



# The Newsletter



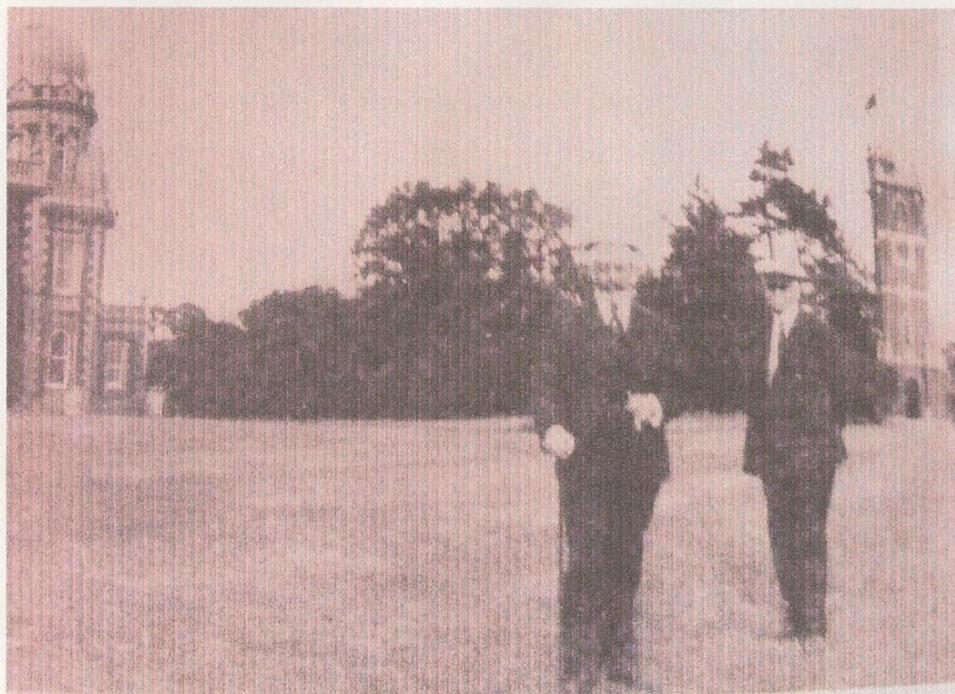
## of the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

Registered charity No 271313

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

2010 FEBRUARY

No 449



KING GEORGE V AND THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE PRETYMAN

On the lawn of Orwell Park after the race "Down Swin" in 1921.

*By courtesy of Lady Beatrice Pretyman*

# Society News (Roy Gooding)

## 1 Committee Meeting Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March. 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

## 3 Welcome to New Members

Stephen Olley Michael Kennedy Paul & Mary Dalry

## 4 Events Programme for 2010

This is a provisional event list, which will be updated through out the year

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astro Fest	Kensington Conference & Events Centre London	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> February
Astronomy Workshop TBA	Nacton Village hall	Wednesday 10 February
Astronomy Workshop TBA	Nacton Village hall	Wednesday 10 March
Lecture by Nick James: An Automated Video Meteor Detection System	Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane	Friday 19 March 20:00
Spring Star Party Organised by the Norwich Astronomical Society	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Lecture Dr. Alan Chapman Thomas Harriot, Galileo and the First Telescopic Astronomers	Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 20:00
Summer Barbecue		TBA
Perseid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> August
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp 2010 Organised by Loughton Astronomical Society with the support of the SPA	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	Monday 6 September until Friday 17 September
Lecture by Tom Boles: Discovering Supernovae - Motivation & Rewards	Methodist Church Halls, in Blackhorse Lane	Provisional Date: Friday 22 October 20:00
Open Weekend		October TBA
Geminid Meteor watch	The "Dip" Felixstowe	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Meal		Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December

## 5<sup>th</sup> Public Out Reach Observing Events for 2010

A lasting legacy of IYA 2009 are these new public out reach meetings. These are now becoming popular with members as an alternative way to take astronomy to the public.

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park "Star Party" 1 <sup>st</sup> roll over date	Christchurch Park On top of the hill	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Astronomy in the Park "Star Party" 2 <sup>nd</sup> roll over date	Christchurch Park On top of the hill	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Orwell Country Park "Star Party" Astronomy Evening	Orwell Country Park	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 19:00
Astronomy in the Park "Observing the sun"	Christchurch Park Reg Driver Centre	No date set yet

### Astronomy in the Park "Star Party"

If the Astronomy in the Park "Star Party" scheduled for Saturday 23rd January has been successful, the role over 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> options arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February will be cancelled

Set up time	18:15
Event Open	19:00
Event Close	21:00

The event will be marshalled by the Park Rangers and will be by invitation only. The Park staff will also be looking after the visitor arrangements. We have mentioned that we could easily accommodate 100 visitors.

Date	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
Moon rises	08:35	16:15
Mars rises	13:54	13:20
Sun sets	17:18	17:31
Saturn rises	20:00	19:31
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	22nd	

<b>What entrance should we use</b>	Bolton Lane The park ranges will be at the entrance
<b>Set up time</b>	If you have a telescope you would like to bring along, please arrive at about 18:15. This will give about 45 minutes to set up.  If you would like to come long and help, please do so. It may useful to have your member ship card to show the Park Rangers. The park gates will be closed at 19:30 and will not be re-opened until the end
<b>Observing Location</b>	On the hill
<b>Car parking arrangements</b>	Members with telescopes will be able to park on the Park Track under the trees at the top of the hill Members who are helpers may be able to use the car park opposite the Reg. Drive Visitors Centre  Please follow the directions of the Park Rangers
<b>Who are the visitors?</b>	The visitors will be predominately from the friends of Christchurch Park with a few more from the general public to make up numbers.
<b>Start time</b>	19:00
<b>End time</b>	21:00 May be earlier if visitors have all left

### Event Cancellation

I will contact Sam Pollard in the afternoon to determine if the weather is suitable to run the event. If it is cancelled the answer phone in the visitors centre will have a message saying so. (Tel. 252435). Alternatively you can call me (██████). There will also be a notice at the park Bolton Lane entrance.

If you are able to help, please contact Roy Gooding for this event

### Orwell County Park "Star Party" 23rd March

Set up time	TBA
Event Open	19:00
Event Close	TBA

This will be at the Orwell County Park and is a repeat of the successful meeting we held there last spring. This is being co-ordinated by Paul Whiting.

Moon transits the meridian	15:40
Saturn rises	18:08
Sun sets	18:18
Venus sets	19:47

# Night Sky (February)

All times GMT

## Moon

3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	New Moon	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Full Moon
5 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>

Object	Date	Times		Mag.	Notes
		Rise	Set		
Sun	1	07:36	16:43		
	28	06:44	17:33		
Mercury	1	06:28	14:29	-0.1	Mercury may be glimpsed low down in the morning twilight sky at the start of the month.
	28	06:38	16:17		
Venus	1	07:58	17:04	-3.8	Venus starts to move out of the evening twilight sky this month.
	28	07:14	18:33		
Mars	1	15:45	08:12	-1.3	Mars remains well placed to observe all month
	28	06:03	13:16		
Jupiter	1	08:27	18:36	-2.1	Jupiter is at conjunction of the 28th
	28	06:52	17:27		
Saturn	1	21:21	09:36	0.6	Saturn is in Virgo, and will well placed to observe in late evening.
	28	19:26	07:48		
Uranus	1	09:01	20:36	5.9	Uranus is now approaching the evening twilight sky.
	28	07:17	18:58		
Neptune	1	08:09	17:53		Neptune is not visible is month
	28	06:25	16:13		

## Membership Renewal

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2010. If you wish to renew your subscription please fill in the orange form and send with the appropriate monies to me.

If you have lost the form I will send out a replacement with the March newsletter.

Martin Cook  
Membership Secretary

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## OCCULTATIONS DURING FEBRUARY

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
17 Feb	19:32:32	D	0.12+	-22	15	6.8	45 Psc
20 Feb	23:00:41	D	0.38+	-46	15	4.6	eps Ari
	23:39:34	R		-48	10		
21 Feb	18:55:57	D	0.47+	-15	58	7.0	Hip 17684
21 Feb	19:10:27	D	0.47+	-18	57	7.0	ZC 550
21 Feb	19:29:18	D	0.47+	-21	54	5.4	ZC 556
	20:21:55	R		-28	48		
21 Feb	20:03:57	D	0.48+	-26	51	6.5	26 Tau
21 Feb	20:08:52	D	0.48+	-26	50	6.2	ZC 564
21 Feb	20:29:21	D	0.48+	-29	47	6.7	ZC 567
22 Feb	00:27:01	D	0.49+	-48	13	7.4	Hip 18620
23 Feb	00:18:16	D	0.60+	-48	23	5.8	98 Tau
23 Feb	21:29:59	D	0.70+	-37	55	7.5	ZC 893
23 Feb	23:12:15	D	0.70+	-46	41	7.2	1867-1568-1
23 Feb	23:44:57	D	0.71+	-47	37	7.5	1867-0896-1
25 Feb	19:39:05	D	0.88+	-21	51	5.4	85 Gem
26 Feb	00:20:54	D	0.89+	-47	44	6.2	ZC 1217
27 Feb	23:08:22	D	0.99+	-44	46	4.7	29 Leo

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!

I have details for the February workshop – see below – the others are still being firmed up so treat the information below as advance warning, which will I will firm up next month.

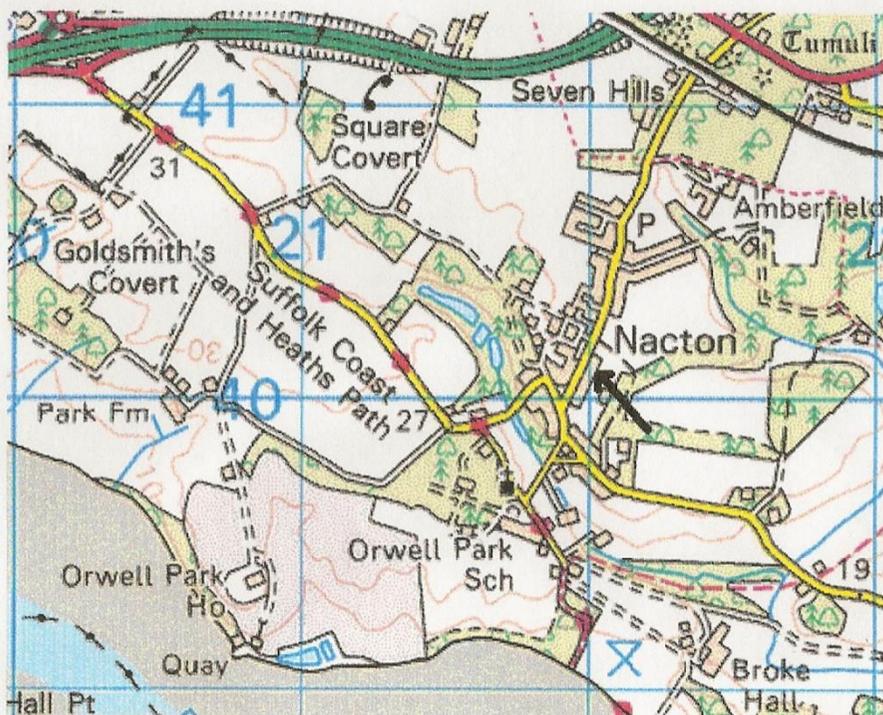
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Run by...</b>
<b>10th February 2010</b>	<b>The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram.</b> Most amateur astronomers have come across the famous H-R diagram. This workshop covers how this simple plot of luminosity vs temperature of stars is related to their fundamental properties. Topics covered include-the colour of stars; how do we know their size; why do massive stars die young and what's black body radiation to do with it.	<b>Paddy O'Sullivan</b>
<b>3rd March 2010</b> (Note – previously advertised as the 10 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>Sir Patrick Moore's House</b> Details to be confirmed [The date has changed from 10 <sup>th</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> as Paul is away on the 10 <sup>th</sup> ]	<b>Paul Whiting</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April 2010</b>	<b>Where did our universe come from?</b> I'll be talking about the evidence for (and against) the Big Bang theory of the history of the universe, and asking the questions: Where did it all come from? Was there anything before the Big Bang, and what if anything can we know about that?	<b>Mike Whybray</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.

Map of Nacton.



# Colonel George Tomline and the Royal Harwich Yacht Club

Paul Whiting & Tina Hammond

The following information was discovered following a very successful visit to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club (RHYC), Woolverstone, Ipswich after a chance sighting of Colonel Tomline's name on their roll of former Commodores by Tina Hammond.

A request to the RHYC Librarian and Archivist, Bruce Moss, elicited the following note from him.

## Colonel George Tomline MP Commodore RHYC 1872 to 1876.

Colonel Tomline was proposed as Commodore of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1872 and elected by unanimous vote. He had not been a member before that date. Unlike today when Club Commodores are elected from the membership and play the leading role in the running of the Club, in the 19<sup>th</sup>. Century they were elected from men of (usually local) status to fill the post as a figurehead. Thus we find that Colonel Tomline was not involved in the day to day running of the Club, nor did he attend the General Committee meetings which met a few times a year to arrange racing events, deal with race protests, organise trophies, and elect new members. He chaired each Annual General Meeting of the R.H.Y.C. during which he was Commodore, absenting himself from the last in 1874 when a fresh Commodore was elected. He was succeeded by Lord Rendlesham, also a "figurehead Commodore. We are unable to tell definitely whether or not he owned a yacht prior to becoming Commodore of the R.H.Y.C. but our records show that he bought the Steam Screw Yacht "Gazelle" in 1872, the year of his election. She was built that year, presumably for himself, at Woodbridge by J. Harvey & Co. to their own design. With a wooden hull and a twelve

horsepower steam engine she was just over seventy eight feet long and thirty two and a half tons, Thames measurement. That was even in those days a fairly large luxury steam yacht. Colonel Tomline owned her during his term as Commodore of the R.H.Y.C., but the records show that by 1879 she had changed hands and was owned by Viscount Petersham. Reading between the lines, it might appear that Colonel Tomline thought it only necessary to own a yacht Whilst he was Commodore. From our records the "Gazelle" remained in commission up to 1910, but was no longer registered in 1924. Yachts of that era, particularly those of wooden construction, seldom had a life expectancy of more than about thirty to forty years. Colonel Tomline remained a member of the R.H.Y.C. after he ceased to be Commodore in 1876, finally resigning by letter in April 1882. He had not been a famous yachtsman, but obviously a steady and capable Commodore of considerable local standing, being at the "helm" of the Club for four years. One of the items which he passed as Commodore in that period was a most generous testimonial to B. P. Goodwin Esq., who had served the club from 1849 to 1874 both as treasurer and as secretary in an honorary capacity A gift of one hundred guineas was given for this faithful service, the presentation being at the Great Eastern Hotel in June, 1874. Unfortunately the Royal Harwich Yacht Club has neither a portrait of Colonel Tomline nor any pictures of his yacht.

Bruce also provided many copies of original documents supporting the above and also some information of Tomline's heir to Orwell Park, Captain Ernest Pretyman.

1. RHYC Names of Officers & Committee Season 1875-6  
showing Colonel Tomline, MP., "Gazelle" as Commodore
2. RHYC Club Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> May 1872  
showing Colonel Tomline's election as Commodore  
"proposed by Edward Chapman, seconded by I. J. Watson,  
elected unanimously"
3. RHYC Club Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> April 1873  
showing Colonel Tomline present at Annual meeting

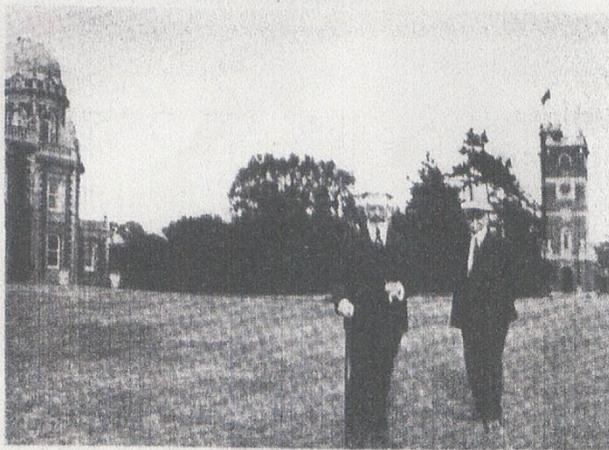
4. RHYC Club Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> April 1874  
showing Colonel Tomline present at Annual meeting, in the Chair
5. RHYC Club Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> March 1875  
showing Colonel Tomline present at Annual meeting, in the Chair
6. Copy of Testimonial, written in Colonel Tomline's very fine own hand.
7. Copy of membership ledger showing Tomline's initial entrance fee and annual membership fee (one guinea each, ie. £1.05) in May 1872. His address was shown as Orwell Park, Ipswich, but with the added entry of No. 1, Carlton House Terrace, London.
8. Further copies of membership ledgers showing membership up to 1872, when he formally resigned, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1882.
9. RHYC Annual Meeting minutes, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1872, chaired by Rear Commodore E. Packard, noting that "seven [members] have resigned". Tomline was not explicitly mentioned.
10. RHYC archive of members' yachts, showing the following details:  
Gazelle, 53 tons, 79' 3" long, 12' 3" beam, steam-screw schooner. Built by J. Harvey & Co (Wivenhoe), engine: J. Penn & Sons (London), warrant received 11<sup>th</sup> May 1872

The RHYC also boasts two fine examples of war department naval 2 inch telescopes, brass bound in leather, by Ross of London. See pictures below.

However the biggest find during our visit to Woolverstone was a little book entitled "The King's Sailing Master" by Douglas Dixon, 1948. This contained some information of a visit by HM King George V to Orwell Park in 1921 following his participation in the "Down Swin" yacht race entertained by Captain Ernest Pretymann. The account of the day includes the attempt of Lady Pretymann to provide a lunch for His Majesty despite seasickness induced by the wash of the passing steamer from the Hook.

1861	Major Westhead.	1989-19
1861-1863	Lord Rendlesham	1992-19
1864-1869	J. Goodson.	1995
1869-1871	J. Ashbury.	1996-19
1872-1876	Col. G. Tomline.	1998-19
1877-1886	Lord Rendlesham.	2000-20
1887-1895	Duke of Hamilton	2002-20
1896-1901	H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.	2004-20
1901-1911	H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, K.G.	2007-20
1912-1931	Capt. E. G. Pretyman.	2009-
1932-1935	W. Ross Taylor	
1936-1945	Sir William Burton, KBE.	
1946-1951	Col. F. L. Tempest.	
1952-1953	W. G. T. Packard.	
1954-1959	M. J. Slater.	
1960-1961	Dr. R. M. Mayan White.	

RHYC Commodores Board, showing Col G Tomline (1872 – 1876) and Capt. E. G. Pretyman (1912 – 1931)



KING GEORGE V AND THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE PRETYMAN

On the lawn of Orwell Park after the race "Down Swin" in 1921.

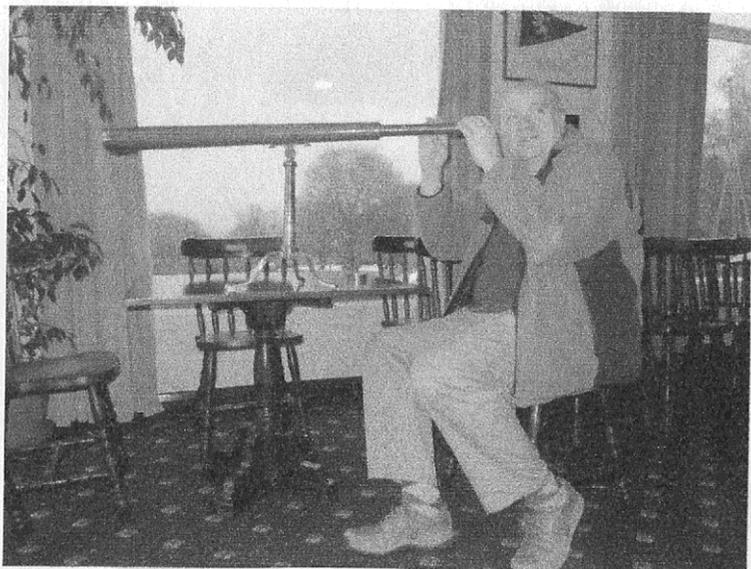
*By courtesy of Lady Beatrice Pretyman*



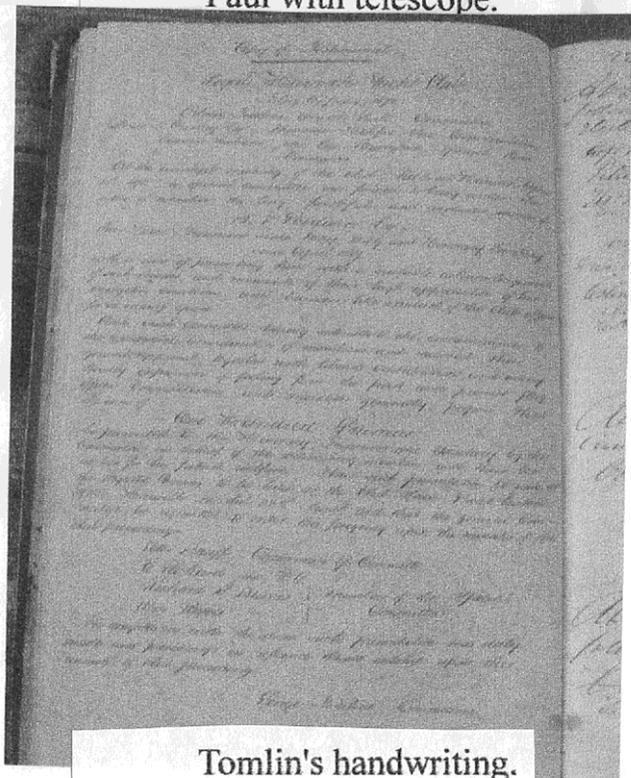
One of the Ross telescopes owned by the RHYC



Tina & Paul with RHYC archivist Bruce Moss  
and current RHYC Commodore Ewan Stamp.



Paul with telescope.



Tomlin's handwriting.

# OASI Committee Contacts & Responsibilities

Neil Morley	<b>Chairman</b>	☎		
Roy Gooding	<b>Secretary</b>	☎		<b>MAIN POINT OF SOCIETY CONTACT</b> Press Publicity with Chairman. Observatory Decoration. Visits by potential new members.
Paul Whiting FRAS	<b>Treasurer</b>	☎		<b>Finance.</b> Supervision of Grant Applications. Visits by outside groups. <b>IYA 2009 Coordinator</b>
James Appleton	Committee	☎		Committee Meeting Minutes. Web Site.
Martin Cook	Committee	☎		Membership. Tomline Refractor Maintenance.
Peter Richards	Committee	☎		Lecture Meetings. Email Distribution Lists.
Eric Sims	Committee	☎		Newsletter.
Mike Whybray	Committee	☎		Librarian & Workshops.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee	☎		Safety & Security.
John Wainwright	Committee	☎		Forward planning & Strategy Equipment Curator

## DIARY for FEBRUARY

<b>Monday</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> From 8pm	<b><u>SMALL TELESCOPES OBSERVING NIGHTS AT THE OBSERVATORY</u></b> Main observing targets: Gemini, Cancer, Taurus, Mars. Specifics:- M35, 37, 36, 38, M44, M1. Double stars in Gemini, NGC 2392. ☎ Paddy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] ☎ Gerry Pilling [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesdays</b> From 8PM	<b><u>MAIN OBSERVATORY CLUB NIGHTS</u></b> Primary Observational targets: Nebulae and faint objects. ☎ Martin Cook [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED] ☎ Roy Gooding [REDACTED] (mobile) [REDACTED]
<b>Wednesday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Doors open 7.30pm Start 8.00pm	<b><u>OASI WORKSHOP</u></b> The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram. Run by Paddy O'Sullivan Nacton village Hall ☎ Mike Whybray [REDACTED]
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>OBSERVATORY VISITS BY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP</u></b> <b>Taster Evening</b> Stowmarket Young Farmers 13 <sup>th</sup> Ipswich Cubs The Coasters Nacton Carpet Bowls Club ☎ Paul Whiting FRAS [REDACTED]
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>March @ 8pm</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <b>Methodist Church Hall</b> <b>Blackhorse Lane Ipswich</b>

### STAR PARTY

Astronomy in the Park (Christchurch Park on top of the hill)

2<sup>nd</sup> Option Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 18.00

Last Option Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February.. Best contact R Gooding

### Society Primary Contacts

Chairman: Neil Morley ☎ [REDACTED]

Secretary: Roy Gooding ☎ [REDACTED] (daytime) [REDACTED] (evenings)

E-Mail queries: [ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk)

### Society Trustees

Mr Roy Adams Mr David Brown Mr David Payne

### Society Honorary President

Professor Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

### Observatory Telephone Number

Meeting nights only [REDACTED]