

2020

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2020		31	12	2020

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Cleethorpes and District Astronomical Society

Other names charity is known by

N/A

Registered charity number (if any)

1186764

Charity's principal address

144 Chichester Road

Cleethorpes

North East Lincolnshire

Postcode

DN35 0JJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Michael Brightmore	Chair	11.03.2020 to present	Society membership
2	Susan Parr	Society Secretary	11.03.2020 to present	Society membership
3	Ann Croft		11.03.2020 to 10.03.2021	Society membership
4	Christopher Truelove		10.03.21 to present	Society membership
5	Barrie Watts	Society assistant chair	11.03.2020 to present	Society membership
6				
7				
8				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	The society / CIO is governed by its constitution which was reviewed and amended 29 th April 2019.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	The society / CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered on 5 th December 2019.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The charity trustees, along with the society's committee members, are elected from the general membership at each annual general meeting. All posts are open to each of our members and are advertised prior to the AGM.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

We are a society with an elected committee and executive posts of chair, secretary and treasurer. The society is a member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) which is a national body established to promote co-operation between astronomical societies and provide information and advice to its members. Public Liability Insurance is obtained annually from the FAS and the society has adopted the national policies on child protection, general data protection regulation (GDPR) and risk assessment.

The elected trustees operate within the society's organisational structure to ensure that its activities and expenditure are in line with and support the CIO's charitable and public benefit objectives.

The principal risks facing the charity are financial. These are a drop in membership numbers, being unable to hold revenue generating meetings and a fall in donations. These risks are driven by the necessary restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The objects of the CIO are to advance education in the science of astronomy and related subjects by furthering the knowledge of its members and amongst the local community, promoting and conducting observations and by providing facilities for active participation in astronomical observation.

We are an astronomical society with an observatory and meeting room situated at Beacon Hill, Montgomery Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 9JQ. Although a members' society, all our activities are open to the public and promoted on our website and via Facebook and the local press. We organise talks, sessions for newcomers to astronomy, informal meetings, and outreach sessions for schools, scouting groups and other organisations.

The society website www.cleethorpesastronomy.org.uk is well maintained and a regular source of information. During 2020 the site was accessed by 1632 users.

In addition to open evenings, the society traditionally opens its premises to the public to observe Solar events such as eclipses and Mercury and Venus transits.



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

The Trustees of Cleethorpes and District Astronomical Society are in possession of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and comply with the requirements under section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to ensure that the activities of the society are available to and suitable for the public at large. The prioritising of public benefit is regularly reviewed at trustee and committee meetings, for example to prevent exclusion, particularly of younger people, through the cost of subscriptions and charges. The Trustees ensure that the society caters for a wide variety of interest, commitment and abilities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

At the end of 2020 the society's financial position was healthy. Cash funds had increased from £4069 to £13742. No specific reserves are held. The society is a simple organisation. The financial position at any time is easily reviewed. Designation of reserves has been judged to be unnecessary. The CIO does not award grants nor invest any funds.

The closure of the observatory and meeting room during Covid has enabled improvements to the building and facilities to be undertaken. This work has been assisted by the award of a Covid-19 Business Support Grant of £10,000. This work, when completed, will provide a safer and more comfortable environment for our members and visitors.

The society has no paid staff, so all its activities are undertaken voluntarily by its members. These include secretarial, governance, organisation of meetings and speakers, practical observing, catering for beginners, outreach, open evenings, upkeep of premises and grounds, website maintenance, publicity and social interaction.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Like most other organisations the Covid pandemic seriously impacted our activities throughout most of the year. 2020 started well with a full programme of well-attended meetings taking place at our Beacon Hill observatory.



Our monthly main meetings included talks by society members and professional astronomers with topics featuring astronomers from history, Eta Carinae, liquid mirrors and the Cassini mission to Saturn. These meetings were publicised on our website and in Facebook and new members and

visitors were warmly welcomed. The Beginners' sessions, Informal social evenings together with the combined Trustee and Committee meetings all took place as normal at the observatory.

When the pandemic caused the closure of our premises the decision was taken to continue our meetings schedule using the computer-based programme 'Zoom'. This medium proved to be successful as it allowed presentations to be shown and members and guests were able to see and talk to each other. Unfortunately not all of our members and visitors were comfortable with or able to use the technology, but others joined us who would otherwise have been unable to attend physical meetings.

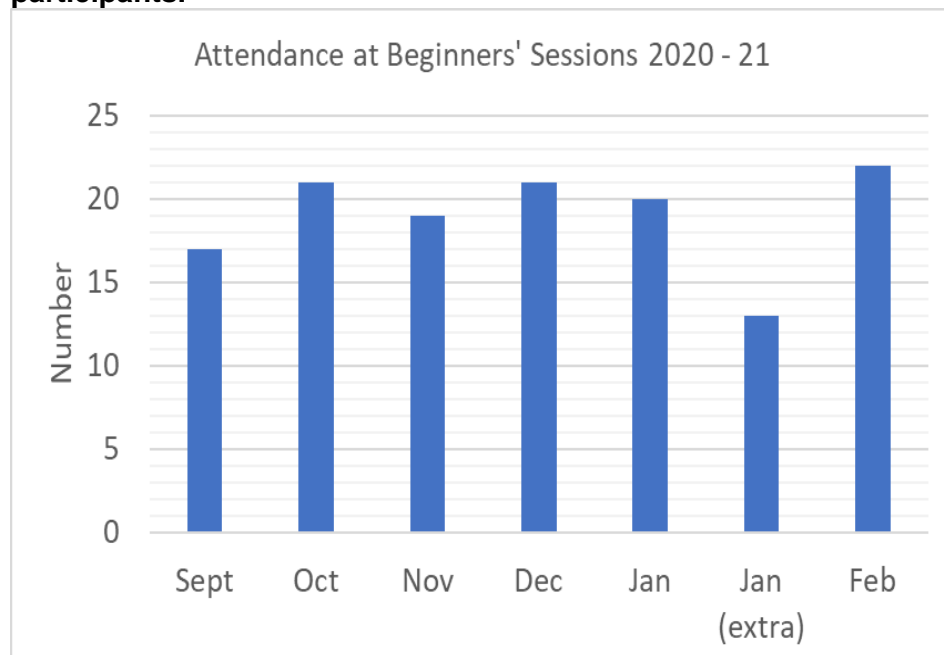
OUTREACH

The darker evenings early in the year encouraged our usual flurry of outreach visits to the observatory. These included several visits by the Queen Mary Infants Academy, the 5th Grimsby Scartho cub scouts and the first New Waltham Scouts. These visits were hosted by the society's STEM ambassador and other members where the visitors learned about astronomy, the equipment we use and, whenever possible, take part in practical observation. Regrettably such visits have had to be suspended because of COVID.

BEGINNERS' SESSIONS

The first national lockdown due to the pandemic caused the Beginners' sessions to end in March 2020. This did allow the series of talks on how we came to our present understanding of the universe to be completed. These talks covered some well-trodden ground but also sought to highlight often overlooked contributions. The brilliant achievements of the 'Harvard' women such as Williamina Fleming, Annie Jump Cannon, Antonia Maury, Henrietta Leavitt and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin were all highlighted. The fact that catholic priest Georges Lemaître proposed and provided experimental evidence for the expansion of the universe and the Big Bang theory two years before Hubble was also discussed. It is a nice illustration of how religious belief does not have to be at odds with science. We also took the opportunity during that final session to hand round a questionnaire asking what attendees would like included in the 2020-21 programme. This was the first-time a questionnaire successfully gave us clear guidance for the next programme.

Once we all became familiar with Zoom, the society committee agreed a proposal to take the 2020-21 cycle of sessions on-line for as long as the pandemic required it. All sessions were hosted by John Dunthorne and he was responsible for sending out the links to participants.



Attendance proved to be very good, averaging 19 per session. It was decided not to charge and the sessions were essentially run as the society's contribution to the public good during the pandemic. Almost every month, John Dunthorne had at least one, and sometimes several, enquiries about joining the sessions. Some people have found the on-line format very convenient and probably would not have travelled to the observatory, but we have gained several new people who seem intent on long-term involvement with the society. Our two Year 11 students (one girl, one boy) have continued to attend and a new Year 11 girl has joined. Strict child protection procedures were followed.

Because there have not been any observation sessions, the programme has been followed exactly. One additional session, focussing on imagery of the region around Orion, was given by our own member, Peter Rea FRAS, in January. Audience feedback has been consistently positive.

INFORMAL MEETINGS

The Informal Meetings provide a platform for members of the Society and visitors to openly discuss and share their particular astronomical interests with others. We had novices attending alongside those with considerable experience and understanding. For this reason, each evening had a different selection of topics, all well prepared and presented by the members.

We started the year meeting at the Observatory but with the restrictions placed on everyone as a result of the COVID Pandemic, our meetings were held using Zoom, the cloud based video conferencing service.

The format of our Meetings did not change. Each presentation and following discussion lasted about 20 minutes. The subjects ranged from astrophotography, spacecraft and missions, scientists, astronomers, astronomical events, astrophysics. We had a virtual Christmas Meeting with a presentation of the astronomy connected to the Christmas Star, a members' quiz "Who are they?" and went down memory lane with the photos from the Society's trip to watch a solar eclipse in Africa.

As it is less daunting to ask questions in front of a small group, an "Open Forum" was introduced. This meant that members and visitors could ask questions about a particular subject that interested them and would be given answers by others more au fait with the subject. This proved to be successful.

Not everyone was not obliged to produce a presentation or question but just to come and appreciate the interesting short talks and photographs given by others and join in the ensuing discussions. There was a core group of 12 members who attended regularly. The Informal Evenings present a chance to meet with fellow astronomical enthusiasts in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. The smaller number did allow all to participate and take part in the discussions.

STEM commitment

The CIO takes seriously its objective to advance education in the science of astronomy and related subjects. Schools and youth organisations are encouraged and return year after year. Several of our members are retired teachers and familiar with the requirements of the National Curriculum key stages 1 and 2. We are also keen to include the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and our STEM ambassador recently received a certificate of appreciation for this work. We also work closely with the scouting organisation in order to match our presentations with the requirements of the various astronomy badges.



The society / CIO sees itself as a valuable and needed service to the local community. When a member of the public develops an interest in astronomy or acquires a telescope for themselves or a child they need somewhere to go to learn about this new hobby. Assisting them to progress is in line with our objectives.

The Cleethorpes and District Astronomical Society is a long-established and well-respected organisation which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary....



Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The society is a simple organisation. The financial position at any time is easily reviewed. Designation of reserves has been judged to be unnecessary.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no funds in deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

The society's principal sources of funds are membership subscriptions and meeting, visitor, raffle and refreshment charges. These are supplemented by donations, including those given in response to outreach activities.

No specific fundraising objectives were set other than collection of subscriptions, visitor and meeting charges etc. These funds were collected as expected.

All the CIOs expenditure has supported its objectives, i.e. maintaining and improving our premises for the benefit of the public, covering expenses incurred by speakers, utility bills and insurance.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Michael Victor Brightmore

Susan Elizabeth Parr

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Secretary

Date

06 October 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Cleethorpes and District Astronomical Society

1186764

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01-Jan-20

To

31-Dec-20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Subscriptions	1,078	-	-	1,078	-
On the door payments	175	-	-	175	-
Visit Donations	186	-	-	186	-
Other donations	300	-	-	300	-
Refreshment Payments	36	-	-	36	-
Book sales	-	-	-	-	-
Raffle money	33	-	-	33	-
Grants	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,808	-	-	11,808	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,808	-	-	11,808	-
A3 Payments					
Speaker fees and expenses	30	-	-	30	-
NELC Rent and Rates	-	-	-	-	-
Water supply payment to allotment soc	25	-	-	25	-
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	831	-	-	831	-
FAS Membership & PLI	85	-	-	85	-
Other insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity	456	-	-	456	-
Major building work	-	-	-	-	-
Astro equipment and consumables	418	-	-	418	-
Non-astro equipment and consumables	290	-	-	290	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,135	-	-	2,135	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,135	-	-	2,135	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,673	-	-	9,673	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,069	-	-	4,069	-
Cash funds this year end	13,742	-	-	13,742	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash held as cash	2,181	-	-
	NatWest current account	11,561	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,742	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	