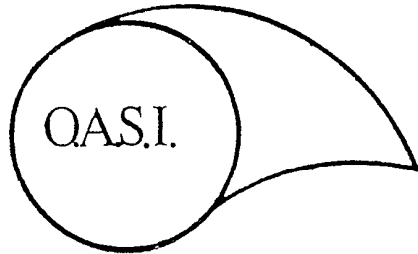


# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, IPSWICH.

## SOCIETY NEWS

1994 AGM 15th JANUARY 1994



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* The 1994 AGM will be held on saturday 15th January. All \*  
 \* members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held \*  
 \* in the room at the rear of the school library, \*  
 \* starting at 8.00 pm. \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

### 2 1993 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscriptions are due on January 1st 1994. The rates for the new year will remain at the 1993 levels.

Rates for 1993-

JUNIOR & OAP	£7.50	(under 18 or in full time education)
ADULT	£10.50	
FAMILY	£12.00	

Cheques & P.O.'s made payable to the ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH) together with this form to Membership Secretary:-

Mr. D. Barnard  
 [Redacted]  
 Ipswich

# NIGHT SKY

All times GMT

## SUN

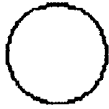
Rises approximately at from 0.800 to 08.10  
Sets approximately at 15.50

All times GMT

# MOON



6 th



13 th



20 th



28 th

MERCURY Mercury will be at in the morning sky until the end of the year. It is very low down in the southeastern sky.

VENUS Venus will be seen low down in the early morning sky this month. Mag. -3.9

MARS Mars will be in conjunction with the sun on the 27th and will not be observable this month.

JUPITER Jupiter will be rising at about 03.00 by the end of the month. Mag. -1.8.

SATURN Saturn will be visible until mid evening. Setting at about 20.30 in mid month. Mag. 0.8.

URANUS Uranus will be setting at about 17.30, in mid month. Mag. 5.7

NEPTUNE Neptune is close to Uranus in the sky and will be setting at about the same time. Mag. 7.9

*R. Gooding*

# Librarian's Book Choice

## An Autobiography of an Astronaut

On 18th May 1991 at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, in the Soviet Union a Soyuz rocket carried into space Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman. A few days later at Orwell Park Observatory, Nacton, Suffolk, members of the OASI watched the Mir space station, carrying Helen Sharman, appearing as a star-like point of light as it the sky. Meanwhile downstairs the Felixstowe and District Amateur Radio Society, at their Orwell Park radio room, had set up a link to allow pupils of Orwell Park School to talk to Helen Sharman<sup>1</sup> on board the Mir space station; the radio link was part of a national link up involving a number of UK schools. In November this year Helen Sharman's autobiography 'Seize The Moment' was released and, seizing the moment, as librarian I lost no time in obtaining a copy for the OASI library.

I wonder how many journal readers recall hearing the job advert in June 1989: 'Astronaut Wanted - No Experience Necessary'. When I heard the add, for a moment, I thought: 'yes, that's for me!' I seemed to meet the basic requirements: aged between 21 and 40 - 'check'; degree in technical subject - 'check'; healthy - 'check'; fit - 'check' (well, I might need to play badminton more than once every 6 weeks to reach the required fitness level). A proven ability to acquire languages was also stipulated. Oh dear! I had acquired English at a fairly early age, but after that I joined the school of thought that says communicating in another language is best done by shouting in English and waving your arms around a lot. I suppose that waving your arms around a lot might be difficult in a space suit, and shouting all the time might not be popular in a cramped space capsule. So doubts about my ability to pick up Russian put me off the idea of applying. Helen Sharman was in no doubt that she met the basic requirements, but when she filled in the application form she never thought for a moment that she would be chosen.

Helen Sharman's life before that pivotal June day having been, as she says herself, in no way unusual. So the book concentrates on subsequent events, alternating between the flight itself and the selection and training period. Any would-be astronaut will heave a sigh of relief at not taken part when reading about the exhausting and sometimes none-to-pleasant series of events at the hands of the media, the medical examiners and the cosmonaut trainers; but then as the narrative

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<sup>1</sup> Contact was made with Helen Sharman in a time-slot originally assigned to another school. The other school were suffering a technical hitch and offered the slot to Orwell Park. Unfortunately, during their allotted time Orwell Park also suffered a technical hitch and so were limited to listen-only.

switches to the flight itself the relieve will switch to regret. The rigours of the selection and training process would be a small price to pay for the being one of the few people so far in history who have gone beyond the Earth's atmosphere and to look back and see the Earth as a planet.

As well as being essential for the OASI library, I recommend that 'Seize The Moment', by Helen Sharman and Christopher Priest, is equally essential for any space flight enthusiasts bookshelf.' The book is available in hardback for around £15.

### Two Guides to the Constellations

In the remaining space I am taking the opportunity to mention two more books. I am cautious about recommending observing guides because needs and preferences for this type of book is very individual. However, I can say that I liked these particular books myself.

The books are both good guides for telescopic observers, particularly those using small and medium apertures.

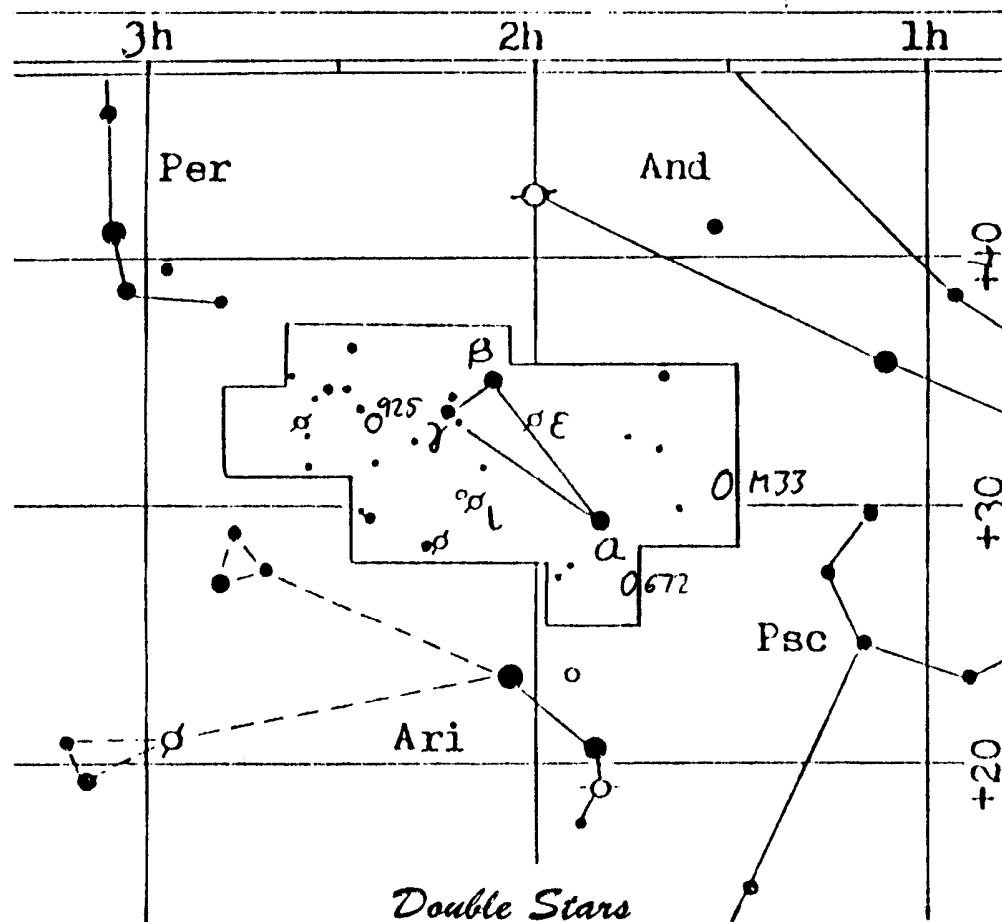
The first book is 'Observing the Constellations' by John Sanford. This book is both<sup>2</sup> readable in itself and useful as an observing guide and describes in constellation in turn. This book is in the club library and is also available from bargain book shops in hardback for around £5. I bought the book when it was at its full price but its recommend-ability it partly due to its being cheap and wide availability.

The second book, which I think the more useful as an observing aid, is 'Turn Left at Orion'. This book also considers the sky a constellation at a time but also gives finder charts and a rating for the major objects for small to moderate apertures (for example, a three telescope rating indicates the object is particularly impressive and is easy to see). 'Turn Left at Orion' is not as widely available<sup>3</sup> and is not yet in the club library (I'm considering it).

<sup>2</sup> For example, in the bargain bookshop in the Buttermarket shopping centre, Ipswich.

<sup>3</sup> Try astronomy specialists, e.g. Rosemary Naylor, Earth And Sky - 0706 817767.

# TRIANGULUM



Pos.	1	m	2	D	d"	PA	No.
020033	5.4	-11.	c	4.0	118	E	
0930	5.4	-6.9	b	3.6	71	L	
1428	7.4	-6.6	d	14.0	210	E239	
3533	7.5	-8.2	b	1.7	165	E285	

Yellow and blue, a good contrast of colors.

Triangulum occupies an area north of Aries and South of Andromeda. It consists of a long right-angle triangle of 3rd and 4th magnitude stars.

The only object of interest in Triangulum is the nearby face-on spiral galaxy M33. Considering its large size (over a degree from north to south) the galaxy is not very bright. On a very dark night it is just possible to see with the naked eye, but a small pair of binoculars will show a fairly large glow. A large amateur telescope will show the spiral arms in M33 as well as several of the brighter regions or diffuse nebulae.

There are two other galaxies in Triangulum, N.G.C. 672 mag 10-8 and N.G.C. 925 mag 10-0 both very faint but worth looking for. *E. SIMS*

### COMPUTER DONATED TO OASI BY BT

by James Appleton

OASI has recently taken delivery of a computer, donated by BT Laboratories at Martlesham Heath. The society wishes to extend its most sincere thanks to BT for this very generous donation.

The computer, which was surplus to BT's requirements, is however, reasonably modern, and should enable a range of astronomical software to be run at the observatory.

For the technically minded, the specification of the computer is as follows:

20Mhz 386 SX,  
8MB main memory,  
40 MB hard disc drive.

Consideration is currently being given to the possible purchase of equipment to upgrade the computer, such as a maths co-processor, and a larger disc drive. Possible software purchases are also under discussion.

The computer is likely to find its main uses in making predictions of astronomical events (occultations, planetary conjunctions, etc), and in demonstrating to visitors to the observatory computer images of various interesting astronomical bodies.

### PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER

DAYS & DATES	DIRECTORS	SECTION & ADDRESSES	PHONE INC. STD CODE
Mondays	from 7.30pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
6-13-20	Mr R Newman	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9DY	[REDACTED]
	Mr J King	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ	[REDACTED]
Tuesdays	from 7.30pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
7-14-21	Mr R Newman	(Address above.)	(Number above)
	Mr J King	(Address above.)	(Number above)
Wednesdays	from 8.00pm	NEBULA & FAINT OBJECTS SECTION	
1-8-22-29	Mr M Cook	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5PZ	[REDACTED]
	Mr D Payne	[REDACTED], Wickham Market, IP13 0SD	[REDACTED]
Thursdays	from 7.30pm	OBSERVATORY VISITS FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS	
2-9-16-23	Mr P Richards	[REDACTED], Nacton, Ipswich, IP10 0HS	[REDACTED]
30	Mr G Marriott	[REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 4JB	[REDACTED]
Fridays	from 7.30pm (may be postponed to Saturday)	PLANETARY & LUNAR SECTION	
3-10-17-24	Mr P Richards	(Address above.)	(Number above)
	Mr R A Lobbett	[REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 8UJ	[REDACTED]
	Mr G Marriott	(Address above.)	(Number above)

All members are welcome to come but, on nights other than Wednesdays please check with directors that the observatory will be open. Directors will also be able to tell you if a group visit is taking place. All of the sections observe anything of interest but the title of each section suggests a popular subject.

Lectures and other events: **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The A.G.M. is on Saturday 15th January at the observatory, room to be advised later so a note will be pinned on the club room door on the night. As usual this is an open meeting and all members who wish to are welcome to attend.

### 1992 COMMITTEE

		Home Phone:	Work Phone:
CHAIRMAN	D Payne (Address above)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
VICE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	D Barnard [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP3 8RN	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
SECRETARY	R Gooding [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP1 6AE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
TREASURER	M Nicholls [REDACTED], Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
MAINTENANCE CO-ORD	M Cook (Address above)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
JOURNAL CO-ORDINATOR	E Sims [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP1 4HA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
PUBLICITY & VISIT CO-ORD	P Richards (Address above)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	J King (Address above)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	A Smith [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5RZ	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions are due on 1st January of each year.  
Rates for 1993-

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FAMILY	£12.00	

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Mr. D.Barnard  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ipswich  
 IP3 8RN

NOMINATION FOR THE 1994 COMMITTEE

NAME OF NOMINEE .....

SECONDED BY .....

Any members who are nominated must have given their consent.  
All forms must be returned to the secretary by the 31st December.  
Any members who are elected on the 1994 committee will be expected to attend as many committee meetings through out the year as possible and to actively participate in the running of the society.