



CROYDON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD 7th FEBRUARY 2020 TO 31ST MARCH 2021

1. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER:	1187803
LEGAL FORM:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) formed under the Charities Act 2011 (the "Act").
CHARITY TRUSTEES (COMMITTEE) (SEE SECTION 3):	10
GOVERNING DOCUMENT:	Constitution dated 7 th Feb 2020.
OBJECTS:	<p>To advance education in the science of astronomy and related subjects for the public benefit in Croydon and the surrounding area by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) encouraging a popular interest in astronomy and allied subjects;b) helping beginners, irrespective of their age, to acquire a knowledge of astronomy and allied subjects; andc) providing facilities for practical work and active participation in astronomical observation.
CONVERSION TO A CIO	At an Extraordinary General Meeting held in December 2019 members voted unanimously to change the legal structure of the society from a Charitable Association to being a CIO. The CIO was registered on 7 th February 2020, and the assets and liabilities of the Charitable Association were transferred to the CIO on 1 st August 2020.
MEMBERSHIP	69 as of 31st March 2021.
WEBSITE	http://croydonastro.org.uk

2. ACTIVITIES IN PERIOD

The Society carries out its purposes by:

- arranging talks held in a school hall on subjects which are related to astronomy approximately every two weeks during school term time on a Friday evening. To ensure that we cater for all levels of interest and knowledge there are typically two talks each meeting – a short talk which is presented by a member of the Society and a longer talk which is usually presented by a visiting expert speaker from a university or another society.
- maintaining the self-built Norman Fisher Observatory on a small plot of land in a relatively dark sky location at Kenley which is within easy reach of central Croydon. The observatory is open to the public every Saturday evening when it is clear and dark, provided qualified volunteers are available. Pre-arranged visiting groups (scout organisation, U3A etc) are welcomed at other times during the week.

The society is unusual amongst astronomy societies in that it does not charge a membership fee but is funded by donations from its members and visitors.

Following the introduction of Government COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020, the Society has not been able to physically meet or open its observatory. Committee has therefore moved activities online and has arranged a short programme of talks and social meetings at the society's virtual pub, the 'Altair Arms'.

Committee members confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

3. COMMITTEE

The Committee can have up to ten charity trustees.

- All Committee members (apart from the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) retire at every AGM.
- Those holding the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are required to retire at every second AGM, with the Chair and Treasurer retiring in the same year and the Secretary in the alternate year.
- Retiring trustees are immediately eligible for re-election.

Table 1 – Committee members during the period 7th February 2020 to the date of this report:-

Name	Role as at the date of this report	On Committee 7 th February 2020	Date Joined Committee	Date Left Committee	On Committee as at the date of this report
Tony Roberts	Chair	•			•
Graham Cluer	Secretary & Vice-Chair		15 Jul 20		•
Colin Weightman	Treasurer & Membership	•			•
Alice Ardis			4 Dec 20		•
Joanne Ardis			4 Dec 20		•
Jonathan Barrott			4 Dec 20		•
Martin Gaiger	Outreach		15 Jul 20		•
Martin Hogbin		•		9 Apr 20	
Carolyn Raishbrook		•			•
Paul Stenning			16 Dec 20		•
Will Stewart		•			•
<i>Dave Burfoot</i>		•		15 Dec 20	
<i>Paul Harper</i>		•		4 Dec 20	
TOTAL		7	6	3	10

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Accounting

Under Section 133 of the Act, since our gross income is below £250,000, we have elected to prepare accounts on a receipts and payments basis and a statement of our assets and liabilities (with the net of the assets and liabilities being our 'Accumulated Fund').

We do not meet the threshold required for an audit of the Society's accounts under section 144 of the Act 2011 nor for an independent examination under section 145 of the Act.

It is our practice to ask a member of the Society (the CAS Accounts Examiner) to examine the society's accounting records and confirm to the Committee that nothing has come to their attention that would cause them to believe in any material respect that accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

Financial Review

We present accounts for the period from 7th February 2020 to 31st March 2021:

- The CIO was dormant from its date of registration of 7th February 2020 to 31st July 2020.
- On 1st August 2020, the Accumulated Fund of £6,956 was acquired from Croydon Astronomical Society charitable association (251560).
- COVID-19 restrictions have severely impacted our donation and other income. Although expenses are lower than usual since we could not physically meet, and therefore did not need to hire the school hall, we have incurred exceptional legal costs to transfer the observatory land into the society's name (previously held on trust for the society by four land trustees). Overall, expenditure exceeded income in the period by £1,114.
- As of 31st March 2021, the Accumulated Fund stood at £5,842.

Reserves Policy

Committee is required to retain only those cash reserves that are appropriate to the Society's needs and ambitions. However, in reviewing the amount of the reserves to be retained, Committee's aim will be to ensure the society will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in donation income or if unexpected expenditure arises.

The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

This Trustees' Report and Accounts was approved by Committee on 27th April 2021.

Signed: Tony Roberts, Chair

Colin Weightman, Treasurer

Croydon Astronomical Society

Amounts in £

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2021

Cash at Bank and in Hand	6,591
Add: Debtors and Prepayments	102
Deduct: Creditors and Accruals	(851)
Accumulated Fund	5,842

Movements in Accumulated Fund as at 31st March 2021

Accumulated Fund transferred from charitable association (251560) on 1st August 2020	6,956
Surplus /(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for Period	(1,114)
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward	5,842

Income and Expenditure for the 8 month period ended 31st March 2021

Income

Donations (Incl Gift Aid)	242
Raffles	-
Refreshments	-
Other	-
Total Income	242

Expenditure

Cost of Meetings at Royal Russell School

School Hall Hire	-
Speakers' Expenses	(30)
Cost of Raffle and Refreshments	-
Other	-
	(30)

Kenley Observatory Maintenance & Costs

Observatory Buildings	-
Observatory Equipment and Computing	-
Electricity	(198)
Voice and Data	(282)
Council Tax	-
Other	(720)
	(1,200)

Other costs

Website, Email & Videoconferencing	(67)
Insurance	(28)
Membership Fees (FAS and SAGAS)	(30)
Miscellaneous	-
	(125)

Total Expenditure	(1,355)
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Surplus /(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(1,114)
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NB:- Columns may not add due to rounding.