

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1187777

Details

Other names	Sherwood Observatory
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2020-02-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Sherwood Observatory Coxmoor Road Sutton in Ashfield NG17 5LF
Phone	01623552276
Email	info@sherwood-observatory.org.uk
Website	www.sherwood-observatory.org.uk

Activities

Objects: To promote and advance the interest and education of the public in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), with a focus on the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects, including by:1) encouraging public interest in astronomy, space exploration, and science.2) providing activities, events, training, lectures, advice, education, guidance and information on all matters relating to astronomy and science.3) providing facilities for participation in astronomical observations and experiments.4) undertaking and promoting research on astronomical and other scientific matters.5) using history and the arts to engage new audiences in astronomy and space exploration.

Activities: Promoting and advancing public education in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,489,813	£218,584	£6,866,023	2
2024-03-31	£4,020,886	£36,540	£4,594,795	0
2023-03-31	£368,034	£142,888	-	-
2022-03-31	£0	£0	-	-
2021-03-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Stephen Wallace MBE	Chair	2024-08-14
Brendan Scoular		2024-08-14
Christopher John Dakin		2024-08-14
Craig Keith Peter Mapleston		2024-08-14
Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe		2024-08-14
Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe		2024-08-14
Nigel John Cunnington		2024-08-14
Paula Timberlake		2024-08-14
Shaun William Pollard		2025-09-10
Stephen Arthur Binns		2024-08-14

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1187777

Accounts

Registered Charity number 1187777 (England and Wales)

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS

1	Legal and administrative details
2 - 5	Report of the trustees
6 - 8	Auditors Report
9	Statement of financial activities
10	Statement of financial position
11	Statement of cashflows
12 - 18	Notes to the financial statements

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chairman	Dr Stephen Wallace MBE
Trustees	Dr Stephen Wallace MBE Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe Mr Brendan Scoular Mrs Paula Timberlake Mr Nigel John Cunnington Mr Stephen Arthur Binns Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston Mr Christopher John Dakin
Contact address	Sherwood Observatory Coxmoor Road Sutton in Ashfield NG17 5LF
Registered Charity Number	
England & Wales	1187777
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 1 Leeming Street Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1LU
Advisors (general)	Auditors
	Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd Synergy House 7 Acorn Business Park Commercial Gate Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1EX
	Specialist advisors
	PKF Smith Cooper 2 Lace Market Square Nottingham NG1 1PB
Advisors (Science Discovery Centre project management)	
	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ
	Pick Everard Halford House Charles Street Leicester LE1 1HA
	Liz Barrett OBE Martin Rigley OBE Alex Peace - Gadsby OBE Paul Humphries Colin Hutcheson

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Trustees of the charity

The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Dr Stephen Wallace
Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe
Mr Brendan Scoular
Mrs Paula Timberlake
Mr Nigel John Cunnington
Mr Stephen Arthur Binns
Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston
Mr Christopher John Dakin

Power to appoint trustees rests with the board of trustees, by reference to a process defined in the Constitution.

Training of new trustees,

The Charity recognises the requirement to keep Trustees current in order to best administrate the charity and give help and advice to the volunteer team. Training and updates on technical aspects of the observatory and updates from the Charity Commission are given and circulated as frequently as possible.

Objects of the charity

To promote and advance the education of the public in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects. The provision and maintenance of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties.

Organisation of the charity

The charity is governed by its Constitution, issued on 5 February 2020, as amended on 29 September 2020 and 14 August 2024.

The running of the charity is overseen by a board of trustees. The trustees meet monthly to oversee the operation and development of the observatory. The Charity aims to have about ten trustees who together bring to the board a selection of competencies to support the technical aspects of the observatory and its equipment and general management of the Charity. Trustees are re-elected annually at the AGM, the Chair is limited to a two year term, in the event there is no other candidate the Chair may serve a further two years.

The trustees manage the charity's finances through a rigorous budgeting and monitoring process. This process begins with the annual budget which is approved by the trustees and continually monitored against actual outcomes. Financial information is also reviewed at the regular management meetings with the Chairman.

Fundraising Practices

The charity does not carry out regular significant fundraising activities.

Review of the year

Funds are in a good position with sufficient operating income and funding for the Science Discovery Centre .

A full review of our activities during the year can be found in the trustees annual report.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).

The charity's regular income includes membership fees, entry fees to public events, course fees, private group visits and general public donations towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Observatory.

We also attract grants from the government, private sector funders, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and donations towards the planetarium and science discovery centre build.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

The charity opened its new Planetarium and Science Centre to the public on 25th November 2024. This was the culmination of many years of effort by the members to promote the idea, raise the required funding, and deliver the construction project itself. The Trustees wish to express their gratitude for the dedication of its loyal membership and to the public sector, private sector and individual sponsors and donors who have helped us to turn our vision into reality.

The new Centre received over 13,000 visitors between opening and financial year end, significantly out pacing the run rate required to achieve the 20,000 visitors per annum on which the business plan was based. However, the Trustees note that the true annual visitor numbers will remain uncertain until the new Centre has been in operation for a full 12 months so that we can assess the anticipated seasonal variation in demand.

The increased visitor numbers have allowed us to appoint two full time members of staff, with interviews currently taking place for a further 1.5 full time equivalents. This delivers on our commitment to made to some of our funders to create jobs as a result of their investment.

Plans for the future

Much of the work in 2025/26 will consist of bedding in and refining our business plan in light of real-world experience of operating the new Centre. A review of the mix of defined Trustee roles will be undertaken so that our management structure is best placed to match our new operational priorities and profile.

We had to close and relocate our Radio Astronomy Centre to accommodate construction of the new Centre, so we are planning to upgrade and reopen that during 2025/26. We are also investigating refurbishment, and potentially extension of, the original observatory in order to bring it up to the high standards set by our new facilities.

Public Benefit

With opening of the new Centre, we are better able to offer activities all year round, although we still anticipate that peak demand will be in the autumn and winter months when the main observatory can be used for star gazing (weather permitting). Our current mix of activities consists of:

- 1.Public planetarium shows, which typically consist of a pre-recorded full dome show followed by a presenter led talk about a topical astronomy themed subject.
- 2.Group visits of both adult groups and children's uniformed groups (Cubs, Brownies etc), which consist of a planetarium show and either a tour of our exhibition space or telescope viewing (weather permitting).
- 3.Open Evenings and Open Days, which include telescope viewing, astronomy talks, activities and a planetarium show.
- 4.Astronomy night school courses at various levels. Some of these are delivered 'classroom' style, but we are gradually migrating to the planetarium.
- 5.School visits which consist of planetarium shows and a range of hands-on activities.
- 6.Guest lectures once a month for members, usually delivered by a professional astronomer.
- 7.Special events and planetarium shows, for example featuring live music.
- 8.Corporate and community hires of part or, or all of, the facilities.
- 9.Work experience opportunities for high school students and further education students. We also work with Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE College) to offer real world customer service training and experience for their learners through our onsite café.

In compiling this report, the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and the objectives of the charity, as set out in our Constitution.

Reserves policy

The charity has a formal reserves policy, in which the trustees try to keep enough funds in reserve to cover half a year of general running and maintenance costs. This is achieved by notification of financial position at each monthly trustee meeting, and reviews of current and planned expenditure as needed.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Investment policy

There are no specific restrictions on the trustees' investment powers. The Charity has no long-term investments or endowments. Cash surplus to monthly requirements is held in savings accounts.

Risk analysis

Risk management is the process of making and carrying out decisions that will minimise the adverse effect of accidental losses upon the Charity. The risk management process is vital to the personal health and safety of the Trustees, volunteers and the public. In financial terms, it is vital to our ability to pursue our goals, commence and operate programs and events, and to work out our charitable aim in an efficient and professional manner.

The trustees of the Charity have put in place a risk management strategy to pursue risk management goals and objectives. These goals and objectives include:

- I. Avoiding exposure to accidental loss by not undertaking events, contracts, or activities where the potential loss is greater than the potential benefit to be derived from these undertakings,
2. Preventing loss by identifying potential loss exposures and implementing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of these losses occurring,
3. Controlling losses that do occur by:
 - a. Developing contingency plans for possible loss scenarios
 - b. Proper documentation and investigation of losses
4. Raising the awareness of all Trustee board members and volunteers concerning risk management.

These goals and objectives will be accomplished by monitoring activities on a continual basis and reporting any forthcoming risks to the chairman of the trustees,

5. Cooperation is needed from all Trustees and volunteers. Only by working as a team with common goals and objectives can we ensure the success of this risk management strategy and its part in working out our aims and vision.

Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,

Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd be re-appointed as Auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees statement of disclosure to the auditor

We, the trustees of the charity who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the board of trustees

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Date:.....

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the charity, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the Charities Act 2011, Charities Act 2022, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Charity Commission guidance.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence and reviewed trustees meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud. We enquired about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets.
- We reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Phillip Nicholson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Date:

Synergy House
7 Acorn Business Park
Commercial Gate
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1EX

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		7,573	2,290,606	2,298,179	3,940,286
Charitable activities		125,407	-	125,407	19,381
Other trading activities		28,892	-	28,892	4,486
Investments		784	36,550	37,334	56,733
Total Income and endowments:		162,657	2,327,156	2,489,813	4,020,885
RESOURCES EXPENDED:	5				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		9,908	-	9,908	2,251
Charitable activities		114,356	47,620	161,976	18,492
Separate material item of expense		-	43,100	43,100	11,946
Other		3,600	-	3,600	3,850
Total resources expended		127,865	90,720	218,584	36,540
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		34,792	2,236,436	2,271,228	3,984,346
Transfers between funds				-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Capitalisation of tangible fixed assets					96,904
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		34,792	2,236,436	2,271,228	4,081,250
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2024		121,792	4,473,002	4,594,795	513,545
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2025		156,584	6,709,439	6,866,023	4,594,795

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9		6,012,473		2,903,725
Current assets					
Stock	10	2,425		2,492	
Debtors	11	748,422		11,298	
Bank and cash	12	157,072		2,076,135	
		<u>907,919</u>		<u>2,089,925</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13a	<u>54,369</u>		<u>398,855</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>853,550</u>		<u>1,691,070</u>
			<u>6,866,023</u>		<u>4,594,795</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	13b				
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>6,866,023</u>		<u>4,594,795</u>
Charity funds					
Unrestricted	14		156,584		121,792
Restricted funds	14		6,709,439		4,473,002
Total charity funds			<u>6,866,023</u>		<u>4,594,795</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Registered Charity Number
England & Wales **1187777**

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure)		2,271,228	4,081,250
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		40,394	4,889
Other interest receivable and similar income		(37,334)	(56,733)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets			
Accrued expenses			
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Stocks		67	
Trade and other debtors		(737,124)	(10,578)
Trade and other creditors		(344,486)	398,855
Cash generated from operations		<u>1,192,745</u>	<u>4,417,683</u>
Interest received		37,334	56,733
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>1,230,079</u>	<u>4,474,416</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(3,149,142)	(2,777,636)
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets			
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		<u>(3,149,142)</u>	<u>(2,777,636)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,919,063)	1,696,780
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		2,076,135	379,355
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	12	<u>157,072</u>	<u>2,076,135</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of accounting

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Sherwood Observatory, Coxmoor Road, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 5LF.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

c. Critical judgements

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation

The trustees review depreciation rates and useful lives of the tangible fixed assets on an annual basis to ensure the effects of usage, wear and tear or technical obsolescence are reflected in the carrying value of the asset.

Impairment

The trustees review fixed assets for indications of impairment in conjunction with review of depreciation above. The company has policies in place to review assets on an ongoing basis.

d. Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The trustees have considered the level of cash, current assets held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, making allowance for all available information.

The trustees consider that the Charity's main activities are underpinned adequately by grants, donations and income from Charitable activities. After careful consideration and evaluation of current management information and forecasts they continue to adopt the going concern basis of preparation.

e. Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

f. Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives government grants in respect of the Science Discovery Centre. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

g. Investment assets and the income arising

Investment income is treated as income when received.

h. Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

i. Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

j. Fund raising

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

k. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers and office equipment at a rate of 33% per annum.

Fixtures, fittings and observatory equipment at a rate of 33%/10% per annum.

l. Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

m. Stock

Stock is stated at lower of cost and net realisable value.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

			2025 £	2024 £
2. <u>Income and expenditure account</u>				
Is arrived at after charging/(crediting)				
Auditors fee			3,600	3,600
3. <u>Analysis of income</u>	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies:				
Donations and gifts	7,536	12,242	19,778	27,405
Gift aid	37	3,877	3,914	2,095
General grants provided by government/other funding bodies		2,274,488	2,274,488	3,910,786
	7,573	2,290,606	2,298,179	3,940,286
Charitable activities:				
Membership fees	12,169		12,169	9,020
Public events, group visits and courses	113,238		113,238	10,361
Mansfield museum exhibition			-	-
	125,407	-	125,407	19,381
Other trading activities:				
Merchandise sales	9,886		9,886	2,968
Refreshment sales	17,223		17,223	1,388
Other	1,783		1,783	131
	28,892	-	28,892	4,486
Income from investments:				
Interest received	784	36,550	37,334	56,733
4. <u>Analysis grants received</u>	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
SDC Project - Ashfield District Council, Towns Deal Project		208,004	208,004	-
SDC Project - Heritage Fund		179,688	179,688	-
SDC Project - Ashfield District Council		353,000	353,000	1,556,786
SDC Project - Levelling Up Fund		1,425,000	1,425,000	1,715,000
SDC Project - Garfield Western Foundation		25,000	25,000	200,000
SDC Project - Mansfield Building Society		6,120	6,120	18,000
SDC Project - The Foyle Foundation			-	100,000
SDC Project - Neighbourly Foundation			-	1,000
SDC Project - Wolfson Foundation			-	300,000
SDC Project - Nottingham Regeneration Trust			-	20,000
SDC Project - Abellio East Midlands		5,000	5,000	-
SDC Project - Trans East Changing Room Grant		5,000	5,000	-
SDC Project - National Lottery Heritage Grant		45,312	45,312	
SDC Project - Ashfield Enterprise Grant		6,000	6,000	
SDC Project - Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce		16,364	16,364	
	-	2,274,488	2,274,488	3,910,786

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

5. Analysis of expenditure	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	388		388	-
Other trading activities	9,521		9,521	2,251
	9,908	-	9,908	2,251
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Courses, Events & Visits	15,469		15,469	2,008
Mansfield Museum Exhibition			-	-
Lecturer Fees	655		655	258
Observatory Running Costs	70,891	12,596	83,487	5,320
Observatory Equipment & Maintenance	3,740		3,740	6,018
Irrecoverable VAT	18,232		18,232	-
Depreciation	5,370	35,023	40,394	4,889
	114,356	47,620	161,976	18,492
Separate material item of expense:				
SDC Project Development		3,100	3,100	11,946
SDC Professional Fees		40,000	40,000	
	-	43,100	43,100	11,946
Governance costs				
Independent auditor's fee	3,600		3,600	3,600
Independent examiner's fee	-		-	250
	3,600	-	3,600	3,850
	127,865	90,720	218,584	36,540

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. Tangible fixed assets

<u>Cost</u>	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Office & IT Equipment £	SDC Equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2024	2,861,320	46,228	1,066		2,908,614
Additions	3,080,685		4,697	63,761	3,149,142
Eliminated on disposal	-	-			-
At 31 March 2025	5,942,005	46,228	5,763	63,761	6,057,756
<u>Depreciation</u>					
At 1 April 2024	-	4,623	267		4,889
Charge for the year	29,710	4,623	747	5,313	40,394
Eliminated on disposal	-	-			-
At 31 March 2025	29,710	9,246	1,014	5,313	45,283
<u>Net book value</u>					
At 31 March 2025	5,912,295	36,982	4,749	58,447	6,012,473
At 31 March 2024	2,861,320	41,605	800	-	2,903,725

10. Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Books, resources, learning materials	2,425	2,492

11. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	4,808	517
Prepayments and accrued income	-	10,781
Other debtors - VAT	743,614	
	748,422	11,298

12. Bank and cash

	2025 £	2024 £
Charity Account	15,315	728
Cash	1,052	476
SDC Savings	14,353	541,009
Meteor Beacon Savings	1,074	641
Charity Savings	125,278	35,000
Natwest 35 Day Notice	-	11,043
Natwest 95 Day Notice Account	-	1,487,238
	157,072	2,076,135

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
13a. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	49,696	394,614
Accruals and deferred income	3,600	3,600
Other creditors	1,074	641
Taxation and social security		-
	<u>54,369</u>	<u>398,855</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
13b. Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year		
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

14. Analysis of charity funds

	2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Assets Adjustment	Transfers £	2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	121,792	162,657	(127,865)			156,584
Restricted funds						
SDC Project Development	4,473,002	2,327,156	(90,720)			6,709,439
	<u>4,473,002</u>	<u>2,327,156</u>	<u>(90,720)</u>			<u>6,709,439</u>
	<u>4,594,795</u>	<u>2,489,813</u>	<u>(218,584)</u>			<u>6,866,023</u>

SDC Project Development is the Charity's "Science Discovery Centre", completed and opened Autumn 2024.

15. Analysis of Net Liabilities between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets/ Liab' £	Creditor due after 1 year £	Total £
Restricted Funds	3,170,685	(73,335)		3,097,349
Unrestricted Funds	2,841,789	926,885		3,768,674
Total funds at 31 March 2025	<u>6,012,473</u>	<u>853,550</u>		<u>6,866,023</u>

16. Contingent asset

The Charity, through specialist advisors, completed a claim for VAT which will result in a significant repayment, predominately in respect of construction costs for the Science Discovery Centre. The claim was finalised in January 2025, received in April 2025 and included in debtors.

17. Financial commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets amounted to:		
Contractual commitments (Science Discovery Centre)	62,500	3,728,171

The Science Discovery Centre was completed in Autumn 2024.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1187777

Accounts



54th Annual General Meeting of the Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society
Trustees Report.

Observatory Director

Craig Mapleston

Observatory and grounds maintenance - This year we have had an influx of volunteers getting stuck in to tasks around the grounds myself and volunteers started cleaning the bricks from the demolition of the pump house on top of the Reservoir to reused in the building of the SDC and surplus to be sold.

Dome refurbishment - The dome was getting stuck on rotation in multiple points
On investigation it needed a lot of TLC. A few volunteers came forward to help me with this.
We stripped it back to the rails and found that the draft excluder had failed the wheels on the motor had perished and the dome its self was out of shape. We installed new excluder, new wood chocks with spaces for any wires in the future, regreased the bearings on the rollers, and rebalanced the dome to make it plumb. This exercise was successful and now is fully working.
After the dome the control panel was replaced, name added above (Apollo style), and its surroundings was updated getting rid of that brown carpet.

Maintenance days - A few Saturdays throughout the year volunteers give a day to help with bigger tasks another great response from the members.
Jobs including filling the holes and uneven ground in the car park, painting inside and out, grounds upkeep, demolition of pump house, brick cleaning, new instant hot water for drinks, new hot water cylinder, upgraded lighting, and replacement and adding signage.

With the response we are getting from the members that volunteer the Observatory and grounds are just going to keep on getting better for members and the public.

Chair

Nigel "Sparky" Cunningham

Welcome reader to the 2023/4 annual Trustee's report of the Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society, and what a year we've had.

It amazes me to see how our Society continues to grow and develop over the nearly 20 years that I have been a member. This growth has been due to the dedication and enthusiasm of its members, not only in pursuing their interest in astronomy, but in the time and effort they put in to help run, maintain and build on the foundations of our founding members.

Looking back over this past year, we've seen the securing of funds for the long-awaited Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium with its start of "spades in the ground" in late August 2023. This has been led by our project manager Steve Wallace, and what a job he's doing bringing it into reality. Although this is a major project for the society, taking in a lot of effort not only from volunteering members, but also other key volunteers from outside our membership making up the Project Board etc. It has been wonderful to see that our "normal" projects which our Society is involved in have continued to develop by the effort's put in by our members.

These include but not limited to our outreach work, headed up by our Trustee events coordinator Brendan Scoular with support from Kirsten Richards - Schools outreach coordinator, and Sharon Berry – Group visits coordinator. Then there are our Safeguarding leads Clive Butcher along with Kirsten Richards helping to develop our Safeguarding policies. And let's not forget all of you that have

supported this outreach work including the bi-yearly night school lecturers, of which there are numerous folk.

The maintenance of our Observatory and grounds headed up by our Observatory Director Craig Mapleston and Deputy Director Julian Best and all of the folk that have helped clean, strip, paint, dig etc, a big thank you to you all. Without your help we wouldn't have a functioning observatory today. Another big development for the observatory has been led by our Curator of Instrument's, Chris Dakin in the development of our 60cm Newtonian telescope and its control and environment. Chris and the regular Monday evening maintenance team replaced the mirrors, a lot of the controls, and serviced the dome structures. Chris has also been looking after our telescope stock, telescope training, (with support from a number of other members), helping develop our website and assisting our new IT Administrator Michael Williams. Thanks Chris and the gang.

Thanks to the radio astronomy group for helping to develop the Radio Astronomy Centre and also our Radio Astronomy Librarian, Sharon Mennell

Most of what I have mentioned is what I would call "up front" visible volunteering. But there is another group of volunteers that help keep the wheels of the Observatory greased and turning, and they are the back-room boys and girls, and a big thank you need to go out to them also. They include our treasure, Paula Timberlake and her assistant Scott Creed for keeping us financially viable.

Archivist for the Society and Librarian for the Observatory - Margaret Gosley

Steve Binns, Communications Officer for working with external lectures and internal information distribution through the Secretary and website.

Our esteem Secretary, Michael Lowe for the new member admin, general communications within the society and minute taker at committee meetings etc.

Let's not forget also the editors of our monthly magazine, The EH, Steve Smith, Gary Levers, Bernard Henin and Joe Gathercole and all the writers that have contributed to the magazine each month. A big thank you for making it such a success.

And finally, Joe Gathercole for starting the MSAS Podcast and our book club and helping to develop them. Thanks Joe and all who have participated in them.

I'd like to thank you our members for joining and supporting your society, because without you we would not exist, so a big thank you. There are more of you who have contributed than I have had space to mentioned in this report by name.

The development of the radio astronomy centre is a big part of my time spent up at the Observatory and it requires most of my attention if we are to be ready for the projected opening of the Science discovery centre and Planetarium in November this year. So, I have made the decision not to stand for a second term as Chairman to allow myself to concentrate on the RAC.

I'd like to thank all of you that voted me into this position, it has been a privilege and a steep learning curve for me for which has helped me to personally develop. I'd also like to thank the committee for supporting me in this role and the friendly advice I've been given.

This concludes my Chairs report, and I wish you all best wishes in your continuing membership of Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society.

Treasurer

Paula Timberlake

We had yet another record year for income, expenditure and end of year balance caused by the Science Discovery Centre project. Due to grants received for the SDC this has taken us over the threshold required for a simple check of our accounts by an Independent Examiner, and means that this year we are in the process of having a full Audit. This means that the final, audited accounts are not yet available for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, but we have distributed the unaudited accounts.

As for my summary, I am excluding the SDC figures and concentrating only on the "usual" society income and running costs. This gives us approximate end of year figures of £25,500 income, £16,500 expenditure and a record balance of £36,000. Although this is a record, we still have to be prudent in our spending for this current year as there will be a lot of extra initial outlay on getting the SDC up and running.

And now I would like to highlight and explain some of the changes in income and expenditure.

Income

Membership Renewals are higher due to the influx of people wanting to join in readiness for the SDC opening.

Open Event Entry Fees and Merchandise have seen a slight decrease. This is because we had to cancel one Open Event completely due to bad weather.

Donations are down because most of the donations from Open Events and Visits have been earmarked for SDC funds

The Astrophotography Course income dropped because the partner for these, Line + Light, have now found it difficult to gather enough interest and so only one course was held.

And the Sundry Income has decreased because we didn't run any special projects paid for by outside funders.

Expenditure

IT and Website costs increased due to the purchase of a new printer for the office, Sage monthly subscription for accounts preparation and general update of our IT infrastructure.

The Maintenance costs were higher because of the purchase of a new water heater for the kitchen, boiler and fixings, plus various repairs to our portable telescopes.

Merchandise costs decreased because in the previous year we had started our branded clothing range with a large bulk purchase.

Dome and Main Scope Maintenance costs were lower as the previous year included purchase of the new mirror.

Radio Astronomy expenditure was down because it had been decommissioned for about half the year for relocation.

And finally, the lower Sundry Expenditure is because the previous year included a one-off cost to officially register our observatory land with the Land Registry and transfer ownership of it and the reservoir area from our original unincorporated charity to our new CIO.

Secretary

Michael Lowe

Another busy year. I find it hard to believe that a year has passed since our last AGM in July 2023.

2023/2024 has been busy again dealing with and processing new member applications. In March 2023 we had 178 members, and by 1 April of this year, there had been an increase to 189 a net gain of 11 members. The majority of new members had joined us after attending one of our open events, or having been involved with either a group visit or having been involved with one of our popular astronomy courses. I am still bewildered though by a number of members who join but we never see them at the Observatory or any of our talks via Zoom. However, they still renew their membership every year.

If you are a new member and have not yet received your membership badge, then please call in at the office any Wednesday or Monday (maintenance) night to collect it. Please be aware that a decision was taken not to issue new badges on renewal of membership (to save time and a bit of money). However, if you have mislaid or damaged your badge and require another, please ask and one will be made for you.

At this point, I would like to say “thank you” to our Assistant Secretary Scott Creed for all the help that he has given me in maintaining our membership database, and also for the preparation of new member badges and helping with other administrative duties.

The number of enquiries that have come in every week continue, and in fact have increased since knowledge of our new Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium has spread. Where I have not been able to action requests personally, I have passed them on to my fellow trustees and other Society members who have acted upon them in a timely manner. Thank you.

Two of our most valuable resources are the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS), and the British Astronomical Association (BAA), who have continued to feed in excellent astronomical and science-based topics. These have been promptly circulated to the wider membership, and I am pleased to announce again that a number of our members have taken advantage of the courses that they offer, and have also joined a few online meetings and talks offered by other societies. Thanks also go to those members who have fed in their own articles for circulation either via email or through our own newsletter Event Horizon. Please keep them coming in.

With regards to Event Horizon, it usually arrives with me after editing, around the third of the month and is then distributed via email. However, we still produce one hard copy which is posted out to a member who does not use a computer.

Besides forwarding the information above, I have tried to keep everyone informed of forthcoming events in our own events calendar, such as our own public events and talks, and again, this is usually done via email. I think that this will become busier as the year goes on as events start to take place in the new SDC.

As a committee, we have held regular committee meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, and I have been responsible for compiling the agendas and minutes. I would like to thank all the committee members for their valuable “inputs and outputs” for the quality information given. Although we still have our Zoom platform for committee meetings, this is rarely used except for those members who may not be able to make a meeting due to illness or work commitments.

With the opening of the new SDC and Planetarium in November, the committee have decided to call an extra meeting on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss governance and operational planning. This has involved me with extra administrative duties. It is expected that the meetings will continue up until the opening in November, and possibly beyond.

Finally, with regards to social media, our following on X (formerly Twitter), has increased from 1403 last year to 1460 this year. By coincidence, this is also the number of followers that we have. We have also had an increase in followers on Facebook and Instagram, mainly through interest in the SDC and Planetarium.

Overall, it has been a busy year, and it looks like 2024/2025 will be even busier as we countdown to the opening of our new state of the art SDC and Planetarium in November.

Finally, thank you for being a member, and thank you for whatever you do for the Society in any way, shape, or form.

Planetarium and Project Planning Manager

Steve Wallace

It has been an amazing year for our Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium project. Just before the start of the 2023/24 financial year, on the 22nd March 2023, we received the exciting news from Ashfield District Council that we had been granted full planning permission for our new development. However, that didn’t mean that we could immediately start construction as we had several hundreds

of thousands of pounds still to raise, plus a lot of detailed design work for our contractor and team of consultants to complete (defined as RIBA Stage 4 in the construction world).

With our Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund bids secured, and a contribution from Mansfield Building Society, we set about applying for funding from multiple other sources. The period from the 5th May to 14th of June brought good news virtually every week, with six figure grants awarded from the Foyle, Garfield Weston, and Wolfson Foundations and also from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The NLHF grant also included funding to restore some artifacts from the reservoir, do further research on its history, and prepare some interpretation materials – these aspects are being ably led by Julian Best. Following multiple small donations from various individuals, our sponsor a planetarium seat scheme, and some last-minute design changes to counter some of the impacts of inflation, the MSAS Trustees and our Project Board met on the 27th July to make the go/no go decision on signing the main construction contract. There was unanimous agreement to proceed, and the contract was signed on the 31st July, marking a major milestone in the history of our Society.

On the 29th August, the first excavators arrived on site and the construction project proper started. Having complete general site clearance, the first major task was to excavate all of the uncompacted ground at the rear of the reservoir so that it could be recompacted in layers. An opportunity was identified to construct a retaining wall at the back of the site. This would both give us more useable space (this is now where the radio astronomy centre has been relocated to) and reduce the amount of material that we had to dispose of off site (saving cost and giving an environmental benefit).



Then the bad weather hit! Lots of rain, sandy soil and heavy equipment really do not mix and we lost several weeks battling the weather. In the end though, thanks to our amazing team, the retaining wall was constructed, a major step forward. Further excavation was then required to install some flood attenuation tanks. These collect the water during heavy rain and then allow it to gradually soak away again to prevent local flooding. 2000 tonnes of surplus sand was donated to Coxmoor and Hollinwell Golf Clubs, resulting in further environmental benefit and cost saving.



Skipping forward to early March this year, the concrete slab to form the base of the SDC and Planetarium were cast. In a long day for the construction team, 350 tonne of concrete was laid down in a single pour. It was also a nervous day for me at the thought of all of that wet concrete sitting on top of our nearly 140-year-old reservoir, but I need not have worried as the Victorians knew how to build things to last.



As the financial year drew to a close, the steel frame for the SDC and the planetarium dome went up over a few days, and the roof started to go on.

Continued on next page.....



Outlook for 2024/25

2024/25 promises to be another exciting year. After some great work, including at weekends, by our contractor, GF Tomlinson, led by Stephen Spigelhalter, we anticipate opening the new Centre on schedule during November. Before then, we have a lot of work to do organising to be ready for opening. This will include recruiting some staff to manage the new facilities, market what we have to offer, and support our visitors. We will also be commissioning a new website that is fit for all that our new offer entails. As the building takes shape, it's clear that we are going to have an amazing facility that will benefit our members, our community and become a landmark for our region. Something that we can all be proud to say that we are part of.

Radio Astronomy

Nigel "Sparky" Cunnington

This is the Trustees report for the Radio Astronomy Centre (RAC) 2023/24.

Due to the building works of the Planetarium starting, the RAC had to be moved to a different temporary position on site to allow for the development of the Planetarium to get underway. That meant decommissioning the RAC and placing the equipment into secure dry storage. This was provided by ATTFE in Sutton in Ashfield.

We are hoping that we can recommission it in its final position before the opening of the SDC later this year.

Curator of Instruments

Chris Dakin

It's been the third year in a row that we've had record numbers of members wanting training on our telescopes, far too many for a single person to be able to handle. This, coupled with some of the other items below, meant I had to get some help with this. Luckily, we're surrounded by lots of enthusiastic members in our society and Tony Booth and Emma Taylor offered to take the lead on this with help from Chris Spencer so I could concentrate on the big telescope. Together, the team managed to get 7 members passed on the training for all telescopes and an additional 5 on the small scopes. We already have 11 members interested in training this coming autumn, but if you are interested and haven't signed up for this yet, please reach out to me at: optical@sherwood-observatory.org.uk. I think we should be able to help even more people gain the skills to use our equipment this year.

Instruments/Maintenance Dome rollers As mentioned last year, we had identified some possible causes of the sluggish rotation of the dome. This was caused by 3 main factors: 1. The original draft proofing leather-like material inside the roller c-section was folding back on itself and causing a lot of

friction. 2. The 12 rollers that the dome sits on were very stiff and not free-rolling. 3. The friction wheels attached the motors were getting torn up by the above 2 points. This ended up being a lot more work than originally anticipated, but thanks to the regular Monday maintenance team, we managed to get the dome moving freely again. The following items of work were completed: 1. The draft-proofing was torn out and this was replaced with draft-proofing brushes all the way around the dome. 2. Every roller was dismantled, cleaned, re-packed with new grease (special thanks to Joe Stafford for that dirty job) and then reinstalled. 3. New wheels were re-cast in polyurethane resin from the blanks I created for this purpose 7 years ago (this also required a new vacuum chamber to be built to de-gas the resin). 4. Whilst we had all the covers off, all of the wooden spaces around the ring cover were replaced with new ones and new PVC edging was installed. New dome lighting The old ring lighting was looking a bit tired, so this was replaced by a new system of my own design in a nice new set of trunking. These new lights are actually fully programmable, so in the next year, I might add some little easter eggs to this system for a bit of fun. Telescope mirror installation Thanks to the training team above taking some load off me, I was able to concentrate on getting the new 600mm mirror installed in the big scope. Now this wasn't without challenges, as Orion Optics only manufactured about 3mm play in the collimation bolts. As our telescope was hand-built, this didn't provide enough adjustment for our needs, so I had to design a secondary coarse collimation frame (which also allowed us to move the mirror up the tube, which was required due to the slightly shorter focal length of the new mirror) and got this manufactured by a local steel company. This allowed the mirror to get installed and we can now bring it into collimation. The telescope is good enough for visual use, but there are still some items that need addressing this year in order to get it working as well as possible. 1. The secondary and/or focuser need adjusting slightly to match the new focal length. 2. Both the primary and secondary mirror covers have had to be removed due to the primary mirror being in a different position and the secondary mirror being larger. A new primary mirror cover will be created, which will now sit over the top of the iris mechanism. After that, a new secondary cover will be created. 3. If there is time, I want to start looking at the RA drive mechanism and see if we can remove some of the backlash so the scope tracks better, but we'll see what happens on that front. As usual thanks to all the maintenance team for helping with the above items, we couldn't do it without your help.

Communications Officer

Steve Binns

Mansfield & Sutton Astronomical Society has had probably the most exciting year of its history. We now find ourselves in the enviable position of being one of the main topics of conversation within the surrounding area. This is due to the start of the construction of our new Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium. The publicity has been achieved through society events, including open evenings, solar days, off site events and media activity. I was lucky enough to attend The Lord Lieutenants of Nottinghamshire event held at his home Cauntton Manor. The society were allowed to set up astronomy stalls on his lawns where dignitaries were able to visit. This was a great success and Sir John Peace gave us his full backing.

Lectures - To obtain the widest possible interest in the subjects, I have tried to procure lecturers whose expertise lie in different fields of astronomy. We have been lucky enough to obtain many professors and doctors of astronomy. The audiences have been plentiful at the observatory and via Zoom which has been a great success.

I will continue to obtain a varied array of speakers for our society in the future and will encourage members of our society to undertake talks on Wednesday evenings. We have had many speakers from our own society who have done this for which we all applaud you and thank you.

Media Coverage - Along with social media platforms including Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram we now have contacts at BBC East Midlands Today, Notts TV and Radio Nottingham. We also use Spotify, YouTube and WhatsApp for a variety of items, including The Obscast and Book Club. Vision

West Notts College have also assisted our society with media filming, having done shoots on site already.

At the moment I am in liaison with Flying Shark film studios where Greg Malone has undertaken interviews with influential people who are backing the SDC build. He has also assisted in filming videos for social media platforms and the society's new website.

Other Comms - In the past year I have been assisting Nigel Cunnington in radio astronomy, and together we have completed a 'How To' guide to assist members on the use of radio astronomy equipment. I have also written 11 pieces giving information about the society's antennae for our monthly magazine, Event Horizon. Hopefully this will encourage members on the uptake of this exciting subject. These pieces are now being used within a training portfolio to teach and assist other members.

I provide an Events Calendar and manage the lectures diary; proofreading Event Horizon is also within my remit. We have now encouraged more members to become editors which is extremely encouraging.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside my fellow trustees and to serve the members of our society. I will give my utmost in undertaking all of my duties for the society now and in the future. I look forward to carry on for another term if elected.

Public Events Organiser

Brendan Scoular

Throughout the period April 23 – April 24 Sherwood observatory maintained a proactive approach to engaging with the general public, incorporating both onsite and offsite related events. With a couple of minor exceptions of inclement weather in February this year and mobilisation of our GFT contractors onsite back in August 2023 I'm confident to report a healthy and successful period of delivery and engagement.

It never ceases to amaze me the sheer level of commitment and dedication by our membership base to enable our operations to deliver on our core objectives, while very much applauded it has enabled us to go from strength to strength. As we continue to serve an outstanding offering to the general public, we find this not only offers value for money but critically an educational & memorable time for all, in doing so received positive feedback becomes a measurable parameter, a gauge that we remain on track delivering the best we can.

Prior to the SDC & Planetarium construction in August in 2023 it was anticipated that we would see a reduction in footfall over the coming year. Once construction commenced and to date, we navigated this period safely with an incredible story to tell all our visitors. In all, we have seen 688 adults & 245 under 16's, totalling 933 visitors over five public open days and 5 public open evenings. For many we have created memorable moments 'off-site' by attending the two-day Sutton-on-Trent festival, with Sherwood Observatory becoming 'mobile' and literally going the extra mile, out into the field engaging with the public. In addition, our off-site day event on Sutton Lawn for 'Ashfield Day' experienced unseasonal weather but nonetheless a means of engaging with local residents. Both, of which to be repeated this year.

Moving forward into the realm of SDC & Planetarium running it stands to reason our offering will be dramatically enriched, this will only serve to supplement our existing events programme. I remain abundantly optimistic that we shall continue to see high levels of volunteer support towards our next phase of operations, as this will be integral to maintaining our flagship events remain at the fore for public engagement.

Schools - For a number of years our schools outreach programme has been coordinated by our dedicated lead, Kirsten Richards. I'm pleased to report that over the past year our outreach team of

10 volunteers has conducted 12 visits at the Observatory arranged through ATTFE, totalling 275+ children. These have comprised 9 local primary schools, some of them having repeat visits, over multiple days. We have worked with 4 other schools, 3 of those visited us at the Observatory and 1 was one we visited due to high student numbers. The schools arranged through ourselves have totalled 107 children.

At the end of the current block, we will have seen over 265 children since the start of the summer term last year.

The age range of students we most commonly see is 9-11 years. We had one school with 14-15-year-olds and one with 4-5-year-olds. We adapted our content to suit these different audiences.

Our most commonly used timetable starts with a general talk about the solar system followed by a rotation of activities including designing and making wooden rovers, learning how craters are made with flour and cocoa powder and looking through the telescope at local points of interest. After lunch there is a talk focussed on the James Webb Space Telescope followed by a rotation of activities including a JWST puzzle, the Infrared camera and a tour of the main scope.

To-date we have a reduced (half) capacity of 15 children at a time for the visits to the Observatory, due to the space we have. There are usually approximately three adults with each group (not including Observatory volunteers). Once the Science Discovery Centre & Planetarium becomes operational school visits shall resume full class capacity of 30 children. During such times, it is envisaged this coordination approach to managing school visits will become part of the daily operational control.

Night School - I'm pleased to report that both night school sessions held during Q3 of 2023 and Q1 of 2024 were a resounding success. Delivered by enthusiastic members incorporating the very essence of astronomy into their talks, from the very basics to core fundamentals of cosmology. In all, giving all our pupils a journey of discovery and learning amounting to twelve Friday evenings over the course of 12 weeks. Testament to our members in supporting such activities has the added-value aspect in that night school pupils often take up new membership status within the society, once the course has concluded. It is envisaged that from spring 2025-night school will, in part make use of the Science Discovery Centre & Planetarium, as a viable means of course content delivery. This sure will be an exciting opportunity for both our volunteers and pupils enrolled onto the course.

Group Visits - Group visits to the observatory continues to remain a steady staple of our outreach. Due credit goes out to our lead, Sharon Berry who has been heading the programme for a little over a year now. *'It's was hard work in the beginning, learning and leading others, but looking back, it's been a wonderful and rewarding experience'* Bravo on navigating this ship to date.

The period September to March 31st 2024 boasts an impressive season with well over 600 visitors passing through Sherwood observatory. With the majority of the visits being members of a uniformed club gives us the exciting opportunity to envelop the younger generation into a world of STEM.

With so many visitors passing through the observatory has culminated in the need for a full team of volunteers, all on deck providing the necessary support with talks, telescope operations - including a 'show and tell', and assistants helping the evening run smoothly and on time. We are very fortunate to have a such a dedicated team of members that are willing to give up their evenings for such a good cause.

Given the current SDC build adjacent to the observatory facility there is much excitement in the air, resulting in multiple inquiries regarding booking and availability.

Such is the strength in our visits programme in delivering awe inspiring experiences, I'm confident the future of visiting groups will continue to flourish, whereby many groups shall be eager for a prompt return once we open the new SDC & Planetarium facility.

IT Administrator

Chris Dakin

With the departure of our IT administrator last year, things have just been ticking over with regards to IT. The main work of note has been to disconnect and store all of the radio equipment in preparation for the start of the SDC build. This work was led by Michael Williams, who has now been appointed as the new IT lead as a non-committee role, reporting to Chris Dakin. One item of radio equipment that has been in continuous operation though, is SuperSID (sudden ionospheric distortion), our solar flare detector, as this was moved temporarily back into the main observatory building. With the departure of Paul last year, it became obvious that having just a single person know about our IT systems is a weak point. Looking forward to this year therefore, Michael has expressed a wish that this knowledge is shared with a team of people (a wish I whole-heartedly agree with). Therefore, whilst Michael will be the official lead for IT, he will have help from me as well as possibly one other techie member. This will come in very handy as we look to recommissioning the RAC in the near future as well as manage everything that's happening in the SDC.

This coming year there will be a lot of activity on the IT front.:

Here are some of the items that will need addressing: Install a new firewall to simplify management of our network. The Radio Centre will need to have its equipment reinstalled. We'll need to integrate everything the SDC brings into our existing network. With all this, we expect a lot of extra maintenance will be required this year. A refresh of PCs/laptops will be needed as we look forward to keeping them in support with the latest operating systems.

END OF REPORT

Registered Charity number 1187777 (England and Wales)

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CONTENTS

1	Legal and administrative details
2 - 5	Report of the trustees
6 - 8	Auditors Report
9	Statement of financial activities
10	Statement of financial position
11	Statement of cashflows
12 - 18	Notes to the financial statements

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chairman	Dr Stephen Wallace
Trustees	Dr Stephen Wallace Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe Mr Brendan Scoular Mrs Paula Timberlake Mr Nigel John Cunnington Mr Stephen Arthur Binns Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston Mr Christopher John Dakin
Contact address	Sherwood Observatory Coxmoor Road Sutton in Ashfield NG17 5LF
Registered Charity Number	
England & Wales	1187777
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 1 Leeming Street Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1LU Natwest Bank plc Portkand Square Sutton in Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 1BA
Advisors (general)	Solicitors
	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ
	Auditors
	Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd Synergy House 7 Acorn Business Park Commercial Gate Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1EX
Advisors (Science Discovery Centre project management)	
	Pick Everard Halford House Charles Street Leicester LE1 1HA Liz Barrett OBE Martin Rigley OBE Alex Peace - Gadsby OBE Paul Humphries Colin Hutcheson

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Trustees of the charity

The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Dr Stephen Wallace
Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe
Mr Brendan Scoular
Mrs Paula Timberlake
Mr Nigel John Cunnington
Mr Stephen Arthur Binns
Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston
Mr Christopher John Dakin

Power to appoint trustees rests with the board of trustees, by reference to a process defined in the Constitution.

Training of new trustees,

The Charity recognises the requirement to keep Trustees current in order to best administrate the charity and give help and advice to the volunteer team. Training and updates on technical aspects of the observatory and updates from the Charity Commission are given and circulated as frequently as possible.

Objects of the charity

To promote and advance the education of the public in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects. The provision and maintenance of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties.

Organisation of the charity

The charity is governed by its Constitution, issued on 5 February 2020, as amended on 29 September 2020 and 14 August 2024.

The running of the charity is overseen by a board of trustees. The trustees meet monthly to oversee the operation and development of the observatory. The Charity aims to have about ten trustees who together bring to the board a selection of competencies to support the technical aspects of the observatory and its equipment and general management of the Charity. Trustees are re-elected annually at the AGM, the Chair is limited to a two year term, in the event there is no other candidate the Chair may serve a further two years.

The trustees and manage the charity's finances through a rigorous budgeting and monitoring process. This process begins with the annual budget which is approved by the trustees, which is then monitored against actual outcome on a continual basis and at the regular management meetings with the Chairman.

Fundraising Practices

The charity does not carry out regular significant fundraising activities.

Review of the year

Funds are in a good position with sufficient operating income and funding for the Science Discovery Centre .

A full review of our activities during the year can be found in the trustees annual report.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).

The charity's regular income includes membership fees, entry fees to public events, course fees, private group visits and general public donations towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Observatory.

We also attract grants from the government, private sector funders, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and donations towards the planetarium and science discovery centre build.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

The charity has continued to entertain visitors throughout the year, providing activities, events, training, lectures, advice, education, guidance and information on all matters relating to astronomy and science. The charity has a loyal membership and has maintained a consistent stream of income to support regular activities from subscriptions and events.

The trustees' are proud to disclose this year that their ambition to transform the existing Observatory into a Science Centre and Planetarium, to inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers is now well underway. Construction of the project commenced in the summer of 2023 and is currently on target for completion late 2024. Funding in the region of £5.3m from Ashfield District Council, local supporters, private sector charities and other funders has allowed our vision to become a reality.

Plans for the future

The Charity continues to focus on the construction of the planetarium and Science Discovery Centre project ready for opening in November 2024. Our programme of members meetings, outreach, and public events will also continue.

Public Benefit

Our activities are mainly held during the autumn and winter seasons, when it is dark enough in the evenings to perform astronomical viewing. All our main season activities include telescopic viewing of astronomical objects when weather permits, and fall into one of three types:

1. Open Evenings, held on average once a month, where we open our observatory to the public, and include talks on astronomy subjects.
2. Organised Group Visits, including tailored talks on astronomy subjects. We host an average of two groups per week and are organised for groups including school classes, youth groups such as Scout Association and Girl Guiding, and adult groups such as WI, Rotary Club, and U3A.
3. Two Basic Astronomy Courses, held one evening a week over a 6-week period, where we provide broader presentations on astronomy subjects.

We also have a radio astronomy centre equipped with a number of aerials and beacons that monitor various activities within the atmosphere and further out into the solar system and beyond. This facility is also open to our visitors where they can see these activities in real time displayed on screen. It is also equipped with a meteor detection beacon with a 400 mile radius.

Outside our main viewing season we hold occasional public open days at our observatory. These are mainly through the summer months. At the open days, we give talks about, and use our specially filtered solar viewing equipment to safely view the Sun and use our equipment to monitor and display its radio emissions. We also take our specialist solar viewing equipment to a number of public festivals and open days away from our observatory. In addition, approximately once per month throughout the year, we arrange guest lectures mostly given by professional astronomers or scientists.

In compiling this report the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Reserves policy

The charity has a formal reserves policy, in which the trustees try to keep enough funds in reserve to cover half a year of general running and maintenance costs. This is achieved by notification of financial position at each monthly trustee meeting, and reviews of current and planned expenditure as needed.

Investment policy

There are no specific restrictions on the trustees' investment powers. The Charity has no long-term investments or endowments. Cash surplus to monthly requirements is held in savings accounts.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Risk analysis

Risk management is the process of making and carrying out decisions that will minimise the adverse effect of accidental losses upon the Charity. The risk management process is vital to the personal health and safety of the Trustees, volunteers and the public. In financial terms, it is vital to our ability to pursue our goals, commence and operate programs and events, and to work out our charitable aim in an efficient and professional manner.

The trustees of the Charity have put in place a risk management strategy to pursue risk management goals and objectives. These goals and objectives include:

1. Avoiding exposure to accidental loss by not undertaking events, contracts, or activities where the potential loss is greater than the potential benefit to be derived from these undertakings,
2. Preventing loss by identifying potential loss exposures and implementing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of these losses occurring,
3. Controlling losses that do occur by:
 - a. Developing contingency plans for possible loss scenarios
 - b. Proper documentation and investigation of losses
4. Raising the awareness of all Trustee board members and volunteers concerning risk management.

These goals and objectives will be accomplished by monitoring activities on a continual basis and reporting any forthcoming risks to the chairman of the trustees,

5. Cooperation is needed from all Trustees and volunteers. Only by working as a team with common goals and objectives can we ensure the success of this risk management strategy and its part in working out our aims and vision.

Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd be re-appointed as Auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees statement of disclosure to the auditor

We, the trustees of the charity who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the board of trustees

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Date:.....

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the charity, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the Charities Act 2011, Charities Act 2022, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Charity Commission guidance.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence and reviewed trustees meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud. We enquired about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets.
- We reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Phillip Nicholson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Date:

Synergy House
7 Acorn Business Park
Commercial Gate
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1EX

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		576	3,939,709	3,940,286	339,774
Charitable activities		19,381	-	19,381	23,007
Other trading activities		4,486	-	4,486	4,918
Investments		517	56,216	56,733	335
Total Income and endowments:		24,961	3,995,925	4,020,885	368,034
RESOURCES EXPENDED:	5				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		2,251	-	2,251	5,669
Charitable activities		18,492	-	18,492	19,616
Separate material item of expense		-	11,946	11,946	117,352
Other		3,850	-	3,850	250
Total resources expended		24,593	11,946	36,540	142,887
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		367	3,983,978	3,984,346	225,147
Transfers between funds				-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Capitalisation of tangible fixed assets			96,904	96,904	
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		367	4,080,882	4,081,250	225,147
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2023		121,425	392,120	513,545	288,398
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2024		121,792	4,473,002	4,594,795	513,545

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9		2,903,725		130,978
Current assets					
Stock	10	2,492		2,492	
Debtors	11	11,298		720	
Bank and cash	12	2,076,135		379,355	
		2,089,925		382,567	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13a	398,855			
Net current assets/(liabilities)			1,691,070		382,567
			4,594,795		513,545
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	13b				
Total assets less current liabilities			4,594,795		513,545
Charity funds					
Unrestricted	14		121,792		121,425
Restricted funds	14		4,473,002		392,120
Total charity funds			4,594,795		513,545

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Registered Charity Number
England & Wales **1187777**

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure)		4,081,250	228,359
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		4,889	
Other interest receivable and similar income		(56,733)	(335)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets			
Accrued expenses			
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Stocks			(2,492)
Trade and other debtors		(10,578)	(720)
Trade and other creditors		398,855	
Cash generated from operations		4,417,683	224,812
Interest received		56,733	335
Net cash used in operating activities		4,474,416	225,147
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(2,777,636)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets			
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		(2,777,636)	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,696,780	225,147
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		379,355	154,208
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	12	2,076,135	379,355

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of accounting

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Sherwood Observatory, Coxmoor Road, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 5LF.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

c. Critical judgements

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation

The trustees review depreciation rates and useful lives of the tangible fixed assets on an annual basis to ensure the effects of usage, wear and tear or technical obsolescence are reflected in the carrying value of the asset.

Impairment

The trustees review fixed assets for indications of impairment in conjunction with review of depreciation above. The company has policies in place to review assets on an ongoing basis.

d. Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The trustees have considered the level of cash, current assets held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, making allowance for all available information.

The trustees consider that the Charity's main activities are underpinned adequately by grants, donations and income from Charitable activities. After careful consideration and evaluation of current management information and forecasts they continue to adopt the going concern basis of preparation.

e. Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

f. Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives government grants in respect of the Science Discovery Centre. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

g. Investment assets and the income arising

Investment income is treated as income when received.

h. Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

i. Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

j. Fund raising

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

k. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are recognised at cost.

Depreciation is charged on computers and office equipment at a rate of 33% per annum.

l. Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

m. Stock

Stock is stated at lower of cost and net realisable value.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
2. <u>Income and expenditure account</u>		
Is arrived at after charging/(crediting)		
Auditors fee (2023 Independent examiner's fee)	3,600	250

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3. <u>Analysis of income</u>				

Donations and legacies:

Donations and gifts	369	27,036	27,405	5,212
Gift aid	208	1,887	2,095	562
General grants provided by government/other funding bodies		3,910,786	3,910,786	334,000

576	3,939,709	3,940,286	339,774
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Charitable activities:

Membership fees	9,020		9,020	7,738
Public events, group visits and courses	10,361		10,361	12,736
Mansfield museum exhibition			-	2,533

19,381	-	19,381	23,007
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Other trading activities:

Merchandise sales	2,968		2,968	3,410
Refreshment sales	1,388		1,388	1,373
Other	131		131	135

4,486	-	4,486	4,918
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Income from investments:

Interest received	517	56,216	56,733	335
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	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. <u>Analysis grants received</u>				

SDC Project - Towns Fund (RWC Administration)				10,000
SDC Project - Towns Fund (RIBA Stage 4)				324,000
SDC Project - Towns Fund		1,556,786	1,556,786	
SDC Project - Levelling Up Fund		1,715,000	1,715,000	
SDC Project - Garfield Western Foundation		200,000	200,000	
SDC Project - Mansfield Building Society		18,000	18,000	
SDC Project - The Foyle Foundation		100,000	100,000	
SDC Project - Neighbourly Foundation		1,000	1,000	
SDC Project - Wolfson Foundation		300,000	300,000	
SDC Project - Nottingham Regeneration Trust		20,000	20,000	

-	3,910,786	3,910,786	334,000
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MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

5. Analysis of expenditure	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity			-	390
Other trading activities	2,251		2,251	5,279
	2,251	-	2,251	5,669
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Courses, Events & Visits	2,008		2,008	998
Mansfield Museum Exhibition			-	750
Lecturer Fees	258		258	409
Observatory Running Costs	5,320		5,320	4,097
Observatory Equipment & Maintenance	6,018		6,018	12,374
Land Transfer from Unincorporated Charity			-	988
Depreciation	4,889		4,889	
	18,492	-	18,492	19,616
Separate material item of expense:				
SDC Project Development		11,946	11,946	117,352
	-	11,946	11,946	117,352
Governance costs				
Independent auditor's fee	3,600		3,600	
Independent examiner's fee	250		250	250
	3,850	-	3,850	250

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. Tangible fixed assets

<u>Cost</u>	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Office Equip' £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	85,000	45,978		130,978
Additions	2,776,320	250	1,066	2,777,636
Eliminated on disposal	-	-		-
At 31 March 2024	2,861,320	46,228	1,066	2,908,614
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 1 April 2023	-	-		-
Charge for the year	-	4,623	267	4,889
Eliminated on disposal	-	-		-
At 31 March 2024	-	4,623	267	4,889
<u>Net book value</u>				
At 31 March 2024	2,861,320	41,605	800	2,903,725
At 31 March 2023	85,000	45,978	-	130,978

10. Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Books, resources, learning materials	2,492	2,492

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Mansfield District Council	517	720
Prepayments and accrued income	10,781	-
	11,298	720

12. Bank and cash

	2024 £	2023 £
Charity Account	728	838
Cash	476	397
SDC Savings	541,009	352,120
Meteor Beacon Savings	641	
Charity Savings	35,000	26,000
Natwest 35 Day Notice	11,043	
Natwest 95 Day Notice Account	1,487,238	
	2,076,135	379,355

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
13a. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	394,614	
Accruals and deferred income	3,600	
Other creditors	641	
Taxation and social security		
	398,855	-

	2024 £	2023 £
13b. Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year		
Loans	-	-

14. Analysis of charity funds

	2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Assets Adjustment	Transfers £	2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	121,425	24,961	(24,593)			121,792
Restricted funds						
SDC Project Development	392,120	3,995,925	(11,946)	96,904		4,473,002
	392,120	3,995,925	(11,946)	96,904		4,473,002
	513,545	4,020,885	(36,540)	96,904		4,594,795

SDC Project Development is the Charity's "Science Discovery Centre", currently under construction and due to complete late 2024.

15. Analysis of Net Liabilities between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets/ Liab' £	Creditor due after 1 year £	Total £
Restricted Funds	2,866,320	1,606,683		4,473,002
Unrestricted Funds	37,405	84,388		121,792
Total funds at 31 March 2024	2,903,725	1,691,070		4,594,795

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. Contingent asset

The Charity, through specialist advisors, is currently preparing a claim for VAT which will result in a significant repayment, predominately in respect of construction costs for the Science Discovery Centre. The claim is not yet finalised but if successful the amount is considered to be material to the accounts.

17. Financial commitments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets amounted to:		
Contractual commitments (Science Discovery Centre)	<u>3,728,171</u>	<u>6,516,437</u>

The Charity is committed to the completion of the Science Discovery Centre. The project is expected to be completed in November 2024.

The project is funded predominately by Ashfield District Council.

The charity is committed to delivering outcomes in respect of visitors, learner participation and refurbishment of derelict facilities.

Registered Charity number 1187777 (England and Wales)

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CONTENTS

1	Legal and administrative details
2 - 5	Report of the trustees
6 - 8	Auditors Report
9	Statement of financial activities
10	Statement of financial position
11	Statement of cashflows
12 - 18	Notes to the financial statements

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chairman	Dr Stephen Wallace
Trustees	Dr Stephen Wallace Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe Mr Brendan Scoular Mrs Paula Timberlake Mr Nigel John Cunnington Mr Stephen Arthur Binns Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston Mr Christopher John Dakin
Contact address	Sherwood Observatory Coxmoor Road Sutton in Ashfield NG17 5LF
Registered Charity Number	
England & Wales	1187777
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 1 Leeming Street Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1LU Natwest Bank plc Portkand Square Sutton in Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 1BA
Advisors (general)	Solicitors
	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ
	Auditors
	Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd Synergy House 7 Acorn Business Park Commercial Gate Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 1EX
Advisors (Science Discovery Centre project management)	
	Pick Everard Halford House Charles Street Leicester LE1 1HA Liz Barrett OBE Martin Rigley OBE Alex Peace - Gadsby OBE Paul Humphries Colin Hutcheson

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Trustees of the charity

The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Dr Stephen Wallace
Mr Michael Gerard Rhodes Lowe
Mr Brendan Scoular
Mrs Paula Timberlake
Mr Nigel John Cunnington
Mr Stephen Arthur Binns
Mr Craig Keith Peter Mapleston
Mr Christopher John Dakin

Power to appoint trustees rests with the board of trustees, by reference to a process defined in the Constitution.

Training of new trustees,

The Charity recognises the requirement to keep Trustees current in order to best administrate the charity and give help and advice to the volunteer team. Training and updates on technical aspects of the observatory and updates from the Charity Commission are given and circulated as frequently as possible.

Objects of the charity

To promote and advance the education of the public in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects. The provision and maintenance of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties.

Organisation of the charity

The charity is governed by its Constitution, issued on 5 February 2020, as amended on 29 September 2020 and 14 August 2024.

The running of the charity is overseen by a board of trustees. The trustees meet monthly to oversee the operation and development of the observatory. The Charity aims to have about ten trustees who together bring to the board a selection of competencies to support the technical aspects of the observatory and its equipment and general management of the Charity. Trustees are re-elected annually at the AGM, the Chair is limited to a two year term, in the event there is no other candidate the Chair may serve a further two years.

The trustees manage the charity's finances through a rigorous budgeting and monitoring process. This process begins with the annual budget which is approved by the trustees, which is then monitored against actual outcome on a continual basis and at the regular management meetings with the Chairman.

Fundraising Practices

The charity does not carry out regular significant fundraising activities.

Review of the year

Funds are in a good position with sufficient operating income and funding for the Science Discovery Centre .

A full review of our activities during the year can be found in the trustees annual report.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).

The charity's regular income includes membership fees, entry fees to public events, course fees, private group visits and general public donations towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Observatory.

We also attract grants from the government, private sector funders, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and donations towards the planetarium and science discovery centre build.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

The charity has continued to entertain visitors throughout the year, providing activities, events, training, lectures, advice, education, guidance and information on all matters relating to astronomy and science. The charity has a loyal membership and has maintained a consistent stream of income to support regular activities from subscriptions and events.

The trustees' are proud to disclose this year that their ambition to transform the existing Observatory into a Science Centre and Planetarium, to inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers is now well underway. Construction of the project commenced in the summer of 2023 and is currently on target for completion late 2024. Funding in the region of £5.3m from Ashfield District Council, local supporters, private sector charities and other funders has allowed our vision to become a reality.

Plans for the future

The Charity continues to focus on the construction of the planetarium and Science Discovery Centre project ready for opening in November 2024. Our programme of members meetings, outreach, and public events will also continue.

Public Benefit

Our activities are mainly held during the autumn and winter seasons, when it is dark enough in the evenings to perform astronomical viewing. All our main season activities include telescopic viewing of astronomical objects when weather permits, and fall into one of three types:

1. Open Evenings, held on average once a month, where we open our observatory to the public, and include talks on astronomy subjects.
2. Organised Group Visits, including tailored talks on astronomy subjects. We host an average of two groups per week and are organised for groups including school classes, youth groups such as Scout Association and Girl Guiding, and adult groups such as WI, Rotary Club, and U3A.
3. Two Basic Astronomy Courses, held one evening a week over a 6-week period, where we provide broader presentations on astronomy subjects.

We also have a radio astronomy centre equipped with a number of aerials and beacons that monitor various activities within the atmosphere and further out into the solar system and beyond. This facility is also open to our visitors where they can see these activities in real time displayed on screen. It is also equipped with a meteor detection beacon with a 400 mile radius.

Outside our main viewing season we hold occasional public open days at our observatory. These are mainly through the summer months. At the open days, we give talks about, and use our specially filtered solar viewing equipment to safely view the Sun and use our equipment to monitor and display its radio emissions. We also take our specialist solar viewing equipment to a number of public festivals and open days away from our observatory. In addition, approximately once per month throughout the year, we arrange guest lectures mostly given by professional astronomers or scientists.

In compiling this report the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Reserves policy

The charity has a formal reserves policy, in which the trustees try to keep enough funds in reserve to cover half a year of general running and maintenance costs. This is achieved by notification of financial position at each monthly trustee meeting, and reviews of current and planned expenditure as needed.

Investment policy

There are no specific restrictions on the trustees' investment powers. The Charity has no long-term investments or endowments. Cash surplus to monthly requirements is held in savings accounts.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Risk analysis

Risk management is the process of making and carrying out decisions that will minimise the adverse effect of accidental losses upon the Charity. The risk management process is vital to the personal health and safety of the Trustees, volunteers and the public. In financial terms, it is vital to our ability to pursue our goals, commence and operate programs and events, and to work out our charitable aim in an efficient and professional manner.

The trustees of the Charity have put in place a risk management strategy to pursue risk management goals and objectives. These goals and objectives include:

1. Avoiding exposure to accidental loss by not undertaking events, contracts, or activities where the potential loss is greater than the potential benefit to be derived from these undertakings,
2. Preventing loss by identifying potential loss exposures and implementing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of these losses occurring,
3. Controlling losses that do occur by:
 - a. Developing contingency plans for possible loss scenarios
 - b. Proper documentation and investigation of losses
4. Raising the awareness of all Trustee board members and volunteers concerning risk management.

These goals and objectives will be accomplished by monitoring activities on a continual basis and reporting any forthcoming risks to the chairman of the trustees,

5. Cooperation is needed from all Trustees and volunteers. Only by working as a team with common goals and objectives can we ensure the success of this risk management strategy and its part in working out our aims and vision.

Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under Charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd be re-appointed as Auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees statement of disclosure to the auditor

We, the trustees of the charity who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By order of the board of trustees

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Date:.....

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONT) TO THE TRUSTEES OF MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the charity, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the Charities Act 2011, Charities Act 2022, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Charity Commission guidance.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence and reviewed trustees meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud. We enquired about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets.
- We reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Phillip Nicholson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Stopfords (Mansfield) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Date:

Synergy House
7 Acorn Business Park
Commercial Gate
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1EX

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		576	3,939,709	3,940,286	339,774
Charitable activities		19,381	-	19,381	23,007
Other trading activities		4,486	-	4,486	4,918
Investments		517	56,216	56,733	335
Total Income and endowments:		24,961	3,995,925	4,020,885	368,034
RESOURCES EXPENDED:	5				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		2,251	-	2,251	5,669
Charitable activities		18,492	-	18,492	19,616
Separate material item of expense		-	11,946	11,946	117,352
Other		3,850	-	3,850	250
Total resources expended		24,593	11,946	36,540	142,887
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		367	3,983,978	3,984,346	225,147
Transfers between funds				-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Capitalisation of tangible fixed assets			96,904	96,904	
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		367	4,080,882	4,081,250	225,147
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2023		121,425	392,120	513,545	288,398
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2024		121,792	4,473,002	4,594,795	513,545

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9		2,903,725		130,978
Current assets					
Stock	10	2,492		2,492	
Debtors	11	11,298		720	
Bank and cash	12	2,076,135		379,355	
		2,089,925		382,567	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13a	398,855			
Net current assets/(liabilities)			1,691,070		382,567
			4,594,795		513,545
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	13b				
Total assets less current liabilities			4,594,795		513,545
Charity funds					
Unrestricted	14		121,792		121,425
Restricted funds	14		4,473,002		392,120
Total charity funds			4,594,795		513,545

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on:

.....
Mrs Paula Timberlake **Trustee**

Registered Charity Number
England & Wales **1187777**

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure)		4,081,250	228,359
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		4,889	
Other interest receivable and similar income		(56,733)	(335)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets			
Accrued expenses			
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Stocks			(2,492)
Trade and other debtors		(10,578)	(720)
Trade and other creditors		398,855	
Cash generated from operations		4,417,683	224,812
Interest received		56,733	335
Net cash used in operating activities		4,474,416	225,147
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(2,777,636)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets			
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		(2,777,636)	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,696,780	225,147
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		379,355	154,208
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	12	2,076,135	379,355

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of accounting

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Sherwood Observatory, Coxmoor Road, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 5LF.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

c. Critical judgements

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation

The trustees review depreciation rates and useful lives of the tangible fixed assets on an annual basis to ensure the effects of usage, wear and tear or technical obsolescence are reflected in the carrying value of the asset.

Impairment

The trustees review fixed assets for indications of impairment in conjunction with review of depreciation above. The company has policies in place to review assets on an ongoing basis.

d. Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The trustees have considered the level of cash, current assets held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, making allowance for all available information.

The trustees consider that the Charity's main activities are underpinned adequately by grants, donations and income from Charitable activities. After careful consideration and evaluation of current management information and forecasts they continue to adopt the going concern basis of preparation.

e. Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the profit and loss account in other administrative expenses.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

f. Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives government grants in respect of the Science Discovery Centre. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

g. Investment assets and the income arising

Investment income is treated as income when received.

h. Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

i. Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

j. Fund raising

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

k. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are recognised at cost.

Depreciation is charged on computers and office equipment at a rate of 33% per annum.

l. Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

m. Stock

Stock is stated at lower of cost and net realisable value.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
2. <u>Income and expenditure account</u>		
Is arrived at after charging/(crediting)		
Auditors fee (2023 Independent examiner's fee)	3,600	250

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3. <u>Analysis of income</u>				

Donations and legacies:

Donations and gifts	369	27,036	27,405	5,212
Gift aid	208	1,887	2,095	562
General grants provided by government/other funding bodies		3,910,786	3,910,786	334,000

576	3,939,709	3,940,286	339,774
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Charitable activities:

Membership fees	9,020		9,020	7,738
Public events, group visits and courses	10,361		10,361	12,736
Mansfield museum exhibition			-	2,533

19,381	-	19,381	23,007
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Other trading activities:

Merchandise sales	2,968		2,968	3,410
Refreshment sales	1,388		1,388	1,373
Other	131		131	135

4,486	-	4,486	4,918
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Income from investments:

Interest received	517	56,216	56,733	335
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	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. <u>Analysis grants received</u>				

SDC Project - Towns Fund (RWC Administration)				10,000
SDC Project - Towns Fund (RIBA Stage 4)				324,000
SDC Project - Towns Fund		1,556,786	1,556,786	
SDC Project - Levelling Up Fund		1,715,000	1,715,000	
SDC Project - Garfield Western Foundation		200,000	200,000	
SDC Project - Mansfield Building Society		18,000	18,000	
SDC Project - The Foyle Foundation		100,000	100,000	
SDC Project - Neighbourly Foundation		1,000	1,000	
SDC Project - Wolfson Foundation		300,000	300,000	
SDC Project - Nottingham Regeneration Trust		20,000	20,000	

-	3,910,786	3,910,786	334,000
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MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

5. Analysis of expenditure	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity			-	390
Other trading activities	2,251		2,251	5,279
	2,251	-	2,251	5,669
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Courses, Events & Visits	2,008		2,008	998
Mansfield Museum Exhibition			-	750
Lecturer Fees	258		258	409
Observatory Running Costs	5,320		5,320	4,097
Observatory Equipment & Maintenance	6,018		6,018	12,374
Land Transfer from Unincorporated Charity			-	988
Depreciation	4,889		4,889	
	18,492	-	18,492	19,616
Separate material item of expense:				
SDC Project Development		11,946	11,946	117,352
	-	11,946	11,946	117,352
Governance costs				
Independent auditor's fee	3,600		3,600	
Independent examiner's fee	250		250	250
	3,850	-	3,850	250

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. Tangible fixed assets

<u>Cost</u>	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Office Equip' £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	85,000	45,978		130,978
Additions	2,776,320	250	1,066	2,777,636
Eliminated on disposal	-	-		-
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,861,320</u>	<u>46,228</u>	<u>1,066</u>	<u>2,908,614</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 1 April 2023	-	-		-
Charge for the year	-	4,623	267	4,889
Eliminated on disposal	-	-		-
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>4,623</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>4,889</u>
<u>Net book value</u>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,861,320</u>	<u>41,605</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>2,903,725</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>85,000</u>	<u>45,978</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,978</u>

10. Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Books, resources, learning materials	<u>2,492</u>	<u>2,492</u>

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Mansfield District Council	517	720
Prepayments and accrued income	10,781	-
	<u>11,298</u>	<u>720</u>

12. Bank and cash

	2024 £	2023 £
Charity Account	728	838
Cash	476	397
SDC Savings	541,009	352,120
Meteor Beacon Savings	641	
Charity Savings	35,000	26,000
Natwest 35 Day Notice	11,043	
Natwest 95 Day Notice Account	1,487,238	
	<u>2,076,135</u>	<u>379,355</u>

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
13a. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	394,614	
Accruals and deferred income	3,600	
Other creditors	641	
Taxation and social security		
	<u>398,855</u>	<u>-</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
13b. Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year		
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

14. Analysis of charity funds

	2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Assets Adjustment	Transfers £	2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	121,425	24,961	(24,593)			121,792
Restricted funds						
SDC Project Development	392,120	3,995,925	(11,946)	96,904		4,473,002
	<u>392,120</u>	<u>3,995,925</u>	<u>(11,946)</u>	<u>96,904</u>		<u>4,473,002</u>
	513,545	4,020,885	(36,540)	96,904		4,594,795

SDC Project Development is the Charity's "Science Discovery Centre", currently under construction and due to complete late 2024.

15. Analysis of Net Liabilities between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets/ Liab' £	Creditor due after 1 year £	Total £
Restricted Funds	2,866,320	1,606,683		4,473,002
Unrestricted Funds	37,405	84,388		121,792
Total funds at 31 March 2024	<u>2,903,725</u>	<u>1,691,070</u>		<u>4,594,795</u>

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. Contingent asset

The Charity, through specialist advisors, is currently preparing a claim for VAT which will result in a significant repayment, predominately in respect of construction costs for the Science Discovery Centre. The claim is not yet finalised but if successful the amount is considered to be material to the accounts.

17. Financial commitments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets amounted to:		
Contractual commitments (Science Discovery Centre)	<u>3,728,171</u>	<u>6,516,437</u>

The Charity is committed to the completion of the Science Discovery Centre. The project is expected to be completed in November 2024.

The project is funded predominately by Ashfield District Council.

The charity is committed to delivering outcomes in respect of visitors, learner participation and refurbishment of derelict facilities.

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1187777

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1 April 2022 Period start date **To: 31 March 2023** Period end date

Charity name: Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society.

Charity registration number:1187777

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document		To promote and advance the education of the public in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects. The provision and maintenance of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.		Our activities are mainly held during the autumn and winter seasons, when it is dark enough in the evenings to perform astronomical viewing. All our main season activities include telescopic viewing of astronomical objects when weather permits, and fall into one of three types: 1. Open Evenings, held on average once a month, where we open our observatory to the public, and include talks on astronomy subjects. 2. Organised Group Visits, including tailored talks on astronomy subjects. We host an average of two groups per week and are organised for groups including school classes, youth groups such as Scout Association and Girl Guiding, and adult groups such as WI, Rotary Club, and U3A. 3. Two Basic Astronomy Courses, held one evening a week over a 6-week period, where we provide broader presentations on astronomy subjects. We also have a radio astronomy centre equipped with a number of aerials and beacons that monitor various activities within the atmosphere and further out into the solar system and beyond. This facility is also open to our visitors where they can see these activities in real time displayed on screen. It is also equipped with a meteor detection beacon with a 400 mile radius. Outside our main viewing season we hold occasional public open days at our

		observatory. These are mainly through the summer months. At the open days, we give talks about, and use our specially filtered solar viewing equipment to safely view the Sun and use our equipment to monitor and display its radio emissions. We also take our specialist solar viewing equipment to a number of public festivals and open days away from our observatory. In addition, approximately once per month throughout the year, we arrange guest lectures mostly given by professional astronomers or scientists.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit		The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making		N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment		N/A
Contribution made by volunteers		The trustees are grateful for the many hours our member volunteers contribute to the running of our Society activities, helping to run our public events, operating our telescope viewing equipment, and developing and delivering astronomy presentations and courses, thus passing on their expertise to the public.
Other		None

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.		Plans are in place to source a new mirror for the main telescope, along with a planned refurbishment of the main telescope dome, plus the installation of a new control panel. This will greatly improve the ease of use and views through our main telescope for the benefit of our members and visiting public. In March, a major achievement was the approval of plans for the construction of a science discovery centre and 60-seater planetarium next to the Observatory, utilising an old Victorian disused underground reservoir. A large amount of funding was secured from various sources as outlined in the attached Trustees Report. In February 2023, the Charity Commission gave final approval for transfer of assets from our previous, unincorporated, charity (no. 518183). This completed our transition to new CIO status, which provides more protection and flexibility to our trustees in pursuing the Charity's aims, as we greatly expand our facilities to provide more opportunities for public and group visit in our new Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set		N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set		N/A
Investment performance against objectives		N/A
Other		None

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period		Funds in a good position with record income. There was greater expenditure, but a better closing balance than previously.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held		The charity has a formal reserves policy, in which the trustees try to keep enough funds in reserve to cover half a year of general running and maintenance costs. This is achieved by notification of financial position at each monthly trustee meeting, and reviews of current and planned expenditure as needed.
Amount of reserves held		£5500
Reasons for holding zero reserves		N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit		None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern		None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)		Membership fees, entry fees to public events, course fees, private group visits, and general public donations towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Observatory. We also attract government grants and donations towards the planetarium and science discovery centre build.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted		N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity		The identification of more funding sources for the planetarium and science discovery centre development.
Other		None

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)		Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)		CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees		Election by members at the AGM. Can also be appointed by the Trustees if a vacancy or urgent need arrives between AGMs.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees		N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works		N/A
Relationship with any related parties		N/A
Other		None

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society CIO
Other name the charity uses	Sherwood Observatory
Registered charity number	1187777
Charity's principal address	Sherwood Observatory Coxmoor Road Sutton in Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 5LF

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	Steve Binns	Communications	From: 06 / 09 / 2022	
2	Craig Bradford	Observatory Director		
3	Scott Creed	Treasurer	To: 06 / 09 / 2022	
4	Nigel Cunnington	Chair / Radio Astronomy		
5	Chris Dakin	Curator of Instruments		
6	Rob Dawes	Chair / Group Visits	To: 06 / 09 / 2022	
7	Michael Lowe	Secretary		
8	Craig Mapleston	Observatory Director	From: 06 / 09 / 2022	
9	Brendan Scoular	Events		
10	Paul Sherratt	IT & Website		
11	Steve Wallace	Planetarium Project	From: 06 / 09 / 2022	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Official Custodian for Charities		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Legal	Browne Jacobson	Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ
Fundraising	Greenwood Projects	The Mount, 2 Trent Valley Road, Lichfield Staffs WV13 6EG
Independent Examiner	Venusia Ltd	Apt 316, Wimbledon Central, 21/33 Worple Road, London SW19 4BJ

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

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

Most of the year, we will concentrate on the construction of the planetarium and science discovery centre project ready for opening in November 2024. Our programme of members meetings, outreach, and public events will also continue.
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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Michael Lowe	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	12 / 01 / 2024	



Annual Report 2023



Mansfield & Sutton Astronomical Society CIO

Annual Report for the July 2023 Annual General Meeting

The trustees are pleased to present their individual reports for the year ending June 2023.

Contents

Chair's Introduction – Nigel (Sparky) Cunningham	3
Planetarium Planning Manager – Dr Steve Wallace	5
Secretary – Michael Lowe	7
Public Events Coordinator – Brendan Scoular	8
Group Visits	9
Observatory Director – Craig Mapleston	10
Communications Officer – Stephen Binns	11
IT Administrator – Paul Sherratt	12
Curator of Instruments – Chris Dakin	13
Radio Astronomy Coordinator – Nigel “Sparky” Cunningham	15
Treasurer – Scott Creed	19

Chair's Introduction – Nigel (Sparky) Cunnington

Memberships

We had another good year at MSAS with strong membership and many of our recent members supporting our outreach. Feedback from several new members has been that they have joined because they found us to be very welcoming when they attended our events. For example, at the start of the year we were short-handed in radio astronomy but now we have a great team supporting its development. Our membership numbers have slowly increased to 152 on the date that I have written this report, 14 June.

One of the benefits of being a member is getting a copy of EH every month. All the content in EH is written by our members and it is then expertly put together by our team of editors. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the last year. If anyone wishes to contribute to this successful venture, then please send your articles to the editors at newsletter@sherwood-observatory.org.uk.

The Society would not be able to function without a management committee of trustees as well as a number of other named roles who do not necessarily attend the meetings. The committee meetings have been well attended by the trustees through the year, but it has remained challenging to recruit people to every trustee role. For that reason, whilst we must maintain a minimum number of trustee roles, we have relaxed the unofficial requirement for all committee members to be trustees to try to encourage more participation. If you would like to support the Society in one of the many named roles, then please let us know and we can let you have a job description.

Investments

Our Treasurer, Scott Creed, reports that we have had a record year for income of around £30,000, with about £25,000 of this being reinvested into the Society. Investments included purchase of new primary and secondary mirrors and a new mirror cell for our impressive 61cm Newtonian reflecting telescope (which will be 60cm with the new mirror). When they are installed this year, it will mean that members and visitors will experience even better wow moments. There is even the exciting prospect of a second large telescope being installed in the future. There has been a lot of interest from members over the year to get trained on our main telescope. This was great to see but it has meant that we have struggled to get everyone signed off. We are now in a position where some of the people who have been previously trained are now themselves training others.

Money was also invested in the Radio Astronomy Centre. A significant feather in our cap was to become the home of the UK meteor beacon, which won the Radio Society of Great Britain's Wortley-Talbot Trophy for outstanding experimental work in amateur radio. This was a joint award with a UK wide team of enthusiasts including MSAS members.

Less visible, but no less important is investing in upkeep of the facilities. Over the year there have been a number of 'behind the scenes' improvements including a new hot water cylinder. Maintaining the observatory requires volunteers, so please have a word with our Observatory Directory if you would like to help.

Activities & Initiatives

Our Society continues to attract great guest lecturers, although attendance in person has sometimes been lower than expected. We have tried to improve this by providing more information about the lecturer and their chosen topic well in advance of the meeting. We now have a regular '**Obscast**' hosted by Joe Gathercole. These are made available on our YouTube channel, so please look at the back catalogue for some interesting interviews. Progress on the Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium has started to attract media attention, with the observatory having featured on several TV and radio news stories.

We had another fantastic season of **Voyages of Discovery** (group visits) that I'm sure inspired a lot of young people to take more of an interest in the world around them. Our open events also remained strong, with some events selling out within hours of the tickets going on sale. Both the Voyages of Discovery and open events remain one of the main ways that we engage with the public and it could not be delivered without member volunteers, so please come forward and offer your assistance – it's also good fun and a chance to sample some excellent home-made cakes.

Our **Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium** project took some big steps forward over the year but faced a challenge in September when our first main contractor went bust. However, a new contractor was soon found, and the project put back on track. In January we received the great news that we had been awarded £3.1 million from the Levelling Up Fund and that has helped us to secure more funding from other sources. Our members have directly contributed to the success of this project through demolition of the pump house and starting the clean-up of the reservoir, both of which will save us money on the contract. Thanks also go to those members who have helped to draft our grant applications. We should start to build the new Centre in August this year.

2023 and beyond promises to be another great year for MSAS with continued growth in all areas. I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and in the coming months.

Best Wishes

Nigel (Sparky) Cunningham

Planetarium Planning Manager – Dr Steve Wallace

2022/23 has seen some significant challenges overcome and milestones delivered in our vision to create a Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium that will both serve to inspire people to follow STEM careers and be a regionally significant visitor attraction.

As the year opened, we had already secured a grant of £2.25 million from the Towns Fund Programme and this had enabled us to appoint Robert Woodhead Ltd (RWL) to lead a team consisting of PRB Architects, HSP (civil and structural engineers), and RSA Cosmos/ST Engineering Anycip to prepare detailed designs with the intention of submitting a planning application during September 2022.

All was going according to plan until, on the 14th September, we received a press release informing us that RWL had gone into liquidation. With support from our legal advisors, Browne Jacobson, and great teamwork from what remained of our supply chain, we reassembled the design team and eventually managed to submit our planning application on 31st October 2022, a delay of only one month. Working with SCAPE Ventures, we set about finding a new main contractor and, towards the end of 2022, we appointed GF Tomlinson Ltd (GFT) following a competitive tender process.

One of the first jobs for GFT to do was to review the designs to assess the buildability and the impact of construction industry inflation on the likely costs. We have all individually felt the impacts of inflation over 2022, and the construction industry is no exception so, as anticipated, this was not good news, with the original designs coming in well over budget. The team immediately set to work on what is known in the industry as a Value Engineering exercise – i.e., to work out where we could save money without severely compromising the functionality of the new Centre. This was not an easy task as significant savings had to be made - we all had our own personal favourite aspects of the original designs that we had to ask ourselves whether they were necessary (but which none of us would ever have missed had they never been thought of in the first place!). However, the team pulled together again, and we've ended up with a design that retains all the key aspects of the original and that I prefer, as shown below:



On 22nd March 2023 we were informed by Ashfield District Council that we had been granted planning permission – a major step towards making our vision a reality and an important enabler for some of our grant funding applications. Due to changes made during the Value Engineering exercise, we are going to have to agree a variation to our planning permission before we start construction. However, this should be relatively straight forward as nothing in the revised designs is contentious (actually, some of the impacts associated with the original design have been reduced).

In parallel with the work described above, we initiated a plan to raise the remaining project costs. The main focus of this was an application for Levelling Up Round 2 funding. This was a major piece of work as it had to be fully compliant with HM Government Green Book assessment standards and the final analysis stretched to over 114 pages. In January 2023 we received the fantastic news that our application had been successful, with an award of £3.1 million. This has led to us being featured on BBC East Midlands Today on a couple of occasions, with their team saying that they want to do repeated features on the project as we progress through construction.

Core funding from the Towns Fund and Levelling Up Round 2 fund comes to £5.35 million, so £1 million short of our total project cost estimate of £6.35 million. In parallel with the Levelling Up application, we set about preparing applications to a number of private sector grant funders. Although strictly outside of this 2022/23 annual report due to the dates of award, it is worth noting that we have been successful with the following applications so far:

- Garfield Weston Foundation - £200,000
- Foyle Foundation - £100,000
- Mansfield Building Society - £18,000
- Lindhurst Engineering – donation of internal main stairs, valued at £15,000
- Many small donations from visitors and other interested parties

Outlook for 2023/24

Activity in the first half of 2023/24 will consist of progressing with the next stage of design known as RIBA 4. This is where the designs are developed in sufficient detail to be handed over to the subcontractors for pricing and construction (for example, the sizes and dimensions of all the steel work for the frame of the building must be specified). We will also continue to apply for funding, including a major push for corporate sponsorship. Subject to the Trustees being confident that the funding will be available when we need it, we remain on track to start construction in late August 2023, with a proposed opening date for the new Centre of November 2024. GFT are currently working on a construction site logistics plan to ensure that the Observatory remains operational during the works. Of course, some of the facilities will have to be shut down for a while. For example, the Radio Astronomy Centre will be relocated, but we are working to minimise the disruption.

This is a multi-disciplinary, one-of-a-kind, project. Delivery would not be possible without the support of many of our members, so thank you to them. You know who you are. If any other members would like to join the team, please get in touch.

Steve Wallace

Secretary – Michael Lowe

Over the last 10 months since our AGM in September 2022, with all the pandemic restrictions lifted (but risk assessment still in place), we are more or less running as normal. However, it has not been business as usual.

The process of enrolling new members has kept me busy. As of June this year, the membership stands at 152 (including honorary and junior members), a net gain of 10 since last year. It was a bit disappointing to see that 38 members did not renew, 31 of them would have been “first time renewals”. However, something that I am yet to fully understand is that although they paid their subscriptions, none of them attended the Observatory either in person or remotely.

Maintaining the database accurately and updating it is carried out both by myself and the Treasurer Scott Creed, and I would just like to add in my personal thanks to him for his inputs.

There have been lots of different enquiries coming in every week. These have varied from anything to do with membership, visits, events (both on and off site), to people wanting advice and help in setting up a scope, or general enquiries about what is happening in the night (or day) sky. As usual, the enquiry has been passed on to the correct person, and we have received some excellent feedback through our social media channels. News from the FAS (Federation of Astronomical Societies) and the BAA (British Astronomical Association) continues to come in on a regular basis too, and several members have remarked that they have “attended virtually” or signed up to some of their events and courses. I would also like to thank those members who continue to send me good quality astronomy themed articles for distribution to the membership. These have proved popular, and in some cases, have raised interesting feedback. Please keep them coming.

The Society Newsletter “Event Horizon” (EH) usually arrives with me about the 3rd of each month and is circulated directly to all members inboxes within a few hours. However, we produce one hard copy monthly for just one member who does not use a computer.

Regular committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, and these have been well attended by all the Trustees. There is also a facility to join via Zoom, but this is rarely used. I usually circulate the meeting minutes within a week of the meeting, having put out a draft copy first to ensure accuracy. I would like to thank all the Trustees for the timely manner in which they respond both to the call for agenda items, and also for the editing of the minutes before the final minutes are published. As we get closer to the building of our Planetarium and Science Discovery Centre, we have also convened a number of extra committee meetings which have been fully supported not only by the Trustees, but other Society members who have brought their expertise to the project.

I am pleased to say that even though all committee members now have access to our Twitter feed, our exposure on this site has risen from 1228 as of August last year to 1403 as of June this year. It has been good to also see increasing numbers of new followers both on Facebook and Instagram.

Once again, I have had a busy year. Next year, with our new project nearing completion, an even busier one, I think.

Michael Lowe

Public Events Coordinator – Brendan Scoular

I'm pleased to report that the society remains in a strong position for delivering events and night school courses. Unlike previous years whereby we have succumbed to the occasional cancelation we have been fortunate to maintain a clear run of monthly events on site at the observatory. While the weather has largely been in our favour much gratitude goes out to the membership in sustaining a healthy level of corporation, as without membership participation we would certainly struggle. This does fill me with confidence, but never complacent in the fact we are on the right track for the future.

The outlook for events Sherwood observatory shall continue to be positive driver for showcasing what we do best. By using all the assets, we possess along with our members drive, enthusiasm, and willingness to inspire we can really make a positive difference - not only by delivering on our core objectives but also to enhance visitor experience. I'm particularly pleased that we have successfully incorporated the reservoir into our offering during open events, as this really does give the general public a taste of something rather unique and bespoke to our organisation.

This coming year will see a gradual transition of onsite operations with the build of the new Science Discovery Centre & Planetarium therefore we shall lose access to the reservoir. Not forgetting the relocation of the Radio Astronomy Centre, it may well mean a minor hiatus in delivering a full visitor experience. That aside I'm confident we shall continue to engage with the general public and could well be a convenient time to host more off-site events. Now we have our large marquee ablaze with new Sherwood Observatory logos we are certain to well and truly stand out, no matter where we are.

Night School

Two night-school course sessions have been delivered successfully during the past 12 months. With a healthy number of attendees enrolling on both the October and February it is satisfying to see we take on new members after these sessions run its course.

Kind Regards

Brendan Scoular

Group Visits

The trustees would like to thank Rob Dawes for the following account of our group visits “Voyages of Discovery” programme.

As we approach our 53rd AGM I’m extremely pleased to announce that our society continues to enjoy a strong demand to visit our observatory.

Throughout the winter season of 2022/2023 a team of dedicated and talented members conducted a record number of visits to our observatory through our Voyages of Discovery program.

These visits consisted of a variety of children’s uniformed groups, including Brownies, Beavers, Scouts, Cubs and Girl Guides. The adult side of our operations were made up from WI, U3A and special occasion groups, such as birthdays and anniversaries. The latter two groups opting for our increasingly popular gift voucher option.

The unsurprising common theme running through everyone who visited our observatory was to learn more about the wonders of the night sky, and on this vital point our knowledgeable members delivered with aplomb. With talks ranging from uniformed badge requirements to what can be observed in the night sky, radio astronomy, and other bespoke topics.

Aside from the many informative talks given by members, our 24-inch Newtonian telescope continues to deliver fantastic experiences for our many visitors.

You can feel the mounting excitement as the young and not so young members of the public begin to climb our spiral staircase to gain access to the dome, and quite often the first word spoken on seeing our gorgeous Newtonian telescope is “wow”.

A pleasing aspect of this particular season is our radio astronomy centre, which has now been incorporated in our Voyages of Discovery program. Having a radio astronomy centre has allowed us to expand our appeal to the public.

The feedback our society has received from this wide variety of visitors is with the imminent build of our SDC and Planetarium our society will be even busier in the near future.

Sherwood Observatory can be justly proud of the quality of our public outreach program.

Thank you to everyone who supported our record-breaking Voyages of Discovery.

Observatory Director – Craig Mapleston

Observatory and grounds maintenance

Since taking over the role as Observatory Director the Observatory has benefited from a few necessary upgrades including a new hot water cylinder, water filter, serving shelf and more, while also making the Observatory more energy efficient. The members are all keen to volunteer for such tasks and this is a real big help with the operation and maintenance of the Observatory.

Pump house demolition

With the original SDC developer quoting £20,000 to demolish the pump house on top of the reservoir, this has been a great opportunity to do it ourselves. This has been a brilliant team building exercise, while also saving the £20k on cost and then some – by selling our reclaimed bricks at prices ranging from 45p to £5 per brick!

The rest of the pump house bricks will be removed on the 20th June by 20+ volunteers from Experian which I have arranged.

Maintenance days

We now have maintenance days every 2 or so months which help keep up the upkeep of the grounds and its appearance. We have had a great response from volunteers giving their time and helping to make it a better place for everyone.

Lecture room refurbishment

We have been planning over the past few months to upgrade the lecture room to a more modern standard for the opening of the SDC. We are getting rid of the fire hazard wood panelling and replacing the ceiling with modern down lights to bring it up to the current time.

Craig Mapleston

Communications Officer – Stephen Binns

Mansfield & Sutton Astronomical Society has had a great year. We now find ourselves in the enviable position of being one of the main topics of conversation within the surrounding area. This is mainly due to the construction of our new Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium later this year. The publicity has been achieved through society events, including open evenings, solar days, off site events and media activity.

In spring, Dr Dan Brown undertook a lecture for our society, but as he had a prior engagement with Notts TV earlier that evening he set his equipment up in the observatory and carried out the live recording from there. This was great publicity as the reporter asked many questions about the telescope and our site, which were duly answered by Dr Dan Brown.

Lectures

To obtain the widest possible interest in the subjects, I have tried to procure lecturers whose expertise lie in different fields of astronomy. Many lecturers have heard of our project, and are willing to give our society a talk, but only if they can have a look around our site first to see where the Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium is to be constructed, and also see the plans of the build. This speaks volumes for our society as they tell me 'It's all the talk around our office'.

I will continue to procure a varied array of speakers for our society in the future and will encourage members of our society to undertake talks on Wednesday evenings.

Media Coverage

Along with social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram we now have contacts at BBC East Midlands Today, Notts TV and Radio Nottingham. Vision West Notts College are also assisting our society with media filming, having done shoots already. They are also assisting our society by installing time lapse cameras in the dome for the installation of the new mirror, and within the reservoir area to capture the new build in real time.

In February of this year, I was invited to give a live talk on BBC East Midlands Today at our society within the dome, about comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF). This was a great success, as there were lots of social media comments enquiring about our observatory, which is great news. After this talk the film crew stated they would love to come and carry out a half day shoot, maybe at an open event. I will let you all know when this happens.

At the moment I am in liaison with Ashfield District Council, where Nonsuch Studios are interested in filming our society for the Ashfield Arts Partnership-Wider Partner Engagement project. This is a 2-year project, starting in 2024 and our input will help shape the bid for the area.

Other Comms

Radio Astronomy: In the past year I have been assisting Nigel Cunnington in radio astronomy, and together we have produced a 'How To' guide to assist members on the use of radio astronomy

equipment. I am also writing articles for our monthly magazine, Event Horizon, to encourage and assist members on the uptake of this exciting subject.

Obscast: Joe Gathercole has created this event and is going from strength to strength. I have been lucky enough to appear twice on his show, which produces hundreds of hits on our society's YouTube channel and Spotify.

I will continue to provide an Events Calendar and proofread Event Horizon, (although that's not a big task as our editors are brilliant at their job).

It has been a pleasure to work alongside my fellow trustees and to serve the members of our society, and I hope to carry on for another term if elected.

Stephen Binns

IT Administrator – Paul Sherratt

This year has been light in terms of IT development. I've kept things ticking along, but the only notable improvement is the upgrade of our WiFi access points near the start 2023. Anyone using the observatory WiFi should have noticed a significant speed improvement.

Due to various other work and family commitments, I have decided to step down from the committee, however this isn't a goodbye and I intend to be back and helping again with maintenance & development as soon as possible. I also wish the successor(s) to this role all the best in the next few pivotal years as we ramp up our operations.

Curator of Instruments – Chris Dakin

Training Activities

I thought the previous year was a record with the number of people wanting to be trained to use our equipment. Well, this last year was the first time I've not been able to get everybody through their training who wanted it. I promise we will get you all signed off as soon as possible though.

Thankfully I've been getting help with this from some of the previous year's trainees who are now scope trainers themselves!

I look forward to continuing the training this autumn – if you would like to be involved then please reach out to me at: optical@sherwood-observatory.org.uk.

Instruments/Maintenance

We finally took delivery of the new 600mm mirror and are planning to get it installed into the big scope over the summer before the next season starts. I cannot wait to see this in action and I'm sure most of you can't either. I'll be sure to send an update out once it's all ready to go.

Now some of you might recall that a couple of years ago, we were able to gift a couple of telescopes to members that we had donated to us. We have had another 3 now that are not useful to the society for day-to-day use, so I'm planning on running the same scheme again in this coming year.

How this will work is that if you are picked to receive one after expressing interest, then this scope would be gifted to you with the following conditions:

1. You must not already own a telescope.
2. You must have been a member for at least a year.
3. When you have finished with the telescope, you must offer it back to the observatory so we can run the same process again. In fact, one of these three scopes is being recycled in this way.

Keep an eye out for an announcement if you are interested.

Elsewhere, I'd be looking at offloading the binocular telescope to free up some room. As this telescope is so bulky and has not been used in many years, this seems the most prudent thing to do. Perhaps we can buy something more useful with the money we get from this, feel free to send me some ideas if there's a particular piece of kit you think we're missing/

Next up, as we had that other 24" telescope donated to us last year, this got me thinking about possibly extending the observatory building to create a new roll-off observatory behind the lecture room.

As I started to think about these plans, we've come across a potential collaboration with the Royal Greenwich Observatory which could result in a loan of a very nice solar telescope array for outreach. Therefore, this has changed my thinking somewhat, in that I still want us to build that extension but try and get this professional gear in there instead!

Once we get the big build underway for the planetarium, I plan to start pushing this extension idea, do you all think it's a good idea? I do!

And finally, we're looking at servicing the dome upstairs, work has already started on this, to make it free running again. This is involving removing all the dome rollers one at a time and cleaning the bearings before reinstalling. We've identified a few contributing factors to the dome sticking, so hopefully this will make it really smooth running again. This work will be completed with a new set of drive rollers being cast, which I'm working on at this very moment.

So, a lot of interesting stuff happened and a lot still ongoing. If anyone's interested in helping on the maintenance side of things, drop either me or the Observatory Directory a line and we'd love to have to help.

To end, I want to thank everyone who has helped me out in the last year on both training and maintenance. You are all very much appreciated.

Chris Dakin

Radio Astronomy Coordinator – Nigel “Sparky” Cunnington

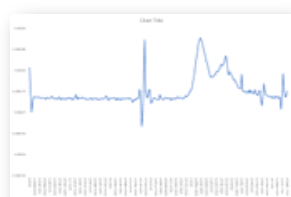
This past year the Radio Astronomy Centre continues to come on in leaps and bounds.

Unfortunately the $1/4\lambda$ reflected loop antenna took a blow from the wind, which toppled but suffered little damage. It was repaired and re-centred, but it was then caught by the trapdoor (we think) and this time was severely damaged. So much so it needed to be almost completely rebuilt, which has now been done. It is currently being tuned to resonate at the required frequency centred on 20 MHz. Its use is planned for observing the Jupiter/Io interaction as developed by NASA’s JOVE project. They have recently updated the JOVE receiver to the now familiar type of SDR that we are now in possession of. (Note – this SDR is manufactured here in the UK).

This radio telescope can also be used for observing the Sun at this frequency and although it is fixed in position, the beam width still allows 4 hours a day of observation time, rain or shine!



Another project that continues to be popular with visitors is the Monatomic Hydrogen Line. This radio telescope was formerly a Wi-Fi antenna but was modified to resonate at the wavelength of 21cm or 1420MHz, the electron flip energy state. This type of Monatomic Hydrogen exists in large clouds in the arms of our Milky Way galaxy and the Doppler shift of the frequency is an indication of the relative motion of these clouds with reference to the Earth. From the results, the rotational velocity of our galaxy can be deduced.



Here is an example of a result of the Doppler shift; not just one cloud but two detected here. The higher peak on the left is from the Orion arm (our local one), and the second one is from the Perseus arm. Note they have been blue shifted, which gives a relative motion of them coming towards us. The sharp points are noise in the system.

We have also built an angled dipole antenna, which is used to pick up signals beamed down from weather satellites giving us a detailed view of weather patterns around us. Although we have had good success in the decoding of NOAA 18 images, further development work is being carried out by Mike Williams using a new data processing programme and we are also looking at other possible satellites to track.



A yearly report can't go unpublished without a mention of our old faithful SuperSID. Right through the pandemic it was operational, except when it was shut down for maintenance work, giving us reliable results of solar flare activity, and contributing to Stanford University's (USA) Solar Centre's data hub.

During the last summer period temperatures soared and this high temperature damaged the monitor, so much so that 4 out of the 5 transmitters could no longer be detected. The decision was made to purchase a replacement monitor, which we should receive shortly.

An improvement to the way the temperature and humidity can now be controlled is much better than before, we hope this will help stabilise the conditions in the RAC alleviating atmospheric variations.

As we are now heading towards solar maximum, we have been seeing over the past year an increase in sunspot activity resulting in an increase in solar flares and in their intensity. Quite a number of X -Class flares have now been recorded by ourselves. Recently 5 C class flares in one day!

The "All sky" camera has now been reinstalled at the RAC and is recording great data as reported by Chris Dakin. Other cameras are expected to be installed later, expanding the compact views for determining meteor paths. It is hoped to be able to combine the two disciplines of radio and optical astronomy although this will depend largely on the weather.

And finally rounding up these reports on projects, you might have noticed on top of the green events store, a mast with two rectangular antennae positioned at 90° to each other. This is the new GB's 6m-radio meteor beacon transmitter. The project was thought up by Brian Coleman, a BAA RAG member, and is supported in collaboration by the British Astronomical Association (BAA), and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and ourselves. The team that put together the UK Radio Astronomy Meteor Beacon, call sign GB3MBA was award the prestigious Wortley-Talbot Trophy for outstanding experimental work in amateur radio, Well done to the whole team!



How the beacon works: The transmitter puts out a carrier wave at 50.408 MHz with a beam angle of about 120°, which gives a diameter of approx. 250 miles at the height at which meteors burn up in our atmosphere. So, any meteor that burns up within that diameter, centred on the Obs, the ionised trail will reflect the transmitted signal and any receiver tuned to that frequency will receive a "Ping".

Setting this up and testing it out was the 1st phase; next comes phase 2. This entails building time-stamped receivers connected to the Internet with a smart computer program that can interpret the reflections and calculate the trajectory, speed and reverse project its orbital path around the Sun.

This phase is underway at present, but it will be a while before it comes to fruition.

Other news

A number of display boards have been built by Phil Randall, displaying information about the relative antennae and radio telescopes. They have been situated in front of each of them.

We have had our first work experience person attending the observatory from West Nottinghamshire College. Taylor is studying computer science and has been and continues to be a great help in developing our systems and also helping to simplify radio astronomy in-depth information making it easier to convey.



Interest in radio astronomy continues to grow, so it was decided to develop a “how to” manual for those of you who would like to take part in learning about amateur radio astronomy. This has been developing nicely since its conception last year and a special thanks goes out to Steve Binns, John Brown, and Taylor for leading the development of this project. A shout out also goes to all the participant’s that have helped test our procedures and advised the numerous alterations needed. You know who you are, and to those of you embarking in training.

Best wishes,

Nigel (Sparky) Cunnington

Treasurer – Scott Creed

We had yet another record year for income, expenditure and end of year balance caused by the Science Discovery Centre project. As a result, our accounts had to be produced in a more detailed and professional looking structure showing the income/expenditure (Statement of Financial Activities) and society assets valuations (Balance Sheet) broken down into categories. Both this new format and our original have been sent for you to read.

As for my summary, I am excluding the SDC figures and concentrating only on the “usual” society income and running costs. Stripping out those projects still leaves us with record approximate end of year figures of £30,000 income, £25,000 expenditure, and balance of £27,000.

And now I would like to highlight and explain some of the major changes in income and expenditure.

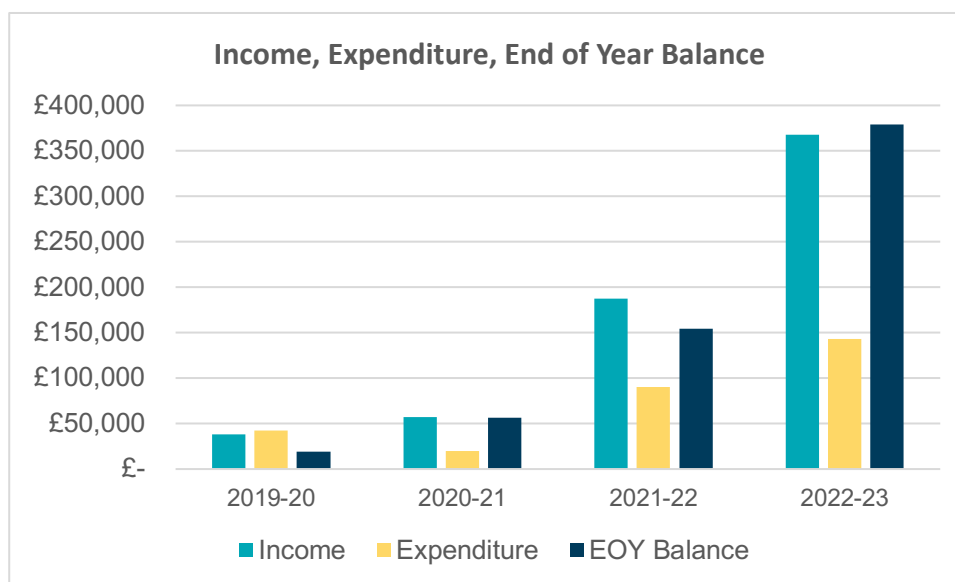
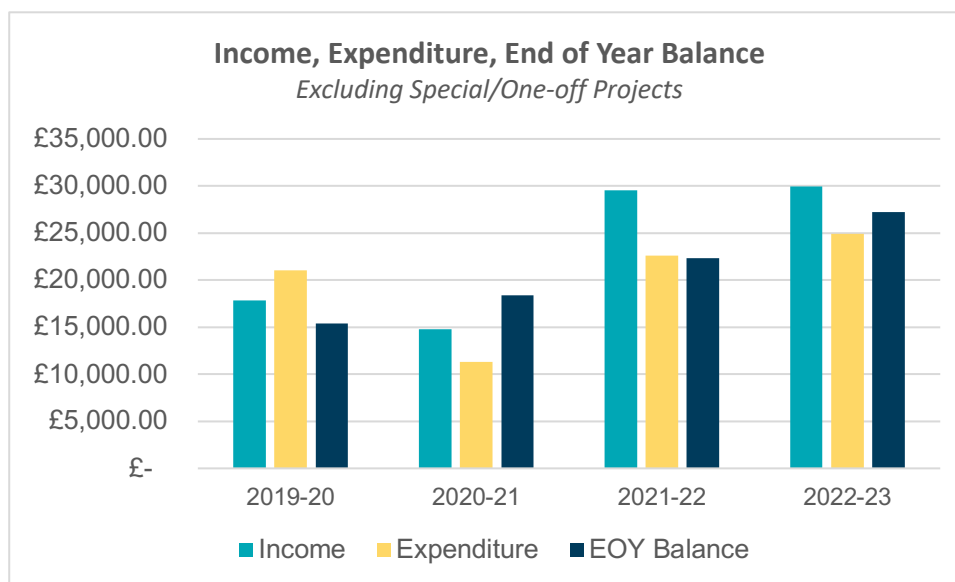
Income

- **Membership Renewals** are a lot larger than usual because the previous year was deflated for two reasons. First, due to illness of the Treasurer there was a delay to collecting the previous year’s renewals such that more than usual fell into the earlier months of these accounts. Second, the start of the previous year was still in the midst of pandemic and annual renewals were replaced with voluntary donations.
- **Open Event Entry Fees** have seen a vast increase. This is because we have had an exceptional year, not only with starting to hold events every month, even over summer, but also because the weather played ball so unlike the previous year, we didn’t have to cancel any events, and most were fully sold out.
- **Merchandise and Refreshments** sales also saw big increases for the same reason, but also in the case of merchandise because of the introduction of a wider range such as branded clothing.
- **Donations** are down because of the voluntary “membership” donations already mentioned and also because the previous year was when we had gathered donations to replace our main telescope primary mirror.
- The **Group and School Visits** income has dropped because we have adjusted down to more realistic prices for our daytime School Visits programme that is run in conjunction with Sutton Community Academy.
- And the **Sundry Income** has increased because it includes payment for the Dark Skies project, which we ran in conjunction with Mansfield Museum during this year.

Expenditure

- **Electricity costs** seem significantly lower, but this is because we had been overcharged by about £1000 in the previous year which has been refunded. We have been insulated from the vast inflation on power costs as we had a three-year fixed price contract with our current supplier, which continues for one more year.
- **IT and Website** costs dropped because in the previous year we had invested in upgrades and systems.
- The drop in **Observatory & Grounds Maintenance** is covered entirely by costs of £32,000 for Landslip Repair and the serving hatch in the kitchen that was completed in the previous year and for which we had received a grant the year before that.
- **Merchandise** costs increase is due to the purchase of branded clothing as mentioned in the Income section.
- **Radio Astronomy** increased expenditure was due to expanding the range of systems and projects we could offer.
- And finally, the extra **Sundry Expenditure** was due to a one-off cost to official register our observatory land with the Land Registry and official transfer ownership of it and the reservoir area from our original unincorporated charity to our new CIO.

End of Year Balance





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society CIO			Charity No (if any)	1187777	
Annual accounts for the period					
Period start date	01/04/2022	To	Period end date	31/03/2023	

Section A Statement of financial activities

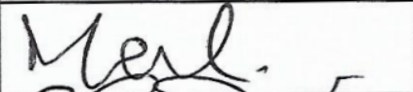
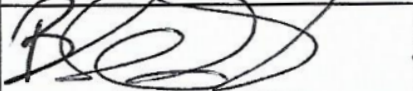
Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	1,616	338,159	-	339,774	-
Charitable activities	S02	23,007	-	-	23,007	-
Other trading activities	S03	4,919	-	-	4,919	-
Investments	S04	98	237	-	335	-
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	154,208
Total	S07	29,639	338,395	-	368,034	154,208
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	4,607	1,062	-	5,669	-
Charitable activities	S09	2,157	-	-	2,157	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	250	117,352	-	117,602	-
Other	S11	17,460	-	-	17,460	-
Total	S12	24,474	118,414	-	142,888	-
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S13	5,166	219,981	-	225,147	154,208
Net income/(expenditure)	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	S15	5,166	219,981	-	225,147	154,208
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	5,166	219,981	-	225,147	154,208
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	22,315	131,893	-	154,208	-
Total funds carried forward	S22	27,481	351,874	-	379,355	154,208

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	90,978	40,000	-	130,978	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		B05	90,978	40,000	-	130,978	-
Current assets							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	2,492	-	-	2,492	-
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	720	-	-	720	-
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)	B09	27,235	352,120	-	379,355	-
Total current assets		B10	30,447	352,120	-	382,567	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(Note 20)	B11	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	30,447	352,120	-	382,567	-
Total assets less current liabilities		B13	121,425	392,120	-	513,545	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	121,425	392,120	-	513,545	-
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds	(Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)	B18	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds		B19	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation reserve		B20	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds		B21	-	-	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	Michael Lowe	13/06/2023
	Brendan Scullion	13/06/23

Note 1 Basis of preparation**1.1 Basis of accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014

- and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

- and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.*

1.2 Going concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note { }.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	1,134	4,079	5,212
	Gift Aid	482	80	562
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	334,000	334,000
	Total	1,616	338,159	339,774
Charitable activities:	Membership Fees	7,738	-	7,738
	Public Events, Group Visits & Courses	12,736	-	12,736
	Mansfield Museum Exhibition	2,533	-	2,533
	Total	23,007	-	23,007
Other trading activities:	Merchandise Sales	3,410	-	3,410
	Refreshments Sales	1,373	-	1,373
	Other	135	-	135
	Total	4,919	-	4,919
Income from investments:	Interest income	98	237	335
	Total	98	237	335
TOTAL INCOME		29,639	338,395	368,034

Note 4 Analysis of receipts of government grants

	£
Government grant 1	SDC Project - Towns Fund (RWC Administration)
	10,000
Government grant 2	SDC Project - Towns Fund (RIBA Stage 4)
	324,000
	Total
	334,000

Note 6 Analysis of expenditure

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £
Expenditure on raising funds:	Fundraising agents	-	972	972
	Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	300	90	390
	Other trading activities	4,307	-	4,307
	Total	4,607	1,062	5,669
Expenditure on charitable activities:	Courses, Events & Visits	998	-	998
	Mansfield Museum Exhibition	750	-	750
	Lecturer Fees	409	-	409
	Total	2,157	-	2,157
Separate material item of expense	SDC Project Development	-	117,352	117,352
	Independent Examination of Accounts	250	-	250
	Total	250	117,352	117,602
Other	Observatory Running Costs	4,097	-	4,097
	Observatory Equipment & Maintenance	12,374	-	12,374
	Land Transfer from Unincorporated Charity	988	-	988
	Total	17,460	-	17,460
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		24,474	118,414	142,888

Note 8 Funds received as agent

8.1 Please complete this note if the charity has agreed to administer the funds of another entity as its agent. Note: If a charity is acting as an agent, it should not recognise the income in the Statement of Financial Activities or the Balance Sheet.

Description/name of party	Related party (Yes or No)	Amount received £	Amount paid out £	Balance held at period end £
UK Meteor Beacon	Yes	600	229	371
		600	229	371

Note 10 Details of certain items

10.1 Fees for examination of the accounts	£
Independent examiner's fees	250

Note 14 Tangible fixed assets

14.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	85,000	45,978	130,978
At end of the year	85,000	45,978	130,978

14.3 Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	85,000	45,978	130,978
Net book value at the end of the year	85,000	45,978	130,978

Note 18 Stocks

	For resale
Other trading activities:	£
Added in period	2,492
Closing	2,492
Total this year	2,492

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

19.1 Analysis of debtors	£
Mansfield District Council (Inv. 2303-04)	720
Total	720

Note 24 Cash at bank and in hand

	£
Cash at bank and on hand	379,355
Total	379,355



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31 Mar 2023

Charity no.:

1187777

Company no.:

Set out on pages

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 Mar 2023

As the charity's trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

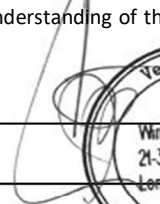
I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:


Apt 316
Wimbledon Central
21-33 Worple Road
London - SW19 4BJ
www.venusia.co.uk

Date:

5th June 2023

Name:

Gerald Gurriet

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of International Accountants

Address:

Venusia Ltd

London, SW19 4BJ

Apt 316 Wimbledon Central, 21 – 33 Worple Road

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	April	2021		31	March	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society CIO

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1187777

Charity's principal address

Sherwood Observatory

Coxmoor Road

Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire

Postcode

NG17 5LF

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	Steve Binns	Communications	To 17/03/2022	
2	Craig Bradford	Observatory Director		
3	Scott Creed	Treasurer		
4	Nigel Cunnington	Radio Astronomy		
5	Chris Dakin	Optical Astronomy		
6	Rob Dawes	Chairman		
7	Michael Lowe	Secretary		
8	Brendan Scoular	Events		
9	Paul Sherratt	IT & Website		
10	Steve Wallace	Planetarium Planning	To 06/12/2021	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected from membership at Annual General Meeting. May also be appointed by the trustees (in the case of trustee vacancies after AGM or trustees leaving positions between AGMs).

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.

--

Section C Objectives and activities

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

To promote and advance the education of the public in the theory and practice of astronomy and related subjects.

The provision and maintenance of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties.

Please refer to Section D.

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)

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.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Please note, this CIO is not currently active, and all our charity activities are being undertaken by the original, unincorporated charity: Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society, registration number 518183.

Since registered on 5 February 2020, we have been investigating and are in the process of transferring assets from the original charity to the CIO so that we may complete the process and disband the original charity.

For a full report of our activities for this reporting period, please refer to the original charity.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Details of any funds materially 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.

Section F Other optional information

Plans for the Coming Year

We hope to be able to take the last steps to fully transfer operation to this new Charitable Incorporated Organisation and dissolve our existing charity.

Section G Declaration

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

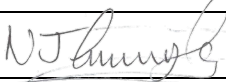
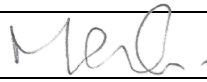
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

	
Nigel Cunningham	Michael Lowe
Chairman	Secretary
30 January 2023	

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1187777

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date		
From	01	April	2020	To 31 March 2021

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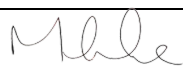
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

	
Robert Dawes	Michael Lowe
Chairman	Secretary
31 January 2022	