



MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the year to March 31st 2011

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Annual Report for the year ended March 31st 2011

The Trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

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

Charity Number

Registered Charity in England & Wales, N°.1064103

Principal Address

147 Queen Street
Swinton
Mexborough
South Yorkshire
S64 8NG

Charity Trustees as of March 31st 2011

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 Andrew Devey	
Mr Arthur Wallace Rodman	

Other Charity Trustees in the year to March 31st 2011

Mr Michael Colin Crowley	<i>Did not seek re-election at the Annual General Meeting, June 24th 2010.</i>
Mr Michael Paul Nicholls	

Patrons as of March 31st 2011

Dr Allan Chapman	<i>Patron & Honorary President</i>
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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 June 24th 2010.

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 2011 the Society had a membership of 50.

Trustee Selection and Management

The Society is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees. A number of the trustees also hold offices within the society, for example the Curator of Instruments and Observatory. These officers are noted in the list of current trustees above.

A resolution was approved, unanimously, at the Annual General Meeting held on June 24th 2010 which provides for the appointment of a number Patrons and an Honorary President and Patron; the office of President had always been regarded by the Society as a figurehead however until this resolution was passed the Constitution conferred trustee status and responsibility on the holder of the post of President. We are delighted the Dr Allan Chapman of Wadham College, Oxford, has agreed to serve as Honorary President and Patron.

Trustees are elected annually by and from amongst the membership; at the Annual General Meeting held on June 24th 2010 the majority of the trustees, with the exception of Michael Crowley and Michael Nicholls, stood for re-election and were elected unopposed. The society wishes to place on record its sincere gratitude for both Michael and Michael for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the society.

Following the Annual General Meeting the post of Observations Officer was left vacant and Arthur "Danny" Rodman was co-opted to fill the vacancy at the Executive Committee meeting held on July 14th 2010.

The Executive Committee meet typically per month; in the year to March 31st 2011 a total 11 formal meetings took place. Attendance at these meetings was as follows Les Marsden 11/11, Shaun O'Dell 11/11, Gary Gawthrope 11/11, Mick Waterfield 9/11, Glenn Marsden 10/11, Jo Botterill 5/11, Phil Muffett 6/11, Tony Morris 8/11, Mick Collinson 7/11, Andy Devey 4/11, Paul D'Silva 9/11, Arthur Rodman 4/8, Mick Crowley 1/2, Mick Nicholls 0/2.

At each meeting the Treasurer presents the latest accounts and these are reviewed against budgets and forecasts; spending is discussed and approved. Officers may authorise some spending within set limits but must ensure such spending is reported at the next meeting.

The meetings also offer a forum to review recent activities within our programme and to plan forthcoming events. Correspondence and applications for membership received are considered; in addition officers report on their areas of responsibility - typically reports are made quarterly.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts are approved by the trustees and then presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The Society has also 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 Gawthrope, serve on the Council of the FAS; Mr O'Dell as Secretary & PLI Officer and Mr Gawthrope 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 Society must be members of the SWMC, this is managed by the Society and subscription payments totalling £47 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 as set out in our Constitution is the advancement of education for the public benefit in astronomy and its associated sciences.

The Society aims to promote astronomy as a recreational activity for its own sake but also aims to promote public awareness and understanding of science and the scientific method. A scientifically literate community is in our view vital in the modern world.

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 2011.

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, may choose to use the observatory at any time.

Summary of Main Activities

The core activities of the Society are:

- Delivery of a weekly meeting programme
- Developing and maintaining the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory
- Offering a Community Access Programme at the observatory
- Providing an Outreach Programme
- Offering support and advice to the public on matters related to astronomy

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

Community Access Programme & Outreach

The Community Access Programme provides public access to the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory, a number of events are provided each year. Some events are open to the general public whilst others are provided for specific groups such as schools or scout groups.

In the year ended March 31st 2011 a total of 14 community access events have been provided to 266 participants. One event in particular should be noted as it was something of an experiment; on September 30th 2010 we hosted an event at the observatory for the Pixie Works group

Our Outreach programme takes the society away from the observatory and out in to the community around us. Our outreach activities range from providing a static display in a local library, through to giving presentations to community groups or school, attending local galas and fetes, to offsite observing events.

The society took part in three galas, the Horbury Show, Kilnhurst Gala, and the Wentworth Family Day. These types of events allow us to advertise our services and promote astronomy, we also have an opportunity to offer support and advice to newcomers to astronomy.

In the year to March 31st 2011 we took part in three major observing outreach events, one at Thrybergh County Park and two events the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Old Moor Reserve.

The first RSPB event, held on January 8th 2011 was titled "Starlings and Starlight" and was timed to coincide with the BBC Stargazing Live initiative which greatly stimulated interest, the second was held on March 13th 2011. The RSPB events attracted well over 200 visitors each. We acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of the RSPB staff who worked with us to deliver these successful events.

We are keen to build our relationship with both Thrybergh County Park and RSPB Old Moor, both of which provide excellent facilities and offer the advantage of existing publicity and promotion channels. We also recognise the benefits of working with another charity, in this case the RSPB.

Two of our members gave talks at the British Astronomical Association (BAA) Horncastle Astronomy Weekend, Gary Gawthrop gave a talk entitled "Observatories around the World" and Tony Morris gave a talk "DSLR Astrophotography", attendance at the weekend was 80 persons. Tony repeated his talk to the BAA Winchester Weekend.

We recognise the importance of stimulating interest in astronomy and science in children and young adults not only for direct educational benefits but for wider social benefit. We are therefore pleased to report that we have engaged with four schools in our community to deliver our outreach services; we attended Mexborough Science School Fair, provided presentations to Wath Church of England School, De Warenne Academy and Barnburgh Primary School. We also took our Skylark rocket display to Dinnington Library for their pupil's achievement day.

Meeting Programme

Our weekly meeting programme is a core activity, in the year to March 31st 2011 a total of 53 meetings took place, this includes additional meetings held of Friday rather than Thursday to accommodate our guest speakers. The meeting planned for December 2nd 2010 was cancelled due to the severe weather which affected much of the country.

Total attendance at our meetings has been 1,254 with individual meeting attendance ranging from 14 to 42 persons, the bulk of attendees have been society members (1,217).

We are grateful to our guest speakers Dr. Alan Chapman, Dr. Ed Daw, Dr. John McMillan, Prof. Nial Tanvir, Paul Abel, Paul Money, Stuart Littlefair, Dr. Sue Cartwright, and Tony Hill. Guest speaker expenses in the year totalled £320.

Our members provide the remaining content of our programme and we acknowledge with gratitude the time and effort members invest to deliver the great variety of content we offer, without their support the meeting programme would not be possible.

The 2010-2011 programme has, as usual, covered a range of topics and levels of knowledge, ranging from current observational “sky notes”, guides to the constellations, the basics of observing, using “go to” telescopes, the Messier Marathon observing challenge, the hunt for extra-solar planets, biographical presentations on Fred Hoyle and Yuri Gagarin, to the more esoteric topics of Gravitational Waves and Detectors and Helium-3.

We aim to deliver a programme that is stimulating and wide-ranging; we always welcome suggestions for subjects to be covered or speakers to add to our programme.

New Horizons

Towards the end of the year to March 31st 2011 the trustees undertook a full review of the New Horizons initiative. It concluded that the Celestron C14 telescope purchased, initially, as an interim solution has been very well received by our members and the public and is producing excellent results. It further noted that securing funding for the more expensive RCOS telescope has proved an elusive goal and is likely to prove difficult in the short-to-medium term due to the economic situation. By retaining the C14 as the main instrument at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory running costs, mainly insurance premiums, will not undergo a significant rise as we would anticipate if an RCOS instrument were to be purchased.

At the executive committee meeting held in March 2011 the trustees resolved that the remaining monies in the New Horizons fund should be employed as soon as possible to purchase two optical components of the current New Horizons specification; a Takahashi 50mm eyepiece and 2-inch diagonal. The first of these items has been purchased; once the second is completed the New Horizons project will be completed.

By completing the New Horizons project the society will achieve a further milestone in its development and have cause to celebrate its success; a clear end to the project will, the trustees feel, make it easier to communicate what the society has achieved to potential funders in future.

It should be noted that the considerable investment made to date has been achieved from the Society's own fundraising efforts.

The digital imaging capacity which was originally part of the New Horizons project will be moved to a smaller project which has been given a working title of “Digital Horizons”; this is to be fully scoped and documented in the coming months. It is expected that the costs of this project will be much lower and it is hoped this will open up additional funding avenues to complete this project.

Charities Online Accounts Awards



The Society once again took part in the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) Charities Online Financial Report and Accounts Awards (COFRA). The awards recognise those charities which have demonstrated the highest levels of accuracy and transparency in their accounts and reports and which have communicated most effectively with their beneficiaries, donors and stakeholders.

The awards are designed to encourage charities to make their websites and reports and accounts more attractive and accessible to potential donors.

Our Annual Report & Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2009 took joint first place in the category of Charities with an income of less than £100K and collected a prize of £2,250 and valuable feedback on our annual report and website.

We have submitted our Annual Report & Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2010 to the COFRA 2011 competition which is being judged at the time of writing.

Website Development

All software components of our website have been upgraded to the latest supported versions. Development of an online booking system for our Community Access Programme has progressed very well and final testing is planned for spring 2011 with the intention of bringing the system in to service for the 2011/12 community access events.

Membership

The trustees have accepted 12 applications for membership in the year to March 31st 2011 and would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members and wish you many happy years with us. As of March 31st 2011, total membership was 50.

It should be noted that the bulk these applications were received in February and March of 2011 and the trustees feel this is due, to some extent, to the outreach events held at the Old Moor RSPB reserve. We are pleased to note an increase in the proportion of female members of the Society.

Members of the Society, along with their families and friends, enjoyed a visit to the historic university city of Oxford on Saturday, July 24, 2010. The itinerary for the day included a visit to the Radcliffe Observatory, the Museum of the History of Science, and Wadham College.

The first calling point was the Radcliffe Observatory where we were given a guided tour of the grounds and building by the Observatory's head gardener, Michael Pirie. The observatory was operational from 1773 to 1934.

Our second visit was to the Museum for the History of Science. Our tour guide was none other than respected academic on the history of science and Honorary President and Patron of our Society, Dr Allan Chapman.

The Museum of the History of Science houses an unrivalled collection of historic scientific instruments in the world's oldest surviving purpose-built museum building, the Old Ashmolean on Broad Street, Oxford. The final visit of the day, still in the company of Allan Chapman, was to Wadham College. The college was founded by Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham in 1610 during the reign of King James I. Among its alumni is Christopher Wren, Wren attended the meetings of scientifically-inclined scholars which were held by Warden John Wilkins (Cromwell's brother-in-law) in the college in the 1650s. Those attending formed the nucleus of the Royal Society at its foundation in 1662.

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. Back to basics presentations as part of our weekly meeting programme we have been supplemented with hands on training sessions at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory. These sessions are delivered by our more experienced members to small groups – not more than 3 at any one time. The aim of these sessions is to promote familiarity and confidence in using the observatory; the trustees have been concerned that enthusiasm for using the observatory has been dampened for some by a perception of complexity.

A total of 10 training sessions have been held in the period of this report, feedback has been positive and the observatory logs show a significant increase in use.

Tony Morris has authored a book, Introduction to DSLR Astrophotography which has been published by the British Astronomical Association. Tony has extensive experience of his subject and has run a number of digital imaging training evenings.

Peter Jalowiczor has been officially named by the University of California's Lick-Carnegie Planet Search Team as the co-discoverer of planets HD31253b, HD218566b, HD177830c and HD99492c.

Using two home computers, he spent many a late night analysing thousands of astronomical measurements released by the Santa Cruz-based university in 2005, after hundreds of hours of his spare time from March 2007 onwards, Peter analysed data, working the figures and creating graphs.

Peter's findings have now been published in Astrophysical Journal, Peter commented 'It is an honour and privilege to be listed in the journal and I hope that my work will inspire others.'

The Society congratulates both Tony and Peter on their achievements.

Media & Publicity

Peter's achievements were reported in the local Advertiser newspaper, this was then picked up by CNN, BBC TV, and Yorkshire Television all of which featured appearances by Peter.

The BBC Stargazing Live season resulted in appearances on BBC Radio Sheffield and Trax FM.

The Society website is an important showcase for our work and promotion of our services; visitors from around the world are accessing the site as can be seen below.



Dome Automation

We reported in our Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to March 31st 2010 considerable progress on the long-running dome automation project at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory and its anticipated completion over the summer or early autumn of 2010.

We are disappointed to report that the rate of progress did not continue and the project has not, at the time of writing, been completed. Our plans were affected by the need to clean and repair the dome which distracted those delivering the dome automation to the more urgent repair tasks, further delays were caused by the severe weather and extreme cold which made work impossible.

Of the milestones we set out in our last Annual Report progress has been made in some areas. Work on assembling and testing the shutter mechanisms has progressed and initial tests have been completed but some assembly work remains to be done.

The dome has been cleaned and a leak found and fixed, the dome has been fully repainted though it is planned to apply a second coat of paint as part of this project. A hole has been discovered in the west shutter which needs to be repaired; this is expected to be done in summer 2011.

The 12-volt power supply has not yet been installed but all dome bearings and the running track have been cleaned and lubricated and the shutters adjusted.

Our current expectation is that the dome automation will be in place by the end of summer 2011.

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.

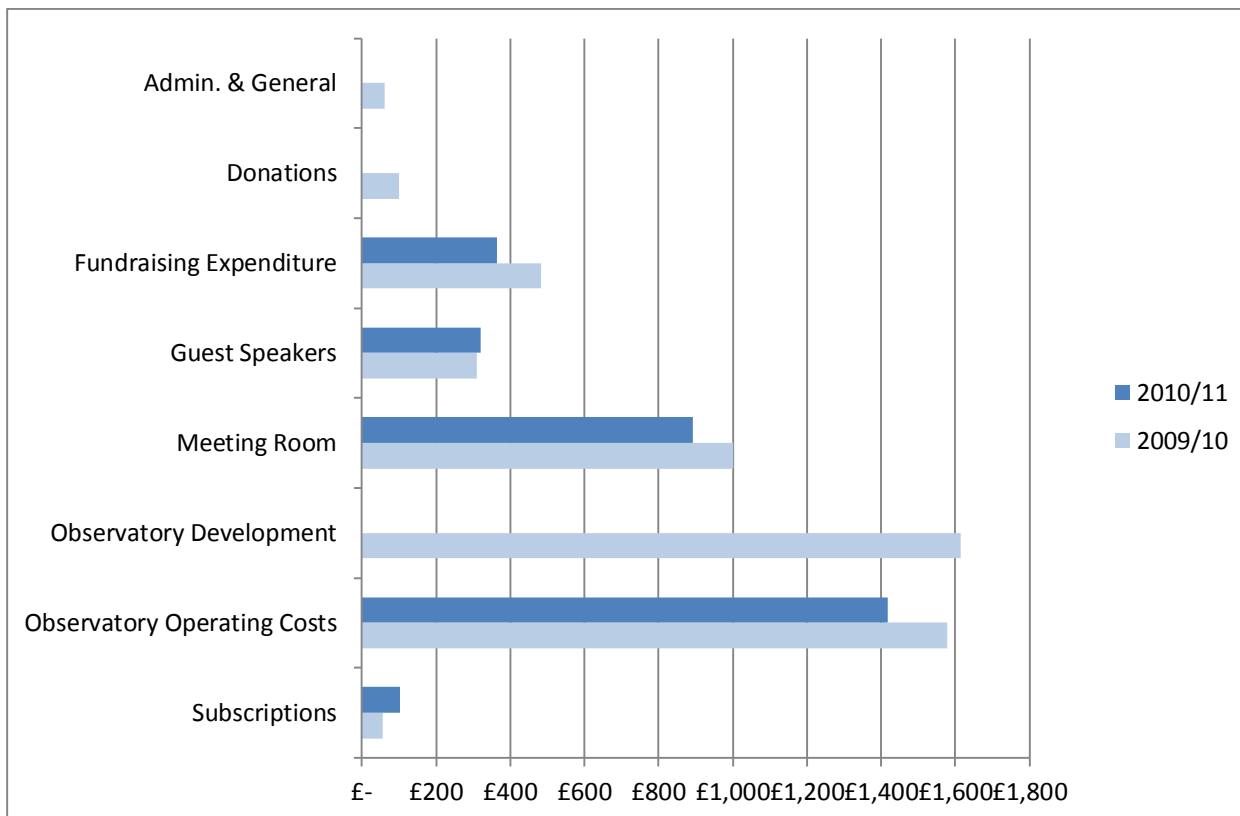
The Society operates with an unrestricted reserve at a level set by the trustees; currently this is £4,500 which equated to approximately 18 months running costs. The reserve is held to allow the Society to offset fluctuations in income receipts and to provide for contingencies. Reserves are held without any exposure to the stock market. At March 31st 2011 the General Fund had a balance £7,117 (compare to £4,349 at the same date last year).

Whilst the current unrestricted fund level is above the reserve we feel it is prudent in the current economic climate; maintaining a substantial reserve will better allow the Society to meet the funding challenges which the wider economic situation may impose. We also note that securing external funding is becoming increasingly difficult as sponsors and grant making bodies are forced to address their own funding issues.

Financial Performance

Financial performance in the year to March 31st 2011 has been broadly consistent with the trustee’s forecasts and expectations. We note that when one-off purchases are removed from general fund expenditure we have achieved a reduction in spending of nearly 14%; some of this can be attributed to gifts in kind which resulted in cash savings and some to the work have undertaken by the trustees to reduce costs. These savings in expenditure are matched by a 21% increase in unrestricted income; in summary the Society is in sound financial health.

Expenditure



Overall expenditure within the unrestricted general fund has decreased by a little over 40% on the previous year. This headline figure however needs to be adjusted as in the year to March 31st 2010 an expenditure of £1,614 was made from the general fund for Observatory Development in support of the New Horizons project; the Celestron C14 telescope was funded from both the New Horizons and the general funds. When this atypical expenditure is removed the change on the previous year is a fall of 13.7%.

Meeting room expenditure of £893 accounts for 28.8% of general fund expenditure, though the meeting room expenses show an apparent fall this is due a refund from British Telecom which has been accounted for as a negative expenditure. The major component of meeting room expenditure is the rent paid to SWMC of £900. The telephone line to the club room has been cancelled, hence the refund noted above.

In our last annual accounts we reported a donation of £100; this was a very unusual occurrence and donations in the year to 31st March 2011 are nil. The donation in the previous year was 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. Our members wished to support the restoration work and a collection was organised and then added to from Society funds.

Annual expenditure on guest speakers has varied little on the previous year, totalling £320 as opposed to £310. We are fortunate that the universities of the nearby city of Sheffield provide several speakers with consequently low travel expenses; we are also grateful to members who offer accommodation to our visitors from further a field which reduces our overheads.

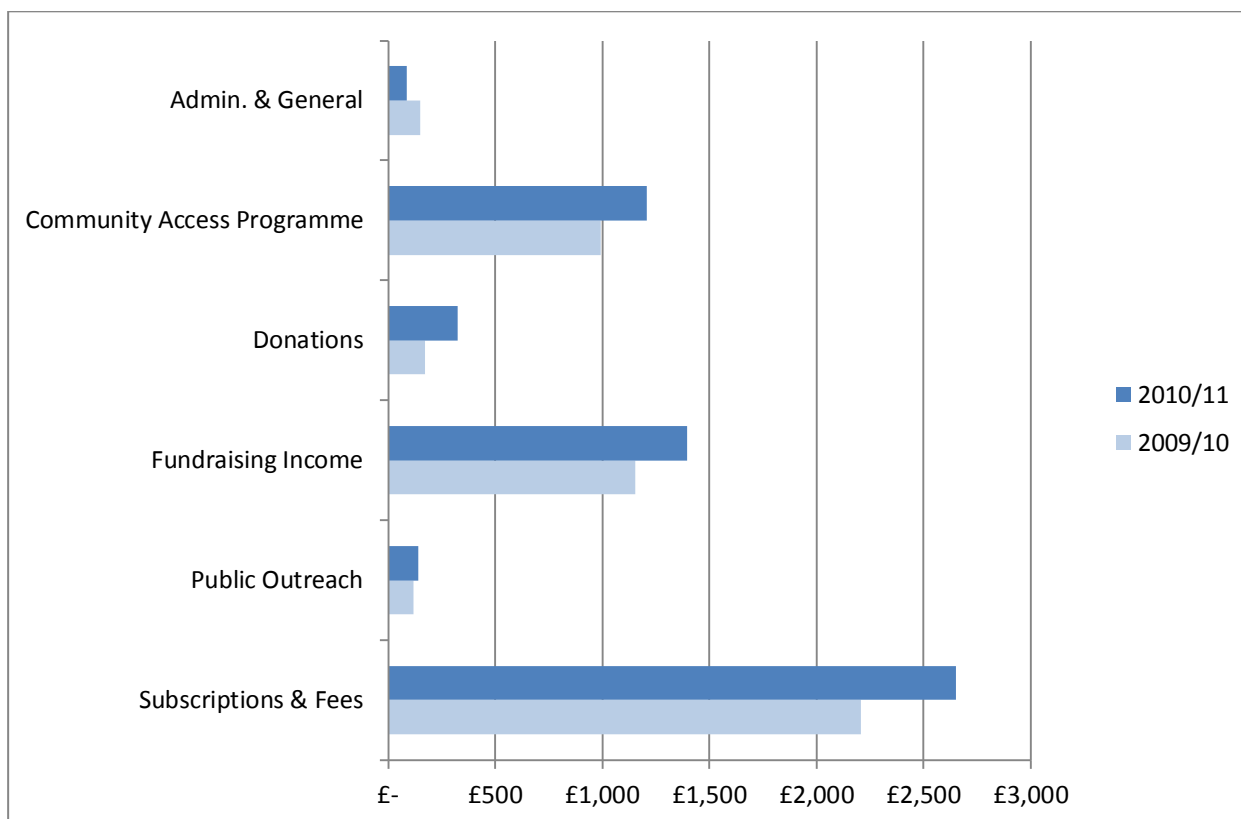
Observatory operating costs show a year-on-year decrease of 10%; this is in part due reduced energy and telecommunications costs; monthly payments for these services were reduced following a review of charges undertaken by the trustees.

It should be noted that the premium for the society's main insurance policy is reported as an observatory expense as historically this was the case; the current policy replaced an earlier building and contents policy for the observatory and the attribution has been retained for comparison purposes. 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

Subscription expenditure shows a significant rise to £103. The Federation of Astronomical Societies has continued to offer massively reduced subscription rates; however due to delays in paying SWMC subscriptions two years SWMC subscriptions are shown. Administration and General expenditure is reported as nil; the printing and postage costs normally included were met by a gift in kind for the year to March 31st 2011.

Income

Total income to the general fund for the year was £5,806 compared to £4,796 the previous year; this represents a 21% increase. Most income sources show significant year-on-year improvement.



Income from both Community Access (£1,207) and Outreach (£140) activities show increases of 21.5% and 16.7% respectively. This reflects an increase not only in the quantity of events we provide but also in the quality of the events we provide. Some outreach events have offered little immediate financial return but have generate considerable interest in our Community Access events and encouraged new members to our Society.

Subscription income and visitors fees therefore show a healthy increase of 20% to £2,652; even allowing for increase subscription rates this still represents a significant increase. Some new members joined late in the year and therefore have not paid a full annual subscription, if we are successful in retaining members in the coming renewal cycle the prospects are very good.

Subscriptions and fees represent nearly 46% of all unrestricted income and covers approximately 85% of expenditure.

Fundraising income shows an increase of 21% to £1,397. A major factor, the trustees believe, in accounting for this is a review undertaken on the fundraising activities we undertake at our outreach events. In the year we have revised the activities we offer to cater for different age ranges, for example providing a “lucky dip” bran-tub for children and competitions for adults. We also revised the pricing of our annual draw tickets which stimulated sales.

Our member’s lottery is fully subscribed and this is another significant contribution to fundraising income. The Society wishes to note its appreciation for the hard work done running the lottery by Jo Botterill.

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.

We undertook an analysis of the time which trustees and members give to the society to support our Community Access and Outreach programmes, preparing and delivering presentations, and on trustee and officer duties. The total exceeds 4,500 hours which equates to £26,685 at National Minimum Wage of \$5.93 per hour (if on costs are also factored in the figure is in excess of £32,000). The value of this time to the Society is, of course, much greater.

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

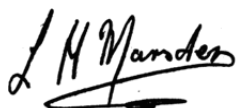
Funds Materially in Deficit

As at March 31st 2011 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 April 13th 2011 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS
Chairman

Accounts for the Year ended March 31st 2011

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Receipts				
Admin. & General	87	2,255	2,341	149
Community Access Programme	1,207	-	1,207	993
Donations	324	120	444	389
Fundraising Income	1,397	-	1,397	2,751
Public Outreach	140	-	140	120
Subscriptions & Fees	2,652	-	2,652	2,208
Total Receipts	5,806	2,375	8,181	6,611
Payments				
Admin. & General	-	-	-	76
Donations	-	-	-	100
Fundraising Expenditure	365	-	365	482
Guest Speakers	320	-	320	310
Meeting Room	893	-	893	1,002
Observatory Development	-	2,322	2,322	3,610
Observatory Operating Costs	1,418	5	1,423	1,578
Subscriptions	103	-	103	56
Total Payments	3,098	2,327	5,426	7,214
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,708	48	2,755	(603)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	4,409	363	4,772	5,345
Cash funds this year end	7,117	411	7,528	4,772

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash Assets			
NatWest Current	3,131	(475)	2,656
<i>Add: Cheques not cleared at bank</i>	568	-	-
NatWest Savings	3,743	761	4,503
NatWest Transfer Account	108	125	233
Petty Cash	135	-	135
PayPal	-	-	-
Total Cash Funds	7,685	411	8,095

Other Assets held for functional use

All assets shown belong to the Unrestricted (General) Fund

	Value
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 Personal Computers	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
Furnishings (purchased 1999)	500
Library	
Books, DVDs, videos, CD-ROMs; all in good condition (items of varying age)	2,500
Telescope 76.2 1250mm + 3 eyepieces & tripod	100
Tasco Refractor Telescope (9TE-5)	50
Dell Remote control keyboard	30
Meade LXD 55F/U 5" Refractor Telescope	150
Canon EOS 350D Digital SLR Camera	200
Phil Turner Legacy	
Telescope – 14 inch Dobsonian	1,600
Telescope – 5" Celestron Goto Telescope	700
Telescope – Coronado PST 40mm	479
Telescope – Orion Optics 5" Reflecting Telescope	300
Binoculars – Helios	200
Assorted Eyepieces, filters and tripods (no item over £75)	450
	91,895

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 2011 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 2011

At 31st March 2011 there were 4 cheques issued by the society, with a total value of £568, which had not cleared at the bank.

For comparison, the value of cheques not cleared at 31st March 2010 was £106.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 13th 2011 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS
Chairman