

NAS Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/10/2023 Period start date

To 30/09/2024 Period end date

Charity name: Nottingham Astronomical Society

Charity registration number:1174745

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance public interest and education in the science of astronomy and related subjects, to further the knowledge of its members, to promote and conduct research and observations, and to provide facilities for active participation in astronomical observation.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The society provides venues for its members to attend lectures, undertake activities and work with the public on a range of outreach activities. Meetings are advertised to the public, and various outreach activities undertaken e.g. Support for school courses on Astronomy, events with 'Beavers' groups in the area.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commissions guidance on Public Benefit and in relation to the activities of the society, we consider public engagement, and publicise our events; plus have consideration re risks when undertaking these.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	There is no formal policy on grant making as these do not form part of the operation of the society activities or considerations. No requests have been received.

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Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	No requirement for such policy.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Members of the society regularly assist with meetings, presenting on topics, support, management and development of the 'observatory' site etc.
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The society has held regular public events each month (excluding August) when speakers are arranged to give presentations on various topics across the wide field of astronomy and space exploration etc. These are attended by a good proportion of the membership of the society and there has been an increase in the number of visitors (general public) attending these events.</p> <p>In addition we also hold Monthly, more informal meetings, to support members (and visitors) with a more generalist 'feel' than the more formal presentation meeting cycle.</p> <p>Various events held at the society observatory site for members.</p> <p>We have a provided support to sessions on astronomy/telescopes at various Beaver club events etc., and whilst previously supported Emmanuel School in West Bridgford in support of their A level Astronomy course, this was not required in 2024.</p>

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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Other than adherence to the meeting schedules and speaker arrangements, including observatory management, re its use and for planned events, no other objectives tracked.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Not applicable/non set as funds are subscription and donations based.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable other than bank interest.
Other		N/A

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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The Treasurer provides a yearly update to members and in year updates to the Society committee/trustees.</p> <p>The year ending September 2024 saw revenue drop due to lower membership income etc., but was offset partly by an increase in bank interest receipts. Expenses remained about the same but saw increases in meeting costs and observatory development items but again offset by lower admin and insurance cost items. There was however still a year on year of contribution available to balances.</p> <p>In general the society holds sufficient cash reserves and income (subscription and donations) to maintain normal level of activities and although costs are rising, in 2024 the membership rates remained as is, these are however being modified for 2025.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves' - which in our case relates to all our 'cash' balances at the bank, is maintained to facilitate Observatory development, accommodate impacts of increased costs for events etc., subject to impacts on yearly membership numbers/rates applied.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£15328
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>In the 2023/24 year funding majority of funding provided by:</p> <p>Subscriptions 50%</p> <p>Donations 25%</p> <p>Gift Aid 15%</p> <p>Other 10% (Visitors, Interest etc.)</p>
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Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	No 'investments' are held, other than simply interest bearing bank accounts, for which interest recorded and used in balances for day to day activities. These are split between an Instant Access account and a short term Notice account.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>There are no specific, identifiable, immediate risks being considered but we are always aware of the following:</p> <p><u>Membership Numbers:</u> - whilst accepting that there will be always some drop out from some membership cohorts, but we are not seeing <u>major</u> changes year on year.</p> <p><u>Inflation:</u> - again whilst aware of price rises the most impacting on our activities are room hire rates at venues etc. These are considered at renewal times etc. and options considered by the Trustees if needed.</p>
Other		N/A

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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution - as part of the CIO registration, and defines the Society Objects, Powers, Trustees, Membership, Meeting and other areas of its operation.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO Registration 20th September 2017
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Trustees are selected by vote at AGM (December) for next year (all trustees/ positions are elected/re-elected every year) and some specific appointed to hold various positions e.g. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary etc., and who also form the Executive Committee of the society.</p> <p>The various functions, duties and eligibility, number of, appointment, meetings etc. are all covered in the Constitution.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The Constitution advises on information to be supplied to new trustees (it should be noted that Trustees are usually long serving). In addition Charity Commission documents are advised for review.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>There is an Executive Committee of Trustees, and these hold positions of:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair (and Vice Chair) Secretary Treasurer and other operational aspect roles e.g. Membership Secretary Observatory Director IT/Webmaster Journal Editor Other generalist Committee/Trustee members.</p> <p>There are no other specific wider 'working' networks.</p> <p>ALL Trustees are unpaid</p>

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Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<p>The Society is a member of:</p> <p><u>Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS)</u>, although this is not engaged with the management of the society, simply a support organisation for -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Access to Public Liability Insurance for societies * Resource Centre containing documents providing a common framework for astronomical societies and their outreach activities. * Newsletter where societies can feature their events and information. <p><u>British Astronomical Association (BAA)</u> again not involved with management of society and we are simply an affiliated member as closely associated aims such as scientific observation, a mutual help relationship - many of our society members/trustees are also BAA individual members.</p>
Other		<p>Observatory site is leased from Severn Trent Water plc, and we have a long standing relationship from 1980's when site acquired (99 year lease) - again no impact with society management other than terms of lease re site maintenance and use etc.</p>

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Nottingham Astronomical Society
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1174745
Charity's principal address	c/o 23 Grange Park West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 6HW

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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	Julian Paul Onions	Chair		
2	Christine Margaret Sneddon	Secretary		
3	Andrew Charles Green	Treasurer	Until 19/12/24	
4	Richard Thomas Severn	Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Treasurer From 19/12/24	
5	James Dawson	Vice Chair/ Observatory Director	Vice Chair From 19/12/24	
6	Leigh Edward Blake	Webmaster		
7	William Roy Gretton	Journal Editor		
8	- vacant -			
9	- vacant -			
10	- vacant -			
11	- vacant -			
12	- vacant -			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	NONE	
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
No land/property titles		

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Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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None		

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

None

Other optional information


None

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Declarations

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)	Julian Paul Onions	Richard Thomas Severn
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
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Date	31 December 2024
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NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: 1174745

Founded in 1946 for all interested in astronomy.

Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association, Member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies,
Supporter of the Commission for Dark Skies



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

	2022/2023			2023/2024			Changes from 2022/2023
	£	£	%	£	£	%	%
INCOME							
Membership subscriptions	2,390.00		55%	2,055.00		50%	-14%
Donations	1,047.00		24%	1,035.00		25%	-1%
Gift Aid	686.50		16%	630.00		15%	-8%
Visitors	141.00		3%	99.00		2%	-30%
Business Reserve (savings) Interest	7.61		0%	172.25		4%	2163%
Liquidity Manager 35 day (Savings) Interest	0.00		0%	48.10		1%	100%
Other income	52.44		1%	79.59		2%	52%
TOTAL INCOME		4,324.55	100%		4,118.94	100%	-5%
EXPENDITURE							
	£	£	%	£	£	%	%
MEETING COSTS							
Room hire	1,266.00			1,180.80			
Speakers' expenses	117.03			378.74			
Meetings & AGM refreshments	188.14			187.64			
		1,571.17	36%		1,747.18	42%	11%
OBSERVATORY COSTS							
Observatory maintenance	60.75			23.00			
Observatory development	287.12			549.90			
BBQ expenses	63.25			86.71			
		411.12	10%		659.61	16%	60%
ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER COSTS							
Website and internet	216.00			195.14			
Accountant's fees	100.00			100.00			
Subscriptions and insurance	555.98			471.10			
Stationery	29.98			0.00			
Miscellaneous	310.26			0.00			
		1,212.22	28%		766.24	19%	-37%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3,194.51	74%		3,173.03	77%	-1%
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1,130.04	26%		945.91	23%	-16%

Notes:

1) Negative monetary values are shown in brackets throughout

NOTE ON CASH MOVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

This note does not form part of the Accounts

	£		£	£
Cash in Current Acc Bank at 1st October 2023	2,955.89	Excess of Income over Expenditure		945.91
Cash in Savings Acc Bank at 1st October 2023	11,507.61			
Cash in Hand at 1st October 2023	24.00	CASH ADJUSTMENTS 2023/2024		
		Add back: TBA		
Cash in Current Acc Bank at 30th September 2024	1,076.45	Add back: TBA		
Cash in Reserve Acc Bank at 30th September 2024	6,679.86			
Cash in Liquidity Acc Bank at 30th September 2024	7,548.10			
Cash in Hand at 30th September 2024	24.00	Cash movements from 2022/2023 Balance Sheet:		
		Subtract amount paid to Burnside Memorial Hall	33.00	
		Subtract amount paid to Emmanuel School	72.00	
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	840.91	Cash movement		840.91

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2024

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
2022/2023		2023/2024	2022/2023		2023/2024		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	ACCUMULATED FUND						
13,252.46	Balance at 1st October	14,382.50					
1,130.04	Add: Excess of income over expenditure for the year	£945.91					
		15,328.41	2,955.89	Business Current Account	1,076.45		
			11,507.61	Saving Business Reserve Account	6,679.86		
			24.00	Saving Liquidity Manager 35 day Account	7,548.10		
				Cash in hand	24.00		15,328.41
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			DEBTORS			
33.00	Amount due to Burnside Memorial Hall	0.00					
72.00	Amount due to Emmanuel School	0.00					
105.00		0.00			0.00		0.00
		15,328.41			14,487.50		15,328.41
We have examined the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet with the records of the Society produced to us, together with further information supplied, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.							
Ian Lewis				Andrew Green			
Lewis Accounting Ltd				Treasurer, Nottingham Astronomical Society			
Chartered Accountants				2023/24			