main attraction, excluding the Planetarium show. Tea and coffee will be provided during the breaks but lunch is not included. Delegates are welcome to bring their own lunch or the NSC shop (Boosters) sells a range of sandwiches and other refreshments. It would help the NSC if you could also note the number of people in your party that are likely to use Boosters when you book tickets.

Tickets can be purchased by BAA and non-BAA members alike.

You can book by phone on 020 7734 4145

I hope to see you in Leicester on 17th May

Paul Hyde  
RAG Coordinator

