

SOCIETY NEWS

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK 17th to 24th November

The society programme for National Week has now been finalized.

The observatory will be open on the following evenings:-

Saturday	17th	8.00	to	10.00 pm.
Sunday	18th	"	"	" "
Monday	19th	"	"	" "
Tuesday	20th	"	"	" "
Wednesday	21st	"	"	" "

As much help as possible from all members will be required to run the open evenings.

A lecture meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road on Friday 23rd November starting at 19.45 (7.45 pm)

Mr. Konrad Malin-Smith will be speaking on:-

Experiences of La Palma.

2 Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd November. This is an open meeting and any member is welcome to attend. The main item for discussion will be National Astronomy Week.

NIGHT SKY

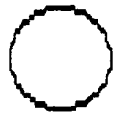
All times GMT

SUN

Rises approximately 07.00 to 07.50
Sets approximately 16.30 to 15.50



MOON



2nd



9th



17th



25th

- MERCURY Mercury is an evening object this month. it will be setting less than an hour after the sun and will be difficult to see. Mag. -0.4
- VENUS Venus is at superior conjunction on the 1st. It will be very difficult to see this month as it will be setting only a few minutes after the sun.
- MARS Mars is at opposition on the 27th. The planet is in Taurus and will be visible all night. Mag.-2.4
- JUPITER Jupiter is in Cancer and will be at opposition on the 30th. Mag. -2.2
- SATURN Saturn will be setting at about 21.00 and at 19.00 at the end of the month. Mag. 0.4
- URANUS Uranus will be setting by 18.00 at the end of the month. Mag.5.6
- NEPTUNE Neptune will be setting about half an hour after Uranus. Mag 7.7

R. Gooding

OUR HIGHLY ESTEEMED MEMBER, MR. E.H. COLLINSON

It is with the deepest regret that we have heard of the passing away at the age of 86, on 26th September, of Mr. Edward H. Collinson.

He will always be remembered as one of the ablest and staunchest amateur-professional astronomers of our time, very much associated with the Orwell Park Observatory and in somewhat more recent years, with the Orwell Astronomical Society.

Mr. Collinson's extensive and long-term contributions to astronomy as Head of the British Astronomical Association's Mars Section, and elsewhere, will be sadly missed. His highly valued efforts and achievements in other fields will also remain highly valued.

A letter of condolence on behalf of the O. A. S. I. has been sent to Mr. Collinson's relatives.

(Roy Adams)

The Orwell Astronomical society is affiliated to the:-

British Astronomical Association
Federation of Astronomical Societies
Federation of East Anglian Astronomical Societies
Junior Astronomical Society

To the prospective new member the Orwell Astronomical Society offers the following:-

A monthly newsletter giving full details of society activities

Attendance at all evening meetings at the observatory and the use of the 10" refractor

Attendance at lecture meetings.

There are usually several excursions to places of astronomical interest each year.

Field trips to observe meteors and occasional graze occultations.

Loan of society library books and back issues of various astronomical magazines.

The society receives the following publications:-

Journal of the British Astronomical Association plus their circulars and newsletters.

Journal of the Junior Astronomical Society plus their circulars.

Newsletters of the Federation of Astronomical Societies.

The Astronomer plus their circulars.

Newsletters and Journals of other local Astronomical Societies.

Journal of the British Meteor Society.

Sky & Telescope

Astronomy

Every year new books are purchased for the library together with any additional equipment that is required for the observatory.

Our Eyes and ears in Outermost Space.
By J.P.Walsh.

B.A.A. CENTENARY LIVERPOOL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15th 1990.

I attended the various sessions with my sister, a member of Worthing Astronomy Society. Astronomy society members from all over the country were given a warm welcome by Liverpool Astronomy Society and the day proved full of interest.

L.A.S. predates B.A.A. by 10 years and its members were instrumental in the formation of the B.A.A. so it was fitting to visit Liverpool in the centenary year.

Some sessions were held in the lecture theatre of Liverpool City Museum, where L.A.S. also has its observatory which we visited in the morning to see the refracting telescope. This was followed by an educational 40 minute programme "Search for Life" in the museums planetarium.

B.A.A. president Colin Ronan opened the afternoons proceedings by recounting the early years of the B.A.A. then Eric Jones an L.A.S. member gave a paper about measuring the diameter of the Sun.

Dr John Mason who was consulted by the designers competing for the commemorative postage stamps commission, showed slides of the selected designs and commented on the significance of each feature.

Patric Moore spoke about the favorable opposition of Mars 1990-91 and encouraged members to make observations.

Dr Allan Chapman of Oxford University gave a graphic account of the life of Mr William Lassell 1791-1880. William Lassell was born in Bolton of a middle-class 'trading' family, he was apprenticed in the wine trade and was living in Liverpool by 1817 a few years later he was developing his own business in brewing. In 1837 he moved two miles out of the city and devoted more time to his hobby of telescope making and observational astronomy. After William Herschel, Lassell was the prime developer of the reflecting telescope. Not only did he experiment with mixtures of tin copper and arsenic for casting his speculum mirrors but, with the collaboration of engineer James Nasmyth, improved the mounting and balance of large aperture reflectors. Lassell visited Lord Rosse in 1844, subsequently Lassell built telescopes which out-performed the "Leviathan" in manoeuvrability and resolution. In 1844 Lassell's 24" telescope was operational and in 1846, 1/ days after the discovery of Neptune he observed the planet and discovered a satellite subsequently named Triton. Lassell's main observational interest was the outer planets and in his search for more satellites he shipped his 24" telescope to Malter in 1851. This was followed in 1861 by a 48" telescope, also built and shipped from Liverpool. When Lassell returned from Malter 1865 he lived in Maidenhead. Lassell had offered his 48" to other observatories but in spite of its excellent quality it was finally broken up for scrap in 1877. It was the end of an era, glass replaced speculum and photography and spectroscopy overtook the usefulness of his telescope. The quality of Lassell's telescopes and his observational work were recognised by professional astronomers, amongst those who visited his observatory before he went to Malter were Struve, Airy and Bond. In 1839 Lassell was elected F.R.A.S. and in 1849 he was awarded the R.A.S. Gold medal. In his citation the president Sir John Herschel, remarked, a grand amateur with a sheer love of learning. In 1870 Lassell himself became president of R.A.S. and in his latter years he was more involved with society business than observational work.

When he died in 1880 the obituaries were very eloquent about Lassell's achievements as a successful business man, amateur engineer and astronomer.

The Astronomer Royal, Professor Sir Francis Graham Smith spoke in the evening This was a public lecture at Liverpool University and the title was "The Insides and Outsides of Pulsars" the content of which was included in an article by Sir Francis published in September 1990s "Sky and Telescope". This entertaining day concluded with a celebration dinner and folk left well satisfied with this centenary occasion.

D.M. Randle.

Night after night giant telescopes are photographing the Heavens, during the day teams of scientists are comparing the Photographic Plates looking for anything which may have "moved". Meanwhile Pioneer's 1 and 2 are approaching the area where Planet X or the tenth Planet may be. Is there really a tenth Planet? Is Pluto really the outermost Planet in the Solar System? Such questions are being asked again and again.

From the behavior of the orbital paths of Uranus and Neptune, Pluto, even with it's companion Charon just does not have the mass to affect these two outermost giants. This suggests something much bigger and so far out that not even the most powerful of our Earth-based telescopes can detect it. Perhaps the Hubble Space Telescope can help us when all it's problems have been ironed out.

Our main hope seems to come from the Planetary Probes Pioneers 1 and 2 and Voyagers 1 and 2. All are working and although their specific tasks are finished and they are leaving the Solar System as we know it, one of them may just find the elusive Planet X.

What is Planet X Like? How big is it? we can only guess, but being as far out as it is, and it's effect on Uranus and Neptune, it is definitely going to be a big one perhaps even bigger than the mighty Jupiter. Will it produce it's own heat like Jupiter and Saturn or will it be a frozen ball of gas? Before we discover this big planet will we find a few smaller planets like Pluto first?.

Although these probes have finished the jobs they were designed for, until we eventually lose touch with them, they are still our Eyes and Ears in Outermost Space for a long time to come.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that the society notes the death of E.H.Collinson F.R.A.S. on 26 Sept 1990.

Mr.Collinson was until 1979, the director of the Mars section of the BAA. He used the Orwell Park telescope many times during the 1930's to observe Mars and Jupiter.

Mr Collinson recalled that during the Thirties everything in the observatory was in working order, but closing the shutter during winter months was rather perilous. The shutter tended to ice up, and a sixty foot drop had to be risked to close it. However, the view of the moonlight over the river Orwell was compensation enough.

The society would like to extend its sympathy to relatives and friends.

PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER

DAY	DIRECTORs	SECTION	PHONE No.s
Mondays from 8.00pm			
5-12	Mr R Newman	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9DY.	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
19-26	Mr J King	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ.	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
Tuesdays from 8.00pm			
6-13	Mr R Newman	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
20-27	Mr J King	[Address above.]	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
Wednesdays from 8.00pm			
7-14	Mr M Cook	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5PZ.	Tel. Ips. [REDACTED]
21-28	Mr D Payne	[REDACTED], Wickham Market, IP13 0SD.	Tel. W.M [REDACTED]
Fridays from 8.00pm			
2-9	Mr P Richards	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 1QB.	Tel. Ips. [REDACTED]
16-23	Mr R A Lobbett	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 8UJ.	Tel. Fel. [REDACTED]
30	Mr G Marriott	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 4JB. [Assistant Director]	Tel. Ips. [REDACTED]

All nights are open to all members, but, on nights other than Wednesdays, ring directors to confirm. Directors will also be able to tell you if a group visit is taking place. All sections observe anything of interest, but the title indicates the main specialism.

Lectures and other events :

1990 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	[Address above.]	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
VICE CHAIRMAN /VISITS CO-ORD	D Barnard	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5PP.	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP1 6AE.	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[REDACTED], Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX.	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
MAINTENANCE CO-ORD	M Cook	[Address above.]	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
JOURNAL CO-ORD	E Sims	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP1 4HA.	Home: [REDACTED]
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	[Address above.]	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	J King	[Address above.]	Home: [REDACTED]
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	A Smith	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5RZ.	Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]