



MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the year to March 31st 2010

Annual Report for the year ended March 31 st 2010.....	1
Reference and Administration Details	1
Charity Name.....	1
Charity Number	1
Principal Address.....	1
Charity Trustees	1
Advisors.....	1
Structure, Governance and Management.....	2
Governing Document and Constitution	2
Trustee Selection.....	2
Additional Management Information	2
Related Organisations	2
Objectives and Activities	3
Charitable Objects	3
Public Benefit Statement	3
Summary of Main Activities.....	3
Achievements and Performance	3
New Horizons	3
Charities Online Accounts Awards.....	4
Membership.....	4
International Year of Astronomy 2009.....	5
Community Access Programme & Outreach.....	6
Meeting Programme	6
Website Development.....	6
Accommodation.....	7
Dome Automation.....	7
Library	7
Strategic Aims and Future Plans.....	7
Financial Review	8
Financial Management and Reserves Policies.....	8
Financial Performance	8
Expenditure	8
Income.....	9
Gifts and Support in Kind	10
Funds Materially in Deficit.....	10
Major Risks.....	10
Accounts for the Year ended March 31 st 2010	11
Receipts & Payments Account	11
Statement of Assets and Liabilities.....	12
Notes to the Accounts	13

Annual Report for the year ended March 31st 2010

The Trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

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^o.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 Gawthrop	<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 & 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 31st 2010 the Society had a membership of 45.

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.

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 & PLI Officer and Mr Gawthrop as Deputy Treasurer; all FAS Council members are drawn from the Federation's member societies.

The Society made a subscription payment to the FAS of £28.00 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 £28.00.

Tony Morris, trustee and Curator of Instruments and Observatory, serves on the Council of the British Astronomical Association (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 £43 were made to SWMC, in addition room rent was paid in the amount of £900.

The J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory is built on land rented from Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. for an annual rent of £75.

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 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 31st 2010.

In evaluating public benefit the trustees note that membership of the society is open to all who share an interest in astronomy and its associated sciences. Whilst we would encourage those with interest to join we also strive to make our services and facilities available to non-members and ensure that restrictions placed on that availability are both necessary and reasonable. Our meeting programme for example is open to all whilst public access to the observatory or solar telescope is only available when supervised by the society; this is to protect both our assets and public safety. A society member, once suitably trained, could choose to use the observatory at any time.

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.

Achievements and Performance

New Horizons

The Society has made steady progress towards its New Horizons vision in the year to March 31st 2010; it was decided that as the funding to purchase the RC Optical Systems (RCOS) 16-inch telescope (approximately £30,000) was proving difficult to secure an interim solution would be implemented to maximise the benefits of the equipment already purchased. The trustees decided to purchase a Celestron C14 XLT Fastar 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope as a temporary substitute for the RCOS instrument; the intention being to sell this on once funding was secured for the larger instrument. The C14 was chosen as it offered the large aperture required to meet the New Horizons specification and because the instruments hold their value on the second-user market.

We were able to secure a very competitive price of £3,500 on a Celestron C14 via AstroSource and the instrument was installed at the J.A.Jones Hooper Observatory in October 19th 2009.

Feedback from our members and the public using the new telescope has been overwhelmingly positive and it has been suggested that this should be retained permanently rather than continuing to seek funding for the RCOS. In view of these comments and developments in the range and quality of instruments now available the trustees plan a full review of the New Horizons equipment specification in the coming year; this will determine if the current Celestron instrument or an alternative will deliver the New Horizons benefits at lower cost.

Charities Online Accounts Awards



The Society took part in the Charities Aid Foundation's Charities Online Accounts Awards 2009. Our Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2008 was entered in the competition in the hope of improving on the 3rd place achieved the previous year.

At the awards event held on June 25th 2009 we were delighted to walk away with first prize in the category for charities with Income below £100,000. The £1,500 prize money provided a welcome boost to our New Horizons fundraising efforts. Presenting the award chairman of the judging panel, Graham Ward CBE MA FCA, said that the society "really stood out for their innovative use of the web. In particular, the judges were impressed by their use of freely available web-technologies to improve accessibility on the site, as well as by their use of hyperlinks. Mexborough are also to be congratulated on their technical score of 97%"

Graham Ward's full speech can be accessed online:

http://www.icaew.com/index.cfm/route/166425/icaew_ga/en/Home/Press_and_policy/Speeches/Speech_by_chairman_of_the_judging_panel_Graham_Ward_CBE_MA_FCA

Full details of the 2009 competition winners are also available:

http://www.icaew.com/index.cfm/route/166409/icaew_ga/en/Home/Accountancy/Features/Charities_online_accounts_awards

The Society has submitted its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2009 for to the renamed Charities Online Financial Report Awards 2010.

Membership

The trustees would like to extend a very warm welcome to those new members who have joined the society in the past year. The trustees also note with great sadness the death of our friend Phil Turner. Phil will be greatly missed by all who knew him; his decision to leave his telescope and other astronomical equipment to the society is a demonstration of his commitment to our objectives. The trustees would like to record their gratitude and extend to Phil's wife, Cynthia, and family our heartfelt condolences on their loss.

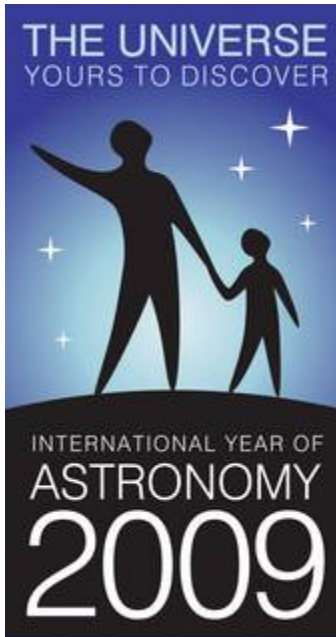
It would be easy to describe our members as our most important asset; in simple financial terms membership subscriptions contribute some 73% of our basic operating costs. Our members are far more important than that; they are the lifeblood of the society.

Our Membership Development Programme aims to provide "back to basics" and practical astronomy to give those new to our hobby the knowledge and confidence to participate and make full use of the facilities we have to offer. The Membership Development Programme recognises that everyone has to learn and seeks to counter-balance some of the more advanced astronomy offered in our programme and ensure a range of content suitable for all levels of experience.

During the year the society revisited basic principles including the constellations at different season led by Michael Waterfield and a number of training sessions in using the new paramount and telescopes at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory (led by Curator Tony Morris and Gary Gawthorpe). Members also gave talks on subjects ranging from navigating the night sky to an update of major planetary missions to Mars and Saturn.

The society arranged a visit to the Royal Observatory Greenwich; this was open to the public but members were offered priority access. The visit took place on June 20th 2010 and proved very popular. We intend to organise a similar trip to Wadham College Oxford in the company of our Honorary President, Dr Allan Chapman, on July 24th 2010.

International Year of Astronomy 2009



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.

The International Year of Astronomy has been a very busy year for the Society; to summarise our contribution to IYA2009 was: 3 fairs, 17 Public Viewing Evenings, 13 Solar Sundays, 3 “A Night Under the Stars” Star Parties, an astrophotography display at a local arts centre, 6 outreach visits, a display which toured 12 local libraries, and 20 meetings featuring guest and members speakers.

Feedback from Steve Owens, UK Co-ordinator for IYA2009, shows that of 57 UK astronomical societies who completed the IYA2009 survey Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society ran more IYA2009 events than any other society and ranked 8th in terms of the number of people to participate – although for some events such as library displays where visitor numbers are difficult to determine our estimates have tended to err on the conservative side. To quote from an email sent by Steve

Owens “MSAS ran the most events during IYA2009! Congratulations! You ran a total of 78 events, with South-east Kent AS coming a close second with 74 events.”

We reported in our Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2009 on the first three months on IYA2009 and the first two of our special “A Night under the Stars” events held at Wombwell Woods and Thrybergh Country Park.

The third “A Night under the Stars” event was also held at Thrybergh Country Park on September 26th 2009. This event was arranged with Rotherham MBC, we would like to thank RMBC for their support. We are delighted that the close working relationship we have developed with the staff at Thrybergh Country Park has resulted in further observing events being planned for later in 2010 and we expect these events to become a standard part of our annual programme. The September “A Night under the Stars” benefited from better publicity and weather conditions. We provided 10 telescopes of varying sizes and few pairs 10x50 binoculars for the public to use under supervision. The public were invited to bring their own instruments and we would show them how to set them up and operate them; this was a very popular part of the night with about 6 instruments being brought. PowerPoint presentations ran throughout the evening. The night was a success yet again with an attendance of 250/300, from the people we asked they all said that it had been a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

The society designed and built a static display which spent 226 days on display across 12 local libraries and one local secondary school Feedback from the library staff was very positive; the display aroused a lot of public interest. We are grateful to the staff of the following libraries for their enthusiastic support: Swinton, Thurcroft, Kiveton, Rawmarsh, Wath, Rotherham, Greasbrough, Kimberworth Park, Kimberworth Old, Thorpe Hesley and Mexborough.

The Society’s Astrophotography display was installed at Rotherham Borough Arts Centre for a total of 57 days (October 9th 2009 to January 5th 2010); the was followed by a 6 week exhibition at Swinton library. We were advised by the centre staff that the number of people passing through must have been hundreds.

You can see a map of our IYA2009 events online at

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&mmsa=0&msid=110957487530399318665.00048a1cda784ee41ad90&ll=53.428356,-1.342392&spn=0.231563,0.727158&z=11>

Our main aim for IYA2009 was to promote astronomy and raise the profile of the Society. Sadly the attitude of the media both nationally and locally towards IYA2009 was apathetic at best. In spite of this the Society worked very hard and our efforts have been rewarded; several new members joined

us in 2009 and the early months of 2010 and visitor numbers have increased. Interest in our Community Access Programme has also been reinvigorated.

The £900 grant given by the Institute of Physics (IoP) to support our IYA2009 efforts; this was used to pay for the purchase of promotional materials and printing supporting literature, which visitors could take away.

Community Access Programme & Outreach

The Community Access Programme is a vital component in providing public benefit and promoting the Society and is especially important in IYA2009; as noted above for the period of IYA2009 our Community Access Programme events were considered and promoted as IYA2009 events. The workload of providing the majority of these events consistently falls on a handful of “volunteers”; it is hoped that automation of observatory dome and building our members skill and confidence via the “back to basics” membership development programme will increase the number of members willing to support our Community Access Programme.

For events between September 2009 and March 2010 we attracted a total of 397 visitors; total income from Community Access Programme events was £993. Whilst attendance is reasonable it should be noted that several events were under capacity and events are plagued by some visitors who have booked to attend an event failing to attend. The online booking and payment system being developed aims to reduce this loss of income.

Within IYA2009 we provided 17 Public Viewing Evening's, 13 Solar Sundays and 3 Star Parties under the title 'A Night under the Stars'. The public viewing evening events attracted an average of 12 visitors each – around 200 visitors in total whilst the 13 Sunday 'drop-in' solar viewing events attracted around 50 visitors to our observatory the opportunity to observe our nearest star. The Star Parties we provided at Wombwell Woods and two at Thrybergh Country Park Rotherham proved to be quite successful and were attended by a total of around 600 visitors.

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 programme delivered a total of 53 meetings with average attendance of 21 – a total for the year of 1,112 – both 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 31st 2010 speaker expenses totalled £290. The Society would like to record its gratitude to our guests in the previous year: Sue Cartwright, Thijs Kowenhofen, Dr Ed Daw, Prof John Parkinson, Paul Able, Dr Jonti Horner, Dr Alan Chapman, Paul Money, Lee Thompson, and Dr Dave Jenkins.

The Society also extends its thanks to our own member speakers who give a great deal of time and effort to deliver a varied, interesting and informative range of presentations and enable us to deliver a weekly programme of meetings.

Website Development

We reported in our previous Annual Report & Statement of Accounts that we had implanted a new website using the Joomla! Content Management System (CMS) (www.joomla.org) and that development of a booking system for our Community Access Programme events was underway.

Over the summer of 2009 it became apparent that an upgrade to version 1.5 of the Joomla! CMS was desirable, even essential, to allow access to a wider range of components to extend the website at little or no cost – most component developers having stopped supporting the earlier version 1 CMS. An upgrade programme was undertaken by the Society. The upgrade and data migration went live on October 15th 2009.

As a consequence both of focussing effort on the CMS upgrade and the technical changes this introduced for component development the Community Access Programme event booking component was abandoned and a new version developed; this also allowed for additional features to be incorporated which simplify management reporting on our events. The new version is currently being tested.

Accommodation

Our meeting room at Swinton Working Men's Club (SWMC) is rented at an annual cost of £900. This figure was a compromise reached after the SWMC Committee sought to double the rent from £600 to £1,200 per calendar year. Having reviewed the Society's accommodation with a view to keeping operating costs at acceptable levels in response to the rent increase the trustees have concluded that SWMC still offers excellent value for money since the Society enjoys exclusive use of the room and is able to have a permanent installation of audio-visual equipment and store our Library.

Whilst the Society has no desire to re-locate the trustees are mindful of the need to monitor the situation carefully and are concerned for the long-term viability of the SWMC as a business.

The J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory is built on land rented from Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. at a cost of £75 per annum.

Dome Automation

We are pleased to report that the long-running project to automate the observatory shutters has achieved considerable progress; Gary Gawthrope and Tony Morris are exercising their welding and machining skills to make the components; other members have offered their services to assist with the installation of a low-voltage supply to power the motors which will drive the dome and shutters. The installation of the drive mechanism will also present an ideal opportunity to clean and paint the dome.

We have agreed an implementation plan to deliver the automation project by September 2010, in advance of the winter observing season. The key milestones are set out below.

- June 2010 – Assemble and test mechanism.
- July 2010 – Clean dome, check for any leaks and repair and repaint.
- August 2010 – Install 12-volt power supply and wiring; clean and lubricate dome bearings.
- September 2010 - Shutter automation completed.

Library

Our library has continued to grow in content and range through generous donations from our members and others; 14 items have been donated in the year to March 31st 2010.

Strategic Aims and Future Plans

The New Horizons project remains our primary aim of in the short to medium term. As already noted the trustees plan to review the specification of the equipment need to meet the New Horizons goals before seeking to secure the necessary funding. In addition to the on-going fundraising initiatives further grant making programmes will be investigated and pursued.

Our ongoing aim is to continue to deliver a programme which covers a broad range of topics in astronomy and its associated sciences. We seek to offer astronomy for all, irrespective of previous education or experience.

The society website is implemented using a Content Management System, as noted above. With this in place the next task is to extend the range of content to offer much more information on astronomical topics. We will also encourage more members to submit pictures for our online gallery. As already stated a booking system for our Community Access Programme is being developed; once this is complete we aim to further augment our site with "Customer Relationship Management" features to allow us to better deal with enquiries from the public.

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.

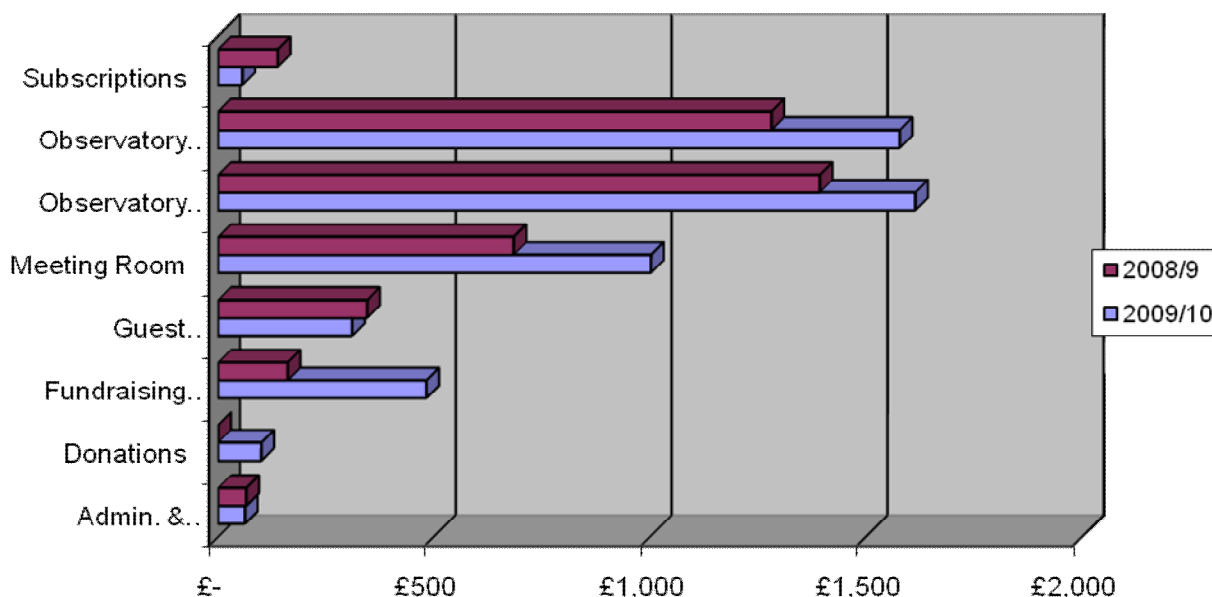
The Society operates with an unrestricted reserve at a level set by the trustees; currently this is £4,500. The reserve is held to allow the Society to offset fluctuations in income receipts and to provide for contingencies. Reserves are held without any exposure to the stock market. At March 31st 2010 the General Fund had a balance £4,349.

Financial Performance

Financial performance in the year to March 31st 2010 has been broadly consistent the trustee’s forecasts and expectations.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure within the general fund has increased by 28% on the previous year.



Meeting room expenditure has increased (46%) mainly due to the increased rent charged by SWMC. As we note in our comments on accommodation this is an area the trustees are watching with interest and concern.

Unusually we report donations of £100 as expenditure; this is attributable to our donation to the Friends of St Michael’s Church. The church, in the village of Much Hoole, Lancashire, houses several stained glass window commemorating the life and work of Jeremiah Horrocks who predicted and observed the first transit of Venus in 1639. These windows with others in the church were smashed in an act of wanton vandalism which we unequivocally condemn. The restoration appeal was brought to our attention by our Honorary President, Dr Allan Chapman and the trustees and members felt a duty to help preserve this important part of our national astronomical heritage.

Fundraising expenditure shows a marked increase, nearly 200%, to £482. Much of this spending however was funded by the IoP grant received in the previous year; the expenditure recorded includes the purchase of display boards, printing of promotional material, and catering for our outreach events.

Annual expenditure of guest speakers is down slightly by 10%, totalling £310 in the year to March 31st 2010; however due to the heavy snow which affected much of the country in December 2009 one of our regular guests was unable to attend; if this cancellation had not occurred the annual total would have been very similar to that reported last year.

Subscription expenditure shows a significant fall by almost 60% to £56. This is due to the Federation of Astronomical Societies offering massively reduced subscription rates.

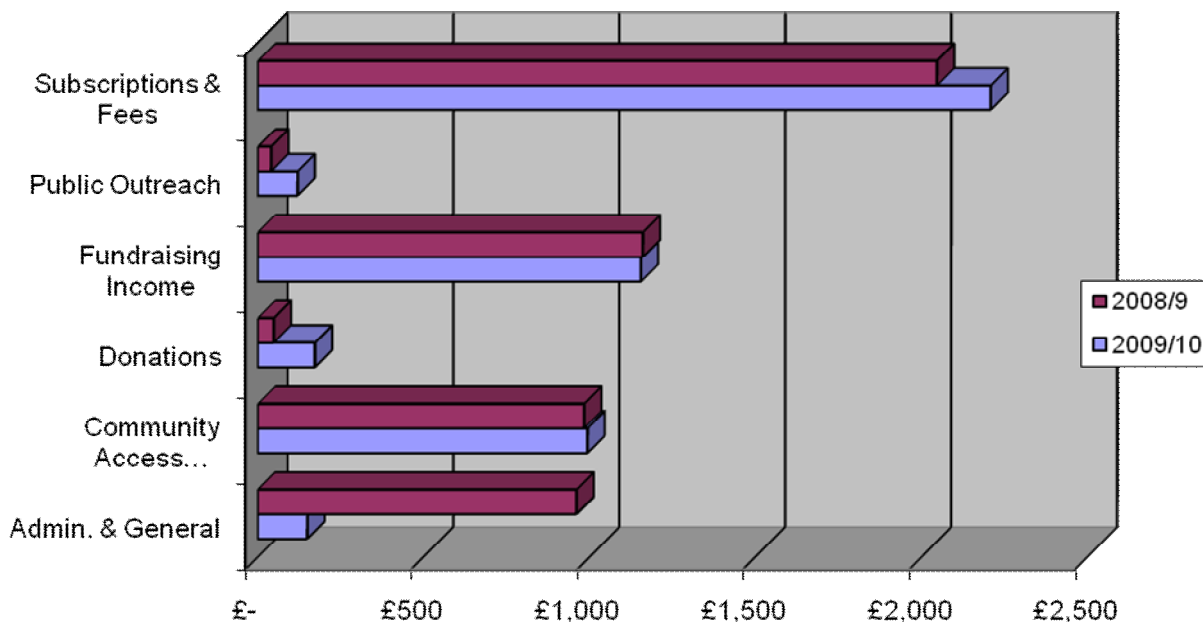
The purchase of the Celestron C14 telescope was funded from both the New Horizons and the general funds; hence the Observatory Development spending shown.

Observatory operating costs (opex) shows a year-on-year increase of some 23%; this is in part due to increased insurance costs as additional assets have been purchased and partly in support of our New Horizons project; a major contributor however in increasing energy costs. The trustees plan to review energy consumption and cost to see if a better deal can be secured with an alternative supplier.

The trustees note that historically the main insurance purchased was to cover the observatory as a buildings and contents policy; the current policy covers a wider range of charitable activities and employers and public liability however the premium is not broken down by our provider, therefore the cost is assigned to observatory opex as the building remains a core part of the policy; this also allows for easier comparison with historic data.

The New Horizons fund expenditure was to part fund the purchase of the Celestron C14.

Income



Total income to the general fund for the year was £4,796 compared to £5,237 the previous year, this apparent 8.5% drop is however misleading as the 2008/9 figure used for comparison includes the IoP £900 grant under Administration and General. When the grant is removed from the comparison a far healthier 10.6% increase on the previous year (£4,337) is shown.

Income from Fundraising and our Community Access Programme has varied little on the previous year. Fundraising income was down slightly to £1,154 - a fall of 0.5% on the previous year, whilst

Community Access Programme income rose slightly by 1% to £993. The trustees took a decision to focus IYA2009 on raising the society's profile rather than raising funds and making as much astronomy as possible to available to as many as possible.

IYA2009 has benefited the society's income in other ways: by attracting new members giving rise to an increase of nearly 8% in Subscriptions & Fees (to £2,208) and the number of outreach events undertaken increased – resulting in income from that source trebling to £120. Donations also show a marked increase from £48 to £172.

Income to the New Horizons fund was mainly the Charities Online Accounts Awards prize money and donations.

Gifts and Support in Kind

In assessing the finances and assets of the society it must be noted that many members and trustees give a great deal of support in kind. Many purchases are made and the payment never claimed back; for example printing and postage costs, stall fees at events, and web hosting have all been paid for by members but the cost not claimed despite such a claim being perfectly legitimate.

Members also give generously of their time; without the many hours given to preparing and delivering talks, running community access and outreach events, and managing the society its growth and success could not be achieved.

The trustees wish to place on records their recognition of and gratitude for all these contributions

Funds Materially in Deficit

As at March 31st 2010 the Society had no funds in material deficit.

Major Risks

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

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on June 9th 2010 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS
Chairman

Accounts for the Year ended March 31st 2010

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Receipts				
Admin. & General	149	-	149	1,026
Community Access Programme	993	-	993	1,008
Donations	172	217	389	509
Fundraising Income	1,154	1,597	2,751	1,940
Public Outreach	120	-	120	74
Subscriptions & Fees	2,208	-	2,208	2,046
Total Receipts	4,796	1,814	6,610	6,603
Payments				
Admin. & General	62	14	76	65
Donations	100	-	-	-
Fundraising Expenditure	482	-	482	161
Guest Speakers	310	-	310	345
Meeting Room	1,002	-	1,002	684
Observatory Development	1,614	1,966	3,580	4,266
Observatory Opex	1,578	-	1,578	1,281
Subscriptions	56	-	56	138
Total Payments	5,203	1,981	7,084	6,940
Net of receipts/(payments)	(407)	(167)	(474)	(337)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	4,756	529	5,346	5,623
Cash funds this year end	4,349	362	4,872	5,346

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
NatWest Current	2,292	48	2,340
<i>Add: Cheques not cleared at bank</i>	106	–	106
NatWest Savings	1,857	–	1,857
NatWest Transfer Account	–	–	–
Petty Cash	261	190	451
PayPal	–	125	125
Total Cash Funds	4,516	363	4,879

Other Assets held for functional use

All assets shown belong to the Unrestricted (General) Fund

	Value to nearest £
Observatory - built c. 1990	
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
Celestron C14 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope	3,500
2x Dell PC	1,000
Data Projector – Observatory Use	799
Data Projector – Outreach Use	400
Solar Max Telescope (purchased June 2003)	
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
Meeting Room (Rented) Contents	
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
	87,636

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 £25,000 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 31st 2010 gross income did not exceeded £25,000 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 31st March 2010

At 31st March 2010 there were 3 cheques issued by the society, with a total value of £106, which had not cleared at the bank.

For comparison, the value of cheques not cleared at 31st March 2009 was £220.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on June 9th 2010 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS
Chairman