

BISHOP AUCKLAND ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1172061

Trustees Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2024

B.A.A.S. Trustees are happy to present our Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2024.

The charitable organisation was registered with the Charity Commission on 15th March 2017 and officially commenced activities on the 1st April 2017.

The CIO replaced, and has continued the work of the previously unregistered organisation 'Bishop Auckland Astronomical Society'. All assets and liabilities were transferred to the CIO on that date.

Structure Governance and Management:

B.A.A.S. is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), we use the foundation model constitution as the basis for our governing document. The CIO has no paid employees, the trustees do all the work of the organisation and are not paid, nor are our volunteer society members.

Summary of objectives:

The objectives of the CIO are: To bring astronomy to people of all ages and abilities, primarily in and around the Bishop Auckland and Weardale areas; to host monthly meetings with speakers; to organise and conduct astronomical observing events; and to arrange astronomy/space themed talks for the general public, schools and other organisations, including those with special needs. We now also provide Solar observing sessions with specialised equipment, primarily for (but not limited to) schools and other youth groups.

Activities undertaken for Public Benefit:

The trustees have complied with their duty in section 4 of the 2006 act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the charity commission.

The charity: Holds occasional observing events which are open to the general public.

Helps scout groups to acquire their "Space" badges

Has expanded our Solar observing sessions for schools and youth groups, via the acquisition of Solar telescopes with highly specialised solar filters. Now that we have satisfied the original funding criteria, we are continuing to use the equipment for further events.

Helped a number of schools in fun and educational ways with 'Space Camp' events, in conjunction with the Stephen Hawking Foundation.

We have recently been in discussion with 'The Locomotion' railway museum in Shildon, regarding a workshops and observing sessions, that will be free to the public on the museum's grounds.

Achievements and performance:

The charity continues with our usual outreach/educational work, as well as our monthly meetings.

We continue to support the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales' (AONB/National Landscapes) "Dark Sky Initiative" program, and the National Nature Reserves in England (NNR).

Financial Reserves Policy:

The charity intends to hold sufficient funds to purchase future equipment as determined by the Trustees from time to time, and to have enough funds to sustain the society in its activities for at least 12 months. This includes occasional 'tombola' events at public shows, while showing filtered telescope views of the Sun to members of the public. At the year end, the charity holds £1,967.

Future Plans:

We are pleased to announce that our bid for funding to purchase a new gazebo has been successful. The purpose of this gazebo is to give us more flexibility at outdoor events, serving as a temporary classroom and/or shelter if necessary. We took delivery of the new gazebo on 8th March 2024.

Announcement:

Sadly, Ms. Jacqueline Ann Sandle has had to leave us due to moving away to another area – We wish her every success in any new endeavours.

In light of this loss we have appointed Mrs. Karen Susan Walker as our new secretary.

Registered Address; 11 Wykes Close, Sedgfield, TS21 2DY

Accountant: Jane Ascroft - Certified Accountant – Enterprise House, Barnard Castle.

Bank: Lloyds Bank plc. Spennymoor, Co Durham.

Trustees of the Charity:

Mr. Duane Cox (Chair) - Mr. Karl Jennings (Vice-chair) - Mrs. Lynda Cox (Treasurer)

Mrs. Karen Susan Walker (Secretary) - Mr. Jeffrey Alan Dickinson.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Duane Cox', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

4th Aug, 2024



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

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

Events					
Donations	1,009	-	-	1,009	1,460
Sale of merchandise	136	-	-	136	110
Grant from County Durham Community Foundation	271	-	-	271	-
	-	1,700	-	1,700	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,416	1,700	-	3,116	1,570

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,416	1,700	-	3,116	1,570

A3 Payments

Cost of events	211	-	-	211	541
Office costs	218	-	-	218	37
Insurance	96	-	-	96	96
Accountancy	120	-	-	120	120
Tombola prizes	284	-	-	284	98
Members' Shirts	-	-	-	-	335
Gazebo	307	1,700	-	-	-
Other costs	272	-	-	2,007	-
	-	-	-	272	154
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,508	1,700	-	3,208	1,381

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,508	1,700	-	3,208	1,381

Net of receipts/(payments)

A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	92	189
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,059	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,967	-	-	1,967	2,059