Newsletter

Aurora from Karesado in north Finland (Lat:68N; Long: 22 E)
Difficult to operate or position camera at -30C !
Mike O'Mahony

OASI Committee Contacts and Responsibilities

Neil Morely	Chairman	[redacted]	Chair committee meetings. Represent OASI to external bodies.
Roy Gooding	Secretary		Respond to enquiries. Press & publicity Outreach meetings Open days
Paul Whiting FRAS	Treasurer		Finance Visits from outside groups
James Appleton	Committee		Minutes of committee meetings. Web site.
Bill Barton FRAS	Committee		Safety & security
Martin Cook	Committee		Membership Tomline refractor maintenance
Tina Hammond	Committee		Librarian
Peter Richards	Committee		Lecture meetings Email distribution lists
Eric Sims	Committee		Newsletter
John Wainwright	Committee		Equipment curator
Mike Whybray	Committee		Workshops

Trustees

Mr Roy Adams

Mr David Brown

Mr David Payne

Honorary President

Dr Allan Chapman D.Phil MA FRAS

The OASI mailing list

OASI has an email distribution list which all which all OASI members can join to keep in touch. If you want to join the list please send an email to [redacted]

The email needs to Include your name (as you gave It on your membership application). Including your name is essential so we can confirm you are an OASI member (particularly If you have a cryptic email username:-).

Please note that the "oasi-subscribe" address above is not the actual email list.

Society Notices

by Roy Gooding

1 Committee Meeting 2013

No date set for next meeting

All members are invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

Start time 20:00

Venue: Museum Street Methodist Church Hall

2 Access into the School Grounds and Observatory Tower

Please use the third gate into the school grounds. The code for the gate is on the back of your membership card. If the black door entrance at the base of the observatory tower is locked, please phone the observatory mobile during meeting hours.

3 The Newsletter

From time to time various members have suggested having an electronic version of the Newsletter. During Easter week, Eric and I set up a trial electronic version of April Newsletter. We will continue with this trial for a few months. Newsletters will still continue to be printed.

To take part in the trial you will have to be a members of the oasi yahoogroup. To subscribe to this group please email

Welcome to New Members

Michael Harvey	Caroline Fuller	Terry Hunter
Paul Borroughs	Alison Bayford	Mark Hunter
Norman Cartwright	Charlie Green	Steve Shapland

Society Events

1 Events Programme for 2013

This provisional event list will be updated throughout the year.

Meeting	Venue	Date
Presidential Lecture Dr Allan Chapman	The Orangery Orwell Park School	7 June 20:00
Society BBQ	Newbourne Village Hall?	TBC
Autumn Equinox Sky Camp	Kelling Heath, Norfolk	30 Sept – 11 October Main weekend 4–6 October
SPA Convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	12 October
FAS Convention	Cambridge Institute of Astronomy	19 October
Open Weekend		TBC
Christmas Meal		December

Events Programme for 2014

Meeting	Venue	Date
National Astronomy Week	Events TBA	1 – 8 March

2 Outreach Meetings 2013 in Christchurch Park

Meeting	Venue	Date
Astronomy in the Park 1st option	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	Saturday and Sunday 18 & 19 May 11:00 to 16:00
Astronomy in the Park 2nd option if 1st is cloudy	Christchurch Park Bolton Lane entrance	Saturday and Sunday 25 & 26 May 11:00 to 16:00

3 Outreach Meetings 2013 in Holywells Park

Autumn Star Party

This is to be arranged

4 Outreach Meeting 2013 Minsmere RSPB Reserve

Friday 4 October

5 Comets

Two bright comets are predicted for 2013

The 2nd comet (ISON) and brightest (-16! this may be over optimistic) is visible before and after Christmas and may require more outreach meeting(s). I have spoke to Sam Pollard about running Star Parties before and after Christmas in Christchurch Park. The latter one should coincide with the BBC's Stargazing Live 2014.

Occultations during May

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
14 May	21:42:12	D	0.20+	-14	12	6.5	ZC 1091
17 May	20:53:59	D	0.47+	-9	32	7.3	El Leo
17 May	23:03:36	D	0.47+	-18	13	7.4	Hip 47303
18 May	23:50:21	D	0.58+	-18	10	7.2	Hip 51204
20 May	22:24:16	D	0.77+	-15	25	7.2	Hip 58797
21 May	20:51:07	D	0.85+	-8	28	4.8	40 Vir, psi Vir
21 May	22:48:16	D	0.86+	-16	23	7.1	Hip 63240
21 May	23:52:14	D	0.86+	-18	17	7.5	Hip 63366
24 May	22:00:24	D	1.00+	-13	15	5.0	45 Lib

Night Sky in May

Moon

3rd Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon	3rd Quarter
2nd	10th	18th	25th	31st

Sun and planets

Object	Date	Rise	Set	Mag.	Notes
Sun	1	05:25	20:21		
	31	04:42	21:05		
Mercury	1	05:15	19:07	-0.5	Mercury may be observed low down in the evening twilight sky
	31	05:42	22:59		
Venus	1	05:49	21:08	-3.8	At the beginning of the month Venus will be low down in the twilight sky
	31	05:39	22:32		
Mars	1	05:23	20:00		Mars is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	31	04:14	20:08		
Jupiter	1	07:11	23:36	-1.8	Jupiter will be low down in the western sky this month
	31	05:37	22:09		
Saturn	1	19:39	05:47	0.4	Saturn is the best placed planet to observe this month
	31	17:30	03:44		
Uranus	1	04:36	17:17		Uranus is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	31	02:40	15:27		
Neptune	1	03:37	13:55		Neptune is too close to the Sun to observe this month
	31	01:40	11:59		

Meteor Showers

Shower	Limits	Maximum	ZHR
η Aquarids	April 24 to May 20	May 5–6	40
α Scorpids	April 20 to May 19	April 28 & May 12	5
Ophiuchids	May 19 to July	June 9 & June 20	5

Meteor source is the BAA Handbook

The Tomline Triangle – Part 2

by Tina Hammond

Just a five-minute walk from Tomline's stables Is his London home at Number 1 Carlton House Terrace. This time I knew exactly what to expect as it has featured prominently on OASI publications over the years. imagine my amazement then to find out that the photograph we have been using was of the incorrect address! [A subsequent check of the OASI web site reveals that the error has been corrected, at least electronicly.]

Abercom lived in it while George and his friends soiréed in Europe.

Upon his election to Parliament as MP for Sudbury in 1840, and having inherited the title of Lt Colonel from his late father, Colonel George Tomline moved in, and used the place as his main London residence until his death in 1889.

A few decades later, it was sold to the MP

Location-wise, it was perfect for Tomline, being just a few minutes walk from most of his Clubs, close to his stables and a short carriage drive down Whitehall to the Houses of Parliament. it was also not far from his parish church of St Martin in the Fields, which he likely attended when in London.

Designed by John Nash and built in 1830, William Edward Tomline, father of our man George, bought it for his use while he was working in London. However, he moved closer to Park Lane in 1833, and the Marques of

ultimately responsible for the instigation and passing of the March 1913 Ancient Monuments and Amendments Act. It is therefore ironic that it almost suffered the fate of Tomline's Stables in the 1970s, as the then government very seriously considered demolishing Carlton House Terrace in its entirety. Luckily, common sense prevailed and this Tomline treasure survived!

Examples of what two of the rooms may have looked like are shown on p6 & 7.

The inside of the house was very grand, and consisted of four storeys.A brief résumé of the main rooms and sizes ensues:-

Sitting room 12.9m x 6.9m = 102m^2

Dining room 13.5m x 6.5m = 85m^2

Library 6.75m x 5.5m = 49m^2 at the rear of the first floor

Other rooms included one at 7.1m x 6.75m = 49m^2, and two at 6.55m x 4.15m = 30m^2 apiece.

At the basement level were two rooms; a rather modest one, and a larger one at 35m^2.

Tomline's Old Etonian mate, William Gladstone, whom he later grew to despise, variously resided at numbers 13, 4 and 11, whilst Viscount Palmerston lived at numbers 5 and 4. The Guinness family were at 10, thus giving an Insight into the people Tomline would have mingled with whilst

An example of what Number 1 CHT would have looked like at basement level.

there. It is not difficult to envisage the parties he would have both attended and hosted, and small wonder that he spent so much time in the capital. No doubt he relished impressing his friends from London and elsewhere at his country retreats for extended shooting events or luxury weekends.

If anybody would like the full colour version with all the pics to email me on tinah1@talktalk.net

Number 1 Carlton House terrace as it is today

Newbourne Observing Group – April Meeting

We meet at The Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Lane, Newbourne, IPl2 4NP Start 7:00pm

[redacted] omahony.mike@gmail.com

Our patience was finally rewarded with what was possibly the best observing night of the year. Thirteen members were present including new attendees to the group Bryan Walls and Michael Atkins. In total we had eleven scopes operating on the field plus several pairs of binoculars. The scopes ranged from a tiddler C90mm Maksutov to a monster 6" 150mm TAL2 described by Neil as 'a relic from the Soviet era' Great to compare the optics and the different operational qualities of each type of scope.

The slender crescent moon against the blue of the evening sky was most members first target moving on to Jupiter and its four moons as dusk gathered.

The ISS passed overhead on what most of us agreed was the brightest and longest pass they had ever seen and all credit to David Murton for finding Panstarrs with his home assembled Dob after Gerry Pilling had pointed the way. Saturn slowly rose above the distant trees and put on a show for us and finally Gerry Pilling, using Mike O's Skywatcher 120mm Refractor, found the smudge that was the Ring Nebula M57.

Our thanks to Mandy Gibbs for serving out teas and coffees and for clearing up afterwards. It was much appreciated. We reluctantly closed the doors shortly before midnight - it seemed a shame to go at all after our earlier abortive meetings.

Our last booked meeting is on Tuesday 7th May starting at 8pm because of the lighter evenings. Hope to see you all there. A number regular attendees to Newbourne have asked whether these meetings could continue through the summer to retain the personal contacts that have developed during the winter meetings. Although we do have lighter evenings we are able to have use of the hall into the early hours. It would be helpful if those members who would support summer meetings could let me know so that a case could be put to the committee.

Lunar flypast over Newbourne

The NOGs

Photos by David Murton

Photo of the Millennium telescope, plus several others, taken at the Star Party in Chantry Park on Saturday 20 April

Photo by: Eric Sims

Aurora Observation Report: Levi, Finland - 67.8°N 24.8°E

Paul Whiting FRAS

After a slow start to the week, 2013 March 01 produced some of the best activity I have ever seen. The activity that night was at least as animated as any I have seen in Alaska and the colours rivalled the best Norway has ever offered me. The observing was purely visual, as “holiday style” observing rather precluded carrying the radio equipment required to record the aurora hiss or “dawn chorus".

The glass Igloos

Day by day record of the observations

Day	Date 2013	Fore -cast	Success?	Weather	Temp.	Location	Observation
1	24/02	1	n	cloudy overnight	3ºC	-	
2	25/02	1	n	clear	2ºC	hotel car park	nothing noted
3	26/02	1	y	clear then cloud; snow from midnight	22ºC	glass igloo. An excellent observing locatiom with a glass dome in the warm.	a lot of activity between 8pm and 10pm. Mainly static displays up to 50º from N horizon. Green (white) only.
4	27/02	2	y	clear	0ºC	hotel car park	some static activity green (white)
5	28/02	2	n	snow overnight	-5ºC	-	-
6	01/03	3	y	clear	-17ºC	on top of a mountain, perfect all round view. Continued from hotel car park after mountain lift closed	Excellent display. ⅝ of sky filled more or less continuously from 8pm to midnight. Very active display – rapid movement. Red and blue edges to curtain activity. Unfortunately the extreme cold stopped play.
7	02/03	2	n	mostly cloudy	-11ºC	hotel car park	possible sighting
8	03/03	2	n	cloudy	-16ºC	hotel car park / airport	-

Diary for May

Small Telescopes Observing Nights at the observatory	**STONs** From 8:00pm STONS start again in October
Observatory Club Nights Observing with the Tomline refractor and other telescopes if skies are clear [redacted]	**Wednesdays** From 8:00pm
OASI Workshop Nothing arranged until later this year Mike Whybray [redacted]	**Wednesdays** Nacton Village Hall
Observatory visits by local community groups Paul Whiting FRAS [redacted]	nothing booked
Committee Meeting Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich	The next meeting has not been arranged
Astronomy in the Park Christchurch Park, Bolton Lane entrance	1st option Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 11am – 4pm 2nd option Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May 11am – 4pm
OASI Members Group Observing Evenings STOP PRESS: Summer programme – see web site for details	Monday 7 May Newbourne Village Hall, Mill Road, Newbourne. 7pm – 11pm (from 8pm from May - August) See www.newbourne.org.uk

Society Contact details

See page 2 for Committee contact details.

Observatory (meeting nights only) [redacted]

Email queries: info@oasi.org.uk

Facebook.com/orwell astronomical

Twitter: @OASIpswich

Please send material for the OASI web site e.g. observations, notices of events, general interest articles, to

info@oasi.org.uk