



OASI News

The newsletter of Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)



The Saturn Occultation (almost). P Whiting

An early start for this occultation – first contact 04:29, second contact 05:21. Second contact would be impossible to photograph as it was well into sunrise.

I thought I would try using the SeeStar S50 for recording this event. The question to resolve before the observation was whether to centre on the Moon and track with this, or centre on Saturn and track with the planet. Upon investigation the answer was obvious. If the Moon was used to track, the SeeStar would enter “lunar” mode, with appropriate filtering and exposure control to see lunar features. This would mean that Saturn would not be visible on screen. By tracking Saturn, the SeeStar would enter “planetary mode”, with appropriate exposure to at least see the shape of Saturn, if not any true colour. It should be noted that the focal length of the SeeStar is too short to be useful for planetary imaging. I know that exposures can be altered manually, but if the job can be done automatically so be it.

So the morning dawned, or to be more accurate, the 2 hours before dawn arrived. A tentative look out of the window showed a bright Moon shining in a cloudless sky, so I had no excuse not to get up.

I arrived at the Cliff Road car park viewpoint around 04:10. Strangely there was no-one around either on the roads or in the car park. When I do other astro-imaging from this location around midnight, you can't move for the activity in the car park.

Typical, wispy cloud started to form around the Moon's location. This became more of a problem as time went on, and unfortunately prevented seeing the actual disappearance of Saturn behind the Moon.

The SeeStar located Saturn without any difficulty, and imaging began. I thought it best to take video. This however highlighted the fact that there was quite a fresh breeze knocking the telescope on its tripod, which knocked the auto-focussing.

However, despite these problems, I managed to get images of Saturn getting ever closer to the washed out Moon.

Society Notices

Open Weekend- Friday and Saturday 25th/26th October

Dear Members,

The nights are getting longer and we can now enjoy extended stargazing sessions, plus we don't have to wrap up with winter woolies yet!

The Autumn and Winter seasons will provide us with some good planetary observing, with Saturn at opposition in September, Jupiter in December and Mars in January. Saturn will look unusual this year, with the rings almost edge-on. If the skies are clear, we will be observing at Orwell Park and Newbourne, so please join us, if you can.

Open Weekend- Friday and Saturday 25th/26th October

Orwell Astronomical Society are making plans to hold our Open Weekend at Orwell Park Observatory in October.

Our last event in 2022 attracted record numbers of visitors, which was pleasing to see, but this caused considerable problems with overcrowding and long queues, and on the Friday evening in particular, we were in danger of being overwhelmed.

In order to avoid a repeat this year, we aim to limit the number of visitors. But the scale of the event we can provide is wholly dependent on the number of members who volunteer to help out. I would like to thank all members who have offered to help out so far, but we do need more help to safely run the event.

On the 25th and 26th October, we are aiming to be open to the public between, 19:00 and 22:00, so if you are able to help out, we would need volunteers at the Observatory from 18:00 to 23:00, to assist with setting-up and clearing away.

The roles required are:

- Tomline Refractor operating.
- Telescopes on the sports field. (You can bring your own or use one of the Societies instruments).
- Meeting and Greeting.
- Car Parking.

The Open Weekend is OASI's most important outreach event of the year, as public engagement of the Observatory and astronomy is one of the key objectives listed in the constitution of our Society.

If you are able to help out in any way on either or both days, please let myself or any other Committee know. You do not need to be an expert on the Observatory or astronomy and training can be provided, if necessary.

Thank you,

Andy Gibbs,
Chairman.

Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on Friday 20th September at 8:00pm via Zoom. All members welcome.

Society Contact details

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Website: | https://www.oasi.org.uk |
| Events: | https://www.oasi.org.uk/Events/Events.php |
| Email queries: | info@oasi.org.uk |
| Submissions for Newsletter: | news@oasi.org.uk |
| Members-only message board: | https://groups.io/g/OASI |
| Observatory (meeting nights only): | 07960 083714 |

Social Media

For other astronomy news and astro pictures try our socials:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Facebook: | https://www.facebook.com/groups/445056098989371 |
| YouTube: | https://www.youtube.com/@orwellastronomical425 |

Articles for OASI News

News, pictures and articles for this newsletter are always welcome.

Please send tables as separate files in one of these formats (Excel, .csv, OpenOffice)

If you don't feel up to writing a major article, perhaps you might write a short note for OASI News along the lines of "This month I have mostly been observing/constructing/mending/reading/etc."

Please send material for the OASI web site and newsletter e.g., observations, notices of events, general interest articles, to news@oasi.org.uk

The CLOSING date is the **15th** day of the month (i.e. 15th July).

The Newsletter archive is at www.oasi.org.uk/NL/NL_form.shtml

Authors, please note that your articles will be publicly available worldwide!

Reproducing articles from OASI News

If you plan to reproduce an article exactly as per OASI News then please contact the Editor – otherwise, as a matter of courtesy, please seek permission from and credit the original source/author. You may not reproduce articles for profit or other commercial purpose.

Meetings and events

We have regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (usually) at **Newbourne Village Hall**, and every Wednesday at **Orwell Park**. Night sky observing will usually take place when the skies are clear.

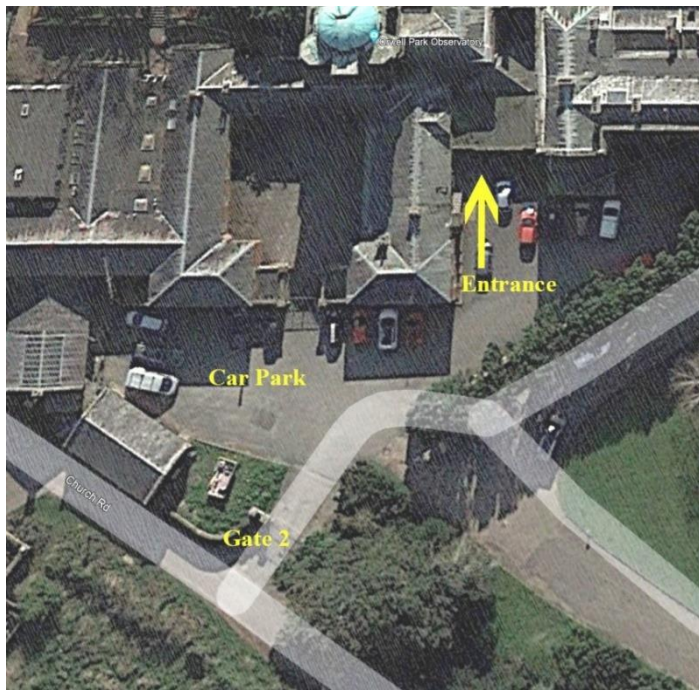
OASI @ Orwell Park

There are regular meetings every Wednesday evening from 8pm. Access is controlled by a gate and a fob. The entrance is gate 2 is on Church Road, What3Words is [tour.fuse.banks](#)

Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

The route is as follows:

- Enter through gate 2 (gate 1 being the main gate) and park inside as per the attached map.
- Enter the school through the double black doors as indicated on the map. A key fob will be required to open the door.
- Continue straight through the next two sets of double doors.
- Turn left at the end of the short corridor then immediately right.
- Pass through the single door and on your left you will find the staircase leading to the observatory.
- On no account must you deviate from this route.



When leaving the observatory use the same route but in reverse. Please keep noise to a minimum as there are staff quarters nearby.

OASI @ Newbourne

newbourne@oasi.org.uk

We meet at Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Lane, IP12 4NP
on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from

19:30. What3Words

scars.atlas.printing

**Visitors are welcome but we do ask you to join the
Society after two visits.**

<http://www.oasi.org.uk/OASI/Membership.php>

Newbourne dates for 2024

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|-----------|--------|----------|
| September | 09 | 23 (S) |
| October | 14 | 28 (S) |
| November | 11 | 25 (A/S) |
| December | 09 (Q) | |



We open up for all meetings at 7:30pm.

Astro News (A) / Star Guide (S) at 7:45pm followed by any Talks (T), Workshops (W) and occasional Quiz (Q).

indicates a change to the normal monthly pattern.

OASI and BAA Events

For the latest event details, please check our website and social media.

BAA news & webinars

For full details of all meetings or cancellations, please go to <https://britastro.org/events/future-events>

Saturday 21st September 2024 BAA Autumn Meeting

Venue: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Wednesday 30th October 2024 17:30-20:00 BAA Meeting & AGM

Venue: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, 37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU

The BAA Radio Astronomy Section

The BAA Radio Astronomy Section have been enjoying talks, seminars and tutorials via Zoom and these are available on the BAA YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/britishastronomical/playlists>.

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