

Registered Charity Number 1153570



# **KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

## **REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**For the year ending 31 August 2024**

# **KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

## **(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

As the Board of Trustees, we present our report and financial statements for the year to 31 August 2024.

**Registered Charity Number** 1153570

**Registered Office** Unit C, Bewick, Prestwick Park, Prestwick,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9SJ

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing Documents**

Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society (KOAS) was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 29 August 2013. As a CIO, it is governed by its constitution. This was amended in April 2020 and is in a form specified by the Charity Commission for a Foundation CIO whose only voting members are its Trustees.

### **Charitable Purpose**

KOAS's charitable objects are:

- a - to promote interest in the science of astronomy in the general public
- b - to facilitate the education of members of the public in the science of astronomy
- c - to maintain an astronomical observatory in Kielder Forest which will be used to support objects a and b

### **Structure and Governance**

The charity currently has a board of eight non-executive Trustees.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Trustees of KOAS during the period and to the date of signing this report were as follows:

Mr Peter Standfield (Chair)  
Mr Trevor Robinson (Treasurer)  
Ms Charlotte Emmett  
Mr Tom Grieveson  
Mr Cassian Harrison  
Mrs Catherine Hindle  
Mr William MacLeod  
Dr Nigel Metcalfe

Resigned 11 February 2025  
Appointed 14 October 2024

**Chief Executive Officer** Leigh Venus (from 1 December 2023)

**Independent Examiner** Pete O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse,  
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

**Legal Advisers** Muckle LLP, Time Central, 32 Gallowgate,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Board Meetings**

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year in person or online. It also conducts some business via email and aims to have at least one awayday session each year for strategic planning, teambuilding, and organisational development.

The agenda and written Board reports are prepared by the Chief Executive and Officers of the Board, as appropriate, and circulated in advance of each meeting. The Trustees exercise their duties and responsibilities with appropriate care and diligence.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees**

The charity may have up to 12 Trustees. New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment, the Trustees aim to ensure that the Board has the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and may serve up to three consecutive terms. After this, they must step down for at least one year before being eligible for reappointment.

**Trustee Induction and Training**

New Trustees are inducted by the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and are provided with a range of resources to support their understanding of KOAS activities.

**Management**

Day-to-day operation of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer within the constraints of the annual budget approved by the Trustees. The staff team during the period and to the date of signing this report were as follows:

- 2 Chief Executive Officer (1 full-time, 1 part-time and left organisation 28 February 2024)
- 1 Director of Astronomy and Science Communication
- 1 Operations and Marketing Director
- 1 Director of the Gillian Dickinson Astro-Imaging Academy
- 1 Science Communication and Education Lead
- 1 Science Engagement Lead
- 1 Science Communication and Facilities Lead
- 8 Astronomers and Science Communicators (full-time, part-time and casual workers)
- 1 Office Manager and PA (retired 30 June 2024)
- 1 Communications and Events Administrator and Arts Lead
- 1 Experience and Communications Coordinator
- 1 Finance Executive

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's reserves requirements in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. The Trustees aim to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves that would cover the charity's liabilities if KOAS could no longer operate. The current estimated amount needed for this is approximately £125,000.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Reserves Policy (Cont.)**

The Trustees also aim to hold an additional £25,000 in unrestricted reserves, allowing the charity to respond flexibly to unexpected issues, one-off financial needs, or new initiatives that fall outside the scope of the annual budget.

Therefore, the targeted minimum level of reserves is £150,000.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024 are £136,865 (2023: £165,035). Of these reserves, £26,047 were represented by Fixed Assets (2023: £39,332), leaving £110,818 available as Unrestricted Free Reserves (2023: £125,703).

The charity remains committed to rebuilding its reserves and is reviewing options to return to a growth position, with the aim of reaching the optimum reserves level within two years, subject to financial performance.

This reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees as part of the charity's budgeting process.

**Grant Making Policy**

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

**The Contribution of Volunteers**

The charity benefits from a dedicated group of volunteers who generously give their time to help run events. Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds but share a passion for astronomy. Recruitment is always open, with regular open days at the Observatory for those interested.

To maintain high standards of quality and safety at events, all volunteers undergo training. This starts with an induction that covers the basic operations of the Observatory, supported by a handbook outlining the charity's policies and procedures. New volunteers are mentored by experienced team members during their first events. As their confidence grows, they take on more responsibilities—such as setting up and closing down events, leading telescope tours, finding celestial objects, and assisting visitors—under supervision.

During the reporting period, KOAS had 49 registered volunteers. One volunteer has transitioned into a full-time staff role following open recruitment, continuing a strong tradition at the Observatory of staff members starting as volunteers before becoming employees.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Aims & Objectives**

The charity exists to:

- promote interest in the science of astronomy amongst the general public
- facilitate education of members of the public in the science of astronomy
- maintain an astronomical observatory in Kielder Forest which will be used to support the preceding objectives.

# KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION) YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 TRUSTEES' REPORT

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

### Aims & Objectives (Cont.)

At the start of the last financial year, we published a new strategy based on a thorough analysis of emerging trends and the outcomes KOAS aims to achieve, identifying key market opportunities.

<https://kielderobservatory.org/images/Strategy-1.pdf>

The development of the strategy and supporting business plan strengthened our commitment to our mission of infinite inspiration, clearly aligning it to impacts, outcomes, and priorities.

Kielder Observatory's core offer is an inspirational experience which we describe as the *Kielder moment*. Our primary activity is public outreach, inspiring people with our love of the night sky. Our strapline is *Infinite Inspiration*.

Our mission is:

To create opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities to experience moments of inspiration, revelation, wonder and hope through observing the cosmos.

Our strategic outcomes are as follows:

1. People: Everyone feels represented, welcomed, enriched and inspired, enabling equality of access to opportunities in science, whether as a one-off engagement, participation in study (formal or informal), and/or a career.
2. Place: We consistently inspire more people of all backgrounds and abilities to reflect upon their place in the universe and the fragility of the Earth and catalyse individual and collective action in response to the need to protect our dark skies, and wider natural heritage.
3. Organisation: We welcome the uncertainty of fresh challenges and continuously improve our offer as opportunities emerge from new technologies, new audiences and evolving practice.

Our business planning process revealed four emerging opportunities:

1. Creating a flexible, agile programme of face-to-face public experiences for delivery anywhere, including on site, around Kielder, and remote access.
2. Enhancing the quality of our STEM curriculum enrichment, to offer a golden thread of support from primary through to GCSE astronomy (and beyond), CPD for teachers, and pathways to careers.
3. Creating a coherent digital offer that underpins the experience and education delivery, including publishing distinctive, high-quality content that anyone can access from anywhere.
4. Taking a clearly defined leadership position for dark sky experiences aligned with responsible tourism.

Our new CEO and Trustees are actively delivering on the current strategy and have already begun work on the 2026-2030 strategy.

Within this financial year, staff performance appraisals have been closely aligned with one or more of our strategic priorities through clearly defined Key Performance Measures. This alignment has been introduced to improve staff understanding of, and engagement with, the strategy, ensuring better delivery of both the current and future strategic priorities.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Aims & Objectives (Cont.)**

Our strategic priorities are:

1. To strengthen our organisation:

- Invest in our team by contributing to learning projects and formal study and implementing 10% time for self-directed projects.
- Improve representation and inclusion by assessing how representative we are of our communities, taking action, and publishing an annual impact study.
- Improve our approach to environmental responsibility by using the B-Corp framework to assess our areas of strength and areas for development, taking action, and publishing an annual impact study.

We are continuing to deliver on our CPD policy for the team, enabling them to attend conferences and events, and pursue self-directed learning to further their professional development. A prime example of this was Ellie Macdonald's trip to Texas, where she live-streamed the solar eclipse while recreating the Eddington experiment; an observational test of general relativity, organised by the British astronomers Frank Watson Dyson and Arthur Stanley Eddington.

Last year, we published our first Inclusion and Representation Impact Assessment and undertook a B-Corp-style assessment to understand our social and environmental impact. While these have not been updated during the period of this report, we remain committed to tracking progress in these areas and identifying the most meaningful ways to assess and act in the years ahead.

2. To maintain excellence in delivery:

- Ensure continuous improvement by creating a peer group and a Kielder customer panel.
- Support schools, teachers and underserved groups by focusing our STEM curriculum enrichment and enhancing our teacher CPD offer at critical Key Stages.

Following our second annual visitor survey, we organised a focus group meeting with several self-selected respondents who expressed interest in providing further feedback. We are continuing to engage with this group, and they will form the foundation of our new customer panel. This panel will play a key role in helping us ensure continuous improvement by providing ongoing insights and feedback on visitor experiences.

To maintain excellence in delivery, we recently undertook a significant maintenance week, which included refurbishing the Observatory to enhance the visitor experience. While this required closing the Observatory to public events, resulting in a financial loss, it was an urgent, necessary step to bring the site up to the standards our visitors expect, repair equipment essential to delivering our services, and tackle maintenance issues proactively in order to avoid future issues and reduce the likelihood of unplanned closures.

To minimise impact, we scheduled the closure during the summer solstice, the lightest and least busy time of year. In addition to the refurbishment, we introduced new staff training to further enhance the quality of our events and ensure a consistently high standard for visitors.

# KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION) YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 TRUSTEES' REPORT

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

### Aims & Objectives (Cont.)

We have maintained event capacity at 36 guests per session, rather than returning to the pre-pandemic level of 41. While this decision has a financial impact, it significantly improves the experience for both visitors and staff our events continue to sell out well in advance. We view this as an investment in long-term visitor satisfaction and future growth.

Building on the success of previous initiatives, our From STEM to Stars programme entered Phase 3 with a focus on satellites and sustainability. This phase has engaged 50 schools and established 50 after-school Space Clubs, reaching 10,000 pupils. Through a series of 12 weekly workshops, students formed engineering teams to build rockets, satellites, and rovers, gaining hands-on experience with real-world engineering processes.

Each school had an inspirational visit from our inflatable planetarium, recreating Kielder's dark skies, and all participating groups visited the Observatory. The programme also provided opportunities for students to engage with industry experts, further expanding their understanding of the UK's space sector. As we move forward, standout students will become Kielder Ambassadors, and we continue to see promising growth in the programme's impact on local education.

### 3. To extend the reach of our public events:

- Establish informal events, "Kielder PopUps", around the North East.
- Pilot event delivery in national and international locations.
- Open up the wonders of the dark skies to all by working with partners to deliver dark sky tourism and cultural experiences.

Our Kielder PopUps brought informal astronomy experiences directly into communities, with interactive events at Sunderland's Bridges shopping centre during school holidays, immersive planetarium shows at Newcastle's Eldon Square, and tailored outreach sessions in Hexham. These PopUps have reached hundreds of participants in urban settings, offering a taste of the Kielder experience in more accessible locations.

At the Deer Shed Festival in North Yorkshire, we delivered interactive space-themed activities, including solar observing, planetarium shows, and rocket workshops, exposing our work to over 10,000 attendees as part of the festival's "Retro Futures" theme.

We partnered with The Alnwick Garden—one of the UK's leading visitor attractions—to host a sold-out stargazing event, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. The evening featured talks alongside hands-on activities, outdoor telescope viewing, and an astrophotography primer.

A major highlight of the year was the successful delivery of the Mindsets and Missions project. This initiative connected over 1,000 students from eight North East schools and 60 participants from the West End Refugee Service (WERS) with the art and science of astrophotography. Activities included school-based planetarium sessions, hands-on astrophotography workshops, and trips to Kielder Observatory for stargazing under Europe's largest protected dark skies. Participants also accessed a remote observatory in Spain, enabling exploration of deep sky imaging, and engaged in research projects led by academic partners.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Aims & Objectives (Cont.)**

The programme culminated in the Capturing the Cosmos showcase at the Gillian Dickinson Astroimaging Academy, featuring images and creative works from participants. This exhibition, available to thousands of visitors annually, celebrates the creativity and technical skills developed through the project, showcasing the project to thousands of visitors annually.

**4. To develop programmes with high impact:**

- Maximise the reach of our assets and skills by establishing citizen science programmes around astro-imaging, radio astronomy and satellites.
- Enhance our connections with new audiences by bringing together our website, our augmented reality app, and our digital learning platform into a consistent customer journey.
- Ensure the dark skies heritage is available for future generations by working with partners to develop activities that educate and inspire the general public.

We sustained our long-standing tradition of offering astrophotography introduction events, which remain a cornerstone of our engagement with new and existing audiences. These events provide accessible entry points into the art and science of astrophotography, inspiring creativity and curiosity in participants of all ages and backgrounds. The renovation and improvement of the Gillian Dickinson Astroimaging Academy provided an enhanced environment for participants to explore astroimaging in greater depth.

While our capacity for further digital development has been limited this year, we made a significant step forward by launching Kielder.space as a back-of-house platform for staff training. This platform is being developed in anticipation of a public launch next year, ensuring it is robust, well-integrated, and ready to deliver an exceptional learning experience.

We engaged with external advisors to explore the potential of emerging augmented reality (AR) technologies. This collaboration has provided valuable insights into how AR could transform our visitor experience, offering innovative ways to connect audiences with our work.

Kielder Observatory has enhanced its public engagement by providing access to a remote observatory in Spain, located in the Atacama Desert. This facility offers clear, dark skies ideal for astronomical observations. Through this remote access, participants can control telescopes and capture images of celestial objects in real-time, regardless of weather conditions in the UK. Originally piloted as part of the Mindsets and Missions project, this initiative has been integrated into public events, allowing attendees to experience live observations and engage in astrophotography sessions, thereby enriching their understanding of the universe.

**Ensuring our Work Delivers our Aims**

We review our aims, objectives, and activities annually. This process evaluates our achievements and outcomes from the previous 12 months, assessing the success of each key activity and the impact it has had on the people we are here to support. By doing this, we ensure that our aims, objectives, and activities remain aligned with our charitable purposes and continue to deliver meaningful benefits to our target groups.



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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the Charities Act 2006, which requires all charities to demonstrate that they are established for public benefit. They have also considered the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees are confident that the charity meets both key principles of public benefit.

Principle 1: *There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits*

KOAS's primary benefit is outlined in its charitable objects: to promote public interest in astronomy, facilitate education in the science of astronomy, and maintain an astronomical observatory in Kielder Forest to support these objectives.

The Observatory is central to achieving our charitable aims. From this base, we offer a diverse programme of events, ranging from premium late-night sessions to family-friendly and introductory events. Our programme is designed to cater to different interests, offering activities such as children's workshops, talks on topics like the Aurora, and specialist classes in astrophotography. KOAS also provides concessionary tickets, with event pricing structured to accommodate different income levels. Ticket sales represent the charity's primary source of income.

All activities undergo a rigorous process of risk management and benefit analysis to ensure the public benefit outweighs any potential harm. We evaluate and analyse all events, collecting data through audience surveys, social media, project participants, media, and peer feedback, ensuring a clear and measurable public benefit is delivered.

Principle 2: *Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public*

All our events at the Observatory are designed for participants with no prior knowledge. Feedback consistently shows that we deliver complex information in an enlightening and exciting way, without condescension or patronising language. In recent years, we have increasingly focused on reaching members of the public who face barriers to attending the Observatory, developing activities that help overcome these obstacles.

Recognising the financial and cultural barriers some people face in visiting the Observatory, we created our STEM enrichment programme to replicate the inspirational Kielder experience in schools. This programme has now reached hundreds of schools and tens of thousands of students. We extended its impact through the STEM to Stars initiative, establishing regular observing groups in schools with links to STEM careers.

Additionally, we launched cultural programmes aimed at engaging imprisoned people, excluded children, urban community groups, and sanctuary seekers. The learning from these initiatives will be carried forward into continued work with traditionally marginalised and underrepresented audiences in the coming years.

Our Kielder PopUps, where staff bring telescopes to public spaces, are free to attend. We also offer an active volunteer programme, regularly host work placements from schools and universities, and provide opportunities for artists to develop their creative work.

We regularly welcome visits from organisations looking to establish their own observatory or dark sky initiatives, offering free advice and sharing best practices. We see other observatories and stargazing groups as friends, not competitors, united in opening up astronomy for all.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Public Benefit (Cont.)**

While Kielder Observatory is a physical location, it is increasingly a beacon of connection and inspiration. Building on last year's co-creation work through the Mindsets and Missions project, we continue to work with community groups, breaking down barriers to participation in innovation, research, and the natural heritage of dark skies.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees regularly review the major governance, operational, and financial risks facing the charity as part of the annual business planning process and confirm that systems are in place to mitigate these risks. KOAS has a comprehensive risk management strategy, which includes:

- Systems and procedures to mitigate identified risks, such as maintaining a risk register and having a dedicated Finance and Risk Committee with its own terms of reference.
- Conducting monthly reviews of the risk register by the Finance and Risk Committee.
- Reviewing major risks at every board meeting.
- Annually assessing strategic risks through the business plan.
- Carrying out regular in-depth reviews of key operational areas, such as Observatory management, grant handling, human resources, and cyber security.
- Procedures to minimise the potential impact on the charity should any risks materialise.

At time of writing, the major perceived risks to KOAS are:

- Age and condition of main observatory building

We are engaged with our landlord, Forestry England, to progress parallel programmes of work addressing immediate essential repairs caused by storm damage, as well as renovations, renewal, and planned preventative maintenance. The building is approaching its 20th anniversary and continues to be used far more intensively than originally intended, an outcome of success which makes delivery of these works essential to ensure the Observatory continues to meet visitor needs and support our charitable objects.

- Impact of climate change

The impacts of climate change have already been experienced in the North East and Northumberland and pose significant risks to Kielder Observatory, including damage to infrastructure from extreme weather events like storms and flooding, disrupted operations, increased maintenance costs and a reduction in the number of clear nights for stargazing. To mitigate these risks, we are considering long-term sustainability strategies, including strengthening infrastructure, adjusting operations to account for extreme weather, and reducing its environmental footprint.

The Trustees are confident that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, along with sound employment policies and practices. The staff handbook, financial policies, and health and safety handbook are reviewed annually, with staff training supported by additional assessments.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Risk Management (Cont.)**

To manage financial risks, the Trustees ensure that:

- Prudent budgets are set for each financial year.
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, which is regularly reviewed.
- The Finance and Risk Committee meets a minimum of once every two months and is kept updated by the Chief Executive between meetings on any key matters arising.
- The Finance and Risk Committee is provided with updated figures covering the financial performance of KOAS versus budget monthly.
- Regular management accounts are provided, tracking performance against budget, with corrective actions taken to address any significant variances.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Summary of the Charity's Main Achievements During the Year**

- Staged 592 public events attended by 15,056 people
- Delivered 43 events elsewhere
- Delivered 20 private events
- Delivered 3 online talks
- Successfully transitioned to new leadership with the appointment of a new CEO
- Won silver for small visitor attraction of the year at the North East Tourism Awards
- Our Look Up project with imprisoned people at HMP Northumberland was shortlisted in the North East Culture Awards and North East Prison Group Awards
- Engaged over 1,000 students from eight schools and 60 participants from the West End Refugee Service (WERS) through the Mindsets and Missions project
- Significantly expanded our STEM curriculum enrichment programme with the launch of Stem to Stars Phase III, supported by the Reece Foundation
- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of Northumberland International Dark Sky Park, commissioning a short film to mark the occasion and a sold-out stargazing event in partnership with the Alnwick Garden
- Delivered our first livestreamed event from another country, capturing the Great American Eclipse 2024 and receiving exceptional press coverage including BBC Breakfast, Sky News, and Channel 5 News
- Recreated the famous 1919 Eddington experiment—an observational test of general relativity—during the Great American Eclipse
- Integrated live access to a remote observatory in Spain into public events, enabling real-time celestial observations and astrophotography
- Significantly enhanced and renovated our observatory building, the Gillian Dickinson Astroimaging Academy and grounds during Summer Solstice Maintenance Week
- Increased our number of volunteers from 35 to 49
- Created a new 360-degree tour of the site as part of the Everybody Welcome programme for visitors with hidden and physical disabilities.
- Collaborated with the production team of Danny Boyle's upcoming film 28 Years Later, supplying high-quality astroimaging assets
- Our annual survey was completed by 888 people with a completion rate of 90%
- 91% of reviewing visitors on Trip Advisor rated our events as excellent or very good
- Trip Advisor named us as the top attraction in the Kielder area, and second-best observatory in the UK after Royal Observatory Greenwich
- Won the Trip Advisor Traveller's Choice Award 2024, given to the top 10% of visitor attractions worldwide, adding significant credibility on this global platform
- Rated 4.9/5 on Facebook and 4.8/5 on Google

**Financial Review**

The outturn for the year is an unrestricted deficit of £(28,170) (2023: surplus of £51,647). The deficit will be deducted from Unrestricted Reserves, leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds at 31 August 2024 of £136,865 (2023: £165,035).

Financial policies are reviewed annually, and the Finance and Risk Committee reviews performance against agreed budgets every two months. The executive team monitors operational performance against financial controls regularly.

# **KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

## **(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees and team reviewed the business plan and strategy while preparing the budget for the 2024/25 financial year. They concluded that it remains an accurate and valuable guide for the organisation's development, growth, and impact.

The mission, outcomes, and areas of opportunity (see above) will remain in place to drive our organisation while the 2026-2030 strategy is being developed.

The priorities for the next 12 months are:

#### **Audience and Organisation**

- Strengthen our resilience through exploring new income streams, including corporate sponsorships, intellectual property sales, donations, philanthropy, and expanded merchandising and cross-promotional opportunities.
- Foster greater team engagement, enabling our staff and volunteers to help shape our organisational growth and building a shared, sustainable future.
- Continuously enhance inclusion and representation across all aspects of our work.
- Drive progress towards improving our social and environmental responsibility.
- Seek opportunities to renovate and enhance our facilities, ensuring they remain inspiring, accessible, and fit for purpose as we approach our 20th anniversary.

#### **Experience and Outreach**

- Continuously evaluate and innovate our event offerings to ensure they deliver exceptional quality, value, and fresh perspectives.
- Forge new partnerships to expand our impact and engage with diverse audiences both on-site and beyond.
- Broaden our reach across local, national, and international communities.
- Strengthen and scale our STEM enrichment programmes.

#### **Digital**

- Enhance our website to deliver an improved user experience, focusing on accessibility, engagement, and functionality, while exploring options for a comprehensive rebuild to future-proof our digital presence
- Launch Kielder.space, our digital platform for astronomy and dark skies education
- Develop back-of-house digital training for the observatory team
- Explore advancements in immersive technologies, digital platforms, and mass media, including the innovative potential of augmented reality (AR) and artificial intelligence (AI)

#### **Dark Skies**

- Continue to deliver dark sky tourism and cultural experiences that inspire wonder and connect audiences with the beauty of our night skies
- Strengthen our advocacy and messaging around dark skies education, highlighting the importance of preserving these unique environments
- Seek opportunities to engage partners in promoting dark skies awareness and education, building a collective impact around light pollution reduction
- Link Kielder PopUps to community outreach initiatives, fostering greater understanding and action on light pollution issues

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for managing the business of the charity and may exercise all the powers of the charity unless restricted by the Charities Act or the constitution of the charity.

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparation of the financial statements the Trustees should follow best practice and:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them.
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**DECLARATIONS**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005 by the Charities Commission England and Wales).

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**Peter Standfield**  
Trustee and Chair



**Trevor Robinson**  
Trustee and Treasurer

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society (Charity Registration Number 1153570) on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 15 to 26.

## **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under charity law and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

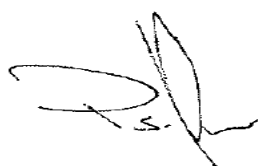
## **Independent Examiner's Statement**

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 130 of the 2011 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant**  
**Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales**

26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

7 April 2025

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>					
Income from Investments	2	3,394	-	3,394	1,691
Income from Charitable Activities	3	578,005	-	578,005	565,784
Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies	4	109,318	103,200	212,518	336,260
Other Income	5	5,560	-	5,560	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>696,277</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>799,477</b>	<b>903,735</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	6	26,540	-	26,540	21,942
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7	697,907	93,830	791,737	795,480
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>724,447</b>	<b>93,830</b>	<b>818,277</b>	<b>817,422</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	8	<b>(28,170)</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>(18,800)</b>	<b>86,313</b>
Balance brought forward at 1 Sept		165,035	307,980	473,015	386,702
<b>Balance carried forward at 31 August</b>	18	<b>£136,865</b>	<b>£317,350</b>	<b>£454,215</b>	<b>£473,015</b>

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of the financial statements

There are no recognised gains and losses during the year other than as shown above.

All the activities for the year are continuing activities.



**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	244,504		268,012	
Fixed Asset Investments	12	<u>10</u>		<u>10</u>	
			244,514		268,022
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock	13	12,045		8,906	
Debtors	14	42,327		115,914	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>328,844</u>		<u>313,548</u>	
		383,216		438,368	
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	15	<u>(160,182)</u>		<u>(210,042)</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			223,034		228,326
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts Falling Due After > 1 Year	16		(13,333)		(23,333)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	17		<u><b>£454,215</b></u>		<u><b>£473,015</b></u>
<b>Represented By:</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	18		136,865		165,035
Restricted Funds	18		<u>317,350</u>		<u>307,980</u>
			<u><b>£454,215</b></u>		<u><b>£473,015</b></u>

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board, and authorized for issue, on 17 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**Peter Standfield**  
**Trustee and Chair**



**Trevor Robinson**  
**Trustee and Treasurer**

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**1. Accounting Policies**

**Charity Information**

Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The registered office is Unit C, Bewick, Prestwick Park, Prestwick, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9SJ.

The charity is a public benefit entity.

**Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

**Income**

All income, including grant income, is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), net of VAT, when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Such income is only deferred when the donor or funder has specified that the grant or donation can only be used in future accounting periods or where the donor or funder has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

**Income from Investments**

Interest receivable on fixed interest securities and bank deposits is included on an accruals basis.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of Raising Funds are those costs of seeking potential funders and applying for funding.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the provision of grant funding, research, advocacy and the direct provision of creative learning-related activities. This includes both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)**

**Expenditure (Cont.)**

- Support or Indirect costs are those costs incurred in support of the charitable objectives. These have been allocated to the resources expended on a consistent basis that fairly reflects the true use of those resources within the organisation, such as allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.
- Governance costs are those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**Irrecoverable VAT**

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

**Operating Leases**

The charity classifies the lease of certain printing equipment as operating leases as the title to the equipment remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

**Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on the fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

Office & ICT Equipment	–	between 3 and 5 years
Observatory Equipment	–	between 5 and 15 years
New Observatory	–	over 25 years

A full year's depreciation charge is applied in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

**Impairment of Fixed Assets**

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**Fund Accounting**

The charity has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations in which a funder requires that a grant must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in Note 18 to the financial statements.

All other funds are considered Unrestricted Funds and are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**1. Accounting Policies (Cont.)**

**Pensions**

KOAS contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. For the defined contribution scheme, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet. Further details can be found in Note 10.

**Taxation**

KOAS is a registered charity and, as such, is not liable to taxation on its income in the current year.

**Foreign Currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the surplus/deficit.

**Financial Instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instrument Issues' of FRS102 to all its financial instruments.

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. Income from Investments**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest on cash deposits	3,394	-	3,394	1,691
	<b>£3,394</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£3,394</b>	<b>£1,691</b>

The 2023 total of £1,691 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**3. Income from Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Ticket & Event Sales	527,852	-	527,852	517,958
Merchandising Sales	50,153	-	50,153	47,826
	<b>£578,005</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£578,005</b>	<b>£565,784</b>

The 2023 total of £565,784 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**4. Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Legacies</b>				
Donations & Memberships	1,764	-	1,764	18,695
Gift Aid	77,554	-	77,554	86,940
Corporate Sponsorship	30,000	-	30,000	15,000
<b>Grant Income</b>				
Arts Council England	-	-	-	13,400
Association for Science & Discovery Centres	-	-	-	24,500
Creative England	-	-	-	5,000
Crichton/Tanlaw Foundation	-	-	-	7,500
Institute of Physics	-	-	-	3,000
Museums Association	-	200	200	76,500
North of Tyne Combined Authority	-	-	-	45,357
Northumberland Business Services	-	-	-	2,868
Northumberland CC / Northumberland National Park Authority	-	3,000	3,000	-
Reece Foundation	-	100,000	100,000	37,500
	<b>£109,318</b>	<b>£103,200</b>	<b>£209,518</b>	<b>£336,260</b>

Of the 2023 total of £336,260, £90,602 was attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £245,658 to Restricted Funds.

**5. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other Income	5,560	-	5,560	-
	<b>£5,560</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£5,560</b>	<b>£-</b>

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**6. Expenditure on Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Merchandising Costs	26,540	-	26,540	21,942
	<b>£26,540</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£26,540</b>	<b>£21,942</b>

The 2023 total of £21,942 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>				
Arts Programme Costs	-	32,876	32,876	19,804
Consultancy Fees	-	-	-	1,349
Dark Skies Outreach Costs	500	-	500	2,400
Digital Development Costs	-	-	-	600
Education Outreach Costs	-	-	-	44,181
Frank's Fellowship Bursary	-	-	-	1,000
Salaries & On Costs	480,824	41,135	521,959	499,077
Speakers' Fees & Event Costs	10,704	2,790	13,494	9,897
Staff, Speakers' and Volunteers' Expenses	20,821	-	20,821	17,669
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Advertising & Marketing	13,273	-	13,273	12,100
Bank & Credit Card Charges	11,261	-	11,261	11,385
Depreciation	15,346	16,829	32,175	30,498
Legal & Professional Fees	8,989	-	8,989	23,096
Loan Interest	800	-	800	969
Other Overhead Costs	32,316	200	32,516	33,711
Premises & Insurance	75,460	-	75,460	55,519
Repairs & Maintenance	9,870	-	9,870	16,623
Telephone, ICT & Website Costs	11,757	-	11,757	8,938
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Accountancy & Payroll Fees	4,899	-	4,899	5,203
Trustee Travel & Meeting Costs	1,087	-	1,087	1,461
	<b>£697,907</b>	<b>£93,830</b>	<b>£791,737</b>	<b>£795,480</b>

Of the 2023 total of £795,480 £584,488 was attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £210,992 to Restricted Funds.

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**8. Net Income/(Expenditure)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,160	2,160
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	32,175	30,498

**9. Staff Costs**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salary Costs	468,252	452,177
Social Security Costs	41,927	38,497
Employer's Pension Contributions – Defined Contribution Scheme	11,780	8,403
	<b>£521,959</b>	<b>£499,077</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
The average monthly number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:		
Education & Learning Programmes	15	14

The number of the above staff expressed as full-time equivalents was 13.5 (2023: 12.5).

No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year.

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2023: £Nil).

£403 (2023: £491) was reimbursed to 1 (2023: 1) Trustee in respect of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

**10. Pension Scheme**

Pension benefits are provided through a Group Personal Pension Scheme, which is a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in a separately administered fund. KOAS makes an employer's contribution of 3% of pensionable pay, provided that the employee makes a minimum contribution of 5%.

Employer's contributions totalling £11,780 (2023: £8,403) were paid during the year into the defined contribution pension scheme operated by KOAS.

These amounts are paid over to the scheme on a monthly basis.

£2,370 in pension contributions were outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023: £1,747).

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**11. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Leasehold Improvements – New Observatory £</b>	<b>Observatory Equipment £</b>	<b>Office &amp; ICT Equipment £</b>	<b>Total Fixed Assets £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2023	233,957	194,292	20,073	448,322
Additions	545	-	8,122	8,667
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	234,502	194,292	28,195	456,989
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	57,825	105,437	17,048	180,310
Charge for year	11,196	15,713	5,266	32,175
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	69,021	121,150	22,314	212,485
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	<b>£165,481</b>	<b>£73,142</b>	<b>£5,881</b>	<b>£244,504</b>
At 1 September 2023	£176,132	£88,855	£3,025	£268,012

**12. Investments**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment in Kielder Observatory Services Limited	10	10
	<b>£10</b>	<b>£10</b>

As the value of merchandise sales is well below the small trading exemption limit, the charity is currently conducting all trading directly, rather than through its wholly owned subsidiary, Kielder Observatory Services Ltd (KOSL). KOSL remains extant and the Trustees will review its continuing relevance on a regular basis.



**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**13. Stock**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Goods for Resale	12,045	8,906
	<b>£12,045</b>	<b>£8,906</b>

**14. Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accrued Income - Gift Aid	8,226	7,131
Accrued Income - Other	8,774	6,649
Grant Debtors	9,911	90,301
Intercompany Debtor - Kielder Observatory Services Limited	1,235	375
Prepayments	7,286	7,556
Trade Debtors	6,895	3,902
	<b>£42,327</b>	<b>£115,914</b>

**15. Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals	3,768	3,452
Advance Ticket Sales	57,481	113,087
Bounceback Loan	10,000	10,000
Income Received in Advance	12,369	11,029
Other Creditors	5,848	632
PAYE & National Insurance	10,883	9,766
Pension Scheme Creditor	2,370	1,747
Trade Creditors	6,084	13,904
Unredeemed Gift Vouchers	51,379	46,425
	<b>£160,182</b>	<b>£210,042</b>

**16. Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After One Year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bounceback Loan	13,333	23,333
	<b>£13,333</b>	<b>£23,333</b>

The Bounceback Loan is repayable over 5 years, with an interest rate of 2.5% applicable after the first year.

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**17. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	26,047	218,467	244,514	268,022
Stock	12,045	-	12,045	8,906
Debtors	32,416	9,911	42,327	115,914
Cash at Bank and In Hand	239,872	88,972	328,844	313,548
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(160,182)	-	(160,182)	(210,042)
Creditors – Due After 1 Year	(13,333)	-	(13,333)	(23,333)
	<b>£136,865</b>	<b>£317,350</b>	<b>£454,215</b>	<b>£473,015</b>

**18. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	<b>Fund at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming Resources for Year</b>	<b>Resources Expended for Year</b>	<b>Fund at 31 August 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Movement on Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Unrestricted General Fund	<b>165,035</b>	<b>696,277</b>	<b>(724,447)</b>	<b>136,865</b>
<b>Movement on Restricted Funds</b>				
Arts Council England – Kielder Narratives	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Corporate Sponsorship/Donations	30,033	-	-	30,033
Museums Association - Bursary	-	200	(200)	-
Museums Association	54,500	-	(50,188)	4,312
New Observatory Fund	191,503	-	(11,733)	179,770
Northumberland CC / Northumberland National Park Authority	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Northumberland Business Services	958	-	(612)	346
Northumberland CC – Tanlaw Telescope	19,986	-	(2,282)	17,704
Reece Foundation – Stem To Stars Phase 1	8,000	-	-	8,000
Reece Foundation – Stem To Stars Phase 2	-	100,000	(22,815)	77,185
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>307,980</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>(93,830)</b>	<b>317,350</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£473,015</b>	<b>£799,477</b>	<b>£(818,277)</b>	<b>£454,215</b>

**KIELDER OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
**(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**At 31 AUGUST 2024**

**18. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Restricted Fund</b>
Arts Council England – Kielder Narratives	Towards the cost of the Kielder Narratives project
Corporate Sponsorship/Donations	Towards the cost of a wind turbine
Museums Association - Bursary	Towards the costs of tickets, accommodation and travel for attending the ASDC National Conference 2023
Museums Association	Towards the costs of the Missions & Mindsets project
New Observatory Fund	Funding received towards the cost of the new observatory building, which opened in 2018 and is now known as the Gillian Dickinson Astro-imaging Academy
Northumberland CC / Northumberland National Park Authority	Contribution towards the costs of filmmakers engaged for the production of Northumberland Dark Skies 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary film
Northumberland Business Services	Towards the cost of video equipment and editing software
Northumberland County Council	Towards the cost of the Tanlaw Telescope project
Reece Foundation	Towards the cost of the STEM To Stars project

**19. Related Party Transactions**

Details of transactions with Trustees are disclosed in Note 9.

There were no other transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2023: None).

**20 Financial Commitments**

No material financial commitments have been made in respect of future financial periods. (2023: None).