Orwell Astronomical Society

Report to Nacton Parish Council

2020

2019 was another busy year for the Orwell Astronomical Society. Our open evenings on 27 and 28 September attracted over 200 visitors to Orwell Park Observatory. However, because of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, we are uncertain that we will be able to hold our open evenings this year.

The Society continued to promote astronomy through outreach events during 2019, which included an appearance at Nacton Village Fun Day, where visitors were able to safely observe the Sun through our specialised instruments.

We continued our busy programme of visits to the observatory by various adult and youth groups. These help to promote astronomy and the history of Orwell Park observatory to a wider audience. We also successfully observed the Transit of Mercury in November, which pupils and teachers of Orwell Park School also participated in.

There has also been progress in our quest to enable much-needed renovations at the observatory. Orwell Park School is working on a formal application for a grant for this work to be carried out.

On March 16 2020, due to Government advice, we suspended all our activities until further notice and we are unsure at the moment when it will be safe to resume. However, we continue to hold virtual meetings via Skype, so our members can keep in touch. Let’s hope, in the not too distant future, the world will return to some form of normality.

Andy Gibbs

Chairman