



# **MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

## **Annual Report & Statement of Accounts**

For the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009

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# Annual Report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009

The Trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

## **Reference and Administration Details**

### **Charity Name**

The Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society which is also known as MSAS.

### **Charity Number**

Registered Charity in England & Wales, N<sup>o</sup>.1064103

### **Principal Address**

147 Queen Street  
Swinton  
Mexborough  
South Yorkshire  
S64 8NG

### **Charity Trustees**

Dr Allan Chapman	<i>Honorary President</i>
Mr Leslie Holmes Marsden	<i>Chair</i>
Mr Shaun O'Dell	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr Gary James Gawthrope	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Michael John Waterfield	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Mrs Joyce Mary Botterill	<i>Librarian</i>
Mr Paul D'Silva	<i>Fundraising Officer</i>
Mr Glenn Michael John Marsden	<i>IT Officer</i>
Mr Anthony John Morris	<i>Curator of Instruments &amp; Observatory</i>
Mr Philip John Muffett	<i>Programme Co-ordinator</i>
Mr Michael Kerry Collinson	
Mr Michael Colin Crowley	
Mr Andrew Devey	

### **Advisors**

Bank	National Westminster Bank Plc.	Bank Street Mexborough South Yorkshire S64 9QE
Insurance Broker	Access Insurance Services	50 Chapel View South Croydon Surrey CR2 7LF
Insurance Underwriter	Ansvar Insurance Company Ltd.	Ansvar House St. Leonards Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 3UR

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document and Constitution**

The Society is an unincorporated association governed by a constitution adopted August 1996 and last amended February 2004.

The Society is run entirely by its members who pay an annual membership subscription and are not eligible for reimbursement of any out-of-pocket expenses. As of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 the Society had a membership of 46.

### **Trustee Selection**

The Society is managed by an Executive Committee (the Charity Trustees) who are elected annually by and from amongst the membership.

### **Additional Management Information**

The Executive Committee meet once per month and decisions are made on a simple majority basis unless Constitutional or legal requirements mandate a greater majority.

The Executive Committee members also have powers and spending limits within their specific areas of responsibility which they may exercise without prior consultation; however all actions and spending must be reported to the next meeting of the trustees.

The Society has appointed a Finance sub-committee which meets on an *ad hoc* basis to advise on budget and financial management matters.

Further *ad hoc* meetings are called if required, for example to plan and manage special events or projects, such meetings are typically open to all Society members not just the trustees.

### **Related Organisations**

The Society is a member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS), a national body established to promote co-operation between astronomical societies and provide information and advice to its members; for further information see the FAS website [www.fedastro.org.uk/fas](http://www.fedastro.org.uk/fas).

Two trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society, Mr O'Dell and Mr Gawthrop, serve on the Council of the FAS; Mr O'Dell as Secretary and Mr Gawthrop as Website Co-ordinator; all FAS Council members are drawn from the Federation's member societies.

The Society made a subscription payment to the FAS of £57.00 in the year and also purchased additional Public Liability cover, to cover events held away from the Observatory and meeting room, as part of a group scheme at a cost of £40.00.

Tony Morris, trustee and Curator of Instruments and Observatory, serves on the Council of the British Astronomical Association ([www.britastro.org/baa](http://www.britastro.org/baa)).

The Society's meeting room is a rented room in the Swinton Working Men's Club & Institute (SWMC). It is a requirement of the SWMC that all adult members of the Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society will be members of the SWMC. SWMC membership of Society members is managed by the Society and subscription payments totalling £41 were made to SWMC, in addition room rent was paid in the amount of £600.

The J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory is built on land rented from Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. for an annual rent of £50.

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### **Charitable Objects**

The object of the Society is the advancement of education for the public benefit in astronomy and its associated sciences.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(6) of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Society in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

## Summary of Main Activities

The core activities of the Society are the provision of a programme of meetings covering a wide range of astronomical topics, the provision of access to an astronomical observatory through our Community Access Programme, offering observing opportunities and information and advice through an Outreach programme, and offering support and advice to members of the public on astronomical matters, for example the purchase of a telescope or responding to enquiries relating to observations.

Our philosophy is to offer access to all regardless of personal circumstances, race, gender, ability, or faith. The Society operates mainly in South Yorkshire however visitors from further afield are always welcome.

The programme of weekly meetings is open to all, although disabled access to our meeting room is sadly limited.

Our Community Access Programme opens the J.A.Jones Hooper Observatory to give supervised access to the general public and to organised groups such as schools, Scouts, and Round Table. With our Outreach activities we take solar telescopes out to fetes and galas or to public spaces such as country parks. Fees are charged for these services but these are kept at a low level, concession rates do not apply as the full fee is small and the administrative overheads of concession rates would be disproportionate.

Membership of the Society is open to all, concessionary subscription rates and flexible payment options are available in order to ensure that those on lower incomes are not excluded.

## Achievements and Performance

### New Horizons

The Society reported in its Annual Report to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 that sufficient funds had been raised to purchase the Paramount ME robotic telescope drive system. Delivery was taken and the drive system installed at the J.A.Jones Hooper Observatory in June 2008.

In September 2008 the Society had raised a further £3,710 and was able to purchase a further component of the New Horizons hardware, specifically the Takahashi TOA-130 wide field telescope.



Takahashi TOA-130 mounted on Paramount ME



An early observing session with our new equipment

Whilst good and steady progress has been made towards the New Horizons goals the global economic downturn and its affect on exchange rates has increased the cost of the main telescope, the RC Optical Systems 16" which we intend to obtain as part of the New Horizons programme.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Members with Sir Patrick Moore at his home in Selsey filming his video message

May 2008 marked Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Society celebrated this milestone with a special meeting on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting featured guest speakers Dr Chris Watson, Prof. John Parkinson, Paul Money, and Dr Allan Chapman and a video message from Sir Patrick Moore FRAS.

Several traders were also in attendance giving visitors the chance to browse and buy a range of astronomical books and equipment.

The meeting was well attended by Society members, the general public, and representative of other astronomical societies who came to join in our celebrations.

## Charities Online Accounts Awards



On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 four of the Society's trustees attended the Charities Online Accounts Awards ceremony at London's Chartered Accountants Hall.

The awards are organised by the Charities Aid Foundation and sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales, further information can be found online at

[www.cafonline.org/Default.aspx?page=11266](http://www.cafonline.org/Default.aspx?page=11266).

The Society's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the category of Charities with an income below £100,000. The Society collected a prize of £250 and a certificate.



Left to Right: Mick Collinson, Les Marsden, Gary Gawthrope and Shaun O'Dell with the award certificate at the Charities Online Accounts Awards

## Public Outreach

Our public outreach and display facilities have been enhanced by the donation of a Skylark rocket, components, and development journals these were donated by Prof. John Parkinson of Sheffield Hallam University on his retirement. We thank John for his generosity and continued support of our Society and wish him well in his retirement.

Society members make an invaluable contribution to our outreach and community access programmes not only by giving time but loaning their own telescopes to enhance the services we are able to offer the public.

## Membership Development Programme



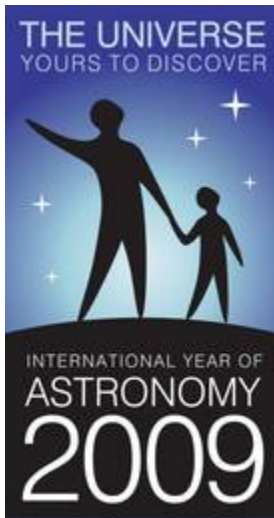
Members making a solar filter

Our members are our most important asset; recognising this and the need to provide encouragement and support to newer members we have launched a Membership Development Programme. A number of additional meetings have been added to our programme given over to practical, hands-on astronomy with a "back to basics" theme, broadening our base of knowledge and expertise. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we anticipate these kinds of event becoming a permanent feature of our activities. The topics covered to date have been Autumn Constellations, Winter Constellations, Making and Using a Solar Filter, and Digital Processing of Astronomical Images.

## Library

Our library has continued to grow in content and range through generous donations from our members and others. Some 75 items have been donated in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

### International Year of Astronomy 2009



Official IYA Logo

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

Whilst this report includes only the first quarter of IYA2009 Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society is fully committed to supporting and promoting IYA2009 and to that end is organising a number of special “A Night Under the Stars” events; two such events have already been held.

The first was organised in co-operation with the Forestry Commission and was held at their Wombwell Woods site on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The relationship developed with the Forestry Commission is one we are keen to build and develop. Whilst we provided the astronomical expertise the rangers manage the site and most importantly provided the hot drinks; we would like to thank the Forestry Commission and its staff for their support of this event.

The weather conditions were less than ideal; though the sky was quite clear there was a strong wind which hampered our efforts. The event was well publicised by both the Society and the Forestry Commission and the attendance was good. We provided a number of telescopes which the public were free to use under our supervision; visitors took this opportunity with enthusiasm and were pleasantly surprised at what they observed.

At the end of the evening the head ranger, Lizz Demers, thanked us for “a new experience for us and a successful night.”

A second “Night Under the Stars” was held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Thrybergh Country Park with permission and support from Rotherham MBC. We would like to thank RMBC for their support; a further event at Thrybergh Country Park is planned for September.



A Night Under the Stars at Wombwell Woods



A Night Under the Stars at Thrybergh Country Park

The event was attended by Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre ([www.sbtc.co.uk](http://www.sbtc.co.uk)) who also have a showroom in Rotherham. Director Tony Hill said he had enjoyed the opportunity to discuss observing with our members and the public and has very generously donated a brand new 60mm refracting telescope which will be the prize in our Summer Draw 2009. Tickets for the draw were sold for the first time at this event; the actual draw will take place at the Wentworth Fair in September 2009. We are also planning to introduce on-line ticket sales for this draw.

Weather as ever played its part! The sky did not look promising initially and there was a strong wind, at about 20:00 the clouds broke a little and observing began. A lot of unaided eye observing was done to show the public the constellations that they see every night but don't recognise. They really enjoyed this and went away feeling proud of their new knowledge.

Again, a number of telescopes were provided which the public were encouraged to use – though little encouragement was needed! Our visitors were pleasantly surprised at what they observed, as the clouds moved away we could clearly see the new moon which was about two days old; this also contributed to the Spring Moonwatch Week (28<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April) organised by the Society for Popular Astronomy ([www.popastro.com/moonwatch/moonweeks](http://www.popastro.com/moonwatch/moonweeks)) as part of IYA2009.

PowerPoint presentations ran throughout, later in the evening as cloud again interrupted observing a narrated presentation was provided, this gave the public time to warm up before they left for home. A total of 48 visitors attended and feedback was very positive.

# IOP Institute of Physics

IoP Logo

We are pleased to report that the Institute of Physics (IoP) has awarded the Society a £900 grant to support our IYA efforts; this will be used to pay for the purchase of promotional materials and printing supporting literature, which visitors can take away.

The Society has also provided an astronomical display which is touring a number of local libraries. In the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March the display had visited Swinton, Thurston, Kiveton, Rawmarsh, Wath and Rotherham Central libraries. Further libraries will be visited in the remainder of 2009.



Members setting up our display at Swinton Community Library



The finished display

We are very grateful to the staff of these libraries for their warm welcome and enthusiastic support.

## Community Access Programme

Our Community Access Programme of events at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory between September and March attracted 402 visitors and a total income of £1008; whilst this is very good it should be noted that bookings for the same period were 540 – with full attendance nearly £300 more would have been received.

The Community Access Programme is a vital component in providing public benefit and is especially important in IYA2009, 327 of our visitors are from just 11 events between February and March. Forty of these were from a local cub group and forty from a St Thomas' C of E Junior & Infant's school. We have also had a customer celebrate her partner's birthday by booking the observatory for the evening to give him some quality observing time on our telescope together with our presentation.

An article, in conjunction with a Society Press Release, in the local "Advertiser" newspaper generated a considerable interest – in the words of our Chairman, "my phone never stopped ringing. We were over subscribed by about 50% of our capacity". The response to that one article brought in £448, a reminder that timely publicity is essential if we are to achieve the full potential of the events and services we provide.



## Meeting Programme

The Society's Weekly meeting programme is a further major contributor to delivering public benefit and maintaining an enthusiastic and committed membership. The latest available data, for the *calendar* year 2008 shows average weekly attendance of 25 or a total for the year of 1,296 – both public visitors and members.

The programme consists of guest speakers with both amateur and professional backgrounds in astronomy and its associated sciences and our own member speakers who give presentations on their own topics of interest. The programme also incorporates video nights, quizzes and the increasingly popular annual Imaging Contest. Meetings also offer opportunities for members to socialise and exchange knowledge and ideas informally.

The meeting programme consists of invited guest speakers who often charge only expenses or very modest fees; in the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 speaker expenses totalled £345. The Society would like to record its gratitude to our guests in the previous year: Su Cartwright, Professor David Allan, Dr Simon Goodwin, Dr Alan Chapman, Paul Money, Lee Thompson, Thijs Kouwenhoven, Dr Ed Daw, and Rod Hine.

The Society also extends its thanks to our own member speakers including: Mark Benton, Vince Boulter, Andy Devey, Paul D'Silva, Gary Gawthrop, Rob Green, Mike Hall, Barry Jackson, Glenn Marsden, Les Marsden, Tony Morris, Phil Muffett, Mick Nicholls, and Phil Turner.

## Website Development



Our new website

The Society's new website ([www.msas.org.uk](http://www.msas.org.uk)) went live on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. The site was built using the Joomla! Content Management System (CMS) ([www.joomla.org](http://www.joomla.org)); this has enabled the workload of maintaining and enhancing the website to be shared between several members and reduced the technical skill required of those editing online content. The new CMS allows for photographic and video content to be more readily incorporated in to the pages which allows us to provide a richer window on our work and services.

A booking system for our Community Access Programme events which integrates with Joomla!

CMS is being developed; this will include on-line payment options using the PayPal payments system. It is hoped encouraging pre-payment will reduced lost revenue from visitors who cancel at short notice or simply fail to attend. It is expected that this system will be in place for the winter Community Access Programme events in September.

## Accommodation

Our meeting room at Swinton Working Men's Club is rented at an annual cost of £600. In January 2009 the SWMC Committee informed us that they were seeking to double this to £1,200 per annum; this would have a serious impact on our running costs. Our signed rent agreement with SWMC limits rent increases to the rate of inflation however SWMC seem determined to ignore the agreement they freely entered in to. The trustees are urgently seeking the Society's accommodation with a view to keeping operating costs at acceptable levels.

The J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory is built on land rented form Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. at a cost of £50 per annum; on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. initiated a rent review which increased this to £75 per annum, this was agreed by the Executive Committee on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## Strategic Aims and Future Plans

The primary aim of the Society in the short to medium term is to secure the necessary funding to implement the New Horizons project. In addition to the on-going fundraising initiatives further grant making programmes will be investigated and pursued.

## **Financial Review**

### **Financial Management and Reserves Policies**

The Society has a Financial Management Policy which meets the requirements of the Charities Act 2006, the Charity Commission guidelines "Internal Financial Controls for Charities" and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Revised 2005)".

The Society is currently operating with two funds. The General Fund is unrestricted and is used for the day-to-day operation of the Society. The New Horizons fund is a restricted fund opened in 2006 to support the New Horizons project. When making public appeals for the New Horizons project the trustees have made provision that any surplus may be transferred to the General Fund to further the objects at the discretion of the trustees.

The Society operates with an unrestricted reserve at a level set by the trustees; currently this is £4,500. The reserve is held to allow the Society to offset fluctuations in income receipts and to provide for contingencies. The reserve level was reviewed in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 to reflect increased rents and utility bills. Reserves are held without any exposure to the stock market. At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 the General Fund had a balance £5,717.

### **Financial Performance**

Financial performance in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 has been broadly consistent the trustee's forecasts and expectations.

### **Support in Kind**

We are also very fortunate to have amongst our members a wide range of skills and experience which can be called upon including electrical and fire safety testers, engineering and building skills, ICT, public relations, management, planning and logistics. Having these skills "in house" is a great benefit to Society.

In addition to time members routinely make material donations and many costs such as internet hosting and stationary, printing, or postage costs are not reclaimed from the Society, reducing operating expenditure.

The Society receives a great deal of support in kind, whilst it is difficult to obtain exact figures the table below provides an estimate the time and effort given freely by members. This time is given freely and is therefore not included as value in the accounts; however at an hourly rate of £6.93 (National Minimum Wage of £5.73 per hour with on costs of 21%) the total time, some 5,715 hours, invested voluntarily would have a value in excess of £39,600 per year; the true value to the Society is much greater than this.

	Hours	People	Quantity	Effort
Prepare/Deliver Talks	15	1	40	600
Messenger - Compile and Edit	20	1	4	80
Committee Meetings (inc prep)	5	12	12	720
Prepare Minutes	1	1	12	12
Trustee - Other Duties	12	12	12	1728
Website Redevelopment	96	2	1	192
Annual Report	8	12	1	96
Funding Applications	5	2	6	60
Shows & Galas	10	8	4	320
IYA2009 Outreach	3	7	7	147
Community Access Events	4	4	12	192
Community Access Admin	2	1	12	24
Solar Obs. Events	8	4	12	384
Observatory Maintenance	4	2	20	160
Observatory Development	250	4	1	1000
<b>Total</b>				<b>5715</b>

Estimate of effort given to the Society

## Funds Materially in Deficit

As at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 the Society had no funds in material deficit.

## Major Risks

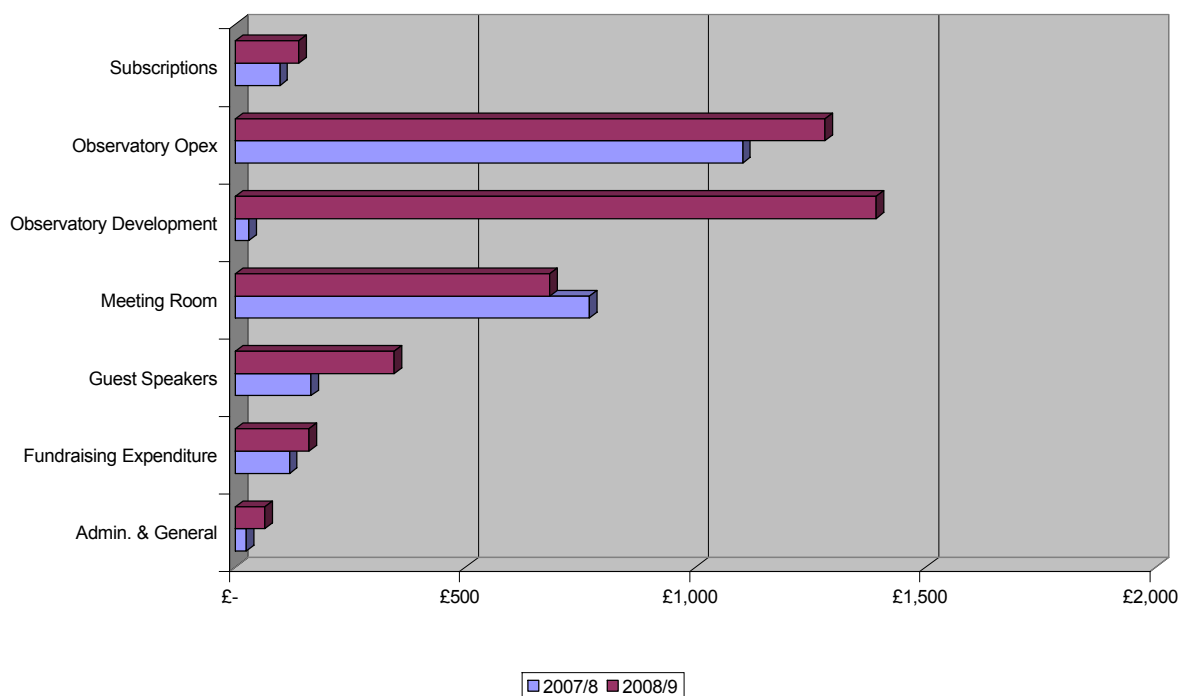
The Trustees have not identified any major risks to which the Society is exposed.

## Expenditure

Guest speaker expenses of £345 are consistent with historical expenditure in this area, the comparison with the same expenditure for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 is misleading as the sum for that year, £182, was unusually low (a more appropriate comparison can be made with the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 when speaker expenses totalled £332). It should be noted that the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 also includes speaker expenses for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Observatory expenditure has increased; this is due to additional expenditure from the General Fund given to supporting New Horizons.

The graph below compares General (unrestricted) fund expenditure for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 with that for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.



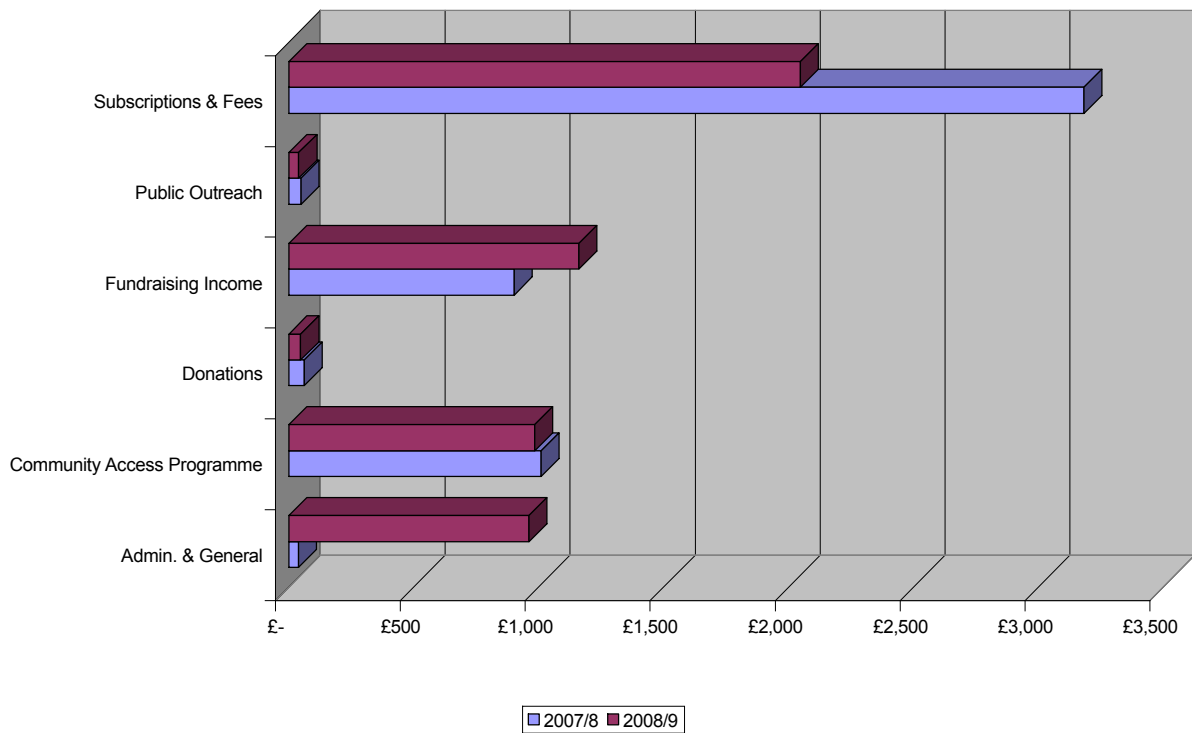
## Income

Community Access Programme income for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 has remained remarkably consistent, public response has been very good in the previous year and it is essential that this momentum be maintained in coming years as Community Access Programme income is a major contributor to the Society's development expenditure.

Admin & General receipts for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 have significantly increased due to the inclusion of the Institute of Physics grant of £900.

Subscriptions and Fees show a *prima facie* decrease as the receipts for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 included a payment of £1,488 from HM Revenue & Customs for Gift Aid (including interest) for the period 6<sup>th</sup> April 2002 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006; excluding this Subscription and Fee income has actually increased slightly.

The graph below compares General (unrestricted) fund income for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 with that for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.



Membership subscription income met approximately 66% of core operating costs for the year reducing the dependency on other income sources for supporting day-to-day operations; our aim is to increase this and allow other income to be used to develop the Society.

# Accounts for the Year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009

## Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds to nearest £	Restricted Funds to nearest £	Total Funds to nearest £	Last Year to nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Admin. & General	960	66	1,026	243
Community Access Programme	983	25	1,008	1,008
Donations	48	461	509	2,157
Fundraising Income	1,160	780	1,940	1,823
Public Outreach	40	34	74	55
Subscriptions & Fees	2,046	0	2,046	3,360
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>6,603</b>	<b>8,646</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Admin. & General	65	0	65	25
Fundraising Expenditure	161	0	161	118
Guest Speakers	345	0	345	182
Meeting Room	684	0	684	769
Observatory Development	1,393	2,873	4,266	6,880
Observatory Opex	1,281	0	1,281	1,103
Subscriptions	138	0	138	139
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>9,216</b>
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,170	(1,507)	(337)	(569)
Transfers between funds	(700)	700	-	-
Cash funds last year end	4,286	1,336	5,623	6,192
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,756</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>5,623</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

### Cash Assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
NatWest Current	2,571	250	2,821
<i>Add: Cheques not cleared at bank</i>	220	0	220
NatWest Savings	1,430	66	1,496
NatWest Transfer Account	0	0	0
Petty Cash	755	74	829
PayPal	0	139	139
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>5,505</b>

### Other Assets held for functional use

All assets shown belong to the Unrestricted (General) Fund

	Value to nearest £
<b>Observatory - built c. 1990</b>	
Building and contents including astronomical telescope and associated sundries insured value. Includes members' key sets.	55,300
Paramount ME Robotic Telescope System	6,850
Takahashi TOA 130 wide-field telescope	3,710
2x Dell PC	1,000
Data Projector – Observatory Use	799
Data Projector – Outreach Use	400
<b>Solar Max Telescope (purchased June 2003)</b>	
Coronado 60mm Solar Max Telescope with H-alpha filter	3,154
Eyepiece set for Solar Max	246
Orion optics field tripod	289
GPDx Mount	695
Sky Sensor 2000	859
Dovetail plate and counterweight	54
<b>Meeting Room (Rented) Contents</b>	
Dell Inspiron Laptop (450MHz, purchased 2000)	1,600
Phillips Data Projector (purchased 2000)	3,500
Overhead projector (purchased 1996)	300
Kodak Slide Projector (purchased 1996)	1,300
Panasonic AG7350 SVHS video recorder (s/h price)	1,000
DVD Player	60
Amplifier	20
Library	2,500
(books, videos, CD-ROMs; all in good condition, items of varying age)	
Furnishings (purchased 1999)	500
	<b>84,136</b>

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### Trustees' Expenses

No expenses were paid to any of the Trustees during the year, except to reimburse them for purchases made on behalf of the Society.

### Trustees' Indemnity Insurance

No charitable funds have been used to purchase insurance to indemnify the Trustees against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part.

### Accounting Policies

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 permit a charity where gross income does not exceed £10,000 to prepare accounts on the simplified Receipts and Payments basis, therefore only a Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared and presented, this is consistent with previous years.

Bank Interest is included in the Admin & General category.

All Income, including grants and investment income is recorded when received.

All Expenditure is recorded when paid.

Gift aid reclaimable on donations is included in the amounts of income once received

### Basis of Valuations

Valuations have been provided for assets held for functional use; where possible the brand new purchase price/replacement cost is given. If this is not readily available a second-hand purchase price is given.

### Independent Scrutiny

In the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 gross income did not exceeded £10,000 and therefore, in accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 no external scrutiny is required and no such requirement is imposed by the Society's governing document.

### Cheques not cleared at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 the 3 cheques issued by the society, with a total value of £220, had not cleared at the bank.

For comparison, the value of cheques not cleared at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was £20.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS  
Chairman