



The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

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

Annual Report 2012

Trustees' annual report for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012

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 4 May	Council
2 Dr Horst Meyerdierks	Secretary	whole year	AGM
3 Mr Alan Ellis	Treasurer	whole year	AGM
4 Mr Daniel Gallacher	Vice-President	from 1 April	AGM
5 Mr Peter Mulholland	Vice-President	whole year	AGM
6 Mr Duncan Hale-Sutton		from 1 April	AGM
7 Mr Alan Pickup		whole year	AGM
8 Mr Pete Macdonald		whole year	AGM

Names of all other charity trustees during the period.

name	office (if any)	dates acted	appointed by
Mr David Small	President	to 31 March	AGM
Mr Kenneth Thomas	Vice-President	to 31 March	AGM
Mr Daniel Gallacher		to 31 March	AGM
Ms Rachel Thomas		to 31 March	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 30 March 2012. 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 2012, the membership of the Society was 68 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 (Secretary and Treasurer)
- Mr Alan Ellis
- Mr Raymond Fenoulhet
- Dr David Gavine
- Mr Jim Nisbet
- Dr John Rostron

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

Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trust is registered Scottish Charity SC013921.

Activities during 2012

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 17 February, 2 March, 4 May, 25 May and 26 October. A Special General Meeting was held on 30 March, the Annual General Meeting was also held on 30 March. The Imaging Group met 7 times during the winter months. 11 Ordinary Meetings with educational talks on different aspects of astronomy were held. The approximate attendance at monthly meetings was: Jan 31, Feb 35, Mar 34, SGM/AGM 23, Apr 29, May 25, Jun 22, Jul 28, Sep 30, Oct 37, Nov 30, Dec 30, total 354.

Meetings and events.

- Jan 6th Prof Ian Robson - Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Supercool astronomy
- Jan 11th *Imaging Group*
- Jan 18th *Stargazing LIVE at the Royal Botanic Garden*
- Feb 3rd Alan Pickup - Visitor Centre, Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Starlab show
- Feb 15th *Imaging Group*
- Mar 2nd Alice-Amanda Kay - Clydesdale Astronomical Society
Volcanoes in the Solar System
- Mar 21st *Imaging Group*
- Mar 30th *Special General Meeting*
Annual General Meeting
followed by Presidential Address on *Re-birth of a shooting star*
- Apr 13th Prof John Peacock - Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Vesto Slipher and the expanding universe
- May 4th Roger Stapleton - University of St Andrews
Long standing observatories
- Jun 1st Alan Walker - University of Edinburgh
Googling the Higgs boson
- Jul 6th Prof Arjun Berera - University of Edinburgh
Frontiers of cosmology and particle physics
- Jul 12th Horst Meyerderks
Introduction to astronomy
delivered to Headway East Lothian in Dunbar
- Aug 10th *Crawford Collection*
Members' excursion to the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Library
- Sep 7th Dr Robert L. Piccioni
Einstein for everyone
- Sep 21st *Imaging Group*
- Sep 22nd *Stall and telescopes*
at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Doors Open Day
- Sep 23rd *Stall and telescopes*
at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Doors Open Day
- Oct 5th Paul L. Money
On top of the world - the 2008 north pole expedition and solar eclipse
- Oct 10th *Imaging Group*
- Oct 27th *Observing sessions at the Royal Botanic Garden*
- Oct 28th *Observing sessions at the Royal Botanic Garden*

Nov 2nd *Surgery on telescopes and other observing aids*
Nov 14th *Imaging Group*
Dec 7th Dr Clive Davenhall - Society for the History of Astronomy
Lost world: Images of Mars before the Space Age
Dec 12th *Imaging Group*
Dec 13th *Geminid meteor shower*
Dec *Solar observing*
at Halyrude and Eddleston primary schools, Peebleshire

Publications

No editions of the Society's Journal were published. Due to the election of the former Journal editor into the position of Secretary, the Journal is currently without editor.

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

The Society prepared a planisphere showing a star chart of the visible sky, given the time of day and the time of year. This is used as handout to the public at the events attended. It is calculated for 55° latitude and replaces third-party products designed for more southerly locations.

Another handout for the public, the beginners' star charts devised by David Small has been reviewed.

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. Certain announcements are publicised through the Society's Twitter account at <http://twitter.com/ASEdinburgh>, which has over 530 followers at the end of the year.

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.

On 13 December, near the maximum of the Geminid meteor shower, several members met at a lay-by near Cousland, Midlothian, to test the site for observing in general. A number of meteors were spotted.

Imaging Group

The ASE Imaging Group is now into it's fourth year. We held 7 sessions in 2012 and these were well attended. The meetings are held in Juniper Green village hall - monthly on Wednesdays during the winter months. Meetings 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. There is also a social aspect to the group and a general aim to encourage practical astronomy. It is possible that we might extend the group to provide for general observing and even an equipment clinic.

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

Outreach

The Society took part in the BBC Stargazing LIVE event at the Royal Botanic Garden. The Royal Observatory Edinburgh hosted the indoor activities, while we set up telescopes on the terrace - in addition to an information stall indoors. The conditions were far from ideal, but most of the estimated 1500 people had the opportunity to see Jupiter. We provided the backdrop to the weather forecast broadcast as part of Reporting Scotland on BBC1 Scotland.

When news reached the Society that the Royal Observatory Edinburgh was going to decommission and replace their 20 inch teaching telescope, we facilitated - through the Federation of Astronomical Societies - its transfer to an amateur- or popular-astronomy institution. After receipt of six formal applications, the telescope was transferred to the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society.

Upon request from Headway East Lothian, a charity providing support for adults with Acquired Brain Injury, we delivered a talk as introduction to astronomy in Dunbar.

The Royal Observatory Edinburgh were kind enough to invite us to join them for their Doors Open Days again in September. A number of the Society helped out with this event either looking after the stall inside the building or supervising the telescopes outside. The President entertained (tortured) some visitors to the event at the front gate with a set of bagpipes. On both days, we were able to show sunspots and solar prominences with our H α telescope. Venus was also on view. The Society's kits for making a sundial and planisphere were very popular. This was an excellent opportunity to meet the public. There were in the region of 2000 visitors over the weekend; from ROE feedback forms, seeing Venus and the Sun featured highly as people's favourite thing they did over the weekend.

Just like the BBC Stargazing LIVE event in January, we teamed up the Royal Observatory to put on another event at the Botanic Garden. This was a weekend event, with drop-in activities provided by the ROE during the day; in the evening the ROE provided short presentations using the *Stellarium* software before the visitors braved the elements to have a look through a telescope at any object that members of the Society could find between the Scottish clouds. On the Saturday afternoon, Ken Thomas and David Small operated solar telescopes to show to a steady flux of visitors the surface of the Sun. On view were some solar flares and a few sunspots. In the evening, Jupiter proved an easy target between the clouds. Sunday, during the day, was a weather wipe-out with rain and low cloud. This lifted to allow some people to do some observing in the evening. Ken and Rachel Thomas looked after a very busy stall within the visitor centre during the evening.

During December, David Small took his newly acquired solar telescope to two primary schools in the Scottish Borders. As part of his work, he visits schools to fix computer-related problems. If conditions and time allow, the offer to use the telescope is made to anyone interested within the school. Some 76 children had an opportunity to have a look through the telescope at Halyrude and Eddleston primary schools in Peebleshire. A brief presentation was given; warning of the dangers of looking at the Sun is given before allowing the pupils to look through the scope.

Our participation in these events would not have been possible without the help of members, who staffed stalls and telescopes, prepared handouts, and fielded questions from the public.

Other

The hired storage in Leith was cleared early in the year, yielding a significant saving. Some items were disposed of, others moved temporarily to Council Members' homes. Although some books have been sold to members, this has no impact to speak of on the storage at the Augustine United

Church.

The Society's Constitution and Laws were changed by a Special General Meeting in March to (i) relax the timing of the Annual General Meeting from being held in March to being held between January and June, and (ii) to reduce the formal quorum for Council Meetings in the event of many Council vacancies.

The Annual General Meeting clarified the Society's stance on the City Observatory on Calton Hill. Given the choice between (i) no further involvement, (ii) trying to be very deeply involved, and (iii) trying to make use of the City Observatory for occasional public observing and similar events, subject to co-operation by the City and suitability of the site; the vast majority voted for the third option. Further, the City Observatory did not participate in Edinburgh Doors Open Day, so that we did not hold or participate in any events on Calton Hill.

The Society purchased some new telescope equipment. An EQ2 mount with battery drive was purchased for use with the solar telescope. The tracking mount should make use of the telescope at public events easier. For the conventional telescopes of the Society, a survey revealed a lack for high-magnification eyepieces; two 7.5 mm Super-Plössl eyepieces were purchased.

Financial review

For a number of years prior to 2010, our policy had been to exhaust the funds of our own investment account, and to defer receiving interest and dividends earned on investments held by the ASE Trust (SC013921). The deferred income due to the Society had instead been invested by the Trust on the Society's behalf, yielding a far higher rate than the Society would have been able to secure. Since 2010, we have each year asked for a payment £2000 from the Trust to balance our budget. For comparison, for 2011, the ASE Trust reported income from dividends and interest of £1791.

As regards the significant cost for storage in the years following our exit in 2009 from the City Observatory, these are much reduced in 2012. The larger commercial storage facility has been vacated in February 2012, which results in a saving of more than £1000 over the reporting year.

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).

24 May 2013. Horst Meyerdierks, Secretary.

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

Receipts and payments accounts

Statement of balances

	Notes	2012		2011	
		£	£	£	£
Bank balances at start of year					
Current Account		2,884.81		2,894.19	
Business Investment Account		77.57		77.45	
Total balance at start			2,962.38		2,971.64
Plus receipts		3,220.61		3,320.91	
Less payments		-1,956.02		-3,330.17	
Total balance at end			4,226.97		2,962.38
Bank balances at end of year					
Current Account		4,226.97		2,884.81	
Business Investment Account	1	0.00		77.57	
Total balance at end			4,226.97		2,962.38
Assets and liabilities at end of year	2		-75.00		0.00

Income and expenditure report

	Notes	2012		2011	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations					
ASE annual subscriptions		978.00		1,065.00	
Other donations		13.00		52.00	
Gift Aid		119.59		142.75	
Donations total			1,110.59		1,259.75
Grants					
ASE Trust		2,000.00		2,000.00	
Grants total			2,000.00		2,000.00
Bank interest					
Current Account		0.00		1.04	
Business Investment Account		0.02		0.12	
Bank interest total			0.02		1.16
Other charitable activities					
ASE badge sale		0.00		0.00	
Dark sky site key deposit		0.00		0.00	
Other charitable activities total			0.00		0.00
Asset sales					
Books		110.00		60.00	
Asset sales total			110.00		60.00
Income total			3,220.61		3,320.91

Expenditure

Charitable activities			
Meeting expenses	3	1,375.17	837.07
Memberships and affiliations	4	20.00	28.00
Communications		0.00	49.20
Dark sky site		0.00	140.00
Astrocalendars		72.30	70.34
Stamps		62.22	26.78
Public liability insurance	5	28.00	28.00
Travel expenses		0.00	15.00
Charitable activities total		<u>1,557.69</u>	<u>1,194.39</u>
Asset purchase and upkeep			
Artwork		0.00	528.12
Equipment	6	202.49	0.00
Repairs and maintenance		0.00	160.38
Storage rental	7	159.04	1,245.68
Contents insurance	8	36.80	201.60
Asset purchase and upkeep total		<u>398.33</u>	<u>2,135.78</u>
Expenditure total		<u>1,956.02</u>	<u>3,330.17</u>
Income minus expenditure		+1,264.59	-9.26

Assets

	Notes	2012		2011	
		£	£	£	£
Books	9	30,000		30,000	
Artwork	10	600		600	
Telescopes etc.	11	6,200		6,000	
IT equipment	12	300		300	
Educational equipment	13	200		200	
Assets total		<u>37,300</u>		<u>37,100</u>	

Notes to the accounts

General notes:

- All funds are unrestricted, i.e. available for any of the Society's purposes.
- No grants were made in 2012.
- No remuneration was paid to any trustee (Council member) of the Society, nor to any person connected to a trustee of the Society.
- Trustee expenses:
 - Horst Meyerdierks:
 - £60 for dinner with speaker (Roger Stapleton, Horst Meyerdierks and Peter Mulholland).
 - £20 for driving speaker from and to Forth near Lanark.

- David Small:
 - £24.78 for dinner with speaker (Paul Money and David Small).
- Transactions with trustees:
 - Horst Meyerdierks:
 - Purchase of 7 books from the Society for £60.

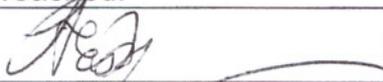
Specific notes referenced above:

1. Business Investment Account was closed on 12th March 2012 and the contents of the account transferred in full to the Current Account.
2. This represents a liability for an uncleared cheque for £75 made payable to Dr Robert Piccioni for speakers expenses for a talk given to the Society on 7th Sep 2012. The cheque was written on 7th Dec 2012 and was not presented before the end of December 2012. This liability has been carried forward to 2013.
3. Meeting expenses comprise of £1,034 Room Hire at the Augustine United Church, £50 for Imaging Group Room Hire, £41.39 Meeting Refreshments and £249.78 Speakers' travel and meals.
4. Federation of Astronomical Societies annual membership.
5. Public Liability Insurance is with the Federation of Astronomical Societies.
6. Scope accessories and eyepieces purchased from Sherwood Photographic.
7. Final two months' payment to Safestore for storage.
8. Contents insurance payable to Safestore for final two months.
9. The value of the books is listed as unchanged. The value is a very rough estimate, so that the sale of a few books from the low-value end has no significant impact on the overall estimate.
10. This figure estimates the value of the four remaining Lorimer Medals and of the President's Medal. Not included in the value are a number of large photographs, three science displays, and two 20th century water colour paintings of the City Observatory.
11. This includes estimated values of the modern instruments available to members, and of an early 20th century refractor. Not included is a 1942 refractor.
12. The value is for the data projector purchased a few years ago. While our main venue provides data projectors, this is used regularly at other venues.
13. This figure is a rough estimate of the value of three globes.

Declaration

The receipts and payments accounts presented on pages 7 to 9 were approved by the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh (the trustees of the charity).

*24 May 2013. Horst Meyerdierks, Secretary.
For and on behalf of the Council of The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh.*

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts	
Report to the trustees/members of	The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh
Registered charity number	SC022968
On the accounts of the charity for the year ended	31 st December 2012 which are set out on pages 6-9
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act') and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) ('the 2006 regulations') The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 with 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 accounts to be reached.
Signed:	
Date:	1 st November 2013
Name:	Helen Bourquin Associate Member ACIE
Address:	67 Station Road Roslin EH25 9LP