

Trustees Annual Report 2024-25

The Huddersfield Astronomy Society is registered as a CIO in England. Our registration number is 1178943.

Our registered address is 14 Southlands, Kirkheaton.

HAS was founded on 22nd November 2018 taking over the assets and responsibilities of a previous unincorporated association, the Huddersfield Astronomical & Philosophical Society [registered as a charity in the UK registration number 507817].

Trustees

The following personnel are currently registered as Trustees of HAS:

Robert Williams	President HAS
Gain Lee	Observatory Director HAS
Susan Mary Wylie	Secretary HAS
Justine Brown	Digital Content administrator HAS
Dereck Tasker	HRUFC member

As some of the Trustees have now served a 3-year term since the formation of HAS as a CIO, they are duly available for re-election as Trustees at the 2025 AGM, which took place on 21st January 2026.

Dereck Tasker offered to resign in rotation and at the AGM on 21st January 2026 was duly re-elected as a Trustee by unanimous vote

Alex Crossley-Fells has volunteered to become an additional Trustee. This was put to a vote at the AGM and was passed unanimously.

Organisational Structure

HAS operates with a group of Trustees – as listed above – who are responsible for ensuring that HAS meets its aims and objectives.

Presently [January 2026] we operate with trustees who volunteered from within the membership of HAS.

As yet no external Trustees have been appointed. A further drive will be made during 2026-27.

The current Trustees are also members of the Society's Committee.

In 2023-24, the Trustees agreed to set up and run a digital messaging service so that decisions requiring a quick resolution could be performed as well as a better means to communicate important activities that the organisation wished to undertake.

In the past 12 months the Trustees and Committee members have – once again - found this a very useful approach to facilitate the business of our Organisation, for when personnel are not reachable for a face-to-face discussion.

Since November 2019 we continue to build partnerships with two other organisations as detailed below:

- a) The Huddersfield Rugby Union Football Club based at Lockwood Park, Huddersfield, HD4 6EN, who we hire a room from to provide facilities to hold meetings and from where we run an Introductory Astronomy Course at least one per year. We have made a commitment to this organisation to continue to utilise their premises for our Meetings for the next 12 months at the minimum.
- b) YWT Stirley, Hall Bower, Huddersfield, HD4 6RP, with whom we are developing an observing

site – known as the Garden of Stars - in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In the past twelve months HAS has been part of a number of joint events at the YWT Stirley site and HAS has used significant financial resources as well as the time and effort of a number of our organisations' Volunteers – and those provided to us by YWT Stirley - to make the Garden of Stars a working outdoor space for educational outreach cementing our commitment to this joint venture for many years to come. We anticipate further development of this outdoor space in the coming years.

Aims and Objectives

HAS has a defined set of aims and objectives:

- a) To help facilitate the observing of the objects of the night and daytime sky using suitable equipment obtained by grant funds supplied by outside organisations
 - b) To promote the understanding and observation of the night sky by the people of Kirklees
 - c) To help cultivate links to community and educational organisations in Kirklees who have an interest in learning about the Night Sky
 - d) To promote the aims of objectives of our umbrella organisation the Federation of Astronomy Societies, of which HAS is a full member
- We remain committed to these aims and objectives

Achievements and Performance

During 2024-2025, the Astronomy Society consolidated its development plan as outlined in the Trustees Annual Report for 2023-2024.

We have resumed face-to-face meetings and continue to see enquiries about our activities grow.

We have also undertaken a small number of outreach activities with youth organisations and this remains an important facet of our Aims and Objectives as described above.

We completed an Introductory Astronomy Course in Autumn 2025 and are planning to start a further Course in October 2026 – if there is sufficient demand for it.

This has been key to improving our cash flow over recent months and will be essential to continue our recovery during the months ahead.

Financial Review

Mr Rob Wylie remains in the role of Treasurer of HAS.

Mr R Wylie has full control of all financial affairs of HAS, including liaising with our financial accountants and as a signatory on the HAS bank account.

In 2024-25 HAS made a significant financial commitment to YWT Stirley to develop an Observing Site. This was completed on time and close to the expected budget. In the past 12 months there has been a significant uptake of these facilities and we hope to continue this development over the next 12 months and beyond.

In the past 12 months we have made significant use of the Garden of Stars at Stirley for members events. We are encouraged by the commitment of our Members to this new opportunity and it also provides a small income to support our ongoing presence at YWT Stirley. We anticipate this will continue to grow in the future.

Since we restarted Membership fees in Spring 2021 the Trustees are encouraged by the retention of established members as well as an influx of new members from course retentions and interested parties new to the organisation.

We hope that this will help us continue to secure our membership base.

There are no funds held by a custodian trustee.

Huddersfield Astronomy Society
Accounts for year 1/7/24 to 30/6/25

Income and Expenditure

	2025	2024
Income		
Donations	£1,000.00	£0.99
Membership subscriptions	£1,135.41	£767.20
Lectures, Course fees & demonstrations	£1,930.29	£2,671.47
Refreshments	£478.59	£1,145.65
Bank interest	£0.00	£0.00
Sale of equipment	£117.97	£220.00
Other income	£0.00	£0.00
	£4,662.26	£4,805.31
Expenditure		
Rent	£3,190.00	£3,100.00
Course running	£39.10	£26.74
Equipment purchase	£0.00	£55.00
Lecture expenses	£60.00	£140.00
Federation of Astronomical Soc	£30.00	£30.00
Public Liability Insurance	£55.00	£53.00
Refreshments	£69.99	£521.21
Office costs	£0.00	£99.49
Accountancy	£0.00	£0.00
Legal fees	£0.00	£0.00
Website costs	£356.52	£364.52
Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00
Utilities	£0.00	£0.00
Observation site building costs	£180.81	£8,803.10
	£3,981.42	£13,193.06
 Deficit /Surplus for the Year	 £680.84	 -£8,387.75

Balance Sheet

Assets

Bank account	£5,629.93	£5,395.00
Cash in hand	£902.00	£99.00
Tabgible Assets reduced at 10% per annum	£1,107.00	£1,231.00
Rent prepaid	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
	£9,438.93	£8,525.00

Liabilities

Creditors	£0.00	£0.00
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Net Current Assets

	£9,438.93	£8,525.00
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Club Reserves

	£9,438.93	£8,525.00
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Approved by Board of Trustees

Signature:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....