
The
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh



REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1982

COUNCIL (to 31st March 1983)

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T.I.R. NEIL

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Dr. D.M. GAVINE

D.C. TODD, AIB.

Secretary

R.G. FENDULHET

7 Greenend Gardens, Edinburgh, EH17 7QF

Treasurer

Dr. A.J. ROSTRON

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N.M. BONE, B.Sc.	R.G. VEITCH
A.O. PEARSON	Mrs. M. CARTER
J.D. WALDRON	G. TAYLOR, B.Sc.

The Observatory was the centre of the Society's activities for most of 1982. As usual, groups from schools and elsewhere made evening visits, when they were shown round the buildings, and the history and the function of the Observatory were described. This was followed by a session of observing with the 6-inch telescope or by a show of slides and/or 16mm film of astronomical interest when the weather was bad.

Use of the McEwan telescope was mainly for teaching and demonstration purposes. The 13-inch Cox telescope unfortunately will need substantial attention to restore it to a reasonably serviceable condition. Member's efforts to cope with the faults that inevitably arise in so old an instrument have proved merely palliative.

The Observatory continued to be used by the Edinburgh and District Amateur Radio Club on Tuesday nights.

Before all the monthly main meetings members were given copies of the ASE Bulletin, which informs about celestial movements and activities at the Observatory.

Two more ASE Journals were published in 1982, and our thanks are due to Dr. David Gavine and Ray Fenoulhet for their work in producing them. Our thanks are also due to the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Professor Malcolm Longair, for making available printing facilities at the Royal Observatory.

During the Festival a very fine exhibition was organised by James Shepherd and Alasdair Campbell, the Observatory being kept open to visitors six days a week. To them and their helpers, who between them put in several hundred hours' work, our thanks are due for promoting Astronomy in Edinburgh. We are also indebted to the Edinburgh Wax Museum for the loan of various materials that were on show. The exhibition was seen by more than 3,000 visitors. There were 100 or so other visitors during the year.

On 10-12th September a British Astronomical Association meeting was held in Edinburgh. Their programme included two events at the Observatory.

In December Alasdair Campbell and James Shepherd were appointed Assistant Directors of the Observatory.

At a Special General Meeting on 10th December, members voted to adopt a revised Constitution in place of the original one, which after 45 years had become out of date in some respects.

The Society wish to express their thanks to Edinburgh District Council for the financial assistance given by way of Grants.

In the summer the District Council began work on the roof of the large Lecture Hall. The resulting unavailability of this building might have been seriously inconvenient, but fortunately our Honorary President, Professor Longair, kindly allowed the Society to hold its remaining meetings at the Royal Observatory.

At the year's end the Society had 117 members, somewhat more than the figure for 1981. New members joining during the year numbered 15.

The formal lectures given to the Society in 1982 were:

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|------|---|--|
| Jan. | Astronomical Globe Trotting | Mr. F.G. Watson, Royal Obs. Edinburgh |
| Feb. | A Geophysicist's View of Recent Planetary Exploration | Prof. S.K. Runcorn, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne |
| Oct. | Supernova - Death of a Star | Mr. Nigel Henbest, Astronomy Consultant, New Scientist |
| Nov. | 400th Anniversary of the Calendar | Dr. M.T. Bruck, Royal Obs. Edinburgh |
| Dec. | Megaliths for Astronomers | Dr. D.C. Heggie, Edinburgh University |

The informal lectures given in the summer were:

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|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Apr. | The Stars aren't really there! | Dr. D Gavine |
| May. | Astrophysics | Mr. G. Taylor |
| Jun. | Mathless Relativity | Mr. J. Sim |
| Jul. | Some Astronomical Tests of Relativity | Dr. H.J. Taylor |
| Aug. | Meteors | Mr. N. Bone |
| Sep. | The Planetary Satellites | Mr. R.G. Veitch |

As in 1981, a beginners' meeting was held just before each month's main meeting. The Society is grateful to Neil Bone for organising these.

We are sorry to report the deaths of three members during the year, Mr. D.M. Henderson, Mr. M. Darke and Mr. N.G. Matthew who was for many years the Society's Secretary and Observatory Director. In recognition of his many services to us, this year's Festival Exhibition was dedicated to his memory.

In the name of the Council,

T.I.R. Neil	President
R.G. Fenoulhet	Secretary
A.J. Rostron	Treasurer

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year to 31st December, 1982

<u>INCOME</u>		
Balance from 1981:		
Cash	4.24	
Bank Balances	<u>1,144.25</u>	1,148.49
Subscriptions		446.50
Sale of A.S.E. Journals		1.80
Meetings Bus Receipts		3.00
Rent for CASS Alarm System set up by Lothian Regional Council		50.00
British Astronomical Assc'n. Meetings in Edinburgh		447.17
Grants:		
City of Edinburgh	1,760.00	
Society's Trustees	<u>500.00</u>	2,260.00
Interest:		
Bank Deposits	111.96	
Trustee Sav. Bank	22.54	
O'Neil Bequest	109.75	
Gall Inglis Bequest	<u>72.66</u>	316.91
City of Edinburgh District Council - refund of cost of key cutting		4.47
Donations:		
J. Gibson Kerr, W.S. Edinburgh University Students' Assc'n.	100.00	
A-T-Bueno	10.00	
Miss E.P. McLean per F.J.A. account	30.14	
Collection Box	<u>161.63</u>	321.77
		<u>£ 5,000.11</u>

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
a) <u>For the Society</u>		
Lecturers and Meetings		148.40
Hire of Meetings Bus		38.00
Printing and Duplicating		96.28
Honoraria:		
Secretary (1981)	175.00	
Treasurer (1981)	<u>75.00</u>	250.00
Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses		88.65
Library		81.55
British Astronomical Assc'n. Meetings in Edinburgh		479.82
Exhibition Expenses		151.52
Insurance		34.91
Federation of Astronomical Societies		7.50
Total for Society		<u>£ 1,376.63</u>
b) <u>For the Observatory</u>		
Director		350.00
Rates:		
1981/82	272.66	
1982/83	<u>1,022.74</u>	1,295.40
(8 of 10 instalmts.)		
Gas and Electricity		519.04
Cleaning		150.00
Treasurer		100.00
Director's and Treasurer's Expenses		61.86
Library		61.77
Insurance		69.82
Cutting of new keys		4.47
Bank Charges		.32
Total for Observatory		<u>£ 2,612.68</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:		
For Society	1,376.63	
For Observatory	<u>2,612.68</u>	3,989.31
CARRIED FORWARD TO 1983:		
Cash	12.97	
Bank Balances	<u>997.83</u>	1,010.80
		<u>£ 5,000.11</u>

INVESTMENTS: These remain £570 12½% Treasury Stock, 1995 (cost £497.15), being part of the Gall Inglis Bequest, AND £1,000 7½% Treasury Stock, 1985/88 (cost £962.56) and £658.13 14% Treasury Stock, 1996 (cost £600), these last being part of the O'Neil Bequest.

I have examined the accounts of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year ended 31st December, 1982 and am satisfied that the above abstract is both correctly detailed and properly vouched.

(Signature)

(D.C. TODD, A.I.B.)

10th February, 1983