



# **MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

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

For the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012



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## Annual Report for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

The Trustees of Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> 2012**

Mr Leslie Holmes Marsden	<i>Chairman</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 &amp; Observatory</i>
Mr Philip John Muffett	<i>Programme Co-ordinator</i>
Mr Arthur Wallace Rodman	<i>Observations Officer</i>
Mr Michael Kerry Collinson	
Mr Stephen Taylor	

#### **Other Charity Trustees in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012**

Mr Andrew Devey	<i>Did not seek re-election at the Annual General Meeting, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2011.</i>
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#### **Patrons as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012**

Dr Allan Chapman	<i>Patron &amp; 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 the Society had a membership of 53.

### **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.

Trustees are elected annually by and from amongst the membership; at the Annual General Meeting held on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 the majority of the trustees, with the exception of Andrew Devey, stood for re-election and were elected unopposed. The society wishes to place on record its sincere gratitude to Andrew for commitment and hard work on behalf of the society and to wish him a long and happy retirement in Spain. The whole society looks forward to seeing the results of Andy's solar observations.

The Executive Committee meet typically per month; in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 a total of 12 formal meetings took place. Attendance at these meetings, shown as meetings attended/meetings eligible to attend was as follows Les Marsden 12/12, Gary Gawthrope 12/12, Steve Taylor 9/9, Shaun O'Dell 11/12, Paul D'Silva 11/12, Mick Waterfield 9/12, Glenn Marsden 9/12, Andy Devey 2/3, Jo Botterill 7/12, Mick Collinson 7/12, Danny Rodman 7/12, Tony Morris 6/12, and Phil Muffett 3/12.

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. Further *ad hoc* meetings are called if required, for example to plan and manage special events or projects.

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.

### **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 Gawthrope, serve on the Council of the FAS; Mr O'Dell as Secretary & PLI Officer and Mr Gawthrope as Vice President and Deputy Treasurer; all FAS Council members are drawn from the Federation's member societies.

The Society made a subscription payment to the FAS of £20 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.

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 Society must be members of the SWMC, this is managed by the Society and subscription payments totalling £50 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 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

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. Disabled access to the observatory is limited as the telescopes are on the first floor however we do have facilities to take portable instruments outside to visitors who are unable to access the building.

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**

### **BBC Stargazing Live**

The BBC's Stargazing Live series returned to our screens in January 2012 and the society once again participated with nine events throughout the month.

Our weekly meeting programme for January offered a range of topics; on January 5<sup>th</sup> Danny Rodman took a tour through the Winter Sky, January 12<sup>th</sup> Phil Muffett talked on the Size of the Earth, Gary Gawthrop gave a talk and photographic presentation entitled Atlantis STS 132 on the January 19<sup>th</sup>, our Annual Imaging Competition was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and last but certainly not least on January 27<sup>th</sup> our Honorary President and Patron, Dr Allan Chapman, entertained us with a presentation Aliens: Fact, Fiction, or Fantasy.

Our Community Access Programme provided two Public Viewing Evenings at the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory in January 2012. The first was on January 4<sup>th</sup> for the Quadrantids Meteor Shower. A second Public Viewing evening was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Outreach activities were also included in our BBC Stargazing Live events; the RSPB at Old Moor was again our venue for an evening event entitled Cormorants and Constellations held on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was heavily subscribed with over 200 visitors attending.

The final event of our Stargazing Live programme saw us in Clifton Park, Rotherham joining with the "Friends of Clifton Park" for lectures and observing on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Our Stargazing live events attracted a total of 750 visitors.

All events were published on the BBC Things To Do web site (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo>), the clubbz.com events listing site, local radio and press.

### **Community Access Programme & Outreach**

Our Community Access Programme allows supervised access to the J.A. Jones Hooper Observatory to the public including youth and community groups. A total of 11 public viewing evenings were provided in the year with a total of 210 visitors attending. Feedback from these events is overwhelmingly positive, a recent example:

"I wanted to say thanks for a really interesting evening, me and my pal Jeanette really enjoyed the visit, the set-up you have is fantastic. We have decided to get the deck chairs out in our respective gardens and just sit and familiarise ourselves with the night sky. I will be putting some more effort into familiarising myself with my scope and astro-imaging!"

Our Outreach Programme sees the society going out to local venues, this may be for a "star party" observing session, the present at a school or community group, or to attend fetes and galas. The last 12 months has seen a shift in focus away from the gala and fete events; the trustees felt that these events were proving difficult to organise, were attracting smaller audiences and generating less publicity and membership enquiries and offering less public benefit value than other outreach events. The trustees have decided that this change of emphasis will continue in the coming year.

A number of successful star party events were held in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012, at these events the society provides equipment and supervision to enable visitors to undertake astronomical observation and, increasingly, we provide a "telescope clinic" where visitors can seek help and advice on setting up and using their own telescopes; this is proving a popular initiative with the public.

We returned to Thrybergh Country Park on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for a star party, and have had two events at the RSPM Old Moor Reserve – on January 21<sup>st</sup> (as part of BBC Stargazing Live), and again February 26<sup>th</sup> due to public demand from the January event. We also held our first event at Clifton Park as guests of the Friends of the Park. These larger events attracted some 700 visitors.

We also continued to develop our relationship with the RSPB Old Moor Reserve when on August 20<sup>th</sup> they organised a visit to the observatory for a bat walk and astronomical observing session.

We would like to take this opportunity to place on record our gratitude to the staff and volunteers at RSPB Old Moor, Thrybergh Country Park, and Friends of Clifton Park for their hospitality and co-operation in the staging of these events which have proved so successful, we are keen to further develop our relationship with these organisations in the year ahead and are pleased to record that we have already received invitations from them to deliver more events in the future.

In addition to these larger events 4 smaller site visits took place in the year, reaching a further 100 people, we are always interested in visiting schools. We visited Anston Greenlands Junior and Infant School on March 27<sup>th</sup> to participate in their Family Space Quiz. Mrs Farrimond, Y1 Teacher at the school had this to say:

“A massive thank you for coming into school and talking to ‘Robins’ about the moon and stars. Let’s not forget crowd controlling and conducting the school family space quiz. You were fantastic. The parents and adults were very impressed and interested in your responses to their questions during refreshment time. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. I will definitely ask you back in the near future. I can’t wait to show the children all the amazing resources you have given the class. Please can you put this on your website so people can view my comment about your visit!”

### **Meeting Programme**

A total of 54 society meetings took place in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012; our weekly Thursday meetings were supplemented by a few Friday meetings to accommodate the travel arrangements of some of our guest speakers. Total attendance for the year was 1,527 – of which 89 visits were by none members; average weekly attendance was 28.

- We place on record our thanks to all our speakers, both our members and especially our guest speakers: Neil Haggath, Andy Green, Peter Hughes, Paul Crowther, Dr Stuart Littlefair, Dr Ed Daw, Dr Allan Chapman, Dave Armeson, Dr Sue Cartwright, and Dr Matthew Hilton.

We greatly value the time and effort given by all our speakers to provide entertaining, informative, and stimulating presentations on varied and stimulating range of topics, without their help we would be unable to deliver the programme we do.

Following the publicity success enjoyed with our BBC Stargazing Live events we have begun to promote our meetings programme more vigorously via clubbz.com, the Federation of Astronomical Societies events listings, and local radio and newspapers.

It is with great sadness that we record here the passing of Professor John Parkinson. John was a great friend to our society; for many years he was a regular guest speaker, he also visited us on a number of anniversaries and special occasions. When he retired from Sheffield Hallam University he donated to us the Skylark Rocket from his days on that project; it has worked very well for us over the years and has toured many libraries and schools as part of our display.

John was to have been our guest speaker in February 2012 but sadly he was too ill to keep the appointment, John had died peacefully at Ashgate Hospice, Chesterfield in the early hours of Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>.

A few members attended his funeral at St Hugh’s Mission Church, Foolow to pay the society’s respects. John will be sorely missed by all who knew him, his talks were always full of energy, enthusiasm, and a great sense of fun. Our thoughts are with John’s wife and family.

## Charities Online Financial Reporting and Accounts Awards

The Society once again entered in to the Charities Online Financial Reporting and Accounts Awards organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). The Awards aim to:

- increase transparency by rewarding best practice in financial reporting
- raise the standard of web-based financial reporting for greater impact and accessibility
- encourage more charities to do their financial reporting online

The winners were announced at the ICAEW Charities Awards evening on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Chartered Accountant's Hall, London. The society's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 was runner-up in the category Charities with income below £250k.

We were pleased that we appeared in the top 3, as we have each year since the 2008 awards and we look forward to taking part in the competition in future in the hope of regaining the top spot. The runner-up prize of £1,500 was a valuable and welcome addition to society funds.

### Web Site

The society website ([msas.org.uk](http://msas.org.uk)) has undergone a major overhaul in the last year with a completely new, fresher appearance being applied to the existing Joomla! Content Management System. The updated site offers links to the society's Facebook and Twitter pages, our YouTube video gallery and out events listing on Clubbz.com. Our aim is to use these social media sites to provide more interaction than our main site.

The members area of the website has been improved with the addition of member-only downloads, a discussion forum is under development as well as a membership management system which will be tested over the summer with the aim of being in place for the next annual subscription renewal and Annual General Meeting in 2013.

As part of the redevelopment a completely new calendar and events module has been developed, at the time of writing integration work to an online booking system is underway.

### Observatory

In the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 a full risk assessment was carried out at the J.A. Jones Hooper observatory by trustee Mr Danny Rodman who is a registered risk assessor; this will be reviewed annually. We are pleased to note that for all risks identified mitigation is already in place.

The dome and shutter automation project has at last moved forward over the past year with all the major components fabricated and fitted onto the dome. The shutters themselves have been modified to give the new opening mechanisms some much needed weather protection. The remaining work is now mostly installing the wiring and shutter motion controls. Our member Kristian Hudson-Lee has installed heavy duty cables between the kitchen and the dome wall. These will bring the 12-volt supplies into the dome area.

Circuit breakers have also been installed ready for the planned dome rotation motor. The hole in the top of the west shutter that was found last year has now been fully repaired. It is expected that when the second coat of paint is applied during the summer months the new shutter drives will also be commissioned. A gradual change out of any rusty bolts to stainless steel has also been underway over the last year. This will make any ongoing maintenance easier.

Thanks are due to Gary Gawthrop for the ongoing use of his workshop and also the purchasing of the ever growing list of tools that we have needed to complete the shutter drive mechanisms.



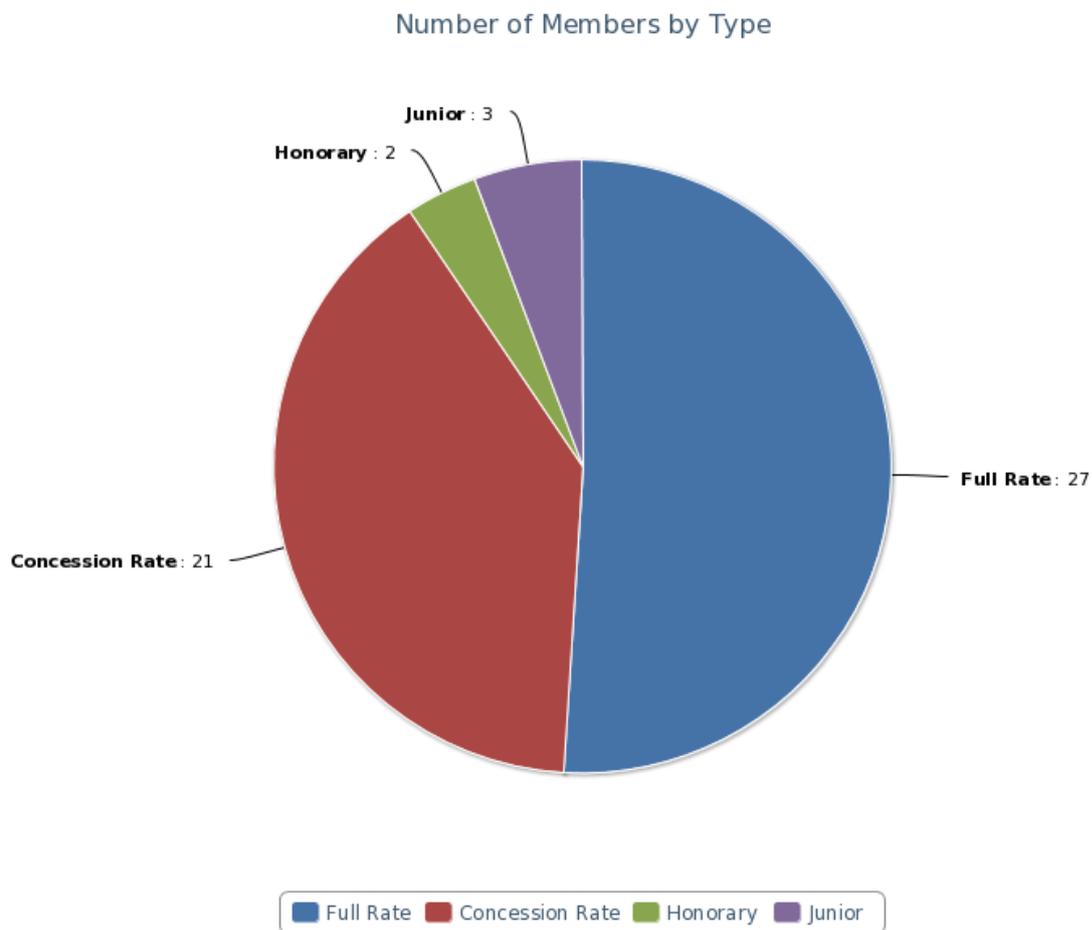
Problems with the societies Coranado 60mm Solar telescope have been investigated and subsequent tests with the filters on another telescope have proved the issue appears to be with the telescope part of the instrument. This was something of a surprise as the issue was expected to be with the filters. Investigations are under way to look at purchasing a replacement telescope and fitting the filters to it before the summer solar viewing season.

A number of society members have been supported in their imaging projects both in hardware, software and expertise. A small group of members have become regular users of the equipment at the observatory for imaging purposes.

### Membership

At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 membership of the society was 53 (a slight increase on last year when we recorded 50 members); we extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined us in the last year: Pauline Hone, Keith Watson, Mike Scollan, Ann Goulding, and Barry Quibell, we hope you will have many enjoyable years with us.

The chart below shows the breakdown of membership by type as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.



A member's visit to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry was organised on July 23<sup>rd</sup>

### GCSE Astronomy

Over the past year many members of the society have expressed an interested achieving a recognised qualification in astronomy. The GCSE Astronomy course offers a beginners level introduction to an academic study of the subject. The only exam board offering this course is Edexcel and the society has started to deliver the theoretical element of the course over a period of three years. We have delivered five sessions this year covering elements from Topic 1, Earth, Moon and Sun and Topic 2, Our Solar System and Comets and Meteors.

We are currently seeking a partner that will process our candidates, entering them for the examination and practical tasks.

## **Financial Review**

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

The Society has a Financial Management Policy which meets the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Commission guidelines “Internal Financial Controls for Charities” and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Revised 2005)”.

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; the New Horizons project has now been closed and its associated fund therefore closed on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 the General Fund had a balance £14,216 (compared to £7,117 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. Upgrades and repairs to our solar telescopes are being specified and estimated at the time of writing, we are also mindful that the long-term future of Swinton WMC is difficult to guarantee and that we must be prepared to seek alternative accommodation should our current venue cease to be available.

We have also attained our long standing goal of subscriptions covering core operating costs, something we have been working towards for a number of years. No increase in subscription rates is to take place in the year commenced April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 and the finance subcommittee are recommending the rates be held for the year commencing April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

### **Financial Performance**

Financial performance in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 has been broadly consistent with the trustee’s forecasts and expectations. We note that general fund expenditure we has remained almost unchanged on the previous year; whilst unrestricted income has enjoyed a 75% increase year-on-year though some of this is due to one-off receipts such as back-dated Gift Aid repayments; in summary the Society is in sound financial health.

### **Expenditure**

Restricted expenditure from the New Horizons fund for the year was a total of £411 leaving the New Horizons fund with a closing balance of £0.00 and is now closed. This is in-line with the trustees plan reported in our Annual Report & Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 in which we stated that once the final component, a 2-inch diagonal, had been purchased the New Horizons project and therefore its associated fund would be closed.

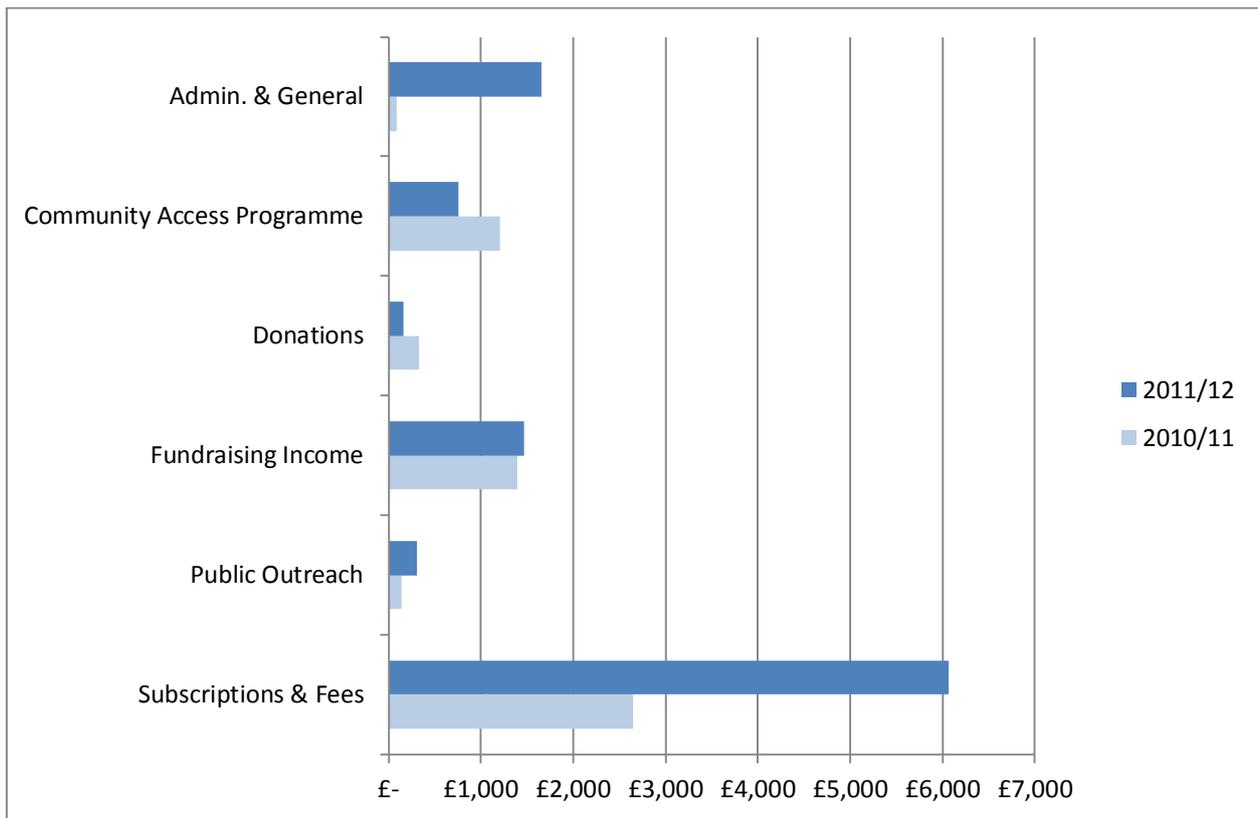
Overall expenditure within the unrestricted general fund has decreased very slightly, by a little less than 1% to £3,068. The comparison of expenditure with the previous year is illustrated in the chart below.

Annual expenditure on guest speakers has varied little on the previous year, totalling £330 as opposed to £320. 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 afield which reduces our overheads.

Observatory operating costs show a year-on-year decrease of 11.5%, this is partly due to supplies having been purchased in the previous year and the reduction in energy bills secured towards the end of that year.

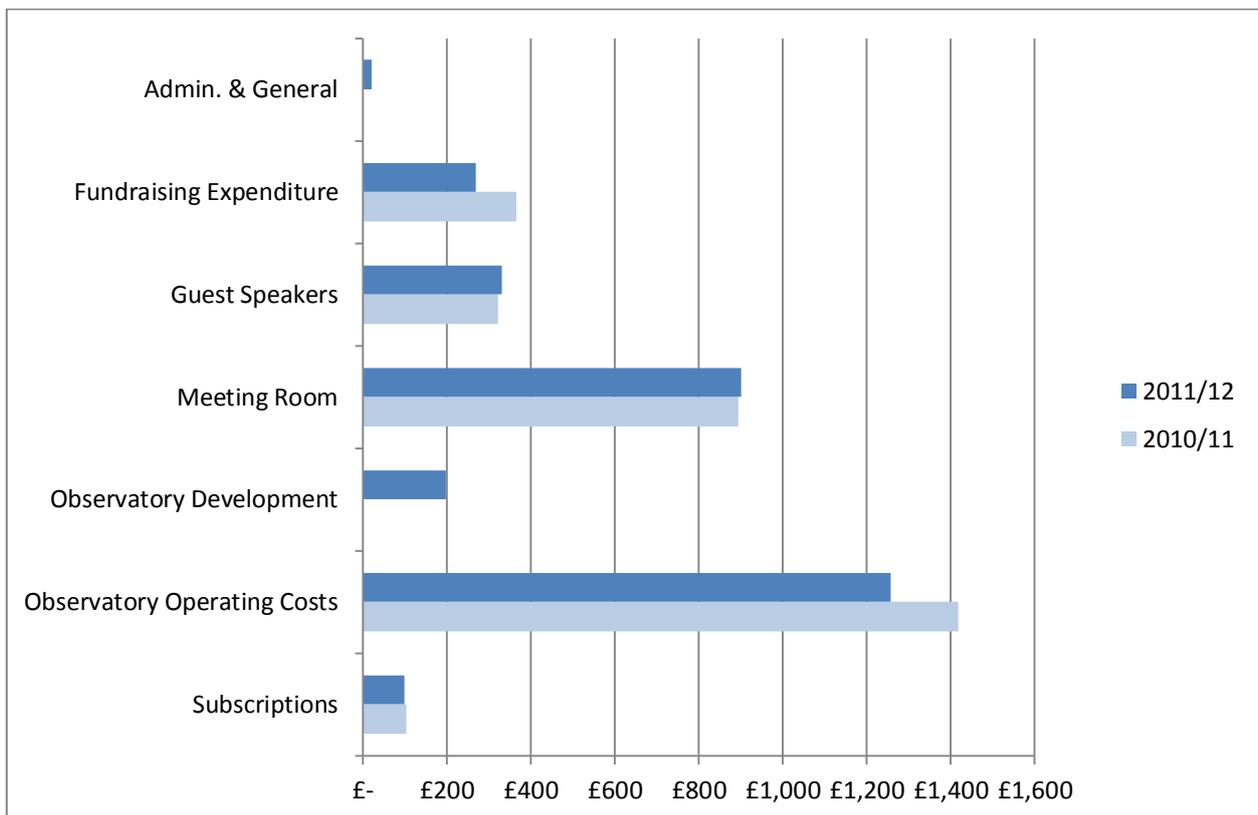
It should be noted that the premium for the society’s main insurance policy is reported as an observatory expense as historically this was the case; the current policy replaced an earlier building and contents only policy for the observatory and the attribution has been retained for comparison

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



### Income

Total income to the general fund for the year was £10,399 compared to £5,806 the previous year; this represents a 75% increase, however it should be noted that a significant portion of this increase is due to one-off income so year-on-year comparison is invalid. The comparison of income with the previous year is illustrated in the chart below.



Subscription & Fee income has more than doubled, however a large portion of this was due to the repayment of back-dated Gift Aid for the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. In addition the impact of BBC Stargazing Live and change of focus for outreach events seems to be bringing success in terms of increased visitor numbers (approximately 12%) and those visitors choosing to stay with the society as members.

Fundraising income shows a small increase; 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 work done by Jo Botterill to run the members lottery.

Administrative and General income shows a large increase; this is due to £1,500 income from the Charities Online Financial Reporting and Accounts Awards; income from this source in previous years was directed to the New Horizons restricted fund.

Income to the New Horizons fund was zero as the fund is now closed.

### **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 £27,360 at National Minimum Wage of £6.08 per hour. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 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 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS  
Chairman

## Accounts for the Year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

### Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds to nearest £	Restricted Funds to nearest £	Total Funds to nearest £	Last Year to nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Admin. & General	1,659	-	1,659	2,341
Community Access Programme	757	-	757	1,207
Donations	155	-	155	444
Fundraising Income	1,461	-	1,461	1,397
Public Outreach	303	-	303	140
Subscriptions & Fees	6,063	-	6,063	2,652
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>10,399</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,399</b>	<b>8,181</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Admin. & General	20	-	20	-
Donations	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Expenditure	267	-	267	365
Guest Speakers	330	-	330	320
Meeting Room	900	-	900	893
Observatory Development	198	411	608	2,322
Observatory Operating Costs	1,256	-	1,256	1,423
Subscriptions	98	-	98	103
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>5,426</b>
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,311	(411)	6,920	2,755
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	7,117	411	7,528	4,772
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>14,447</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,447</b>	<b>7,528</b>

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### Cash Assets

	Unrestricted Funds to nearest £	Restricted Funds to nearest £	Total Funds to nearest £
NatWest Current	1,654	-	1,654
<i>Add: Cheques not cleared at bank</i>	20	-	20
NatWest Savings	12,410	-	12,410
NatWest Transfer Account	238	-	238
Petty Cash	146	-	146
PayPal	-	-	-
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>14,467</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,467</b>

## Other Assets held for functional use

All assets shown belong to the Unrestricted (General) Fund

	Value
<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
Celestron C14 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope	3,500
Focuser TCF-3 w/ Paramount Wiring Kit	1,400
Takahashi 50mm Eyepiece	355
Takahashi 2" Diagonal	300
Takahashi 2" Diagonal	300
2x Personal Computers	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
Furnishings (purchased 1999)	500
<b>Library</b>	
Books, DVDs, videos, CD-ROMs; all in good condition (items of varying age)	2,600
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
<b>Phil Turner Legacy</b>	
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
	94,350

## **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

Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 permits a charity to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000, therefore receipts and payments accounts and a statement of assets and liabilities has been prepared and presented for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012; 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> 2012 gross income did not exceeded £25,000 and therefore, in accordance with the sections 144 & 145 of the Charities Act 2011 no audit or independent examination is required and no such scrutiny requirement is imposed by the Society's governing document.

### Cheques not cleared at bank at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 there were 2 cheques issued by the society, with a total value of £20, which had not cleared at the bank.

For comparison, the value of cheques not cleared at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 was £568.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 and signed on their behalf



Leslie H. Marsden FRAS  
Chairman