



The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

<http://www.astronomyedinburgh.org/>
Registered Scottish charity SC022968

Annual Report 2010

Trustees' annual report for the period 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2010

Constitution and management of the Society

- Charity name: The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh
- Registered charity number: SC022968
- Principal address: c/o Horst Meyerdierks, Secretary of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, 71 Cameron Toll Gdns, Edinburgh, EH16 4TF

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of the trustees' annual report.

trustee name	office (if any)	dates acted	appointed by
1 Mr David Small	President	from 1 April 2010	AGM
2 Dr Horst Meyerdierks	Secretary	from 14 January 2011	Council
3 Mr Alan Ellis	Treasurer	whole year	AGM
4 Mr Iain McEachran	Vice-President	whole year	AGM
5 Ms Rachel Thomas	Vice-President	whole year	AGM
6 Mr Daniel Gallacher		whole year	AGM
7 Mr Frank Howie		whole year	AGM
8 Mr Peter Mulholland		whole year	AGM

Names of all other charity trustees during the period.

name	office (if any)	dates acted	appointed by
Mr David Small		to 31 March 2010	AGM
Dr Horst Meyerdierks	President	to 31 March 2010	AGM
Dr Horst Meyerdierks		to 14 January 2011	AGM
Mr Graham Rule	Secretary	to 14 January 2011	AGM
Mr Vincent Balfour		to 20 January 2011	AGM

The Society is an unincorporated association founded (as the Edinburgh Astronomical Association) in 1924 and is governed by a Constitution most recently modified on 13 January 1995. The Constitution may be referred to on the Society's web site at <http://www.astronomyedinburgh.org/constitution>.

Clause 1 of the Constitution is:

The name of the Society shall be "The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh" and its objects shall be to advance the education of the public about the science of Astronomy and to promote astronomical research chiefly in Edinburgh and its neighbourhood. In furtherance thereof:

- (a) to circulate information on astronomical matters by the publication of articles, books etc.;
- (b) to encourage astronomical study and observation; and
- (c) to increase popular interest in astronomy.

The Management of the Society is vested in a Council, elected from the Ordinary Membership of the Society at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In the event of any

vacancy arising in the Council, the Council has power to co-opt a Member of the Society to fill such a vacancy.

On 31 December 2010, the membership of the Society was 65 of which six were honorary members. Honorary members are Dr H. Ford MBE, Dr D. Gavine, Dr N. Grubb, and Prof D. Heggie. The Honorary Presidents are Prof Andy Lawrence BSc PhD FRAS FRSE (Regius Professor of Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh) and Prof John Brown BSc PhD DSc FRSE FRAS (Astronomer Royal for Scotland).

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees

A former Vice-President of the Society, Mr John Henry Lorimer RSA, left a substantial bequest to the Society when he died in 1936. This bequest has been assigned to "The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees" and is managed by them under conditions set forth in a Deed of Trust granted in favour of Rev Dr James Patrick DD BSc and others, dated 10 December 1937.

The following are the trustees in terms of that deed:

- Mr Alan Pickup FRAS (Secretary and Treasurer)
- Mr Raymond Fenoulhet
- Dr David Gavine FRAS
- Mr Jim Nisbet
- Dr John Rostron

All of the above trustees are past Presidents and current or past Members of the Society.

Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trust is registered Scottish Charity SC013921.

Activities during 2010

The Society continues to hold meetings throughout the year with educational talks on different aspects of astronomy. The Council wishes to thank Alan Pickup for kindly presenting the "Monthly Sky Map" talk to the Society whenever he was available.

Practical observing has always been encouraged by the Society with some members contributing to nationally coordinated observing programmes (through the British Astronomical Association), some producing interesting images to show at our meetings and through our Flickr group.

Meetings

The Council of the Society met on 15 January, 12 February, 28 May, 17 August and 29 October 2010. The Annual General Meeting was held on 26 March 2010. Nine Ordinary Meetings with educational talks on different aspects of astronomy were held.

Meetings.

January	8th	Melvyn Taylor - Leeds Astronomical Society and British Astronomical Association <i>Confessions of an amateur observer</i>
February	5th	Dr Ettore Pedretti - University of St Andrews <i>Observing stars with the largest optical telescope on Earth</i>
	24th	<i>Imaging Group</i>
March	5th	Des Loughney - Astronomical Society of Edinburgh and British Astronomical Association <i>The mysterious eclipsing star epsilon Aurigae</i>

March	17th	<i>Imaging Group</i>
	26th	<i>Annual General Meeting</i> followed by Presidential Address on <i>Noctilucent cloud</i>
April	21st	<i>Imaging Group</i>
May	7th	Dr Ross McLure - Royal Observatory Edinburgh <i>Searching for the highest redshift galaxies in the universe</i>
June	4th	Dr Alistair Glasse - Royal Observatory Edinburgh <i>The JWST - Replacing the Hubble Space Telescope</i>
July	2nd	Dr Christiane Helling - University of St Andrews <i>Making extraterrestrial jewellery</i>
August	7th	<i>Kellie Castle</i> Members' excursion to the National Trust for Scotland site in Fife
September	10th	Dr Martin Hendry - University of Glasgow <i>Gravitational wave astronomy: Opening a new window on the universe</i>
	25th	<i>Doors Open Day</i> at the City Observatory
October	1st	<i>Members' Evening</i> with an update on noctilucent cloud and photos from Kellie Castle
	27th	<i>Imaging Group</i>
November	5th	David Small - President, Astronomical Society of Edinburgh <i>An introduction to astronomy</i>
	17th	<i>Imaging Group</i>
December	3rd	This meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather.
	15th	<i>Imaging Group</i>

Publications

Editions 62 to 64 of the Society's Journal were published in 2010 under the editorship of Horst Meyerdierks.

The Council expresses its thanks to Horst not only for editing, but also for all his work in producing, distributing and to some extent, writing, the Journal. Members are encouraged to obtain their copy of the Journal from the Society's website, but paper copies are also available to members who prefer these. Paper copies are also sent to the Legal Deposit Libraries.

International Standard Serial Numbers have been issued for both online and paper versions of the Journal:

- web: ISSN 1756-5111
- print: ISSN 1756-5103

The online version is available to the public.

Members are issued with the latest edition of the Federation of Astronomical Societies' "Astrocalendar" on payment of their subscription to the Society.

Electronic communication

The Society's website may be found at <http://www.astronomyedinburgh.org/>.

Email contact addresses have also been set up for some Society Officers:

- president @ astronomyedinburgh.org
- secretary @ astronomyedinburgh.org
- treasurer @ astronomyedinburgh.org

Full details of the Society's activities and information about how to join are on the website.

The Council expresses its thanks to the Royal Observatory Edinburgh for continuing to provide web space and email forwarding.

Observing

An arrangement has been made with a local organisation, which allows our members the use of a Dark Skies site near West Calder. Members are being required to pay a deposit for keys to this site.

This year, a number of Members of the Society were asked to assist with the Northern Lights Flights, organised by Omega Holidays. Initially, we were asked to help out as their usual astronomer was unable to make the Edinburgh and Glasgow flights in early November. Fortunately, their normal astronomer managed to make the flights, but David Small, Peter Mulholland and Danny Gallacher assisted on board.

The aurora experience flights consist of an hour's talk, half an hour about what stars are visible in the night sky, half an hour explaining the Aurora and preparing the passengers with a forecast for what to expect to see in terms of the aurora that evening. Following the presentation, there was a three hour flight up to an area between the Shetland Islands and the Faroe Islands. While the aircraft is held in a circuit, the cabin lights are switched off to allow the passengers to experience the darkest skies and the best chance of seeing an aurora. On the flights we attended, Peter Lawrence and Paul Money provided a commentary on what could be seen out of the windows and Jayne Eames helped point things to the passengers further down the aircraft.

Thanks go to Omega Holidays for offering us this experience and also allowing Carol Gentle to come on board as well.

Visit to Kellie Castle

In August a number of Members went on a visit to Kellie Castle. This was a enjoyable day out, viewing the castle and the paintings the society have loaned, as well as lots of photo taking of the impressive grounds and gardens.

Beginners evening

We had an evening of introduction to astronomy on 5 November. This was advertised in a number of ways - including leaflets in libraries and handouts at Doors Open Day. Through this, we managed to attract around 25 new faces to the meeting.

Imaging Group

The ASE Imaging Group is now into it's second year. The meetings are held in Juniper Green village hall - usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Meetings are well attended and are open to any member of the Society. There is a wide range of ability, experience, equipment and interests. The group is very much a cooperative venture with members keen to share knowledge and experience. We have had tutorials on Registax (image stacking software) and the Gimp (graphic processing software). There have also been demonstrations of the use of webcams, digital SLR and compact cameras for astronomical imaging. There is also a social aspect to the group and a general aim to encourage practical astronomy.

Details are available on the Society's web site together with a link to our Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/aseimaginggroup>) where we are able to share images and comments.

Journals, books, storage etc.

The Society's old issues of the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association* (BAA) and of the *Memoirs of the British Astronomical Association* were posted to the BAA in three batches. One batch served to complete the set of Journals held by its current editor. A second batch is now used by the BAA to digitise their Journal. The remainder was transferred to the BAA's storage facility.

Several items - a bust depicting John Henry Lorimer RSA, a number of chairs from the bequest by Lorimer, and a small brass telescope - were transferred to The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees (SC013921), which will loan these items to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The NTS are owners of Kellie Castle in Fife, where the Lorimer family used to live. Kellie Castle has other items relating to the Lorimer family on display, including two paintings by John Henry Lorimer that are owned by The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees.

Removal of these items has resulted in a reduced storage requirement and reduced storage cost for the Society. The Society's storage now comprises mainly of books and atlases, and to a lesser extent of telescopes and miscellaneous items.

About a quarter of the Society's books have been removed from storage, pending their sale, in the first instance to Members of the Society. Only a small fraction of these have been sold so far.

Doors Open Day

The City Observatory on Calton Hill opened up the Playfair Building for Doors Open Day on 25 September 2010. There was great interest in the building and in the two remaining telescopes. The City took care of crowd control, and an estimated 750 visitors were willing to queue for 40 minutes to get into the building. Members of the Society were on hand to explain about the Fraunhofer meridian circle and its role in time keeping and navigation, and to show the Cooke refractor in the dome upstairs.

Financial review

A fair comparison with the previous year would exclude the £2000 payment received from the ASE Trust. The Society would then have incurred a deficit of £1893. This is a better result than 2009, although still somewhat higher than 2008 (£1696).

For a number of years, our policy had been to defer receiving interest accrued on investments held by the ASE Trust. The deferred income due to the Society had instead been invested by the Trust on the ASE's behalf in dedicated investment bonds which had yielded a far higher rate than the ASE would have been able to secure. However, for the first time since 2005, we requested from the Trust additional funds, to avoid our bank balance going into debt.

Expenditure in 2010 has been lower for several reasons. Communications costs had been exceptionally high in 2009 (about £450 more than 2010) due to the coincidence of purchases for several years into the future. There was no expenditure relating to the City Observatory in 2010, also saving about £450 compared to 2009. With the transfer of furniture to the ASE Trust, storage costs were reduced from August 2010 onwards. A further reduction can be expected for 2011, when the lower rate applies for the whole year.

As 2009 was exceptional due to the withdrawal from the City Observatory, a comparison between 2008 and 2010 is of interest. Meeting expenses are up from £429 to £725. With the library in storage, magazines have been cancelled, saving £166. Insurance is down from £657 to £172, although this is partly due to a change of insurer for public liability. 2008 costs for the Observatory were £1135 for utilities, repairs and travel expenses to deal with security incidents at night. This has to be compared in 2010 with storage cost of £1271. When these sums are added up, £2387 in 2008 corresponds to £2168 in 2010. Arguably, the withdrawal from the Observatory has resulted in a saving of about 10% of the relevant cost, 6% or 7% of the total expenditure. There is potential for further

saving, when a significant fraction of the library is sold and consequently less storage required.

Declaration

The trustees' annual report presented on pages 1 to 6 was approved by the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh (the trustees of the charity).

20 February 2011. Horst Meyerderks, Secretary.

For and on behalf of the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh.

Receipts and payments accounts

Statement of receipts and payments

Section A: Statement of receipts and payments, 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

	unre- stricted funds nearest £	total funds current period nearest £	total funds last period nearest £
A1 Receipts			
Donations	893	893	883
Legacies	0	0	0
Grants	2,000	2,000	0
Receipts from fundraising activities	0	0	0
Gross trading receipts	0	0	0
Income from investments other than land and buildings	2	2	5
Rents from land and buildings	0	0	0
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	0	0	3
A1 sub total	2,895	2,895	891
A2 Receipts from asset and investment sales			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	20	20	0
Proceeds from sale of investment	0	0	0
A2 sub total	20	20	0
Total receipts	2,915	2,915	891
A3 Payments			
Expenses from fundraising activities	0	0	0
Gross trading payments	0	0	0
Investment management costs	0	0	0
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	2,557	2,557	3,422
Grants and donations	250	250	0
Governance costs			
Independent examination	0	0	0
Preparation of annual accounts	0	0	0
Legal costs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
A3 sub total	2,807	2,807	3,422
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements			
Purchase of fixed assets	0	0	0
Purchase of investment	0	0	0
A4 sub total	0	0	0
Total payments	2,807	2,807	3,422
Net receipts minus payments	+107	+107	-2,530
A5 Transfers to funds			
	0	0	0
Surplus (+) / deficit (-) for year	+107	+107	-2,530

Statement of balances*Section B: Statement of balances, 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.*

	unre- stricted funds nearest £	total current period nearest £	total last period nearest £
B1 Cash funds			
Cash and bank balances at start of year	2,557	2,557	5,087
Liabilities for previous year	0	0	0
Surplus (+) / deficit (-) shown on receipts and payments account	+107	+107	-2,530
Cash and bank balances at end of year	2,664	2,664	2,557
	fund to which asset belongs	market valuation nearest £	last year nearest £
B2 Investments			
	Total	0	0
	fund to which asset belongs	cost (if avail- able) nearest £	current value (if avail- able) nearest £
B3 Other assets			last year nearest £
furniture	unrestricted		0
paintings, sculptures, etc.	unrestricted		600
books	unrestricted		30,000
telescopes, eyepieces, tripods, etc.	unrestricted	30,000	30,000
projector, printer, etc.	unrestricted	479	479
	Total	479	31,079
	fund to which liability relates	amount due nearest £	last year nearest £
B4 Liabilities			
	Total	0	0
	fund to which liability relates	amount due (estimate) nearest £	last year nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities			
	Total	0	0

Notes to the accounts

- C1: All funds are unrestricted, i.e. available for any of the Society's purposes.
- C2: The following grants were made:
 - £250 to Prof John Brown, towards the cost of running an event in the Edinburgh International Science Festival.
- C3: No remuneration was paid to any trustee (Council member) of the Society, nor to any person connected to a trustee of the Society.
- C4: Trustee expenses:
 - Speaker hospitality, reimbursed to Horst Meyerdierks, £121.
- C5: There were no transactions with trustees or connected persons.

Additional analysis

See the analysis table on page 10.

- D1: Meeting expenses
Meeting expenses include room hire, speaker's hospitality and expenses. This is slightly higher than last year partly because we had the City Observatory at the start of 2009, but had to hire the room during the same period of 2010.
- D2: Membership and affiliations
Currently, the only affiliation the Society has is the Federation of Astronomical Societies. The FAS had previously changed its membership year and therefore no payment was required in 2009. The figure for 2010 reflects the annual amount paid for the year starting April 2010.
- D3: Communications, including Journal
The cost of communications has normalised compared to the exceptional cost during 2009. The two items are costs for the Journal (£55) and for Skype renewal (£40). In 2009 there had also been the renewal of our Internet domain for 8 years and the purchase of high-capacity toner for the Journal.
- D4: Dark Sky Site
Payment for November 2010 to November 2011 for the Society's use of the Dark Sky site at the West Calder Model Flying Club had not been made by the end of 2010.
- D5: Astrocalendars
All ASE members receive an Astrocalendar on payment of annual subscription.
- D6: Storage rental
The cost for storage rental has reduced somewhat due to the transfer of furniture to the ASE Trust. The cost should reduce further next year, when the reduced rate for 35 square feet applies for the whole year. However, storage rental remains by far the largest item of expenditure to the Society.
- D7: Insurance
This cost has reduced somewhat, because the lower rate that applied since March 2009 applied for the whole of 2010. The contents insurance is with the storage company 'Safestore' (£144) and the public liability insurance (£28) is with the Federation of Astronomical Societies.
- D8: Electricity and gas
The cost in 2009 related only to January, and to the City Observatory.
- D9: Sale of books
£20 were received from the sale of books to members. As these are receipts from the sale of fixed assets, this figure is not included in the analysis table, but directly entered in Section A further above.

Analysis of receipts and payments, 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

	unre- stricted funds nearest	total current period nearest	total last period nearest
	£	£	£
1 Donations			
ASE annual subscriptions	748	748	743
Other donations	25	25	8
Gift Aid	120	120	132
Total	893	893	883
2 Grants			
ASE Trust	2,000	2,000	0
Total	2,000	2,000	0
3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities			
ASE badge sale	0	0	3
Total	0	0	3
4 Payments relating directly charitable activities			
Meeting expenses	725	725	620
Memberships and affiliations	28	28	0
Communications, including Journal	95	95	547
Dark sky site	0	0	140
Astrocalendars	79	79	75
Equipment	0	0	12
Repairs and maintenance	161	161	0
Stamps	27	27	0
Storage rental	1,271	1,271	1,408
Insurance	172	172	359
Observatory migration	0	0	107
Electricity	0	0	112
Gas	0	0	43
Total	2,557	2,557	3,422

Declaration

The receipts and payments accounts presented on pages 7 to 10 were approved by the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh (the trustees of the charity).

20 February 2011. Horst Meyerderks, Secretary.

For and on behalf of the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh.

Independent examiner's report to the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2010 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Council considers that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeks explanations from the Council concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Mr. Adrian C. Townsend, CA; 87 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 5NJ