

Orwell Park Foundation

Observatory

A vital conservation project



ORWELL PARK SCHOOL

Celebrating

150

YEARS

The need for restoration

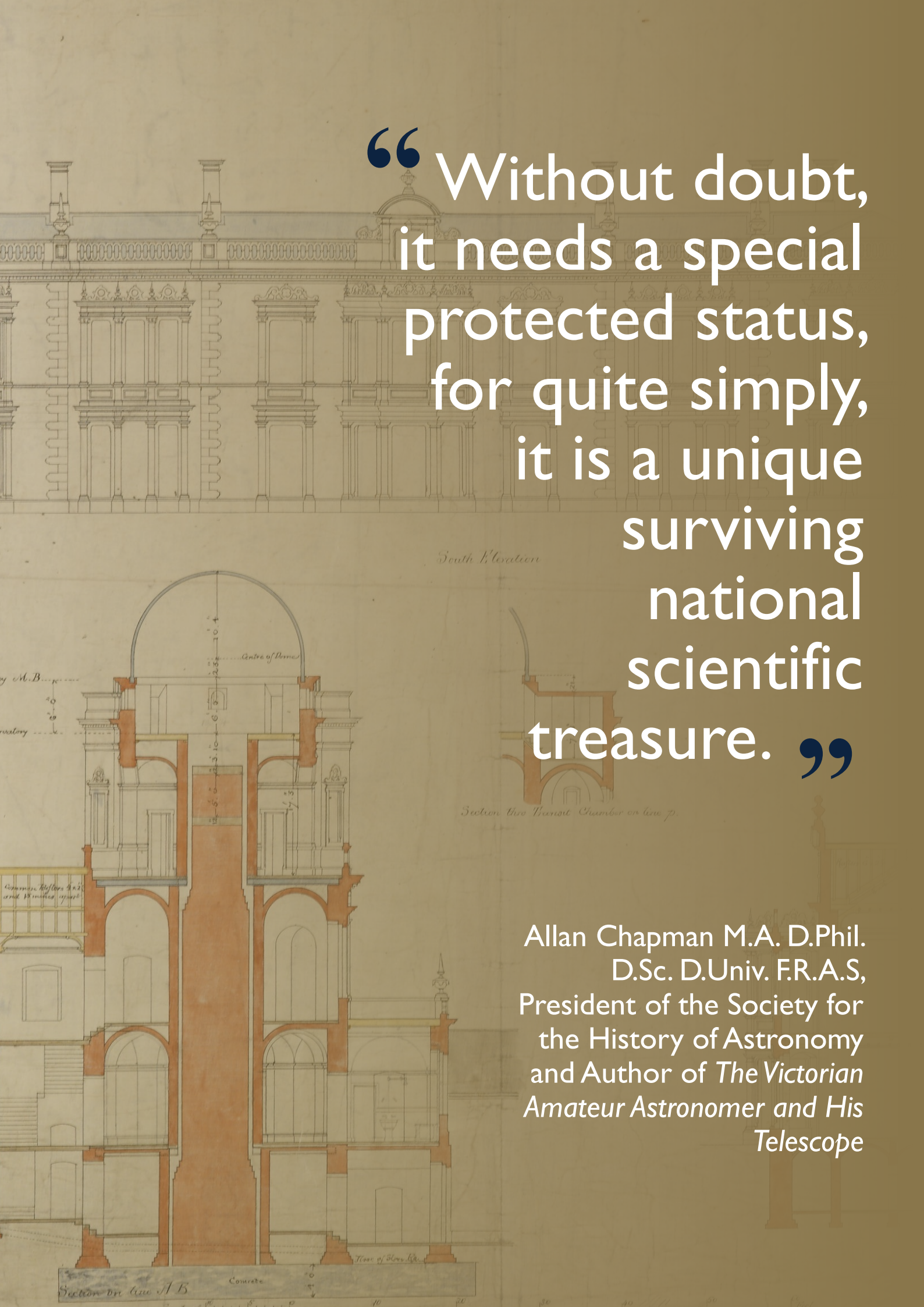
A vital conservation project

The Orwell Park Observatory is a Grade II Listed building, the construction of which was begun in 1872. It was originally commissioned by Colonel George Tomline who was living in the mansion at the time and considered himself a knowledgeable astronomer. He spared no expense and both telescopes were constructed by Troughton and Simms of London who were at the time one of the world's leading telescope manufacturers.

In 1967 the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) was founded and they used what little money they had to undertake repairs to the Observatory building. Since then, minor works have been carried out by the OASI and by the School, including repairs to the shutters, painting of the interior and varnishing of the wooden floors.

Today the Observatory is used by the OASI on a weekly basis. In order to meet the ongoing demand by local groups for visits to the Observatory, the Society offer visits on Wednesday evenings October -April and an open evening in September. Visitor groups include Rotary and Probus Clubs, the WI and the Trefoil Guild, and children's groups such as Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts, plus church groups, special interest groups, other astronomical societies, local evening classes and even the RAF.

But the Observatory now requires restorative work that is beyond the scope of that which the School or OASI can provide, and is at risk of severe decline as a result. Over the next 12 months we are seeking £50,000 to safeguard the Observatory interior by replacing rotten wooden window frames (severely damaged through weathering) and to commission new educational resources for visitors old and young. Contributions towards this sum - large or small - are **hugely appreciated**.

The background features two architectural drawings. The top drawing is a 'South Elevation' of a classical building facade, showing a series of columns and ornate window surrounds. The bottom drawing is a detailed cross-section of a dome, labeled 'Section on line A B'. It shows the internal structure of the dome, including a central vertical shaft, various levels of arches, and a concrete base. Labels include 'Centre of Dome', 'Floor of Storey 1st', and 'Concrete'.

“ Without doubt,
it needs a special
protected status,
for quite simply,
it is a unique
surviving
national
scientific
treasure. ”

Allan Chapman M.A. D.Phil.
D.Sc. D.Univ. F.R.A.S,
President of the Society for
the History of Astronomy
and Author of *The Victorian
Amateur Astronomer and His
Telescope*

Orwell Park Foundation

Your support

However you give, your support helps us preserve heritage for future generations. Thank you.

You can:

- Make a one-off gift
- Make a regular gift by Direct Debit
- Create a covenant with us over a 2, 5 or 10 year period
- Leave a legacy in your will

If you do feel able to consider a larger gift, please get in touch with Development Manager Amy Carbonero to discuss the options available.

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About

The Orwell Park School Foundation facilitates the advancement of education by providing support to the Orwell Park School Educational Trust, financing projects which the Educational Trust would not be able to afford from fee income alone.

The Foundation was created in 1996 to ensure that the School's buildings and landscape are restored for future generations to enjoy. In the past, projects have been funded by generous individual donations as legacies or contributions. The projects were managed by the school with input from a team of professional experts to ensure that restoration or redevelopment is carried out in the most appropriate way and to the highest standards.

Now, the Foundation is working to support a range of projects, from restoration of the 19th century Observatory to supporting bursaries for children who could not otherwise enjoy an Orwell Park education.

Those who know Orwell Park understand what makes it so special. It is essential that Orwell Park be supported to enable children to learn and grow in such a wonderful and unique environment.