

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1156793

Details

Other names TASC

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-04-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 37 Skripka Drive
Billingham
TS22 5EZ

Phone 07815146264

Email info@teesside-astronomy.org.uk

Website www.teesside-astronomy.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SCIENCE OF ASTRONOMY AND ALLIED SCIENCES, PARTICULARLY BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING BY THE PROVISION OF A PLANETARIUM AND OBSERVATORY IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

Activities: To advance the education of the public in the science of astronomy and allied sciences by the provision of a Planetarium and Observatory in Stockton on Tees

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Darlington
- Durham
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Yorkshire
- Northumberland
- Redcar And Cleveland
- Stockton-on-tees
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£9,037	£3,310	-	-
2024-06-30	£5,448	£5,401	-	-
2023-06-30	£5,367	£8,200	-	-
2022-06-30	£3,770	£4,704	-	-
2021-06-30	£681	£6,643	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JONATHAN WINSTANLEY ROBERTS	Chair	2015-07-17
Andrew Simon Gotch		2017-06-13
JURGEN SCHMOLL		2014-03-26
John Gargett		2017-06-13
Jon Mathieson		2017-06-13
PETER GUY HANNA		2014-03-26

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1156793

Accounts

Chairman's report to 2025 AGM on 23 October 2025

Over the past year, we have continued with our regular Presentations which have generally been well attended. Other Presentations have been made for various private groups

Other activities and events during the year include:

In January we assisted Teesmouth National Nature Reserve with a stargazing evening at Hartlepool.

Also, in January we received a donation of £3000 from the Barratt Foundation.

The Planetarium doors, and frames have been repaired and the door hinges replaced to make them more secure and easier to use.

The formal Licence to CaDAS was agreed and signed and is in force

School Education Sessions at the Planetarium were proposed by Sophie Carrol, the proprietor of Cosmic Wonders. Agreements dealing with this are ready to be signed (delay because of Sophie' illness) and the intent is to have the first sessions before the end of this school term. For the immediate future these sessions will be in the Planetarium and it is expected that they will involve "flat screen" and full dome video material with support from Volunteers.

The possible future use of the Station House has been the subject of preliminary investigations, including inspection of the available ground floor rooms in the Station House, but any use of these will require agreement with Stockton Borough Council (SBC) and so far this has not been discussed with them.

The Trustees have considered the draft text of a Members and Volunteers Handbook

The installation of low level lighting around the edge of the auditorium step was proposed and is in hand though not yet completed. Also it is proposed to upgrade the wall mounted downlighting.

The possible linking of the Planetarium and Observatory to the internet has been looked at, but we wait for further contact with SBC to try to progress this. Also SBC have been pursued following the unannounced termination of the planetarium telephone landline.

Some evidence suggesting that vermin (mice) have been at or inside the Planetarium, with possible access through open ducts e.g. from the former railway carriage site.

New outdoor lumieres with LED bulkhead lights have been installed.

One of the televisions failed beyond repair, and a replacement has been obtained.

In early Summer, while clearing the gutters it was noted that the Planetarium roof is showing signs of damage, including deterioration in the specialised reinforced polymer outer skin and softness in some supporting structures. This problem was reported to SBC. The initial SBC response was that it is TASC's problem. However, we have found that SBC hold a 20 year warranty (still in time) and referred them to this for potential action. A response is awaited.

SBC have reworked many of the pathways in the Woodland Park to improve the surfaced and provide wheelchair access to the level of the old railway. This caused difficulties in that the contractors removed the telescope mount outside the planetarium and in excavating the path to the East of the Planetarium severed the drain for the Planetarium sink. This was resolved with the drain being replaced, but the telescope mount has not yet been replaced though initial discussions with SBC about a better location have taken place, possibly to a site near the CCTV tower.

Following the change to the paths, we have noted cars using this footpath (!) and that, particularly electric, motorbikes and scooters are using them. SBC were notified and they advise that the problem should be mitigated by new pathside fencing. We may need to make more use of traffic cones to discourage such improper use.

My report last year recorded SBC's plan to instal electric parking points near the Planetarium. As noted we responded pointing out disadvantages including likely interference or prevention of the use of the area to the south of the Planetarium for astronomical observation. We have very recently heard from SBC that installation will begin on 10 November. This may result in our volunteers exercising suitable diplomacy to keep the area near the Planetarium safe before, during and after presentations.

As in past years the Trustees thanks go to the members and volunteers who directly support operation of the Planetarium and Observatory throughout the year.

J W Roberts, Chairman TASC

October 2025



Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC)	1156793
---	---------

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date Jun-24	To	Period end date Jun-25
---------------------	-----------------------------	----	---------------------------

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Show Receipts	5,147				5,241
Cadas room fee	600				
Member's Subs	159				135
Donations	3,098				72
intresst	33				
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,037				5,448
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts	9,037				5,448
A3 Payments					
Insurance for Trustees and Volunteers	326				296
Travel Expenses for Volunteers	522				760
Building Insurance & Utilities	491				491
Equipment (Projectors PC Software)	1,202				3,543
Misc. Building Maintenance	714				251
Covid compatible seats					2,752
Bank Charges	55				60
Sub total	3,310				5,401
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	3,310				5,401
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,727				47
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,805				18,758
Cash funds this year end	24,532				18,805

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1156793

Accounts

Teesside Astronomical Science Centre

Trustees Annual Report for the year 2023-2024

This report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to the end of our ninth financial year on 30 June 2024.

Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC) was established in 2014 to act as an independent organisation to operate the Wynyard Planetarium and Observatory taking over management of the facility from Stockton Borough Council (SBC) who withdrew from running the Planetarium. We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Charity No 1156793.

Chairman's Report

During the summer shut in 2023, the controls for the planetarium audio-visual equipment, digital and analogue, were moved to a desk in the office and the equipment rack re-located in the office. To make room a bulky filing cabinet was moved out of the office. The Planetarium general lighting has been updated, replacing the failing low voltage rail mounted lights with up to date mains powered strip and LED lighting. There is a noticeable improvement in the lighting available in the auditorium - which should make meetings much easier. Adding dimming for these lights remains to be done.

A major (but long delayed) event is that the revised Lease was finally executed in February 2024. This Lease formally sets out that we may use areas defined around the Planetarium for astronomical observations, notably at night, but including the possibility of daytime solar observations. One point for the future is that the new Lease runs 7 years from December 2021 so will be up for renewal in 2028.

The Trustees have kept possible future development of the Planetarium in mind, but active development on this was deferred for consideration after finalisation of the new lease signed with Stockton Council.

Our regular Presentations have generally been well attended, but presentation formats have been reviewed to prevent them becoming stale (and less popular). The previously noted improvement of auditorium ventilation has been appreciated over the last year and further improvements are in hand. These involve adding a second fan to further improve the ventilation and to act as backup for keeping the dome inflated. SBC were approached to simplify getting permission to alter the building, however, after initial encouraging responses, they eventually they declined to continue to implement the installation. A new contractor has been identified and we hope the installation of the second fan will be completed this autumn. In addition repairs to the doors will be made to improve usability and security.

Further upgrades of equipment have been made including the provision of a new PC to better implement the ShiraPlayer format convertor software for full dome display, a 4K projector has been acquired, installed and is in operation and a second large format TV has been purchased and is in use.

After weather damage to the surface, SBC were requested to repair the overflow car park and this has been done to a limited extent.

The railway carriage disappeared suddenly some months ago. SBC have transferred it to a heritage railway for major refurbishment. It is not expected to return. The practical consequences for us are uncertain. Previously we had asked SBC whether it might be

usable e.g. for display or teaching. Following the carriage move, we are investigating with SBC if any of the rooms in the station house might be available.

Following the installation of the new Planetarium seating, the carriage was used to store the old seating. Disposal by sale or gift proved impractical and eventually, through Teesside contacts, the firm of C L Prosser removed the old seating (frames, backs and seats) without charge.

On the Observatory, the main door lock has been replaced as the original failed (and was assessed as unrepairable). Also the installation of an energy chain to improve the power supply to the dome operating motors is under consideration.

The Trustees have actively considered the conditions for membership of TASC and this has included the possible membership of younger (16+) astronomers and how we might make facilities of the Observatory and possibly the Planetarium more available to TASC members.

Of course the Trustees thanks go to the members and volunteers who directly support operation of the Planetarium and Observatory throughout the year.

Finance

At the start of year the balance was £18758 and at the end £18805. Our income for the year was £5448 and with Expenditure including on new equipment at £5401 we had a current surplus of £47. Overall our finances remain healthy.

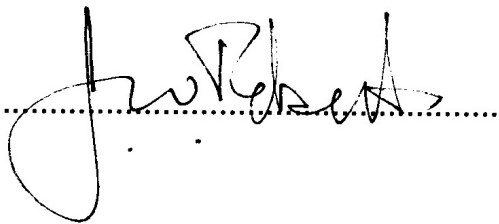
At present we do not have a formal policy on reserves, but generally aim to retain a minimum of 3 months expenditure as a reserve. Throughout the report year, actual reserves substantially exceeded this minimum figure.

List of Trustees who served throughout the year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Name	Office
John Gargett	
Simon Gotch	Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Hanna	Treasurer
Jon Mathieson	Communications Officer and Membership Secretary
Jonathan Roberts	Chairman
Jürgen Schmoll	Secretary

John Gargett and Jonathan Roberts were re-elected as Trustees at the 2024 AGM.

Approved by the Trustees on 28 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Chair of trustees Mr Jonathan Roberts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Roberts', written over a horizontal dotted line.

J W Roberts 28 April 2025



Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC)	1156793
---	---------

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date Jun-23	To	Period end date Jun-24
---------------------	-----------------------------	----	---------------------------

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Show Receipts	5,241			5,241	5,037
Special Interest					
Cadas room fee					
Member's Subs	135			135	120
Donations	72			72	210
Small Business Grant					
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,448			5,448	5,367
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts					
A3 Payments					
Insurance for Trustees and Volunteers	296			296	294
Travel Expenses for Volunteers	760			760	712
Building Insurance & Utilities	491			491	492
Equipment (Projectors PC Software)	3,543			3,543	2,985
Misc. Building Maintenance	251			251	965
Covid compatible seats	-			-	2,752
Bank Charges	60			60	
Sub total	5,401			5,401	8,200
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	5,401			5,401	8,200
Net of receipts/(payments)	47			47	- 2,833
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,758			18,758	21,591
Cash funds this year end	18,805			18,805	18,758

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1156793

Accounts

Chairman's report to 2023 AGM on 23 October 2023

The year under review (September 2022 to August 2023) is our first full "post Covid" year. With the reduced capacity following the replacement of the old seating, and the previously reported improvement of air flow through the auditorium, audience numbers were restored to full capacity. Various upgrades of equipment have been made including to the audio and video presentation equipment, a new spherical (quarter sphere) mirror has been acquired and installed and further modification of the controls for the Spitz A5 projector has been carried out. Also, before and during the summer shut, the controls for the planetarium audio-visual equipment, digital and analogue, were moved to a desk in the office and the equipment rack re-located in the office. To make room a bulky filing cabinet was moved out of the office and currently sits against the North wall of the Planetarium. The Planetarium general lighting has been updated, replacing the failing low voltage rail mounted lights with up to date mains powered strip and LED lighting. There is a noticeable improvement in the lighting available in the auditorium - which should make meeting much easier. Adding dimming for these lights remains to be done. Discussions with Stockton Council on renewing the Lease have continued and we believe we are close to completing these satisfactorily. Until formalisation of the revised Lease, we have continued under the previously noted interim agreement was made with Stockton to continue the old lease pending the signature of the new one and in practice we are operating on the basis of the agreed terms of the new lease for activities outside the Planetarium. The Trustees have kept possible future development of the Planetarium in mind, but active development on this has been deferred until the new lease is signed with Stockton Council. Of course the Trustees thanks go to the members and volunteers who directly support operation of the Planetarium and Observatory throughout the year.

J W Roberts, Chairman TASC September 2023



Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC) 1156793

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from Jun-22 To Jun-23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Show Receipts	5,037			5,037	1,103
Special Interest					
Cadas room fee					
Member's Subs	120			120	
Donations	210			210	
Small Business Grant					2,667
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,367			5,367	3,770
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts					
A3 Payments					
Insurance for Trustees and Volunteers	294			294	292
Travel Expenses for Volunteers	712			712	347
Building Insurance & Utilities	492			492	492
Equipment (Projectors PC Software)	2,985			2,985	823
Misc. Building Maintenance	965			965	500
Covid compatible seats	2,752			2,752	2,250
Sub total	8,200			8,200	4,704
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	8,200			8,200	4,704
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,833			2,833	- 934

A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,591			21,591	22,525
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	18,758			18,758	21,591

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1156793

Accounts

Chairman's report to 2022 AGM on 17 October 2022

The year under review (September 2021 to August 2022) covered the period after the last major lockdown period and the re-opening of the Planetarium (and society generally) "after" the Covid pandemic.

As previously noted, the Trustees considered how to re-open the Planetarium to the general public and that the ventilation in the Planetarium (essentially as inherited from start-up many years previously) did not provide sufficient air flow through the building for a seated audience for an hour plus. Even following the improvement achieved by re-routing air flow using the existing dome pump, the decision was taken to restrict audience numbers to about 50% of capacity.

The Planetarium was re-opened with restricted audiences in March 2022 and presentations continued until the summer close in June.

The need to update the Planetarium seating was noted previously and seating that had previously been used in an auditorium in Manchester was sourced and purchased. These seats need to be re-based for use in the Planetarium and a major effort, led by Jurgen Schmoll, John and George Gargett and Antony Isgate resulted in the installation of the "new" seating being completed in the 2022 summer break. The updated seating looks (in my view) very smart - even showing numbering in sequence - and it provides noticeably better back and neck support for audience members. The seats are slightly larger than the previous seats and (because the seats do not lift) the rows spacing is greater. These constraints mean that the maximum seating in the Planetarium is now about 40.

Also, before and during the summer shut, the controls for the planetarium audio-visual equipment, digital and analogue, were moved to a desk in the office and the equipment rack re-located in the office. To make room a bulky filing cabinet was moved out of the office and currently sits against the North wall of the Planetarium. The Planetarium general lighting has been updated, replacing the failing low voltage rail mounted lights with up to date mains powered strip and LED lighting. There is a noticeable improvement in the lighting available in the auditorium - which should make meeting much easier. Adding dimming for these lights remains to be done.

Discussions with Stockton Council on renewing the Lease have continued and by the end of July, Stockton's Estates department felt in a position to refer the lease on to their legal department to finalise the agreement. As of writing this report we have heard nothing further from them. An interim agreement was made with Stockton to continue the old lease pending the signature of the new one and in practice we are operating on the basis of the agreed terms of the new lease.

The Trustees have kept possible future development of the Planetarium in mind, but active development on this has been deferred until the new lease is signed with Stockton Council.

J W Roberts, Chairman TASC
September 2022



Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC) 1156793

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from Jun-21 To Jun-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Internet Receipts	1,103			1,103	434
Special Interest	-				232
Cadas room fee	-			-	-
Member's Subs	-			-	-
Donations					15
Small Business Grant	2,667			2,667	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,770			3,770	681
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-				
Sub total	-				
Total receipts	3,770			3,770	681
A3 Payments					
Insurance for Trustees and Volunteers	292			292	259
Travel Expenses for Volunteers	347			347	54
Building Insurance & Utilities	492			492	491
Equipment (Projectors PC Software)	3,573			3,573	2,342
					3,497
Sub total	4,704			4,704	6,643
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	4,704			4,704	6,643
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 934			- 934	- 5,962
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,525			22,525	28,487
Cash funds this year end	21,591			21,591	22,525

TEESSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1156793

Accounts

Teesside Astronomical Science Centre

Trustees Annual Report for the year 2020-2021

This report covers the period from 1 July 2020 to the end of our seventh financial year on 30 June 2021.

Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC) was established in 2014 to act as an independent organisation to operate the Wynyard Planetarium and Observatory taking over management of the facility from Stockton Borough Council (SBC) who withdrew from running the Planetarium. We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Charity No 1156793.

Chairman's Report

This year has continued to be highly unusual, because of the Covid pandemic. At the start of the year we were under the strict first Covid lockdown and the Planetarium and Observatory were closed with no presentations or other events taking place. There were occasional visits to ensure the safety of the buildings and thanks are due particularly to Peter Hanna and Simon Gotch for undertaking these visits.

The discussions with Stockton Council about site improvements, particularly in the coal-drop area continued into the summer. Although we had reservations about the lighting that was proposed as part of this, we supported the development and commented on the Planning Application on the basis that it is deliberately planned that the lighting will be switched off at dusk.

During the year, following an initial suggestion by CaDAS members and a subsequent independent approach by the family via Stockton Borough Council, we were asked if we could rename the Observatory as the Jack Youdale Observatory. The Trustees considered this and following approval from SBC agreed this and arranged for the signage on the Observatory and Planetarium to be changed to reflect the new name to meet what would have been Jack's Birthday in March 2021.

As the Covid pandemic developed we trialled and ran a small number of presentations online using the Zoom service. Although successful as such we found it difficult to reproduce the planetarium experience on line and there was limited demand for these.

The Planetarium and observatory Fire Alarm and Intruder Alarm systems we updated to meet current requirements and equipment was purchased to improve Covid safety in the Observatory.

Discussions on renewal of our lease from Stockton Borough Council we started well in advance of the then current lease expiry date (December 2021).

Finance

At the start of year the balance was £28487 and at the end £22525. With no live presentations our income was limited to £681. Expenditure including on new equipment was £6643 so we had a current deficit of £5962. Overall our finances remain healthy, although thus far we have not had to spend significantly on specific Covid 19 related matters.

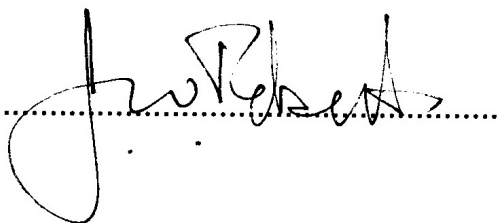
At present we do not have a formal policy on reserves, but generally aim to retain a minimum of 3 months expenditure as a reserve. Throughout the report year, actual reserves substantially exceeded this minimum figure.

List of Trustees who served throughout the year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Name	Office
John Gargett	
Simon Gotch	
Peter Hanna	Treasurer
Jon Mathieson	Communications Officer and Membership Secretary
Jonathan Roberts	Chairman
Jürgen Schmoll	Secretary

Simon Gotch and John Gargett were re-elected as Trustees at the 2020 AGM.

Approved by the Trustees on 25 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Chair of trustees Mr Jonathan Roberts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Roberts', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

J W Roberts 25 April 2022



Teesside Astronomical Science Centre (TASC) 1156793

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from Jun-20 To Jun-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
					-
					-
Internet Receipts	434			434	3,541
Special Interest	232			232	1,724
Cadas room fee	-			-	330
Member's Subs	-			-	24
Donations	15			15	221
					-
Small Business Grant	-			-	10,000
					-
					-
					-
					-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	681			681	15,830
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-			-	-
					-
Sub total	-			-	-
Total receipts	681			681	15,830
A3 Payments					
					-
Insurance for Trustees and Volunteers	259			259	245
Travel Expenses for Volunteers	54			54	478
Building Insurance & Utilities	491			491	628
Equipment (Projectors PC Software)	2,342			2,342	1,994
New Fire and Security Systems	3,497			3,497	-
					-
					-
					-
					-
Sub total	6,643			6,643	3,345
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
					-
					-
Sub total	-			-	-
Total payments	6,643			6,643	3,345
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,962			- 5,962	12,485
A5 Transfers between funds					-
A6 Cash funds last year end	28,487			28,487	16,002
Cash funds this year end	22,525			22,525	28,487