

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1175118

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-10-11

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

Contact

Address Cedar House
135 Burton Road
Streethay
Lichfield
WS13 8LS

Phone 01543263082

Email info@roslistonastronomy.org.uk

Website roslistonastronomy.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THOSE LIVING IN THE AREA LOCAL TO ROSLISTON (IN THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE) AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS OF STAFFORDSHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE AND ADJACENT SECTIONS OF THE WEST MIDLANDS, IN BOTH THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF ASTRONOMY BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT INCLUDING: (I) PROMOTING IN GENERAL SCIENTIFIC TOPICS, BY PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, IN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION. (II) ASSISTING ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BY PROVIDING GUIDANCE, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES, AND INFORMATION ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO ASTRONOMY IN ITS MANY ASPECTS.

Activities: The advancement of education for the public in the theory and practice of Astronomy, by providing guidance, practical activities, and information on all matters relating to astronomy in its many aspects. Assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their educational programme for the public by providing information, and facilities for active participation in astronomical observation.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Derbyshire
- Leicestershire
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,031	£4,573	-	-
2023-12-31	£4,640	£2,980	-	-
2022-12-31	£4,665	£2,802	-	-
2021-12-31	£2,354	£1,451	-	-
2020-12-31	£2,025	£1,118	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
EDWIN SIDNEY MANN	Chair	2017-06-30
ADAM BENJAMIN CHEETHAM		2017-06-30
Geoffrey Norman Dryland		2019-09-27
Nicholas Francis Rufo		2019-03-29
ROBERT PETER LEONARD		2017-06-30
STEPHEN HOLDEN		2020-05-29

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1175118

Accounts

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Reg. Charity Number 1175118)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the period - 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024

Aims and Purposes

Rosliston Astronomy Group, abbreviated to RAG for ease of reference, is an amateur Astronomy Group with a membership of around seventy five, and with a small, but very enthusiastic and active, Junior Members' section. Although RAG is a relatively new Charity, having been granted status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in October 2017, as a Club the group has been in existence since October 1999. Throughout this time we have been committed to delivering an 'outreach' programme for all age ranges of the General Public, promoting the advancement of education in both the theory and practice of Astronomy.

Our regular Meetings are based at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in South Derbyshire, on the border with Staffordshire, and our membership and the members of the public attending our regular Meetings and one off events are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas of South Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and adjacent sections of the West Midlands, with occasional visitors from wider afield.

Objectives and Activities

As a CIO our objectives are twofold:

- i) promoting, in general, scientific topics, by providing facilities for active participation particularly, but not exclusively, in astronomical observation, and
- (ii) assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their educational programme for members of the general public, by providing guidance, practical activities, and information on all matters relating to astronomy in its many aspects.

RAG continues to be committed to enabling as many people as possible to experience the 'Wow' factor when they observe the wonders of the night sky, a galaxy, a solar flare or sunspot, at first hand. We believe in encouraging lifelong learning, and helping everyone to appreciate the value of having a knowledge of Astronomy, to whatever level, and its place in the world around them.

This is reflected in the membership, with ages ranging from 7 years to 80 plus.

This year RAG has been able to continue our support assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their weekend Science Days, providing the Astronomy element, including Solar observation, active radio astronomy, and examples and explanations of deep sky astrophotography. Our members have also voluntarily provided the Astronomy element at Rosliston Forestry Centre's two 'Night Watch' Events.

Every 'outreach' event offered by RAG involves a number of Members, providing a range of activities for members of the public to take part in. These activities are free, and accessible to everyone. Members are 'on hand', both inside and out, to provide guidance,

encouragement, further explanation, provide background knowledge, and extend the public awareness of the wonders of Astronomy generally.

In addition, during the year, RAG's 'outreach' support for specific community groups was also able to continue. RAG engaged with four Beaver Groups, three Cub-Scout groups and a Scout Group to facilitate them being able to achieve their Astronomy Badges.

Members of RAG gave evening presentations to one WI Group, and in October two Members presented an 'Astronomy' theme to Home Educated children during Rosliston Environment Education Team's 'Schools' Science Week'.

In addition to the Home Education Day, again this year, RAG took full part in the Schools' Science Week, and presented four hourly sessions to full classes on each of four days in October.

RAG continued to extend our Outreach programme offsite - with eight Members travelling to a local Junior School in November, to assist with their Space Week's evening 'Camp' in the school grounds. Another Member travelled 30 miles in November to assist another Primary School with their Space Week, and delivered 'Astronomy' to seven classes separately.

The year concluded with, also in November, four Members providing an Astronomy evening for sixty Year Five primary children from a school in Nottinghamshire. This was the fourth event for this school, it now becoming a regular booking following their successful visits in 2022, and two in 2023.

In addition to our 'one-off' outreach events, RAG holds a regular series of general meetings through the year, twice every month, Mid-Month and End of Month. These meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members, and are publicised on the RAG website Calendar, Facebook, by Rosliston Forestry Centre's Environmental Education Team, the Rosliston Forestry Centre's website and Centre Information booklets, specific Leaflets at the Centre, and in the Local 'What's On'.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees have continued to assess the effectiveness and range of RAG's 'Outreach' Programme for specific and general public events involving the whole age range. Our Programme is well established, and well received, and has again reached in excess of 1500 members of the general public during the year.

Having due regard to the Charity Commission's documents on 'public benefit', Trustees have continued to spend time analysing and discussing future events and activities, monitoring the effects of the pandemic which continues to have an impact on the work of the Charity, and with particular emphasis on identifying effective evaluation and added value, and what the impact is of holding all our Meetings as 'hybrid', being 'in person' in the room, and 'online'.

The data protection element has continued to be maintained by all meetings being instigated by the Membership Secretary, as a single source for personal details.

In more detail - the Trustees are extremely proud of the way RAG has functioned throughout 2024. The positive approach taken by the Trustees in 2020 through 2022 ensured RAG's programme of meetings were maintained, and, indeed, built on by the introduction of the Astrophotography Special Interest Group (SIG). This was achieved by the introduction of holding 'online' meetings via Microsoft Teams.

This has been built on and increased in 2024, with all meetings being both 'online' and held 'in person' at RFC. This includes all General meetings mentioned above, and the Astrophotography Special Interest Group meetings that are held monthly.

The introduction of the new website in 2021 has been a great success, and RAG has continued to receive a major increase in interest, and contact from the general public and potential new members.

Trustees receive regular updates on website usage at their meetings.

In practice, Membership in 2024 has increased significantly, building on the trend begun in 2022, and extended in 2023.

The Trustees are proud to report that there have been a number of specific achievements this year. Some of these are detailed in other parts of this Report, but are itemised here to report their overall significance.

During 2024 we have achieved the following:

January

- the continuation of the provision of bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences' - private events for specific groups of the public, begun in October 2021, ongoing and available throughout the year.

February

- continuation of Outreach evenings for Cub-Scouts, Beaver Groups, etc.

April

- held a successful 'Observatory Open Day' and general supporting Rosliston Forestry Centre's Science staging an 'Exhibition' of Astrophotography Images 'donated' by members in the Astrophotography SIG, with a twofold purpose:

- to publicise the work of RAG
- to create a potential 'fundraising' outlet, to contribute to the Phase 2 fund for the bank of telescopes.

July

- held a successful 'Astronomy Evening' as part of Rosliston Forestry Centre's Night World Event. This included visual observing opportunities for the general public facilitated by RAG volunteers, and two sessions offering a Talk about Astronomy in general.

September

- celebrated the achievements of two of our youngest Junior Members, being awarded 'Highly Commended' in the international Young Astrophotographer of the Year Competition 2024 - and their image of Messier 106 being part of the Astrophotographer of the Year Exhibition at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and included in its 2024 Year Book. Again, as last year, over 5,000 entries from 64 countries took part in the whole competition.

October

- i) took part in the Rolls Royce sponsored Schools' Science Week, for individual classes from local Primary Schools, presenting hour sessions on Astronomy. This included an extra day dedicated to children being Home Schooled.

- ii) held a successful 'Observatory Open Day' and general Observing event, supporting Rosliston Forestry Centre's Science Discovery Day, with a number of RAG Members providing the Astronomy element for the general public.

November

- took part in the Rosliston Forestry Centre's Christmas Market - 2 days. Fundraising with the Astrophotography Exhibition.

The completion of the build in its entirety in 2020 marked the completion of Phase One of the Observatory Project. With storage facilities now available, Phase Two is to fund and purchase a bank of Telescopes plus accessories, to be used as 'training' Scopes, both on and off site, to facilitate 'hands on' practical experience for the various community groups. During 2024 Bids have been submitted to various grant awarding bodies. To date these have proved unsuccessful.

Following the pandemic many of these grant awarding bodies adapted their eligibility criteria to encompass supporting the various community initiatives for recovery post pandemic. As external funding continues to be difficult to obtain, the Trustees have supported the suggestion by the Astrophotography SIG, to use some of their images to create a source of 'sales' to contribute to the Phase Two fundraising for the bank of Telescopes. This is a long term project that will raise money, with all sales going to the Phase Two fund once the initial monetary outlay for printing and mounting has been repaid. Sales this year have totalled £800.

Monies have been received from other external sources, namely £78 from the sale of old equipment, and £384.25 comprising donations from various 'outreach' groups and from bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences'.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the members of Rosliston Astronomy Group for the level of commitment they have continued to demonstrate this year. Every event that RAG holds for the public benefit depends on members' voluntary attendance, and willingness to share their knowledge, expertise as an astronomer, and their personal equipment with members of the Public of all ages. Their support has always readily been available.

In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Members for their continued support for the fundraising activities undertaken by RAG to help fund the Observatory Project. Their willingness to make small donations on a regular basis during Club Meetings also plays an important part in maintaining the Observatory Fund. This year these small donations totalled £214.25.

Financial Review

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions carried out during the year can be found in the Financial Statement and its accompanying Notes.

This year, the focus of financial awareness to support the key objectives of the Charity, for the public benefit, namely by

- ii) maintaining the ongoing functions and activities of the Charity, and
 - iii) investing in the future outcome of a successful build
- has been actively maintained.

Consequently there has been increased activity in the Community Account, with the majority of spend being directly related to the Observatory, and annual background expenditure e.g. Buildings Insurance for the Observatory, and Public Liability Insurance.

A significant financial outlay in 2024 has been the purchase of astrophotography Camera for the Observatory Dome.

RAG uses two Accounts - a Business Community Account and a Business Premium Account.

The Business Community Account holds predominantly 'unrestricted' funds catering for the day to day transactions. This year unrestricted receipts totalled £3514 and unrestricted expenditure totalled £2104.05.

The Business Premium Account holds monies accumulated from successful bids to various Grant Awarding bodies, and formal Donations made by external sources. All the funds held in this Account are designated monies. Previously, some Grants, and donations have been received with 'open' targets but still within the capital build requirement, and others have been for specific stages of the build or items of equipment. This year, as was the case last year, although applied for, no Grants have been received - see above regarding Phase Two.

This year 'designated' receipts totalled £1516.50. 'Designated' expenditure totalled £2468.82.

This Account also includes identified monies 'ring-fenced' for use as the 'Observatory Fund'. These are raised in small amounts, sourced by the on-going donations at Meetings, and fundraising activities, by Members. This year this amount totalled £254.25 donated specifically by Members. The remaining amount included sales of Astrophotography images, and the sale of old equipment.

This year's reduced expenditure in the Business Premium Account was expected as the majority of the monies have been held in this Account for the specific purpose of funding the construction of, and equipping, the Observatory. As the build has progressed and reached completion monies have been released accordingly. Working Parties have continued in 2024, with the emphasis on external ground maintenance, weeding and grass cutting, etc. and, internally, work on the Observatory Dome focussing on improving the shutter functions. Consequently, as the work has been labour intensive with little or no cost for materials, then the AS Account has not been very active.

The Business Community Account had also had a significant reduction in activity during the period of restrictions caused by the pandemic. This led the Trustees, as part of their strategic duties, to review this situation in light of the potential for 'online' meetings to continue in the future, and the decision was taken in 2021 that 'online' meetings would carry an entrance fee, as for 'in person' attendance at 'indoor' meetings.

This decision has required all those taking part in meetings 'online', to use bank transfer to pay for each meeting attended.

This was implemented in January 2022, and has continued through 2024.

Reserves Policy

RAG has a policy for the unrestricted element of the Business Community Account, whenever possible, to maintain a balance of £500, as a minimum. This is to cover emergencies should they arise from time to time. This year this was achieved throughout the year.

There is no such expectation in the Business Premium Account as the monies held in this Account have been sourced from various grants, awards and identified donations to fund

specific aspects of the Observatory Project and its maintenance, and, therefore, 100% of these monies are for designated targets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rosliston Astronomy Group is a 'micro' Charity, managed by six Trustees drawn from, and elected by, the RAG Membership. RAG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that gained Charity status on 11th October, 2017, and is governed by a Constitution, which is reviewed annually at the AGM in March.

Prior to them taking up their roles, and during the first few months in office, new Trustees take note of various guidance documents produced by the Charity Commission, setting out their roles and responsibilities, namely guidance on overall duties (CC3), financial management (CC8, CC12), fundraising (CC20), guidance on Safeguarding, and documents setting out guidance on understanding the Public Benefit requirement. This is not a finite list, and Trustee 'training' is ongoing.

The Trustees form the overarching tier of management. However, as described at the outset of this Report, although RAG has been a Charity since October 2017, we have existed as an amateur Astronomy Group (Club) for twenty five years. Consequently, the original Club element has an established Committee that manages the day to day actions of the Group. This Committee comprises a Chair and Vice-Chair, a Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Technical Manager, Membership Secretary, Events Co-ordinator, Welfare Officer (that incorporates Safeguarding), a Website Manager, a Training Officer, and an Observatory Manager.

As reported in previous Annual Reports, to enable this Committee to continue to manage the day to day running, and the individual post holders to carry out their roles efficiently, they refer to a Trustees' document first produced in 2017 and regularly reviewed. This is a 'Delegation of Powers' document setting out the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Committee by the Charity Trustees. One of these delegated powers refers to the Committee being able to take decisions on the sale or purchase of items up to the value of £100. Amounts above £100 need to be referred to the Trustees for agreement.

The RAG Committee reports to the Trustees. Meetings are minuted, and are then received by the Trustees at their next Meeting. The Committee holds three Meetings a year. For administrative reasons each of these is scheduled to be held one month in advance of a Trustees' Meeting.

This year has required the Trustees to hold one meeting 'online' via Microsoft Teams, with specific agenda items, and two 'in person' meetings held at Rosliston Forestry Centre. The Treasurer reports both to the Committee and to the Trustees at each Meeting.

For continuity purposes, the Constitution states that, wherever possible, two of the Trustees should also be members of the RAG Committee. This year this has been complied with, by both Mr Mann and Mr Holden holding elected roles on the Committee.

Administrative Information

Rosliston Astronomy Group hold their Meetings at Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton Road, Rosliston, South Derbyshire, DE12 8JX. However, RAG has no strategic 'base' at

the Centre. The correspondence address for the Group is Cedar House, Burton Road, Streethay, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8LS.

During the period of Government restriction on public gatherings due to Covid-19, from March 2020 through 2021, meetings were held 'online' via Microsoft Teams. Since September 2021 when meetings held indoors were reinstated - all RAG meetings have been 'hybrid' in format, being held in person in the room at RFC, as well as 'online' via Microsoft Teams.

The Charity is managed by six Trustees.

The Constitution sets out the Terms of Office for each of the Trustees on a rolling programme, with two Trustees being required to stand down each year at the AGM.

The 2024 AGM was held both in the room and 'online' via Microsoft Teams, and took place on 22nd March, 2024. At the Meeting the two Trustees stepping down from Office were Mr. Edwin Mann and Mr. Adam Cheetham. Both had been nominated to stand again, and had indicated a willingness to do so. As there were no other nominations Mr Mann and Mr Cheetham were re-elected unopposed for a further term of office.

The names of the Trustees who have managed the Charity for the period covered by the Annual Report, are:

Mr Edwin Mann - Chair
Mr Adam Cheetham
Mr Geoff Dryland
Mr Stephen Holden
Mr Robert Leonard
Mr Nicholas Rufo

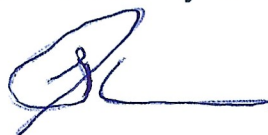
The Trustees have approved this Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees for Rosliston Astronomy Group, by:

Signature:



Signature:



Name: Mr Edwin Mann
Position: Chair of Trustees

Name: Mr Stephen Holden
Position: Trustee

Date:

8/10/2025

Date:

8/10/2025

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP (Reg. Charity Number 1175118)
Analysis of Accounts and Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2024

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNTS:		Year 2024	
		B/fwd:	£ 7961.55
RECEIPTS:		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds
Monthly Meetings (Entrance)		1704.00	
Annual Memberships		1810.00	
Internal Donations - Meetings (Obsy Fund)			214.25
Internal Donations - Individuals (Obsy Fund)			40.00
Major Grants			0.00
Fundraising (Sale of AP Prints)			800.00
External / Outreach donations			384.25 (incl. Science Fest.)
Miscellaneous			0.00
Sale of Old Equipment			78.00
		<u>3514.00</u>	<u>1516.50</u>
Total Receipts:			<u>5030.50</u>
EXPENDITURE:			
Speakers	100.00		
Zurich (Charities) Ins (Obsy+PLI)	233.81		
Observatory Build / Equipment (Internal)			1257.82 (incl. Lease)
Website / Wi-Fi	334.47		
Refreshments	273.80		
Stationery/printing/etc.	233.04		
Other (includ. Prize / AP Prints)	898.93		1211.00 (Obsy Camera)
Miscellaneous	30.00		
	<u>2104.05</u>		<u>2468.82</u>
Total Expenditure:			<u>4572.87</u>
Total Receipts	5030.50		
Total Expenditure	4572.87		
		Profit for year:	457.63

Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2024

Balance at 31/12/2023	7961.55	Represented by:	
Profit for the Year	457.63	1) Bank A/c Business Community	4212.47
Interest	13.44	2) Bank A/c Business Premium	4176.73
Balance at 31/12/2024	8432.62	3) Plus: Business Premium Interest	13.44
		4) Cash in Hand	29.98

GRAND TOTAL: £ 8432.62

Assets: (i) Various items of secondhand and new equipment to the approximate value of £14,645
(ii) Observatory Building

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS and BALANCE SHEET FOR 2024

Approved by the Trustees of Rosliston Astronomy Group.
They have been signed on behalf of the Trustees, and the RAG Membership, by:

Signature(1)


.....

Mr Ed Mann - Chair of Trustees

Signature(2)


.....

Mr Stephen Holden - Trustee

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Registered Charity Number 1175118)
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st. December, 2024

Notes:

1. The financial statement has been prepared using the Receipts & Payments format. Rosliston Astronomy Group (RAG) is a small Charity, and is below the Charities Act's audit threshold.
2. RAG uses two Accounts, a Business Community Account, and a Business Premium Account.
 - a) The Business Community Account, functions like a Current Account, holding monies that are predominantly unrestricted and, therefore, cater for RAG's day to day transactions.

There is one amount of monies identified within this Account that is 'ring fenced' to form the Observatory Fund. These monies are accumulated on a day to day basis from small amounts gained through Members' donations at Meetings and Members' fundraising activities.
 - b) The Business Premium Account holds monies that are being accumulated from successful bids to Grant Awarding bodies that have been awarded for specific purposes, and larger donations made by external sources. The largest amount was for the capital build in general, and this reduced considerably in 2019 as the construction and the fitting out of the Observatory progressed. During the overall fundraising other smaller grants have been for specific aspects within the build e.g. purchase of the interactive screen. These can only be used for those purposes identified in the Grant and have been held until that stage in the construction has been reached and completed. These have now been used for the appropriate items.

Although applied for, for Stage 2 - the purchase of a 'bank' of mobile telescopes for our Outreach work, no grants were received during 2024. Thus Stage 2 has not yet been achieved.
 - c) The Observatory Fund represents accumulated small donations and fundraising activities, carried out within RAG, and currently identified and held within the Business Community Account.

Now the main construction is complete it is the purpose of these monies to form a basis to fund the maintenance of the building, and for which further grants for specific issues, and items of equipment, will be applied for, and added. Such grants will be held in the Business Premium Account, and the internal donations also will be transferred from the Business Community Account to the AS Account.
3. a) Currently, RAG has an amount of equipment as assets. These comprise secondhand items e.g. telescopes, donated over time by members and the general public, plus new items of equipment for the Observatory. See 'assets' - item (4).

In addition, for the public benefit, RAG's intentions have been realised - to build an Observatory with an attached Warm Room in which to present courses and meetings for various Community Groups, schools, scouts/guides, etc.; and the provision of storage facilities to be able to build up a bank of training equipment for 'hands on' experience.
- b) RAG hosted the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory on 14th March, 2020. This marked the culmination of a major fundraising initiative that began in 2014. Stage one fundraising targets were achieved, and Contractors began construction of the Observatory in November 2018. RAG took possession of the building on schedule

in late Spring 2019 – 12th April, 2019. Since 'handover of the 'shell', RAG Members have given a significant amount of voluntary hours, carrying out various external works, and fitting out the internal areas comprising Dome, Warm Room, and storage facilities. Following the prolonged shutdown, once Covid restrictions were eased, in the latter quarter of 2021, and throughout 2022, more volunteer hours were spent working on the shutter and camera set-ups. Maintenance work has continued in 2024, carried out by Members in a voluntary capacity, and involving a significant number of volunteer hours.

- c) RAG has an agreed Lease with South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) for the land on which the building stands. This is being paid annually at a peppercorn rate of £1. The fifth payment to SDDC was made in October 2024.
4. a) Assets, recognised but not valued individually in the Statement of Accounts, have an approximate value of £14,645.
- b) These comprise newly acquired items of equipment for use within the Observatory, namely the EQ8 Mount, and the Astrophotography Camera; and items of secondhand equipment, namely various types of telescope and a selection of other smaller items of equipment that go with these telescopes. The items vary in condition and age. They have been acquired, 'ad hoc', over the period of twenty five years the Club has been in existence, donated by Club members or their relatives, and by the General Public.
 - c) Currently, these secondhand items are being 'stored' by named members of the Committee, mainly by the Equipment Manager, who holds the definitive list, and within the Observatory.
 - d) As these secondhand items have not been 'selected' regarding their suitability for Training purposes, for use to provide 'hands on' experience in public groups, or as items suitably easy to set up to enable them to be used as 'Loan' items for members new to Astronomy – in 2018 the Trustees, having due regard to the public benefit, and to rationalise the situation, agreed the following:
 - i) to mandate the Equipment Manager to carry out an audit to identify items that are either to be retained, or that are surplus to requirement and need to be disposed of, and to receive the results of this audit at a future Trustees' Meeting. The results of this Audit were received by the Trustees at their Meeting in February 2019.
 - ii) to agree the disposal of the identified items, with due regard to RAG's Equipment Development Plan, and following the financial procedures as set out in the 'Delegation of Powers' for the RAG Committee i.e. delegated responsibilities for sales/purchases of items £100 and below.
 - iii) to receive a Draft 'Policy for the Acceptance of Items of Equipment that are Offered as a Donation or Option to Purchase'. This Policy was received accepted, and formalised at their Meeting in February 2019, and is regularly reviewed.
 - e) Sales of unsuitable items identified in the Audit have taken place in 2024 - identified as 'Sale of Old Equipment'.

RAG TAR 2024

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1175118

Accounts

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the period - 1st January, 2023 to 31st December, 2023

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Our regular Meetings are based at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in South Derbyshire, on the border with Staffordshire, and our membership and the members of the public attending our regular Meetings and one off events are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas of South Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and adjacent sections of the West Midlands, with occasional visitors from wider afield.

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- i) promoting, in general, scientific topics, by providing facilities for active participation particularly, but not exclusively, in astronomical observation, and
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RAG continues to be committed to enabling as many people as possible to experience the 'Wow' factor when they observe the wonders of the night sky, a galaxy, a solar flare or sunspot, at first hand. We believe in encouraging lifelong learning, and helping everyone to appreciate the value of having a knowledge of Astronomy, to whatever level, and its place in the world around them.

This year RAG has been able to continue our support assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their weekend Science Days, providing the Astronomy element, including Solar observation, active radio astronomy, and examples and explanations of deep sky astrophotography. Our members have also voluntarily provided the Astronomy element at Rosliston Forestry Centre's two 'Night Watch' Events.

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In addition, during the year, RAG's 'outreach' support for specific community groups was also able to continue. RAG engaged with two Beaver Groups, two Cub-Scout groups and a Scout Group to facilitate them being able to achieve their Astronomy Badges. RAG also continued to work with an Explorer Scout Group. Members of RAG gave evening presentations to one WI Group, and in October two Members presented an Astronomy theme to Home Educated children during Rosliston Environment Education Team's 'Schools' Science Week'. The year concluded with, at the beginning of November, four Members providing an Astronomy evening for sixty Year Five primary children from a school in Nottinghamshire. This was the second event for this school during 2023, the first being in February, and both being rebooked events following their successful visit in 2022.

In addition to our 'one-off' outreach events, RAG holds a regular series of general meetings through the year, twice every month, Mid-Month and End of Month. These meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members, and are publicised on the RAG website Calendar, Facebook, by Rosliston Forestry Centre's Environmental Education Team, the Rosliston Forestry Centre's website and Centre Information booklets, specific Leaflets at the Centre, and in the Local 'What's On'.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees have continued to assess the effectiveness and range of RAG's 'Outreach' Programme for specific and general public events involving the whole age range. Our Programme is well established, and well received, and has again reached in excess of 1000 members of the general public during the year.

Having due regard to the Charity Commission's documents on 'public benefit', Trustees have continued to spend time analysing and discussing future events and activities, monitoring the effects of the pandemic on the work of the Charity, and with particular emphasis on identifying effective evaluation and added value, and what the impact is of holding all our Meetings as 'hybrid', being 'in person' in the room, and 'online'.

The data protection element has continued to be maintained by all meetings being instigated by the Membership Secretary, as a single source for personal details.

In more detail - the Trustees are extremely proud of the way RAG has functioned throughout 2023. The positive approach taken by the Trustees in 2020 and 2021 ensured RAG's programme of meetings were maintained, and, indeed, built on by the introduction of the Astrophotography Special Interest Group (SIG). This was achieved by the introduction of holding 'online' meetings via Microsoft Teams.

This has been built on and increased in 2023 with all meetings being both 'online' and held 'in person' at RFC. This includes all General meetings mentioned above, and the Astrophotography Special Interest Group meetings that are held monthly.

The introduction of the new website in 2021 has been a great success, and RAG has received a major increase in interest, and contact from the general public and potential new members.

Trustees receive regular updates on website usage at their meetings.

In practice, Membership this year has increased significantly, building on the trend set in 2022.

The Trustees are proud to report that there have been a number of specific achievements this year. Some of these are detailed in other parts of this Report, but are itemised here to report their overall significance.

During 2023 we have achieved the following:

- January - the continuation of the the provision of bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences' - private events for specific groups of the public, begun in October 2021, ongoing and available throughout the year.
- April - held a successful 'Observatory Open Day' and general Observing event, supporting Rosliston Forestry Centre's Science Discovery Day. This included staging an 'Exhibition' of Astrophotography Images 'donated by members in the Astrophotography SIG, with a twofold purpose:
- to publicise the work of RAG
 - to create a potential 'sales' outlet, to contribute to the Phase 2 fundraising for the bank of telescopes.
- July - held a successful 'Astronomy Evening' as part of Rosliston Forestry Centre's Night World Event. This included visual observing opportunities for the general public facilitated by RAG volunteers, and two sessions offering a Talk about Astronomy in general.
- September - celebrated the achievement of our youngest Junior Member, being shortlisted in the international Junior Astrophotographer of the Year Competition 2023 - and his image of the Crescent Moon being part of the Astrophotographer of the Year Exhibition at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and included in its 2023 Year Book. Over 5,000 entries from 64 countries took part in whole competition.
- October - held a successful 'Observatory Open Day' and general Observing event, supporting Rosliston Forestry Centre's Science Discovery Day.

The completion of the build in its entirety in 2020 marked the completion of Phase One of the Observatory Project. With storage facilities now available, Phase Two is to fund and purchase a bank of Telescopes plus accessories, to be used as 'training' Scopes, both on and off site, to facilitate 'hands on' practical experience for the various community groups. During 2023 Bids have been submitted to various grant awarding bodies. To date these have proved unsuccessful.

Following the pandemic many of these grant awarding bodies adapted their eligibility criteria to encompass supporting the various community initiatives for recovery post pandemic. As external funding is currently difficult to obtain, the Trustees have supported the suggestion by the Astrophotography SIG, to use some of their images to create a source of 'sales' to contribute to the Phase Two fundraising for the bank of Telescopes. This is a long term project that will raise money, with all sales going to the Phase Two fund once the initial monetary outlay for printing and mounting has been repaid. Sales this year have totalled £100.

Monies have been received from other external sources, namely £425 from the sale of old equipment, and £410 comprising donations from various 'outreach' groups and from bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences'.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the members of Rosliston Astronomy Group for the level of commitment they have continued to demonstrate this year. Every event that RAG holds for the public benefit depends on members' voluntary attendance, and willingness to share their knowledge, expertise as an astronomer, and their personal equipment with members of the Public of all ages. Their support has always readily been available.

In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Members for their continued support for the fundraising activities undertaken by RAG to help fund the Observatory Project. Their willingness to make small donations on a regular basis during Club Meetings also plays an important part in maintaining the Observatory Fund. This year these small donations totalled £155.04.

Financial Review

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions carried out during the year can be found in the Financial Statement and its accompanying Notes.

This year, the focus of financial awareness to support the key objectives of the Charity, for the public benefit, namely by

- ii) maintaining the ongoing functions and activities of the Charity, and
 - iii) investing in the future outcome of a successful build
- has been actively maintained.

Consequently there has been increased activity in the Community Account, with the majority of spend being directly related to the Observatory, and annual background expenditure e.g. Buildings Insurance for the Observatory, and Public Liability Insurance.

A significant financial outlay in 2023 has been the purchase of an EQ8 Mount for the Observatory Dome. This is a major achievement for RAG, as previously Trustees have been appreciative of the generosity of a Member loaning a suitable Mount while funds were accumulated to enable such a purchase.

RAG uses two Accounts - a Business Community Account and an Active Saver Account. The Business Community Account holds predominantly unrestricted funds catering for the day to day transactions. This year unrestricted receipts totalled £3359.50 and unrestricted expenditure £1309.58.

The Active Saver Account holds monies accumulated from successful bids to various Grant Awarding bodies, and formal Donations made by external sources. All the funds held in this Account are designated monies. Previously, some Grants, and donations have been received with 'open' targets but still within the capital build requirement, and others have been for specific stages of the build or items of equipment.

This year, as was the case last year, although applied for, no Grants have been received - see above regarding Phase Two.

This year designated receipts totalled £1280.04. Designated expenditure totalled £1670.06.

This Account also includes identified monies 'ring-fenced' for use as the 'Observatory Fund'. These are raised in small amounts, sourced by the on-going donations at Meetings, and fundraising activities, by Members. This year this amount totalled £345.04 donated specifically by Members. The remaining amount included sales of Astrophotography images, and the sale of old equipment.

This year's reduced expenditure in the Active Saver Account was expected as the majority of the monies have been held in this Account for the specific purpose of funding the construction of, and equipping, the Observatory. As the build has progressed and reached completion monies have been released accordingly. Activity in the Account in 2021 was reduced even more as restrictions for most of the year prevented any working parties meeting at the Observatory with the resultant lack of expenditure on materials, etc. Working Parties resumed in 2022, and have continued in 2023, with the emphasis on external ground maintenance, weeding and grass cutting, etc. and work on the Observatory Dome focussing on improving the shutter functions. Consequently, as the work has been labour intensive with little or no cost for materials, then the AS Account has not been very active.

The Business Community Account had also had a significant reduction in activity during the period of restrictions caused by the pandemic. This led the Trustees, as part of their strategic duties, to review this situation in light of the potential for 'online' meetings to continue in the future, and the decision was taken in 2021 that should this be the case 'online' meetings would carry an entrance fee, as for attendance at 'indoor' meetings.

This decision has required all those taking part in meetings 'online', to use bank transfer to pay for each meeting attended.

This was implemented in January 2022, and has continued through 2023.

Reserves Policy

RAG has a policy for the unrestricted element of the Business Community Account, whenever possible, to maintain a balance of £500, as a minimum. This is to cover emergencies should they arise from time to time. This year this was achieved throughout the year.

There is no such expectation in the Active Saver Account as the monies held in this Account have been sourced from various grants, awards and identified donations to fund specific aspects of the Observatory Project and its maintenance, and, therefore, 100% of these monies are for designated targets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rosliston Astronomy Group is a 'micro' Charity, managed by six Trustees drawn from, and elected by, the RAG Membership. RAG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that gained Charity status on 11th October, 2017, and is governed by a Constitution, which is reviewed annually at the AGM in March.

Prior to them taking up their roles, and during the first few months in office, new Trustees take note of various guidance documents produced by the Charity Commission, setting out their roles and responsibilities, namely guidance on overall duties (CC3), financial management (CC8, CC12), fundraising (CC20), guidance on Safeguarding, and documents setting out guidance on understanding the Public Benefit requirement. This is not a finite list, and Trustee 'training' is ongoing.

The Trustees form the overarching tier of management. However, as described at the outset of this Report, although RAG has been a Charity since October 2017, we have existed as an amateur Astronomy Group (Club) for twenty four years. Consequently, the original Club element has an established Committee that manages the day to day actions of the Group. This Committee comprises a Chair and Vice-Chair, a Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Technical Manager, Membership Secretary, Events Co-ordinator, Welfare Officer

(that incorporates Safeguarding), a Website Manager, a Training Officer, and an Observatory Manager.

As reported in previous Annual Reports, to enable this Committee to continue to manage the day to day running, and the individual post holders to carry out their roles efficiently, they refer to a Trustees' document first produced in 2017. This is a 'Delegation of Powers' document setting out the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Committee by the Charity Trustees. One of these delegated powers refers to the Committee being able to take decisions on the sale or purchase of items up to the value of £100. Amounts above £100 need to be referred to the Trustees for agreement.

The RAG Committee reports to the Trustees. Meetings are minuted, and are then received by the Trustees at their next Meeting. The Committee holds three Meetings a year. For administrative reasons each of these is scheduled to be held one month in advance of a Trustees' Meeting.

This year has required the Trustees to hold one meeting 'online' via Microsoft Teams, with specific agenda items, and two 'in person' meetings held at Rosliston Forestry Centre. The Treasurer reports both to the Committee and to the Trustees at each Meeting.

For continuity purposes, the Constitution states that, wherever possible, two of the Trustees should also be members of the RAG Committee. This year this has been complied with, by both Mr Mann and Mr Holden holding elected roles on the Committee.

Administrative Information

Rosliston Astronomy Group hold their Meetings at Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton Road, Rosliston, South Derbyshire, DE12 8JX. However, RAG has no strategic 'base' at the Centre. The correspondence address for the Group is Cedar House, Burton Road, Streethay, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8LS.

During the period of Government restriction on public gatherings due to Covid-19, from March 2020 through 2021, meetings were held 'online' via Microsoft Teams. Since September 2021 when meetings held indoors were reinstated - all RAG meetings have been 'hybrid' in format, being held in person in the room at RFC, as well as 'online' via Microsoft Teams.

The Charity is managed by six Trustees.

The Constitution sets out the Terms of Office for each of the Trustees on a rolling programme, with two Trustees being required to stand down each year at the AGM.

The 2023 AGM was held both in the room and 'online' via Microsoft Teams, and took place on 31st March, 2023. At the Meeting the two Trustees stepping down from Office were Mr. Rob Leonard and Mr. Steve Holden. Both had been nominated to stand again, and had indicated a willingness to do so. As there were no other nominations Mr Leonard and Mr Holden were re-elected unopposed for a further term of office.

The names of the Trustees who have managed the Charity for the period covered by the Annual Report, are:

Mr Edwin Mann - Chair
Mr Adam Cheetham
Mr Geoff Dryland
Mr Stephen Holden

Mr Robert Leonard
Mr Nicholas Rufo

The Trustees have approved this Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees for Rosliston Astronomy Group, by:

Signature:



Signature:



Name: Mr Edwin Mann
Position: Chair of Trustees

Name: Mr Stephen Holden
Position: Trustee

Date: 1/10/2024

Date: 1/10/2024

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP (Reg. Charity Number 1175118)
Analysis of Accounts and Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2023

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNTS:		Year 2023	
		B/fwd	£ 6293.18
RECEIPTS:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	
Monthly Meetings (Entrance)	1569.50		
Annual Memberships	1790.00		
Internal Donations - Meetings(Obsy Fund)		155.04	
Internal Donations - Individuals(Obsy Fund)		190.00	
Major Grants		0.00	
Fundraising		100.00	
External / Outreach donations		410.00 (incl.Science Fest.)	
Miscellaneous		0.00	
Sale of Old Equipment		425.00	
	3359.50	1280.04	
Total Receipts:		4639.54	
EXPENDITURE:			
Speakers	185.00		
Zurich (Charities) Ins (Obsy+PLI)	221.63		
Observatory Build (Internal)		570.06 (incl. Lease)	
Website / Wi-Fi	302.56		
Refreshments	259.62		
Stationery/printing/etc.	139.78		
Other	100.00	1100.00 (EQ8)	
Miscellaneous	100.99		
	1309.58	1670.06	
Total Expenditure:		2979.60	
Total Receipts	4639.54		
Total Expenditure	2979.60		
		Profit for year: £ 1659.94	

Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2023

Balance at 31/12/2022	6293.18	Represented by:	
Profit for the Year	1659.94	1) Bank A/c Business Community.	4054.05
Interest	8.43	2) Bank A/c Active Saver	884.53
Balance at 31/12/2023	7961.55	3) Plus: Active Saver Interest	8.43
		4) Cash in Hand (a)	264.54
		Cash in Hand (b)	2750.00
		GRAND TOTAL: £ 7961.55	

Assets: (i) Various items of secondhand equipment to the approximate value of £2,500
(ii) Observatory Building

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS and BALANCE SHEET FOR 2023

Approved by the Trustees of Rosliston Astronomy Group.
They have been signed on behalf of the Trustees, and the RAG Membership, by:

Signature(1)



Mr Ed Mann - Chair of Trustees

Signature(2)



Mr Stephen Holden - Trustee

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Registered Charity Number 1175118)

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st. December, 2023

Notes:

1. The financial statement has been prepared using the Receipts & Payments format. Rosliston Astronomy Group (RAG) is a small Charity, and is below the Charities Act's audit threshold.
2. RAG uses two Accounts, a Business Community Account, and an Active Saver Account.
 - a) The Business Community Account, functions like a Current Account, holding monies that are predominantly unrestricted and, therefore, cater for RAG's day to day transactions.

There is one amount of monies identified within this Account that is 'ring fenced' to form the Observatory Fund. These monies are accumulated on a day to day basis from small amounts gained through Members' donations at Meetings and Members' fundraising activities.
 - b) The Active Saver Account holds monies that are being accumulated from successful bids to Grant Awarding bodies that have been awarded for specific purposes, and larger donations made by external sources. The largest amount was for the capital build in general, and this reduced considerably in 2019 as the construction and the fitting out of the Observatory progressed. During the overall fundraising other smaller grants have been for specific aspects within the build e.g. purchase of the interactive screen. These can only be used for those purposes identified in the Grant and have been held until that stage in the construction has been reached and completed. These have now been used for the appropriate items.

Although applied for, for Stage 2 - the purchase of a 'bank' of mobile telescopes for our Outreach work, no grants were received during 2023. Thus Stage 2 has not yet been achieved.
 - c) The Observatory Fund represents accumulated small donations and fundraising activities, carried out within RAG, and currently identified and held within the Business Community Account.

Now the main construction is complete it is the purpose of these monies to form a basis to fund the maintenance of the building, and for which further grants for specific issues, and items of equipment, will be applied for, and added. Such grants will be held in the Active Saver Account, and the internal donations also will be transferred from the Business Community Account to the AS Account.
3. a) Currently, RAG has a small amount of equipment as assets.

In addition, for the public benefit, RAG's intentions have been realised - to build an Observatory with an attached Warm Room in which to present courses and meetings for various Community Groups, schools, scouts/guides, etc.; and the provision of storage facilities to be able to build up a bank of training equipment for 'hands on' experience.

RAG hosted the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory on 14th March, 2020. This marked the culmination of a major fundraising initiative that began in 2014.

- b) Stage one fundraising targets were achieved, and Contractors began construction of the Observatory in November 2018. RAG took possession of the building on schedule in late Spring 2019 – 12th April, 2019. Since 'handover of the 'shell', RAG Members have given a significant amount of voluntary hours, carrying out various external works, and fitting out the internal areas comprising Dome, Warm Room, and storage facilities. Following the prolonged shutdown, once Covid restrictions were eased, in the latter quarter of 2021, and throughout 2022, more volunteer hours were spent working on the shutter and camera set-ups. Maintenance work has continued in 2023, carried out by Members in a voluntary capacity.
 - c) RAG agreed a contract with the Contractor for payment for the build to be on a Stage Payment basis. This was completed in April 2019. At this time the remaining funding was not sufficient to purchase a suitable Mount to be installed in the Dome to carry the two telescopes. RAG relied on an EQ6 Mount on loan from one of its Members.
This year, 2023, RAG has raised sufficient funding to purchase a more robust EQ8 Mount for £1,100 that, although secondhand, had not been previously used by the original owner. This purchase is recorded under 'Other' in Designated Expenditure.
 - d) RAG has an agreed Lease with South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) for the land on which the building stands. This is being paid annually at a peppercorn rate of £1. The fifth payment to SDDC was made in October 2023.
4. a) Assets, recognised but not valued individually in the Statement of Accounts, have an approximate value of £2,500.
- b) These comprise items of secondhand equipment, namely various types of telescope and a selection of other smaller items of equipment that go with these telescopes. The items vary in condition and age. They have been acquired, 'ad hoc', over the period of twenty four years the Club has been in existence, donated by Club members or their relatives, and by the General Public.
 - c) Currently, these items are being 'stored' by named members of the Committee, mainly by the Equipment Manager, who holds the definitive list, and within the Observatory.
 - d) As these items have not been 'selected' regarding their suitability for Training purposes, for use to provide 'hands on' experience in public groups, or as items suitably easy to set up to enable them to be used as 'Loan' items for members new to Astronomy – in 2018 the Trustees, having due regard to the public benefit, and to rationalise the situation, agreed the following:
 - i) to mandate the Equipment Manager to carry out an audit to identify items that are either to be retained, or that are surplus to requirement and need to be disposed of, and to receive the results of this audit at a future Trustees' Meeting. The results of this Audit were received by the Trustees at their Meeting in February 2019.

- ii) to agree the disposal of the identified items, with due regard to RAG's Equipment Development Plan, and following the financial procedures as set out in the 'Delegation of Powers' for the RAG Committee i.e. delegated responsibilities for sales/purchases of items £100 and below.
 - iii) to receive a Draft 'Policy for the Acceptance of Items of Equipment that are Offered as a Donation or Option to Purchase'. This Policy was received accepted, and formalised at their Meeting in February 2019.
- e) Sales of unsuitable items identified in the Audit have taken place in 2023 - identified as 'Sale of Old Equipment'.

RAG TAR 2023

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1175118

Accounts

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Reg. Charity Number 1175118)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the period - 1st January, 2022 to 31st December, 2022

Aims and Purposes

Rosliston Astronomy Group, abbreviated to RAG for ease of reference, is an amateur Astronomy Group with a membership of around seventy five, and with a small, but very enthusiastic and active, Junior Members' section. Although RAG is a relatively new Charity, having been granted status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in October 2017, as a Club the group has been in existence since October 1999. Throughout this time we have been committed to delivering an 'outreach' programme for all age ranges of the General Public, promoting the advancement of education in both the theory and practice of Astronomy.

Our regular Meetings are based at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in South Derbyshire, on the border with Staffordshire, and our membership and the members of the public attending our regular Meetings and one off events are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas of South Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and adjacent sections of the West Midlands, with occasional visitors from wider afield.

Objectives and Activities

As a CIO our objectives are twofold:

- i) promoting, in general, scientific topics, by providing facilities for active participation particularly, but not exclusively, in astronomical observation, and
- (ii) assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their educational programme for members of the general public, by providing guidance, practical activities, and information on all matters relating to astronomy in its many aspects.

RAG continues to be committed to enabling as many people as possible to experience the 'Wow' factor when they observe the wonders of the night sky, a galaxy, a solar flare or sunspot, at first hand. We believe in encouraging lifelong learning, and helping everyone to appreciate the value of having a knowledge of Astronomy, to whatever level, and its place in the world around them.

This year RAG has been able to continue our support assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their weekend Science Days, providing the Astronomy element, including Solar observation, active radio astronomy, and examples and explanations of deep sky astrophotography. Our members have also provided the Astronomy element at Rosliston Forestry Centre's two 'Night Watch' Events.

Every 'outreach' event offered by RAG involves a number of Members, providing a range of activities for members of the public to take part in. These activities are free, and accessible to everyone. Members are 'on hand', both inside and out, to provide guidance, encouragement, further explanation, provide background knowledge, and extend the public awareness of the wonders of Astronomy generally.

In addition, during the year, RAG's 'outreach' support for specific community groups was also able to continue. RAG engaged with three Beaver Groups, two Cub-Scout groups and a Scout Group to facilitate them being able to achieve their Astronomy Badges. RAG also worked with an Explorer Scout Group. Members of RAG gave evening presentations to two WI Groups, and in October two Members presented an Astronomy theme to ten individual classes of Primary children during Rosliston Environment Education Team's 'Schools' Science Week'. The year concluded with, at the end of November, four Members providing an Astronomy evening for sixty Year Five primary children from a school in Nottinghamshire.

In addition to our 'one-off' outreach events, RAG holds a regular series of general meetings through the year, twice every month, Mid-Month and End of Month. These meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members, and are publicised on the RAG website Calendar, Facebook, by Rosliston Forestry Centre's Environmental Education Team, the Rosliston Forestry Centre's website and Centre Information booklets, specific Leaflets at the Centre, and in the Local 'What's On'.

Achievements and Performance

Following the Pandemic restrictions in 2020/21, this has been the first year since 2019 that the Trustees have been able to assess over a full year of public events the effectiveness and range of RAG's 'Outreach' Programme over the whole age range. Our Programme is well established, and well received, and has reached in excess of 1000 members of the general public. during the year.

Having due regard to the Charity Commission's documents on 'public benefit', Trustees have continued to spend time analysing and discussing future events and activities, monitoring the effects of the pandemic on the work of the Charity, and with particular emphasis on identifying effective evaluation and added value, and what the impact is of holding all our Meetings as 'hybrid', being 'in person' in the room, and 'online'.

The data protection element has continued to be maintained by all meetings being instigated by the Membership Secretary, as a single source for personal details.

In more detail - the Trustees are extremely proud of the way RAG has functioned throughout 2022. The positive approach taken by the Trustees in 2020 and 2021 ensured RAG's programme of meetings were maintained, and, indeed, built on by the introduction of the Astrophotography Special Interest Group (SIG). This was achieved by the introduction of holding 'online' meetings via Microsoft Teams.

This has been built on and increased in 2022 with all meetings being both 'online' and held 'in person' at RFC. The introduction of the new website in 2021 has been a great success, and RAG has received a major increase in interest, and contact from the general public and potential new members.

In practice, Membership this year has increased significantly.

The Trustees are proud to report that there have been a number of specific achievements this year. Some of these are detailed in other parts of this Report, but are itemised here to report their overall significance.

During 2022 we have achieved the following:

January - the continuation of the the provision of bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences' - private events for specific groups of the public, begun in October 2021.

- April - the decision to reinstate the original numbers when using the Observatory, while maintaining caution, for safe practice.
- June - held an 'Observatory Open Day' as part of Rosliston Forestry Centre's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- June /July - the decision to create an 'Exhibition' of Astrophotography Images 'donated' by members in the Astrophotography SIG, with a twofold purpose
 - to publicise the work of RAG
 - to create a potential 'sales' outlet, to contribute to the Phase 2 fundraising for the bank of telescopes.
- October - hosted RAG's first Course: 'An Introduction to Astrophotography'

The completion of the build in its entirety in 2020 marked the completion of Phase One of the Observatory Project. With storage facilities now available, Phase Two is to fund and purchase a bank of Telescopes plus accessories, to be used as 'training' Scopes, both on and off site, to facilitate 'hands on' practical experience for the various community groups. During 2022 Bids have been submitted to various grant awarding bodies. To date these have proved unsuccessful.

Following the pandemic many of these grant awarding bodies have adapted their eligibility criteria to encompass supporting the various community initiatives for recovery post pandemic. As external funding is currently difficult to obtain, the Trustees have supported the suggestion by the Astrophotography SIG, to use some of their images to create a source of 'sales' to contribute to the Phase Two fundraising for the bank of Telescopes. This is a long term project that will raise money, with all sales going to the Phase Two fund once the initial monetary outlay for printing and mounting has been repaid.

Monies have been received from external sources however, namely £150 from the RFC Platinum Jubilee fund, and £268.50 comprising donations from various 'outreach' groups and from bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences'.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the members of Rosliston Astronomy Group for the level of commitment they have continued to demonstrate this year. Every event that RAG holds for the public benefit depends on members' voluntary attendance, and willingness to share both their knowledge and their personal equipment with members of the Public of all ages. Their support has always readily been available.

In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Members for their continued support for the fundraising activities undertaken by RAG to help fund the Observatory Project. Their willingness to make small donations on a regular basis during Club Meetings also plays an important part in maintaining the Observatory Fund.

Trustees are extremely grateful to the Membership for their generous response to the two RAG Christmas Appeals made because of the lack of funding opportunities throughout 2020, and the majority of 2021 caused by the pandemic. A return to a regular programme of 'in person' meetings, and the removal of restrictions, have led the Trustees to decide

not to make a request for a Christmas Appeal in 2022. However, donations by Members responding to the 2021 Christmas Appeal continued to be received through January 2022 - these totalled £555.

Financial Review

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions carried out during the year can be found in the Financial Statement and its accompanying Notes.

This year, the focus of financial awareness to support the key objectives of the Charity, for the public benefit, namely by

- ii) maintaining the ongoing functions and activities of the Charity, and
 - iii) investing in the future outcome of a successful build
- has been actively reinstated.

Consequently there has been increased activity in the Community Account, with the majority of spend being directly related to the Observatory, and annual background expenditure e.g. Buildings Insurance for the Observatory, and Public Liability Insurance.

RAG uses two Accounts - a Business Community Account and an Active Saver Account. The Business Community Account holds predominantly unrestricted funds catering for the day to day transactions. This year unrestricted receipts totalled £2154.80 and unrestricted expenditure £1774.62.

The Active Saver Account holds monies accumulated from successful bids to various Grant Awarding bodies, and formal Donations made by external sources. All the funds held in this Account are designated monies. Previously, some Grants, and donations have been received with 'open' targets but still within the capital build requirement, and others have been for specific stages of the build or items of equipment.

This year, as was the case last year, although applied for, no Grants have been received - see above regarding Phase Two.

This year designated receipts totalled £2510.50. Designated expenditure totalled £1027.07

This Account also includes identified monies 'ring-fenced' for use as the 'Observatory Fund'. These are raised in small amounts, sourced by the on-going donations at Meetings, and fundraising activities, by Members. This year this amount totalled £1539, with £299 of this donated specifically by Members. The remaining amount was raised by sales of Astrophotography images, and payments for attendance at the Course: 'An introduction to Astrophotography' presented by experienced Members of the Astrophotography Special Interest Group (SiG).

This year's reduced expenditure in the Active Saver Account was expected as the majority of the monies have been held in this Account for the specific purpose of funding the construction of, and equipping, the Observatory. As the build has progressed and reached completion monies have been released accordingly. Activity in the Account in 2021 was reduced even more as restrictions for most of the year prevented any working parties meeting at the Observatory with the resultant lack of expenditure on materials, etc. Working Parties have resumed in 2022, but with the emphasis on external ground maintenance, weeding and grass cutting, etc. and work on the Observatory Dome

focussing on improving the shutter functions. Consequently, as the work has been labour intensive with little or no cost for materials, then the AS Account has not been used.

The Business Community Account had also had a significant reduction in activity during the period of restrictions caused by the pandemic. This led the Trustees, as part of their strategic duties, to review this situation in light of the potential for 'online' meetings to continue in the future, and the decision was taken in 2021 that should this be the case 'online' meetings would carry an entrance fee, as for attendance at 'indoor' meetings. This was planned for implementation in January 2022.

This decision was carried through for all those taking part in meetings 'online', who have used bank transfer to pay for each meeting attended since January 2022.

Reserves Policy

RAG has a policy for the unrestricted element of the Business Community Account, whenever possible, to maintain a balance of £500, as a minimum. This is to cover emergencies should they arise from time to time. This year this was achieved throughout the year.

There is no such expectation in the Active Saver Account as the monies held in this Account have been sourced from various grants, awards and identified donations to fund specific aspects of the Observatory Project and its maintenance, and, therefore, 100% of these monies are for designated targets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rosliston Astronomy Group is a 'micro' Charity, managed by six Trustees drawn from, and elected by, the RAG Membership. RAG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that gained Charity status on 11th October, 2017, and is governed by a Constitution, which is reviewed annually at the AGM in March.

Prior to them taking up their roles, and during the first few months in office, new Trustees take note of various guidance documents produced by the Charity Commission, setting out their roles and responsibilities, namely guidance on overall duties (CC3), financial management (CC8, CC12), fundraising (CC20), guidance on Safeguarding, and documents setting out guidance on understanding the Public Benefit requirement. This is not a finite list, and Trustee 'training' is ongoing.

The Trustees form the overarching tier of management. However, as described at the outset of this Report, although RAG has been a Charity only since October 2017, we have existed as an amateur Astronomy Group (Club) for twenty three years. Consequently, the original Club element has an established Committee that manages the day to day actions of the Group. This Committee comprises a Chair and Vice-Chair, a Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Technical Manager, Membership Secretary, Events Co-ordinator, Welfare Officer (that incorporates Safeguarding), a Website Manager, a Training Officer, and an Observatory Manager.

As reported in previous Annual Reports, to enable this Committee to continue to manage the day to day running, and the individual post holders to carry out their roles efficiently, as one of their first duties in 2017, the Trustees produced a 'Delegation of Powers' document setting out the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Committee. One of

The Trustees have approved this Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees for Rosliston Astronomy Group, by:

Signature:



Signature:



Name: Mr Edwin Mann
Position: Chair of Trustees

Name: Mr Stephen Holden
Position: Trustee

Date:

7/10/23

Date:

6/10/23

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP (Reg. Charity Number 1175118)
Analysis of Accounts and Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2022

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNTS:

Year 2022

	B/fwd	£ 4429.33
RECEIPTS:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds
Monthly Meetings (Entrance)	894.80	
Annual Memberships	1260.00	
Internal Donations - Meetings (Obsy Fund)		199.00
Internal Donations - Individuals (Obsy Fund)		100.00
Major Grants		150.00 (RFC Jubilee)
Fundraising - specific (AP Course/Prints)		1240.00
External / Outreach donations		268.50 (incl. Science Fest.)
Miscellaneous		0.00
Christmas Appeal		555.00
	<u>2154.80</u>	<u>2510.50</u>
Total Receipts:		<u>4665.30</u>

EXPENDITURE:

Speakers	590.00	
Zurich (Charities) Ins (Obsy+PLI)	238.08	
Observatory Build (Internal)		194.19 (incl. Lease)
Website / Wi-Fi	289.45	
Refreshments	227.65	
Stationery/printing/etc.	127.62	
Other	141.58	
Miscellaneous	160.24	
	<u>1774.62</u>	<u>1027.07</u>
Total Expenditure:		<u>2801.69</u>

Total Receipts	4665.30
Total Expenditure	2801.69

Profit for year: £ 1863.61

Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2022

Balance at 31/12/2021	4429.33	Represented by:	
Profit for the Year	1861.61	1) Bank A/c Business Community.	3843.34
Interest	0.24	2) Bank A/c Active Saver	884.29
Balance at 31/12/2022	6293.18	3) Plus: Active Saver Interest	0.24
		4) Fundraising	835.00
		5) Cash in Hand	<u>730.31</u>
		GRAND TOTAL:	<u>£ 6293.18</u>

Assets: (i) Various items of secondhand equipment to the approximate value of £2,500
(ii) Observatory Building

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS and BALANCE SHEET FOR 2022

Approved by the Trustees of Rosliston Astronomy Group.

They have been signed on behalf of the Trustees, and the RAG Membership, by:

Signature(1)



Signature(2)



Mr Ed Mann - Chair of Trustees

Mr Stephen Holden - Trustee

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Registered Charity Number 1175118)

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st. December, 2022

Notes:

1. The financial statement has been prepared using the Receipts & Payments format. Rosliston Astronomy Group (RAG) is a small Charity, and is below the Charities Act's audit threshold.
2. RAG uses two Accounts, a Business Community Account, and an Active Saver Account.
 - a) The Business Community Account, functions like a Current Account, holding monies that are predominantly unrestricted and, therefore, cater for RAG's day to day transactions.

There is one amount of monies identified within this Account that is 'ring fenced' to form the Observatory Fund. These monies are accumulated on a day to day basis from small amounts gained through Members' donations at Meetings and Members' fundraising activities.
 - b) The Active Saver Account holds monies that are being accumulated from successful bids to Grant Awarding bodies that have been awarded for specific purposes, and larger donations made by external sources. The largest amount was for the capital build in general, and this reduced considerably in 2019 as the construction and the fitting out of the Observatory progressed. During the overall fundraising other smaller grants have been for specific aspects within the build e.g. purchase of the interactive screen. These can only be used for those purposes identified in the Grant and have been held until that stage in the construction has been reached and completed. These have now been used for the appropriate items.

Although applied for, for Stage 2 - the purchase of a 'bank' of mobile telescopes for our Outreach work, no grants were received during 2022. Thus Stage 2 has not yet been achieved.
 - c) The Observatory Fund represents accumulated small donations and fundraising activities, carried out within RAG, and currently identified and held within the Business Community Account.

Now the main construction is complete it is the purpose of these monies to form a basis to fund the maintenance of the building, and for which further grants for specific issues, and items of equipment, will be applied for, and added. Such grants will be held in the Active Saver Account.
3. a) Currently, RAG has a small amount of equipment as assets.

In addition, for the public benefit, RAG's intentions have been realised - to build an Observatory with an attached Warm Room in which to present courses and meetings for various Community Groups, schools,

scouts/guides, etc.; and the provision of storage facilities to be able to build up a bank of training equipment for 'hands on' experience.

RAG hosted the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory on 14th March, 2020. This marked the culmination of a major fundraising initiative that began in 2014.

- b) Stage one fundraising targets were achieved, and Contractors began construction of the Observatory in November 2018. RAG took possession of the building on schedule in late Spring 2019 – 12th April, 2019. Since 'handover of the 'shell', RAG Members have given a significant amount of voluntary hours, carrying out various external works, and fitting out the internal areas comprising Dome, Warm Room, and storage facilities. Following the prolonged shutdown, once Covid restrictions were eased, in the latter quarter of 2021, and throughout 2022, more volunteer hours have been spent working on the shutter and camera set-ups.
 - c) RAG agreed a contract with the Contractor for payment for the build to be on a Stage Payment basis. This was completed in April 2019.
 - d) RAG has an agreed Lease with South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) for the land on which the building stands. This is being paid annually at a peppercorn rate of £1. The fifth payment to SDDC was made in October 2022.
4. a) Assets, recognised but not valued individually in the Statement of Accounts, have an approximate value of £2,500.
- b) These comprise items of secondhand equipment, namely various types of telescope and a selection of other smaller items of equipment that go with these telescopes. The items vary in condition and age. They have been acquired, 'ad hoc', over the period of twenty three years the Club has been in existence, donated by Club members or their relatives, and by the General Public.
 - c) Currently, until the Observatory had been completed, and subsequently, for the storage facilities to be made available/accessible following the easing of the Government restrictions, these items are being 'stored' by named members of the Committee, mainly by the Equipment Manager, who holds the definitive list.
 - d) As these items have not been 'selected' regarding their suitability for Training purposes, for use to provide 'hands on' experience in public groups, or as items suitably easy to set up to enable them to be used as 'Loan' items for members new to Astronomy – in 2018 the Trustees, having due regard to the public benefit, and to rationalise the situation, agreed the following:
 - i) to mandate the Equipment Manager to carry out an audit to identify items that are either to be retained, or that are surplus to requirement and need to be disposed of, and to receive the results of this audit at a future Trustees' Meeting. The results of this Audit were received by the Trustees at their Meeting in February 2019.

- ii) to agree the disposal of the identified items, with due regard to RAG's Equipment Development Plan, and following the financial procedures as set out in the 'Delegation of Powers' for the RAG Committee i.e. delegated responsibilities for sales/purchases of items £100 and below.
 - iii) to receive a Draft 'Policy for the Acceptance of Items of Equipment that are Offered as a Donation or Option to Purchase'. This Policy was received accepted, and formalised at their Meeting in February 2019.
- e) The Government restrictions in place to address the pandemic have deemed it necessary for further Sales of unsuitable items identified in the Audit to be put on hold, until a suitable window presents itself. This situation has continued to the end of 2022.

RAG TAR 2022

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1175118

Accounts

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Reg. Charity Number 1175118)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the period - 1st January, 2021 to 31st December, 2021

Aims and Purposes

Rosliston Astronomy Group, abbreviated to RAG for ease of reference, is an amateur Astronomy Group with a membership of around sixty, and with a small, but very enthusiastic and active, Junior Members' section. Although RAG is a relatively new Charity, having been granted status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in October 2017, as a Club the group has been in existence since October 1999. Throughout this time we have been committed to delivering an 'outreach' programme for all age ranges of the General Public, promoting the advancement of education in both the theory and practice of Astronomy.

Our regular Meetings are based at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in South Derbyshire, on the border with Staffordshire, and our membership and the members of the public attending our regular Meetings and one off events are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas of South Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and adjacent sections of the West Midlands, with occasional visitors from wider afield.

Objectives and Activities

As a CIO our objectives are twofold:

- i) promoting, in general, scientific topics, by providing facilities for active participation particularly, but not exclusively, in astronomical observation, and
- (ii) assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their educational programme for members of the general public, by providing guidance, practical activities, and information on all matters relating to astronomy in its many aspects.

RAG continues to be committed to enabling as many people as possible to experience the 'Wow' factor when they observe the wonders of the night sky, a galaxy, a solar flare or sunspot, at first hand. We believe in encouraging lifelong learning, and helping everyone to appreciate the value of having a knowledge of Astronomy, to whatever level, and its place in the world around them.

As was the case in 2020, the year 2021 has been very difficult for RAG. Like most other organisations, the implications triggered by the procedures put in place by the Government in its management of the Covid-19 pandemic have continued to prove extremely challenging. As in other years, it was RAG's intention to continue to assist Rosliston Forestry Centre in their weekend Science Days, providing the Astronomy element, including Solar observation, active radio astronomy, and examples and explanations of deep sky astrophotography. Our members were also hoping to provide the Astronomy element at Rosliston Forestry Centre's two 'Night Watch' Events. The extended period of 'lockdown' involving restrictions on holding meetings indoors, and the restrictions on the numbers of people able to meet as a group outdoors once such

meetings were again allowed part way through the year, resulted in much of this planning being either cancelled completely or changed in its method of delivery.

Every 'outreach' event offered by RAG involves a number of Members, providing a range of activities for members of the public to take part in. These activities are free, and accessible to everyone. Members are 'on hand', both inside and out, to provide guidance, encouragement, further explanation, provide background knowledge, and extend the public awareness of the wonders of Astronomy generally.

This year providing practical experiences in observing Solar activity, and/or the night sky were not possible given the restrictions on close proximity and the sharing of equipment. Not all RAG links to the public had to be stopped, however. In May 2021 the Rosliston Environmental Team hosted a 'Night Watch' event, engaging the Public 'online' using Microsoft Teams. RAG contributed to this event.

Later in the year, once restrictions were eased, a second 'Night Watch' event was held, this time on site. RAG contributed by providing Talks and telescope exhibits, but were unable to 'share' equipment for practical observing, for safety and social distancing reasons.

In addition, during the year, RAG's 'outreach' support for specific community groups was also able to continue, but 'online' and so within Government guidelines, although this provision was limited. RAG engaged with three Cub-Scout groups, 'online' via 'Zoom', to facilitate them being able to achieve their Astronomy Badges.

Towards the end of the year, once restrictions for holding indoor meetings had eased, RAG was able to host a Scout Group for their Astronomy Badges, which included use of the Observatory.

In normal circumstances, in addition to our 'one-off' outreach events, RAG holds a regular series of general meetings through the year, twice every month, Mid-Month and End of Month. These meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members, and are publicised on the RAG website Calendar, Facebook, by Rosliston Forestry Centre's Environmental Education Team, the Rosliston Forestry Centre's website and Centre Information booklets, specific Leaflets at the Centre, and in the Local 'What's On'.

In 2020, immediately Government restrictions were implemented across the country Trustees had acted to find a way to engage members, and to maintain activity within the Club. They decided to encourage members to adopt Microsoft Teams as a means to promote Meetings, and for Trustees to be able to 'meet' to carry out their duties in strategic management. RAG was recognised as a Charity by Teams, and was allocated an account enabling unrestricted 'meeting time' without financial outlay.

The Trustees are proud to report that these 'online' Mid Month, End of Month Meetings, Astrophotography, and Trustee Meetings have continued in 2021, with no meetings during the year being cancelled.

To further engage our Members during 'online' only meetings, our programme of Guest Speakers was able to be increased, providing one Speaker 'online' each month, with minimal financial impact overall.

The Trustees commend the Membership for their willingness to adopt online meetings, which for some was a challenge in the first instance. The data protection element has continued to be maintained by all meetings being instigated by the Membership Secretary, as a single source for personal details.

As the year progressed and restrictions on holding meetings outdoors were eased, RAG reinstated an 'outdoor only' Observing Meeting in June and July, implementing the 'Rule of Six' with all the required procedures.

Once restrictions on holding meetings 'indoors' were eased Trustees met, and agreed that General and Astrophotography Special Interest Group meetings could be reinstated in September, but with limited numbers, spaced seating, own refreshments, etc. They also assessed the available 'space' in the Observatory, and decided to limit adult numbers for a meeting, etc. to eight at any one time, and ten for children. Trustees, too, returned to meeting 'in person', and held their Committee Meeting in September at The Peter Bolas Observatory.

The easing of restrictions enabled RAG to introduce a number of 'firsts', most notably of these being the annual flagship event, The Peter Bolas Lecture held in October. Instead of its usual Lecture format, Trustees agreed to hold the first RAG Barbeque - this was an 'outdoor only' event enabling Members still wary of 'indoor' meetings to attend. It was a great success, leading to plans for a repeat during the summer of 2022.

Another 'first' was the provision of bespoke 'Stargazing Experiences' - private events for specific groups of the public. These were as a response to requests made, to provide a 'gift experience' for a birthday, anniversary, or just to gain awareness of Astronomy.

Trustees decided that as these are bespoke events, private to each group the event should carry a small charge, which would go directly into the Observatory Fund within the Accounts. The first of these took place in October, with others booked for 2022.

Achievements and Performance

RAG's 'Outreach' Programme is well established, and well received, reaching in excess of 500 members of the public, across the full age range during 2019 i.e. the last time we were able to assess over a full year of public events. Having due regard to the Charity Commission's documents on 'public benefit', Trustees have continued their initiative begun in 2018, and have spent time analysing and discussing future events and activities, monitoring the effects of the pandemic on the work of the Charity, and with particular emphasis on identifying effective evaluation and added value, and how this could be maintained during the period of restriction, and towards the end of 2021 involving 'in person' meetings and 'online'.

In more detail - the Trustees are extremely proud of the way RAG has functioned throughout 2021.

Although the arrival of the pandemic and all the consequences that this imposed across the country in 2020, and which continued to halt the majority of RAG's planned programme for 2021, the Trustees are particularly proud to report that, although different, the restrictions did not prevent RAG continuing a programme of meetings online for its members, and to a limited extent links were continued with other agencies.

Regarding Membership, this year as in 2020, RAG maintained a number of potential new members by inviting them to join our 'online' meetings.

Even though RAG has been unable to function fully for the second consecutive year, the Trustees are proud to report that there have been a number of specific achievements.

Some of these are detailed in other parts of this Report, but are itemised here to report their overall significance.

During 2021 we have achieved the following:

April - the launch of the new Website

June /July - the reinstatement and management of outside Group Observing sessions, following Government guidelines for safe practice.

September - the reinstatement and management of 'indoor' meetings, following Government guidelines for safe practice.

Throughout 2021 - that RAG has successfully continued to function as a Society when many other similar Organisations have 'shut down temporarily, or closed permanently. and that no scheduled RAG meetings have been cancelled, but have taken place either online or in person once permitted later in the year.

Now the Observatory building has been completed, it comprises the Observatory Dome housing the two main telescopes; storage facilities; and a Warm Room that could seat 20-25 people, or 8-10 wheelchair users, in a safe environment with all its advantages, able to observe as a group using an interactive screen linked to the main scope in the Dome. However, responding to the pandemic, with due regard to maintaining a safe environment for everyone, the Trustees have carried out a Risk Assessment which has required these proposed numbers to be reduced to less than half.

In practise, as the Government ban on indoor meetings continued for much of 2021 all meetings and events involving communal interaction 'in person' had to be cancelled for most of the year. Implications of this has meant that actual use of The Peter Bolas Observatory for the purposes for which it was built have had to be put 'on hold' throughout 2021, apart from basic awareness tours for limited numbers towards the end of the year.

The completion of the build in its entirety in 2020 marked the completion of Phase One of the Observatory Project. With storage facilities now available, Phase Two is to fund and purchase a bank of Telescopes plus accessories, to be used as 'training' Scopes, both on and off site, to facilitate 'hands on' practical experience for the various community groups. During 2021 Bids have been submitted to various grant awarding bodies. To date these have proved unsuccessful.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the members of Rosliston Astronomy Group for the level of commitment they have continued to demonstrate this year. Every event that RAG holds for the public benefit depends on members' voluntary attendance, and willingness to share both their knowledge and their personal equipment with members of the Public of all ages. Although this has only been possible for the last three months of the year, support has always been readily available.

In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Members for their continued support for the fundraising activities undertaken by RAG to help fund the Observatory Project. Their willingness to make small donations on a regular basis during Club Meetings also plays an important part in maintaining the Observatory Fund. This year opportunities for this

has been put on hold. For the majority of the year there were no indoor meetings, and since these have been reinstated the emphasis has been for Members to return and benefit by the camaraderie the Club generates.

As RAG had no opportunity for monetary input until September, and then for only three Mid-Month Meetings and two End of Month Meetings, Trustees are extremely grateful to the Membership for their generous response to the second RAG Christmas Appeal made because of the lack of funding throughout the year. The first Appeal was made last year. This year the Christmas Appeal raised £480 up to the end of December 2021 through numerous donations.

Financial Review

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions carried out during the year can be found in the Financial Statement and its accompanying Notes.

This year, as in 2020, the focus of financial awareness to support the key objectives of the Charity, for the public benefit, namely by

- ii) maintaining the ongoing functions and activities of the Charity, and
 - iii) investing in the future outcome of a successful build
- have been seriously curtailed.

As the law has prevented RAG holding public meetings of any kind until September, for the majority of the year our outreach duties have had to be put 'on hold', other than the 'online' provision previously described. RAG contributed to the reinstated 'Night Watch' Event hosted by the Rosliston Environmental Team in October, but this was provided voluntarily by Members and had no cost to the Club. Our one 'outreach' activity that did incur costs was the Scout evening in October.

Consequently there has been very little activity in the Community Account, with the majority of spend being directly related to the Observatory, and annual background expenditure e.g. Buildings Insurance for the Observatory, and Public Liability Insurance. Trustees have needed to redirect their attention to ensuring RAG has been able to remain a viable organisation during the period of inactivity during the pandemic.

RAG uses two Accounts - a Business Community Account and an Active Saver Account. The Business Community Account holds predominantly unrestricted funds catering for the day to day transactions. This year unrestricted receipts totalled £1497.50 and unrestricted expenditure £ 601.78.

The Active Saver Account holds monies accumulated from successful bids to various Grant Awarding bodies, and formal Donations made by external sources. All the funds held in this Account are designated monies. Some Grants, and donations have been received with 'open' targets but still within the capital build requirement, and others have been for specific stages of the build or items of equipment.

This year, although applied for, no Grants have been received - see above regarding Phase Two.

This year designated receipts totalled £ 856.65. Designated expenditure totalled £ 301.72

This Account also includes identified monies 'ring-fenced' for use as the 'Observatory Fund'. These are raised in small amounts, sourced by the on-going donations at

Meetings, and fundraising activities, by Members. This year this amount totalled £ 376.65, with £ 34.85 of this donated specifically by Members.

This year's reduced expenditure in the Active Saver Account was expected as the majority of the monies have been held in this Account for the specific purpose of funding the construction of, and equipping, the Observatory. As the build has progressed and reached completion monies have been released accordingly. Following 'handover' in April 2019, the remaining monies have been used to fund materials required for final fittings, decoration, and security. In addition, as the building has become ready to install them, we have purchased specific items of equipment identified by designated Grants e.g. the interactive screen. Consequently, totals reduced significantly in 2019 in readiness for the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory in March 2020.

Activity in the Account in 2021 has been even more reduced as restrictions for most of the year prevented any working parties meeting at the Observatory with the resultant lack of expenditure on materials, etc.

A major factor in the reduced amount of Bank Account activity generally during 2020 and continued through 2021 has been the lack of income received since March 2020 caused by the extended period of Government restrictions nationally, and RAG's inability to hold meetings other than 'online' via Microsoft Teams. Similarly, expenditure has also been reduced.

As part of their strategic duties Trustees have reviewed this situation in light of the potential for 'online' meetings to continue in the future, and the decision has been taken that should this be the case 'online' meetings would carry an entrance fee, as for attendance at 'indoor' meetings. This is planned for implementation in January 2022.

Reserves Policy

RAG has a policy for the unrestricted element of the Business Community Account, whenever possible, to maintain a balance of £500, as a minimum. This is to cover emergencies should they arise from time to time. This year this was achieved throughout the year.

There is no such expectation in the Active Saver Account as the monies held in this Account have been sourced from various grants, awards and identified donations to fund specific aspects of the Observatory Project and its maintenance, and, therefore, 100% of these monies are for designated targets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rosliston Astronomy Group is a 'micro' Charity, managed by six Trustees drawn from, and elected by, the RAG Membership. RAG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that gained Charity status on 11th October, 2017, and is governed by a Constitution, which is reviewed annually.

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As reported in previous Annual Reports, to enable this Committee to continue to manage the day to day running, and the individual post holders to carry out their roles efficiently, as one of their first duties in 2017, the Trustees produced a 'Delegation of Powers' document setting out the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Committee. One of these delegated powers refers to the Committee being able to take decisions on the sale or purchase of items up to the value of £100. Amounts above £100 need to be referred to the Trustees for agreement.

The RAG Committee reports to the Trustees. Meetings are minuted, and are then received by the Trustees at their next Meeting. In 2020, following 'lockdown' and the 'in person' element of the Club shut down, the Committee role became less active. Subsequent meetings were held as joint 'online' meetings with the Trustees to cover specific agenda items, using Microsoft Teams. Similarly, as there have only been five indoor Meetings towards the end of the year, and one outdoor BBQ, the Committee roles have not yet been fully restored, as the necessary decisions regarding Risk Assessments, etc. have been taken by the Trustees.

This year the Trustees have also needed their meetings to be in two formats. At the beginning, and for the majority of 2021, with the continuation of Government restrictions regarding 'indoor meetings', all Trustee meetings were held via Microsoft Teams. The Treasurer reports to the Trustees at each Meeting.

This year has required the Trustees to hold three meetings 'online' with specific agenda items. Trustees have also held one joint meeting with the RAG Committee.

For continuity purposes, the Constitution states that, wherever possible, two of the Trustees should also be members of the RAG Committee. This year this has been complied with, by both Mr Mann and Mr Rufo holding elected roles on the Committee.

Administrative Information

Rosliston Astronomy Group hold their Meetings at Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton Road, Rosliston, South Derbyshire, DE12 8JX. However, RAG has no strategic 'base' at the Centre. The correspondence address for the Group is Cedar House, Burton Road, Streethay, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8LS.

During the period of Government restriction on public gatherings due to Covid-19, from March 2020 through 2021, meetings have been held 'online' via Microsoft Teams. Meetings held indoors were reinstated in September 2021.

The Charity is managed by six Trustees.

The Constitution sets out the Terms of Office for each of the Trustees on a rolling programme, with two Trustees being required to stand down each year at the AGM. Last

year as the Government restrictions for Covid-19 presented unprecedented challenges for RAG, for an unknown period of time, Trustees took the decision to keep the experienced Trustees in office in the interests of continuity. Consequently the programme for Trustee review was deferred until the AGM in March 2021.

The 2021 AGM was held 'online' via Microsoft Teams, and took place on 26th March, 2021. At the Meeting the two Trustees stepping down from Office were Mr. Ed Mann and Mr. Adam Cheetham. Both had been nominated to stand again, and had indicated a willingness to do so. As there were no other nominations Mr Mann and Mr Cheetham were re-elected unopposed for a further term of office.

The names of the Trustees who have managed the Charity for the period covered by the Annual Report, are:

Mr Edwin Mann - Chair
Mr Adam Cheetham
Mr Geoff Dryland
Mr Stephen Holden
Mr Robert Leonard
Mr Nicholas Rufo

The Trustees have approved this Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees for Rosliston Astronomy Group, by:

Signature:



Signature:



Name: Mr Edwin Mann
Position: Chair of Trustees

Name: Mr Stephen Holden
Position: Trustee

Mr Stephen Holden - Trustee

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Registered Charity Number 1175118)

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st. December, 2021

Notes:

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 - b) The Active Saver Account holds monies that are being accumulated from successful bids to Grant Awarding bodies that have been awarded for specific purposes, and larger donations made by external sources. The largest amount was for the capital build in general, and this reduced considerably in 2019 as the construction and the fitting out of the Observatory progressed. During the overall fundraising other smaller grants have been for specific aspects within the build e.g. purchase of the interactive screen. These can only be used for those purposes identified in the Grant and have been held until that stage in the construction has been reached and completed. These have now been used for the appropriate items.

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Now the main construction is complete it is the purpose of these monies to form a basis to fund the maintenance of the building, and for which further grants for specific issues, and items of equipment, will be applied for, and added. Such grants will be held in the Active Saver Account.
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RAG hosted the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory on 14th March, 2020. This marked the culmination of a major fundraising initiative that began in 2014.

- b) Stage one fundraising targets were achieved, and Contractors began construction of the Observatory in November 2018. RAG took possession of the building on schedule in late Spring 2019 – 12th April, 2019. Since 'handover of the 'shell', RAG Members have given a significant amount of voluntary hours, carrying out various external works, and fitting out the internal areas comprising Dome, Warm Room, and storage facilities. Following the prolonged shutdown, once Covid restrictions were eased, in the latter quarter of the year, more volunteer hours have been spent working on the shutter and camera set-ups.
 - c) RAG agreed a contract with the Contractor for payment for the build to be on a Stage Payment basis. This was completed in April 2019.
 - d) RAG has an agreed Lease with South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) for the land on which the building stands. This is being paid annually at a peppercorn rate of £1. The fourth payment to SDDC was made in October 2021.
4. a) Assets, recognised but not valued individually in the Statement of Accounts, have an approximate value of £2,500.
- b) These comprise items of secondhand equipment, namely various types of telescope and a selection of other smaller items of equipment that go with these telescopes. The items vary in condition and age. They have been acquired, 'ad hoc', over the period of twenty two years the Club has been in existence, donated by Club members or their relatives, and by the General Public.
 - c) Currently, until the Observatory had been completed, and subsequently, for the storage facilities to be made available/accessible following the easing of the Government restrictions, these items are being 'stored' by named members of the Committee, mainly by the Equipment Manager, who holds the definitive list.
 - d) As these items have not been 'selected' regarding their suitability for Training purposes, for use to provide 'hands on' experience in public groups, or as items suitably easy to set up to enable them to be used as 'Loan' items for members new to Astronomy – in 2018 the Trustees, having due regard to the public benefit, and to rationalise the situation, agreed the following:
 - i) to mandate the Equipment Manager to carry out an audit to identify items that are either to be retained, or that are surplus to requirement and need to be disposed of, and to receive the results of this audit at a future Trustees' Meeting. The results of this Audit were received by the Trustees at their Meeting in February 2019.
 - ii) to agree the disposal of the identified items, with due regard to RAG's Equipment Development Plan, and following the financial procedures as set out in the 'Delegation of Powers' for the RAG Committee i.e. delegated responsibilities for sales/purchases of items £100 and below.

- iii) to receive a Draft 'Policy for the Acceptance of Items of Equipment that are Offered as a Donation or Option to Purchase'. This Policy was received and accepted at their Meeting in February 2019.
- e) The Government restrictions in place to address the pandemic have deemed it necessary for further Sales of unsuitable items identified in the Audit to be put on hold, until a suitable window presents itself.
This situation has continued to the end of 2021.

RAG TAR 2021

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1175118

Accounts

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Reg. Charity Number 1175118)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the period - 1st January, 2020 to 31st December, 2020

Aims and Purposes

Rosliston Astronomy Group, abbreviated to RAG for ease of reference, is an amateur Astronomy Group with a membership of around fifty, and with a small, but very enthusiastic and active, Junior Members' section. Although RAG is a relatively new Charity, having been granted status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in October 2017, as a Club the group has been in existence since October 1999. Throughout this time we have been committed to delivering an 'outreach' programme for all age ranges of the General Public, promoting the advancement of education in both the theory and practice of Astronomy.

Our regular Meetings are based at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in South Derbyshire, on the border with Staffordshire, and our membership and the members of the public attending our regular Meetings and one off events are mainly drawn from the surrounding areas of South Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and adjacent sections of the West Midlands, with occasional visitors from wider afield.

Objectives and Activities

As a CIO our objectives are twofold:

- i) promoting, in general, scientific topics, by providing facilities for active participation particularly, but not exclusively, in astronomical observation, and
- (ii) assisting Rosliston Forestry Centre in their educational programme for members of the general public, by providing guidance, practical activities, and information on all matters relating to astronomy in its many aspects.

RAG continues to be committed to enabling as many people as possible to experience the 'Wow' factor when they observe the wonders of the night sky, a galaxy, a solar flare or sunspot, at first hand. We believe in encouraging lifelong learning, and helping everyone to appreciate the value of having a knowledge of Astronomy, to whatever level, and its place in the world around them.

The year 2020 has been very difficult for RAG. Like most other organisations, the implications triggered by the procedures put in place by the Government in its management of the Covid-19 pandemic have proved extremely challenging. This year it was RAG's intention to continue to assist Rosliston Forestry Centre in their weekend Science Days, providing the Astronomy element, including Solar observation, active radio astronomy, and examples and explanations of deep sky astrophotography. Our members were also expecting to provide the Astronomy element at Rosliston Forestry Centre's two 'Night World' Events. The extended period of 'lockdown' involving prolonged isolation nationally resulted in all such planning being cancelled.

Every 'outreach' event offered by RAG involves a number of Members, providing a range of activities for members of the public to take part in. These activities are free, and accessible to everyone. Members are 'on hand', both inside and out, to provide guidance, encouragement, further explanation, provide background knowledge, and extend the public awareness of the wonders of Astronomy generally.

Implementation of the period of isolation, and the Government restrictions on public meetings in March 2020 meant that the programme for 'outreach' events to be held in their usual formats, scheduled from March onwards, had to be cancelled.

Government restrictions did not prevent all RAG links to the public to be stopped, however. In May and October 2020 the Rosliston Environmental Team hosted two 'Night Watch' events, engaging the Public 'online' using Microsoft Teams. RAG contributed to both events.

In addition, RAG's 'outreach' support for specific community groups was also able to continue within Government guidelines, although this was limited. RAG engaged with two Cub-Scout groups, 'online' via 'Zoom', to facilitate both groups to be able to achieve their Astronomy Badges.

In normal circumstances, in addition to our 'one-off' outreach events, RAG holds a regular series of meetings through the year, twice every month, Mid-Month and End of Month. These meetings are open to everyone, members and non-members, and are publicised on the RAG website Calendar, by Rosliston Forestry Centre's Environmental Education Team, and in the Local 'What's On'.

The planned programme of Mid-Month Meetings went ahead for January, February and March. The End of Month Meetings for January and February were also held, with Guest Speakers on Collecting Meteorites and on RAG's 18" Mirror - building the Telescope, respectively.

Immediately Government restrictions were implemented across the country Trustees acted to find a way to engage members, and to maintain activity within the Club. They decided to encourage members to adopt Microsoft Teams as a means to promote Meetings, and for Trustees to be able to 'meet' to carry out their duties in strategic management.

RAG was recognised as a Charity by Teams, and was allocated an account enabling unrestricted 'meeting time' without financial outlay.

The Trustees are proud to report that from April 2020 all previously scheduled Mid-Month and End of Month Meetings were able to continue, held via Microsoft Teams. The number of Guest Speakers were able to be increased, but with minimal financial impact. One guest speaker on Spectroscopy was 'online' from his home in Seattle.

The Trustees commend the Membership for their willingness to adopt online meetings, which for some was a challenge in the first instance. The data protection element was maintained by all meetings being instigated by the Membership Secretary, as a single source of personal details.

Achievements and Performance

RAG's 'Outreach' Programme is well established, and well received, reaching in excess of 500 members of the public, across the full age range during 2019 i.e. over a full year of public events. Having due regard to the Charity Commission's documents on 'public benefit', Trustees have continued their initiative begun in 2018, and have spent time analysing and discussing future events and activities, monitoring the effects of the pandemic on the work of the Charity, and with particular emphasis on identifying effective evaluation and added value, and how this can be maintained during the period of restriction and beyond.

In more detail - the Trustees are extremely proud of the way RAG has functioned throughout 2020. Although the arrival of the pandemic and all the consequences that this imposed across the country, halted the majority of RAG's planned programme for 2020, the Trustees are particularly proud to report that, although different, the restrictions did not prevent RAG continuing a programme of meetings online for its members, and to a limited extent links were continued with other agencies.

Regarding Membership, this year, too, we maintained a number of potential new members by inviting them to join our online meetings.

Both before the arrival of the pandemic, and during the resultant prolonged period of restriction, the year has been an important one for RAG for a number of reasons. Some of these are detailed in other parts of this Report, but are itemised here to report their overall significance.

During 2020 we have achieved the following:

13th January - successful and awarded the shared custodianship of the Space Sapling

14th March - Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory by Chief Scientist, UKSA

14th March - presented with a plaque of the Coat of Arms for South Derbyshire, by the CEO of South Derbyshire, awarded to RAG for our Partnership Working.

14th March - planting of the Space Sapling during the above ceremony.

April - the transition to holding all meetings online, and thus a continuance of our programme of meetings.

April to December - an increased programme of Guest National/International Speakers at our monthly meetings online

June - the instigation of the first Special Interest Group for Members - Astrophotography

September onwards - Trustee discussions regarding a new RAG Website

December - the first RAG Christmas Appeal, to address deficit in funding due to pandemic

On 12th April 2019 the Contractor had formally handed over the Keys to the Observatory to RAG. To acquire the shell of the Observatory was a massive achievement as it had taken so much hard work to raise the funds, and oversee the build through all its stages. Fundraising began in 2014, and culminated in the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory.

The Peter Bolas Observatory was officially opened by Chris Lee, FRAS, Chief Scientist of the UK Space Agency on 14th March, 2020.

This Opening Ceremony was attended by 100 invited guests, comprising representatives from every area that has contributed in some way to the build - namely the many grant awarding bodies, businesses, members of the public, and of course our Members. We were also pleased to welcome Mrs Bolas and her family, and civic dignitaries from South Derbyshire District Council and Burton upon Trent.

Trustees were proud to receive a plaque of the Coat of Arms for South Derbyshire, presented to RAG by the CEO for South Derbyshire, for our record of 'Partnership Working'.

This Ceremony was also significant as it was the last public event that RAG has been able to hold 'in person' in 2020, as Government restrictions to control the pandemic were introduced the following week !

Although this point was reported on last year, Trustees think it important to note that RAG had already committed to improving and extending its 'Outreach' work prior to becoming a Charity, as early as 2013, visioning funding and constructing an Observatory to enable a wider range of community groups to be able to access Astronomy more effectively e.g. disability groups, the elderly, parent and child groups, and children and adults living in local areas in the bottom 10% on the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Now the Observatory building has been completed, it comprises the Observatory Dome housing the two main telescopes; storage facilities; and a Warm Room that could seat 20-25 people, or 8-10 wheelchair users, in a safe environment with all its advantages, able to observe as a group using an interactive screen linked to the main scope in the Dome. However, responding to the pandemic,

with due regard to maintaining a safe environment for everyone, RAG has carried out a Risk Assessment which has required these proposed numbers to be reduced to less than half.

In practise, as the Government ban on indoor meetings continued beyond the end of 2020 all meetings and events involving communal interaction 'in person' had to be cancelled for the time covered by this report. Implications of this has meant that actual use of The Peter Bolas Observatory for the purposes for which it was built have had to be put 'on hold' throughout 2020, since it's Opening Ceremony in March.

The completion of the build in its entirety marks the completion of Phase One of the Observatory Project. With storage facilities now available, Phase Two is to fund and purchase a bank of Telescopes plus accessories, to be used as 'training' Scopes, both on and off site, to facilitate 'hands on' practical experience for the various community groups. During 2020 Bids were submitted to various grant awarding bodies. To date these have proved unsuccessful.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the members of Rosliston Astronomy Group for the level of commitment they have continued to demonstrate this year. Every event that RAG holds for the public benefit depends on members' voluntary attendance, and willingness to share both their knowledge and their personal equipment with members of the Public of all ages. Although this has only been possible for the first two and a half months of the year, support has always been readily available.

This year the level of voluntary involvement has more than quadrupled in the first quarter of the year, however, and has been focused on the completion of the Observatory, and reconstituting the land around the building, in readiness for the Grand Opening on 14th March, 2020.

Trustees commend the Members of RAG for the amount of work they have already achieved that will impact greatly for the public benefit once the Observatory is finally able to be used for purpose, whenever Government restrictions are eased.

Initially this work began in November 2013, involving all the preparatory work - negotiating with Forestry England, the National Forest and South Derbyshire District Council for permission to build; gaining planning permission; agreeing a site and an appropriate Lease for the land in Rosliston Forestry Centre on which to build; undertaking a massive programme of fundraising over 4 years to fund the build; and carrying out procedures to select and engage a Contractor, culminating in the strategic management of the build itself.

Following 'handover' from the Contractor in April 2019, the building has now been 'fitted out' by Members, qualified and skilled in a variety of professions, using their knowledge and skill.

The complete operation to date has required hundreds of volunteer hours operating in twos, and large and small groups on the various activities, and has complied fully with our Policy of 'No Lone Working'. The Trustees have been impressed throughout the whole venture, in parallel with this massive work commitment, with the atmosphere of camaraderie and goodwill, and the overall concept of partnership working. The final waterproofing of the Dome Room was undertaken early in 2020.

In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Members for their continued support for the fundraising activities undertaken by RAG to help fund the Observatory Project. Their willingness to make small donations on a regular basis during Club Meetings also plays an important part in maintaining the Observatory Fund. This was possible during January, February and the March Mid-Month Meeting raising £67.65, but since the Government restrictions have been in place because of the pandemic, opportunities for these donations have ceased.

As RAG has had no opportunity for monetary input since March, Trustees are extremely grateful to the Membership for their generous response to the RAG Christmas Appeal made because of the lack of funding throughout the year. The Christmas Appeal raised £ 550 up to the end of December 2020 through numerous donations.

Special Achievement

The Trustees are proud to report three such achievements.

First - the Trustees are extremely proud to report this item. RAG has always valued Partnership Working as an important element in our management of our Outreach provision, and our day to day function as a Club. This encouraged us in September 2018 to collaborate with the Environmental Education Team based at Rosliston Forestry Centre (RFC) to write and then submit a bid to the UK Space Agency. This bid, under the umbrella of South Derbyshire District Council, was to become joint custodians, of a Space Sapling germinated from pips taken from the 400 year old 'Flower of Kent' Apple Tree situated in Sir Isaac Newton's home, Woolsthorpe Manor. This tree inspired Newton to write his 'Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica', first published in 1687, that led to his world changing work on gravity. Major Tim Peake honoured this work naming his mission on the International Space Station (2015-16) the 'Principia' Mission, and taking a number of pips from the iconic tree up with him into Space to research the effects of microgravity on their germination and future development. This was called the 'Pips in Space' Project. On his return to Earth the pips were nurtured by the Laboratory, and then the Nursery at Kew. Eight pips germinated, one Sapling to be planted at Woolsthorpe Manor with its parent tree - the other seven were advertised for organisations to bid for their custodianship.

After a long selection period, in November 2019 RAG was informed that the Partnership Bid had been successful, and Rosliston Forestry Centre (RFC) would house one of only eight Space Saplings in existence. This is a massive achievement for the Partnership at RFC - with RAG providing the 'Space' aspect and the Environmental Education Team providing the arboreal links.

The Presentation Ceremony was held at Woolsthorpe Manor on 13th January, 2020. This was a high profile event, hosted by the UK Space Agency, and attended by numerous dignitaries including a Government Minister. Mr Ed Mann and Mrs Heather Lomas were honoured to represent RAG, joining two representatives of South Derbyshire District Council and the Environmental Education Team at Rosliston Forestry Centre respectively. The seven recipients were presented with their Space Saplings by Major Tim Peake.

RAG became the joint custodian of a scientifically important item, directly linked to Earth and Space, that would require monitoring into the future. The Space Sapling was officially planted at Rosliston Forestry Centre on the same day as the Grand Opening Ceremony of The Peter Bolas Observatory, on 14th March, 2020 (details given above).

Secondly - Trustees are extremely proud to report the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory - details given above.

Thirdly - Trustees are extremely proud to report that RAG has been presented with a plaque of the Coat of Arms of South Derbyshire, for our record of Partnership Working.

Financial Review

A detailed analysis of the financial transactions carried out during the year can be found in the Financial Statement and its accompanying Notes.

This year the focus of financial awareness to support the key objectives of the Charity, for the public benefit, namely by

ii) maintaining the ongoing functions and activities of the Charity, and

iii) investing in the future outcome of a successful build

have been seriously curtailed.

As the law has prevented RAG holding public meetings of any kind since March 2020, our outreach duties have had to be put 'on hold'.

Instead there has been very little activity in the Community Account, with the majority of spend being directly related to the Observatory, and annual background expenditure e.g. Buildings Insurance for the Observatory, and Public Liability Insurance.

Trustees have needed to redirect their attention to ensuring RAG has been able to remain a viable organisation during the period of inactivity during the pandemic.

RAG uses two Accounts - a Business Community Account and an Active Saver Account.

The Business Community Account holds predominantly unrestricted funds catering for the day to day transactions. This year unrestricted receipts totalled £1267.50 and unrestricted expenditure £ 621.31.

This Account also includes identified monies 'ring-fenced' for use as the 'Observatory Fund'. These are raised in small amounts, sourced by the on-going donations at Meetings, and fundraising activities, by Members. This year this amount totalled £ 187.65, with £ 67.65 of this donated specifically at meetings.

The Active Saver Account holds monies accumulated from successful bids to various Grant Awarding bodies, and formal Donations made by external sources. All the funds held in this Account are designated monies. Some Grants, and donations have been received with 'open' targets but still within the capital build requirement, and others are for specific stages of the build or items of equipment.

This year designated receipts totalled £ 757.65. Designated expenditure totalled £ 496.60.

This year's reduced expenditure in the Active Saver Account was expected as the majority of the monies have been held in this Account for the specific purpose of funding the construction of, and equipping, the Observatory. As the build has progressed and reached completion monies have been released accordingly. Following 'handover' in April 2019, the remaining monies have been used to fund materials required for final fittings, decoration, and security. In addition, as the building has become ready to install them, we have purchased specific items of equipment identified by designated Grants e.g. the interactive screen. Consequently, totals reduced significantly in 2019 in readiness for the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory in March 2020.

A major factor in the reduced amount of Bank Account activity generally during 2020 has been the lack of income received since March 2020, caused by the extended period of Government restrictions nationally, and RAG's inability to hold meetings other than 'online' via Microsoft Teams. Similarly, expenditure has also been reduced.

Reserves Policy

RAG has a policy for the unrestricted element of the Business Community Account, whenever possible, to maintain a balance of £500, as a minimum. This is to cover emergencies should they arise from time to time. This year this was achieved throughout the year.

There is no such expectation in the Active Saver Account as the monies held in this Account have been sourced from various grants, awards and identified donations to fund specific aspects of the Observatory Project, and, therefore, 100% of these monies are for designated targets.

Structure, Governance and Management

Rosliston Astronomy Group is a ‘micro’ Charity, managed by six Trustees drawn from, and elected by, the RAG Membership. RAG is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that gained Charity status on 11th October, 2017, and is governed by a Constitution, which is reviewed annually.

Prior to them taking up their roles, and during the first few months in office, new Trustees take note of various guidance documents produced by the Charity Commission, setting out their roles and responsibilities, namely guidance on overall duties (CC3), financial management (CC8, CC12), fundraising (CC20), guidance on Safeguarding, and documents setting out guidance on understanding the Public Benefit requirement. This is not a finite list, and Trustee ‘training’ is ongoing.

The Trustees form the overarching tier of management. However, as described at the outset of this Report, although RAG has been a Charity only since October 2017, we have existed as an amateur Astronomy Group (Club) for twenty one years. Consequently, the original Club element has an established Committee that manages the day to day actions of the Group. This Committee comprises a Chair and Vice-Chair, a Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Technical Manager, Membership Secretary, Events Co-ordinator, Welfare Officer (that incorporates Safeguarding), a Website Manager, two Training Officers, and a new post of Observatory Manager.

As reported in previous Reports, to enable this Committee to continue to manage the day to day running, and the individual post holders to carry out their roles efficiently, as one of their first duties in 2017, the Trustees produced a ‘Delegation of Powers’ document setting out the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Committee. One of these delegated powers refers to the Committee being able to take decisions on the sale or purchase of items up to the value of £100. Amounts above £100 need to be referred to the Trustees for agreement.

The RAG Committee reports to the Trustees. Meetings are minuted, and are then received by the Trustees at their next Meeting. This year has required meetings to be in two formats. The Committee held their first scheduled meeting in January in its usual format. In 2020, following ‘lockdown’ and the ‘in person’ element of the Club shut down, the Committee role became less active. Subsequent meetings were held as joint ‘online’ meetings with the Trustees to cover specific agenda items, using Microsoft Teams.

This year the Trustees have also needed their meetings to be in two formats. The first Meeting of the year was held ‘in person’ as usual.

All meetings after March 2020, with the implementation of Government restrictions, were held via Microsoft Teams. The Treasurer reports to the Trustees at each Meeting.

This year has required the Trustees to hold four meetings ‘online’ with specific agenda items. Trustees have also held two joint meetings with the RAG Committee.

For continuity purposes, the Constitution states that, wherever possible, two of the Trustees should also be members of the RAG Committee. This year this has been complied with, by both Mr Mann and Mr Rufo holding elected roles on the Committee.

Administrative Information

Rosliston Astronomy Group hold their Meetings at Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton Road, Rosliston, South Derbyshire, DE12 8JX. However, RAG has no strategic 'base' at the Centre. The correspondence address for the Group is Cedar House, Burton Road, Streethay, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8LS.

During the period of Government restriction on public gatherings due to Covid-19, from March 2020, meetings have been held 'online' via Microsoft Teams.

The Charity is managed by six Trustees.

The Constitution sets out the Terms of Office for each of the Trustees on a rolling programme, with two Trustees being required to stand down each year at the AGM. This year as the Government restrictions for Covid-19 presented unprecedented challenges for RAG, for an unknown period of time, Trustees took the decision to keep the experienced Trustees in office in the interests of continuity. Consequently the programme for Trustee review was deferred until the AGM in March 2021.

In addition, the vacancy that was created from 1st January, 2020, by the resignation of Mr Roger Samworth, was filled by Mr Stephen Holden, voted in by Members via Microsoft Teams on 29th May, 2020.

The names of the Trustees who have managed the Charity for the period covered by the Annual Report, are:

Mr Edwin Mann - Chair
Mr Adam Cheetham
Mr Robert Leonard
Mr Geoffrey Dryland
Mr Nicholas Rufo
Mr Stephen Holden (from 29th May, 2020)

The Trustees have approved the above Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees by:

Signature:



Name: Edwin S. Mann
Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Name: Stephen Holden
Position: Trustee

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP
(Registered Charity Number 1175118)

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st. December, 2020

Notes:

1. The financial statement has been prepared using the Receipts & Payments format. Rosliston Astronomy Group (RAG) is a small Charity, and is below the Charities Act's audit threshold.
2. RAG uses two Accounts, a Business Community Account, and an Active Saver Account.
 - a) The Business Community Account, functions like a Current Account, holding monies that are predominantly unrestricted and, therefore, cater for RAG's day to day transactions.
There is one amount of monies identified within this Account that is 'ring fenced' to form the Observatory Fund. These monies are accumulated on a day to day basis from small amounts gained through Members' donations at Meetings and Members' fundraising activities.
 - b) The Active Saver Account holds monies that are being accumulated from successful bids to Grant Awarding bodies that have been awarded for specific purposes, and larger donations made by external sources. The largest amount was for the capital build in general, and this reduced considerably in 2019 as the construction and the fitting out progressed. During the overall fundraising other smaller grants have been for specific aspects within the build e.g. purchase of the interactive screen. These can only be used for those purposes identified in the Grant and have been held until that stage in the construction has been reached and completed. These have now been used for the appropriate items.
 - c) The Observatory Fund represents accumulated small donations and fundraising activities, carried out within RAG, and currently identified and held within the Business Community Account.
Now the main construction is complete it is the purpose of these monies to form a basis to fund the maintenance of the building, and for which further grants for specific issues, and items of equipment, will be applied for, and added. Such grants will be held in the Active Saver Account.
3. a) Currently, RAG has a small amount of equipment as assets.
In addition, for the public benefit, RAG's intentions have been realised - to build an Observatory with an attached Warm Room in which to present courses and meetings for various Community Groups, schools, scouts/guides, etc.; and the provision of storage facilities to be able to build up a bank of training equipment for 'hands on' experience.
RAG hosted the Grand Opening of The Peter Bolas Observatory on 14th March, 2020. This marked the culmination of a major fundraising initiative that began in 2014.
- b) Stage one fundraising targets were achieved, and Contractors began construction of the Observatory in November 2018. RAG took possession of the building on schedule in late Spring 2019 – 12th April, 2019. Since 'handover of the 'shell', RAG Members have given in a significant amount of voluntary hours, carrying out various external works, and fitting out the internal areas comprising Dome, Warm Room, and storage facilities.

- c) RAG agreed a contract with the Contractor for payment for the build to be on a Stage Payment basis. This was completed in April 2019.
 - d) RAG has an agreed Lease with South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) for the land on which the building stands. This is being paid annually at a peppercorn rate of £1. The third payment to SDDC was made in October 2020.
4. a) Assets, recognised but not valued individually in the Statement of Accounts, have an approximate value of £2,500.
- b) These comprise items of secondhand equipment, namely various types of telescope and a selection of other smaller items of equipment that go with these telescopes. The items vary in condition and age. They have been acquired, 'ad hoc', over the period of twenty one years the Club has been in existence, donated by Club members or their relatives, and by the General Public.
 - c) Currently, until the Observatory had been completed, and subsequently, for the storage facilities to be made available/accessible following the easement of the Government restrictions, these items are being 'stored' by named members of the Committee, mainly by the Equipment Manager, who holds the definitive list.
 - d) As these items have not been 'selected' regarding their suitability for Training purposes, for use to provide 'hands on' experience in public groups, or as items suitably easy to set up to enable them to be used as 'Loan' items for members new to Astronomy – in 2018 the Trustees, having due regard to the public benefit, and to rationalise the situation, agreed the following:
 - i) to mandate the Equipment Manager to carry out an audit to identify items that are either to be retained, or that are surplus to requirement and need to be disposed of, and to receive the results of this audit at a future Trustees' Meeting. The results of this Audit were received by the Trustees at their Meeting in February 2019.
 - ii) to agree the disposal of the identified items, with due regard to RAG's Equipment Development Plan, and following the financial procedures as set out in the 'Delegation of Powers' for the RAG Committee i.e. delegated responsibilities for sales/purchases of items £100 and below.
 - iii) to receive a Draft 'Policy for the Acceptance of Items of Equipment that are Offered as a Donation or Option to Purchase'. This Policy was received and accepted at their Meeting in February 2019.
 - e) The Government restrictions in place to address the pandemic have deemed it necessary for further Sales of unsuitable items identified in the Audit to be put on hold.

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP (Reg. Charity Number 1175118)
Analysis of Accounts and Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2020

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNTS:		Year 2020	
		B/fwd	£ 2870.65
RECEIPTS:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	
Monthly Meetings (Entrance)	347.50		
Annual Memberships	920.00		
Internal Donations - Meetings(Obsy Fund)		67.65	
Internal Donations - Individuals(Obsy Fund)		120.00	
Major Grants		0.00	
External/ Outreach donations		20.00	
Miscellaneous		0.00	
Christmas Appeal		550.00	
	<u>1267.50</u>		<u>757.65</u>
Total Receipts:			2025.15

EXPENDITURE:			
Speakers	70.00		
Zurich (Charities) Ins (Obsy+PLI)	238.08		
Observatory Build (Internal)		344.61 (incl. Lease - Note 3d)	
Website	100.00		
Refreshments	45.67		
Stationery/printing/etc.	94.09		
Observatory Grand Opening event	45.68		
Other		151.99 (Dehumidifier)	
Miscellaneous	27.79		
	<u>621.31</u>		<u>496.60</u>
Total Expenditure:			1117.91

Total Receipts	2025.15	
Total Expenditure	1117.91	Profit for year: £ 907.24

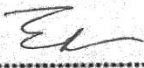
Balance Sheet for Year ending 31st December, 2020

Balance at 31/12/2019	2870.65	Represented by:	
Profit for the Year	907.24	1) Bank A/c Business Community.	1726.37
Interest	0.69	2) Bank A/c Active Saver	1089.10
Balance at 31/12/2020	2978.58	3) Plus: Active Saver Interest	0.69
		4) Cash in Hand	162.42
		GRAND TOTAL:	£ 2978.58

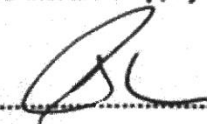
Assets: (i) Various items of secondhand equipment to the approximate value of £2,500 (See Note 4)
(ii) Observatory Building
The attached notes form part of this financial statement.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS and BALANCE SHEET FOR 2020

Approved by the Trustees of Rosliston Astronomy Group.
They have been signed on behalf of the Trustees, and the RAG Membership, by:

Signature(1) 

Mr Edwin Mann - Chair of Trustees

Signature(2) 

Mr Stephen Holden - Trustee