



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 09	Year 2024		Day 31	Month 08	Year 2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	York Astronomical Society
Other names charity is known by	YAS, YorkAstro
Registered charity number (if any)	1174488
Charity's principal address	21 Lord Drive
	Pocklington
	York
	Postcode YO42 2PB

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Stephenson	Chairman		
2	David Friend			
3	Simon Howard	Secretary		
4	Paul Thornley			
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)				
Name		Dates acted if not for whole year		

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

## Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election at AGM and appointment by Trustees

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees are provided with Charity Commission Trustee guidance, a copy of the current constitution and a copy of last full year financial accounts.

The Charity Trustees maintain overall control and responsibility, however delegate limited financial decisions (£500) and day to day operation of Charity in terms of Observatory Management and Events to a Management Committee.

The society is in the seventh year of a minimum five-year lease for the land at Beetle Bank Open Farm on which the observatory is located along with access to a facility building for meetings (café & toilets) the use of outside areas for observing sessions and option to hire café area and other areas for fundraising events.

There is no major risk to the society during 2025, membership numbers have been maintaining and the attendance of the meetings has good.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objectives of the CIO are to advance public education and interest in the science of astronomy and its related sciences, in the Yorkshire region, in particular by the education, encouragement and pursuit of astronomical knowledge and observational astronomy, and by such means as the trustees may determine.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The York Astronomical Society help in person public events this year.

We held Management Committee and Trustee meetings as needed . The Management Committee meetings included significant Trustee presence.

Membership of the society is open to all with standard and concession annual membership fees (£35 and £20) with under 16's free. We introduced a family membership of £50.

The held a programme of paid events to raise funds for rent, infrastructure, and equipment in support of the charitable objects. As well as events primarily for the inspiration and education of the public.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The society works on a totally voluntary basis. Members receive no expenses or refund of transport costs. Members give willingly of their time, experience, and their own equipment to share the awe of astronomical observation.

## **Section D**

## **Achievements and performance**

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The York Astronomical Society has held 29 meeting/lectures at Beetle Bank Farm except for the AGM which we held at Priory Street Centre.

The lectures were amongst others presented by society members, university lecturers and professional speakers.

The membership of the Society remained reasonably strong with 62 members.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February we collaborated with St Peters School York for their annual Astronomy evening, by putting on a Starparty in the grounds of St Peters.

We published a monthly update on the Night Sky made available to the public via the Society website. The publication is called What's Up! And we would like to thank Steve Sawyer for putting this excellent resource together for us each month.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January we hosted a resident's weekend at Beetle bank farm introducing Astronomy to young families through activities and displays.

The observatory was maintained and is in good working order.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

No significant reserves

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/a

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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<b>Section F</b>	<b>Other optional information</b>
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<b>Section G</b>	<b>Declaration</b>
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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
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Full name(s)	Andrew Stephenson	
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
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Date	17/10/2025
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## 31/8/2025