

# **Report of The Activities of Solent Amateur Astronomers – CIO from 01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025**

## **Registered Charity Number 1206419**

### **Introduction**

Solent Amateur Astronomers (SAA) is a vibrant and very active charity based in Southampton whose stated objectives are:

“to advance the education of the public in the science of astronomy in Southampton and the surrounding area”

There are currently 87 members of SAA whose subscriptions contribute to the maintenance of its facilities and the running of its meetings and activities. However, it is important to remember that all these meetings and activities are open to non members who may make voluntary donations.

There are also 9 active committee members and 6 or 7 other society members who regularly volunteer at the open nights and group visits – see below. The Committee, which includes all 6 trustees, meets monthly by Zoom.

The events and activities undertaken by SAA comprise:

- Talks held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month either at Oasis Academy, Lordshill, or by Zoom,
- Open nights at its observatory nr Southampton twice each month, weather permitting, except in June and July.
- Pre-arranged openings of the observatory to groups of visitors, usually from schools, cubs and brownies (Group Visits)
- Occasional openings to observe particular phenomena.
- The publication of a monthly newsletter
- The maintenance of a website
- The maintenance of a Facebook page

### **Toothill Observatory**

During the period in question the observatory opened to the public on 16 occasions as follows: twice in September, twice in October, twice in January, once in February, three times in April, and three times in August. Detailed reports were published on our Facebook page and in our monthly newsletter.

A log is kept of all visitors to the observatory. 449 visitors attended during the period and £1,457 was raised in donations.

A maintenance morning was held every Wednesday between 10 and 12.

### **Other Outreach**

In July 2025 SAA manned a stand at the Nursling & Rownhams May Fair.

## Monthly Talks

Public talks were held at Oasis Academy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month except January and December when they were held by Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting appeared on the website and was sent to all who requested it. £343 was taken in donations at the meetings, defraying the cost of hiring the classroom. Subjects covered are shown in the list below. They were chosen to appeal to all levels of knowledge from basic outreach to 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate level.

The program of talks was publicised on the website and the local media and comprised:

17/09/24	Steve Bosley	Measuring the Speed of Light
19/11/24	Dr Sadie Jones	Radio Astronomy and Black Holes.
10/12/24	Dr Jane Clark	Photographing Galaxies: my Learning Journey
21/01/25	Hugh Allen	Reaching Across the Gulf of Space - the life and work of William Huggins
18/02/25	Prof.Christian Knigge	Cataclysmic Variables As Universal Accretion Laboratories
18/03/25	Steve Broadbent	Astronomical Spectroscopy
15/04/25	Prof. Matt Middleton	Hidden black holes in the Galaxy
20/05/25	Prof. Nick Evans	The Quantum Gravity Problem
17/06/25	Jerry Workman	The Curiosity Mission
15/07/25	Steve Tonkin	Pseudoastronomy: Planet X, Zetans, and Lost Civilisations.
19/08/25	Derek Haselden	Voyager 1 mission.

## Newsletter & Publicity

The newsletter was sent to all members every month, often with supplements containing outreach from NASA. Copies were also available for distribution to members of the public at talks and open nights.

The newsletter gave information on forthcoming meetings and open nights and tables showed upcoming astronomical phenomena.

In addition to publishing the newsletter articles were written for The Scene Magazine, which covers local events – [www.scene-media](http://www.scene-media). Our activities were also publicised on the Go Stargazing portal, URL, <https://gostargazing.co.uk/> and each month in the Nursling and Rownhams news.

We also maintained a Facebook page which had 1200 members in August 2025. This gave updates on whether scheduled Observatory openings would go ahead later that day, in light of weather forecasts. In addition, members posted observations and astro-photographs. The moderators also answered queries from members of the public, covering topics such as how to set up telescopes properly and how to observe the night sky.

## Website

SAA maintains a website, [www.solentastro.org](http://www.solentastro.org), at the personal expense of the Chairman of Trustees.

The website gives background information about SAA and shows the programs of activities: the Oasis talks and observatory open nights. It also provides links to useful internet resources. In the

2024/25 session it received 12,900 visits. At the end of the session the website was transferred to Wordpress and a new hosting platform, Godaddy.

Signed:

A.D Acheson

Chairman of Trustees

Income Statement up to 31/08/2025									
	1st Sep	Budget	Variance	Budget					
	31st Aug	2024/25		2025/26					
<b>Income</b>									
Membership Subscriptions	1,149.75	1,100.00	49.75	1,100.00					
Public Viewing	1,456.70	850.00	606.70	800.00					
Hire of Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Meetings Donations	342.65	250.00	92.65	300.00					
Group Visits/Talks	255.15	50.00	205.15	150.00					
Interest Received	66.18	25.00	41.18	50.00					
Misc Income Sales	230.00								
Miscellaneous Income	46.50	50.00	(3.50)	600.00					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,546.93</b>	<b>2,325.00</b>	<b>991.93</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>					
						<b>Categories in Charity Commission Return</b>			
<b>Expenditure</b>						Summary			
Contents Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		Other	1,700.25		
Public Liability Insurance	55.00	53.00	2.00	55.00		Donation	2,054.50		
Toothill Maintenance	278.28	200.00	78.28	300.00		Trading	230.00		
Toothill Ground Rent	135.00	400.00	(265.00)	400.00		Investments	66.18		
Toothill Electricity	441.14	300.00	141.14	450.00			4,050.93		
Oasis Academy Rm Hire	222.30	216.00	6.30	230.00			-4,050.93	Reconciliation	
Newsletter & Administration	0.00	40.00	(40.00)	30.00			<b>0.00</b>		
Speakers' Expenses	278.42	300.00	(21.58)	300.00					
Zoom Costs	62.36	60.00	2.36	65.00					
F.A.S & SAGAS Affiliation	5.00	20.00	(15.00)	20.00					
New Facilities and Equipment	1,686.95	150.00	1,536.95	300.00					
Bank Charges				50.00					
Contingency Fund Contribution				100.00					
Miscellaneous Expenses	42.70	50.00	(7.30)	50.00					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,207.15</b>	<b>1,789.00</b>	<b>1,418.15</b>	<b>2,350.00</b>					
Accumulated Fund: 01/09/2024	3,324.48	3,324.48	0.00	3,664.26	01/09/2025				
Increase/(Decrease) in Accumulated Fund	339.78	536.00	(426.22)	650.00	increase/(Decr)				
Accumulated Fund: 31/08/2025	3,664.26	3,860.48	(196.22)	4,314.26	31/08/2026				
Plus Life Membership Fund: 01/09/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	504.00	01/09/2025				
Change in Life M/ship 2024/25	504.00	0.00	504.00	(56.00)	increase/(Decr)				
Life Membership Fund 31/08/2025	504.00	0.00	504.00	448.00	31/08/2026				
Sinking Fund 01/09/2024	2,360.94	2,360.94	0.00	2,360.94	01/09/2025				
Plus increase in Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	increase/(Decr)				
Sinking Fund 31/08/2025	2,360.94	2,360.94	0.00	2,360.94	31/08/2026				
Contingency Fund 01/09/2024	370.27	370.27	0.00	370.27	01/09/2025				
Increase in Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	increase/(Decr)				
Observatory Roof Rep. Fund 31/08/2025	370.27	370.27	0.00	470.27	31/08/2026				
<b>Summary of All Funds</b>									
Opening Balance	6,055.69	6,055.69	0.00	6,899.47					
Movement of Funds	843.78	536.00	307.78	694.00					
Closing Balance	6,899.47	6,591.69	307.78	7,593.47					

<b>Balance Sheet - 31/08/2025</b>									
<b>Assets</b>									
	Accrued Interest Rec	60.00							
	Prepayments	0.00							
	Bank	7,543.77							
	Cash	181.45							
				7,785.22					
<b>Less liabilities</b>									
	Subs in Advance	287.00							
	Acc. Expenses / Creditc	598.75							
				885.75					
<b>Net assets</b>				<b>6,899.47</b>					
<b>Comprising</b>									
	Acc Fund 01/09/24			3,324.48					
	Plus surplus/defecit			339.78					
	Accumulated Fund 31/08/25			3,664.26					
	Life Membership			504.00					
	Roof Replacement Fund			370.27					
	Insurance Fund			2,360.94					
	Total Funds & Reserves			<b>6,899.47</b>					
<b>Notes</b>									
A Expenses / Creditors									
	Ground Rent			433.75					
	Key Deposits			165.00					
				<b>598.75</b>					