



# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

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

## Annual Report 2013

### Trustees' annual report for the period 1 January to 31 December 2013

#### 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.*

<b>trustee name</b>	<b>office (if any)</b>	<b>dates acted</b>	<b>appointed by</b>
1 Mr Kenneth Thomas	President	from 7 June	AGM
2 Dr Horst Meyerdierks	Secretary	whole year	AGM
3 Mr Alan Ellis	Treasurer	from 2 August	Council
4 Mr Scott Provan	Vice-President	from 27 September	Council
5 Dr Duncan Hale-Sutton		whole year	AGM
6 Mr Peter Mulholland		from 7 June	AGM
7 Mr Alan Pickup		whole year	AGM
8 Ms Rachel Thomas		from 7 June	AGM

*Names of all other charity trustees during the period.*

<b>name</b>	<b>office (if any)</b>	<b>dates acted</b>	<b>appointed by</b>
Mr David Small	President	to 7 June	Council
Mr Alan Ellis	Treasurer	to 7 June	AGM
Mr Alan Ellis		from 7 June to 2 August	Council
Mr Peter Mulholland	Vice-President	to 7 June	AGM
Mr Daniel Gallacher	Vice-President	to 7 June	AGM
Mr Daniel Gallacher	Vice-President	2 August to 27 September	Council
Mr Pete Macdonald		to 7 June	AGM
Mr Scott Provan		from 7 June to 27 September	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/about/constitution.html>.

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 2013, the membership of the Society was 74 of which six were honorary members. Honorary members are Dr H. Ford, Dr D. Gavine, Dr N. Grubb, and Prof D. Hoggie. The Honorary Presidents are Prof Andrew Lawrence (Regius Professor of Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh) and Prof John Brown (Astronomer Royal for Scotland).

### **The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees**

A former Vice-President of the Society, Mr John Henry Lorimer, 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 and others, dated 10 December 1937.

Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trust is registered Scottish Charity SC013921. 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.

### **Activities during 2013**

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 23 May, 2 August and 27 September; we thank the Royal Observatory Edinburgh for offering a meeting room for Council meetings. The Annual General Meeting was held on 7 June. The Imaging Group met 8 times during the winter

months. 10 Ordinary Meetings with educational talks on different aspects of astronomy were held; the February and November meetings were without guest speaker and instead dedicated to advice on telescopes and other observing aids. The approximate attendance at monthly meetings was: Jan 22, Feb 25, Mar 40, Apr ~35, May 35, Jun 24 (AGM), Jul 20, Sep 30, Oct 38, Nov 23, Dec 50, total ~340.

*Meetings and events.*

- Jan 11th Tom Walkinshaw - Alba Orbital  
*New frontiers in end of life celebration - Space*
- Jan 16th *Imaging Group*
- Feb 1st *Surgery on telescopes and other observing aids*
- Feb 13th *Imaging Group*
- Mar 1st Dr Bruce Vickery - Astronomical Society of Edinburgh  
*Scotland's first Astronomer Royal and the Calton Hill Observatory*
- Mar 9th *Stall and telescopes*  
at the event "Life in the universe / Out of this World Ceilidh"
- Mar 13th *Imaging Group*
- Mar 27th *Stargaze with Mark, at the Royal Botanic Garden*
- Apr 5th Prof Alan Heavens - Imperial College London  
*Dark energy, extra dimensions and cosmology*
- Apr 17th *Imaging Group*
- May 3rd Dr Suzanne Ramsay - European Southern Observatory  
*A star is born*
- May 15th *In-town observing meeting*
- Jun 7th *Annual General Meeting*  
Followed by a presentation on *Astrophotography with consumer cameras*
- Jun 15th *Stall and telescopes*  
at the Society for Popular Astronomy Scottish Regional Meeting
- Jul 5th Dr Horst Meyerderks - Astronomical Society of Edinburgh  
*A slide down memory lane*
- Aug 12th *Perseid meteor observing session*
- Sep 6th Dr Michele Cirasuolo - Royal Observatory Edinburgh  
*An infrared multi-object spectrograph for European astronomy*
- Sep 11th *Imaging Group*
- Sep 28th *Stall and telescopes*  
at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Doors Open Day
- Sep 29th *Stall and telescopes*  
at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Doors Open Day
- Oct 4th Tania Johnston - Royal Observatory Edinburgh  
*ALMA and llamas*
- Oct 9th *Imaging Group*
- Nov 1st *Surgery on telescopes and other observing aids*
- Nov 7th *Stall and telescopes*  
at the event "Botanics Late - Sea Change"
- Nov 13th *Imaging Group*
- Dec 6th Prof Ian Morison - Jodrell Bank  
*The story of Jodrell Bank*
- Dec 11th *Imaging Group*

## **Publications**

The Society's Journal has resumed in the form of an on-line blog co-ordinated by Rachel Thomas. This is available to the public at <http://asedinburghjournal.wordpress.com/>

Similar to Alan Pickup's sky preview at monthly meetings, his monthly astronomy article for "The Scotsman" - with kind permission of the paper's publishers - is republished in the Society's Journal.

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 kit to build a sundial calculated for 55° latitude. This is a re-creation in digital form of the kit designed by Graham Rule in 1995 (for 56°). There are now three such handouts - beginners' seasonal star charts, planisphere and sundial. These have been uploaded to the Society's website and are available to the public. They are available under the Creative Commons by Attribution Licence, so that others can redistribute or amend and distribute these documents, requiring only that the Society be acknowledged.

## **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 and the Journal coordinator:

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

To help members organise observing activities, an ASE observers' mailing list was created. At the end of the year, 19 members were subscribed to this list.

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 930 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**

The arrangement to allow members to use a dark site near West Calder has been terminated, as very little use was being made of this.

The first meeting of the ASE Observers' Group took place on 15 May in Roseburn Park with the aim of checking the park's suitability for astronomy. Six members met at the Roseburn Bar before walking down to the park at dusk. The site's suitability for observing was confirmed and a number of Earth-orbiting satellites were observed. One very bright and fast moving object was later identified by Alan Pickup to be a Centaur rocket on its way to deliver the GPS 2F-4 satellite into orbit. Views of Saturn were seen through one member's telescope.

The Observers' group also met on 12 August to observe the Perseid Meteor shower. Nine members gathered at The Sheep Heid Inn at Duddingston at 21:00 and we continued to the loch side for observation. The sky was badly obscured by cloud but members saw about 5 meteors in all. Excitement at observing a fireball was quickly doused when it was realised that what had been seen was Alan Pickup's green laser pen. The International Space Station was spotted during the evening.

## **Imaging Group**

The Imaging Group is now into its fifth year and expanded its season to into April, making it eight meetings during the year. 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. The group shares images and comments on its Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/aseimaginggroup>).

## **Outreach**

Horst Meyerdierks gave a talk on *Astrophotography* to Clydesdale Astronomical Society (February), Stirling Astronomical Society (March), the Society for Popular Astronomy (15 June), and Musselburgh Camera Club (October).

Gray Marshall & Associates obtained permission to include the "Guide to Edinburgh's popular observatory" by Shepherd et al. - which is available on the Society's website - in a conservation statement commissioned by the City and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

Prof John Brown, Lorna McCalman and Charlie Gleed organised another excellent programme of talks entitled "Life in the Universe" at the Teviot Row Student Union on the 9 March. The Society had a stand with telescope, posters and handouts. Although the audience were mostly members of various astronomical societies - including our own - it was an excellent chance to talk to people and promote the ASE.

On 28 and 29 September, members of the Society turned out to support the annual Open Days at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh. For the past few years we have been invited to attend the Open Days to help promote astronomy to the general public, as well as to publicise the Society. We provided telescopes and staff to look at the Moon, and solar telescopes gave the public close views of solar activity. In addition there was a stall set up with various member-produced materials for the public to take away, including information about the Society. Over the course of the two days 3500 people came through the gates of the Observatory, and the chance to help enthuse that many people in the subject of astronomy is one that the Society never willingly passes up!

We had a similar presence in June at the Society for Popular Astronomy's Scottish regional meeting at the Royal Observatory. Due to the nature of the event, the audience was smaller and with more advanced interest in astronomy.

We had another two outings to the Royal Botanic Garden in 2013. In March, the Royal Observatory led a Science Festival event to promote a new book by Mark Thompson, while in November, we supported a more social and artistic event relating to the Sea Change exhibition at the Garden.

The Society is currently in touch with the general manager of The Museum of Flight at East Fortune with a view to organising a day of activities based around space and astronomy, with evening observing. It is hoped that, if successful, this could become an annual event.

We acknowledge the time and effort spent by some of the Society's members that make these events happen.

## **Storage**

In 2013, we have disposed of the 2 in. slides and an old projector for these; the lantern slides - mainly from a 1930 series by the Royal Astronomical Society - are now kept by a member. This and the loan of all modern telescopes to members has relieved pressure on the storage at the Augustine United Church somewhat. However, the two telescopes - a small brass telescope and a sizeable Cooke refractor - loaned to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS)

have been returned. With no progress made on selling and disposing of books, obsolete projectors, globes, etc., storage remains tight.

## **Financial review**

Since 2010 we have each year asked for a payment of £2000 from the ASE Trust (SC013921) and have done so again in 2013. It matches approximately the dividends earned by the Trust (£1791 in 2012). Until 2011 this grant was required to balance our accounts, but with the much reduced storage cost in 2012 and 2013 it has resulted in a significant surplus in the accounts.

The Council is considering how to invest part of this surplus in equipment to further the Society's aims and to enable members carry out more observational work.

## **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).

*18 May 2014. Horst Meyerdierks, Secretary.*

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

# Receipts and payments accounts

## Statement of balances

	Notes	2013		2012	
		£	£	£	£
Bank balances at start of year					
Current Account		4,227		2,885	
Business Investment Account	1	0		78	
Total balance at start			4,227		2,962
Plus receipts		3,268		3,221	
Less payments		-1,746		-1,956	
Total balance at end			5,749		4,227
Bank balances at end of year					
Current Account		5,749		4,227	
Total balance at end			5,749		4,227
Assets and liabilities at end of year	2		0		-75

## Income and expenditure report

	Notes	2013		2012	
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations					
ASE annual subscriptions		1,054		978	
Other donations		34		13	
Gift Aid		102		120	
Donations total			1,190		1,111
Grants					
ASE Trust	3	2,000		2,000	
Grants total			2,000		2,000
Bank interest					
Current Account		0		0	
Business Investment Account	1	0		0	
Bank interest total			0		0
Other charitable activities					
ASE badge sale		8		0	
Other charitable activities total			8		0
Asset sales					
Books		70		110	
Asset sales total			70		110
Income total			3,268		3,221

Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Meeting expenses	4	1,201	1,375
Memberships and affiliations	5	28	28
Astrocalendars		84	72
Stamps		13	62
Public liability insurance	6	20	20
Travel expenses		0	0
Charitable activities total		<u>1,346</u>	<u>1,558</u>
Governance costs			
Independent examination		100	0
Governance costs total		<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
Asset purchase and upkeep			
Equipment	7	0	202
Repairs and maintenance		0	0
Storage rental	8	300	159
Contents insurance	9	0	37
Asset purchase and upkeep total		<u>300</u>	<u>398</u>
Expenditure total		<u>1,746</u>	<u>1,956</u>
Income minus expenditure		+1,522	+1,265

## Assets

	Notes	2013		2012	
		£	£	£	£
Books	10	30,000		30,000	
Artwork	11	600		600	
Telescopes etc.	12	6,200		6,200	
IT equipment	13	300		300	
Educational equipment	14	5,200		5,200	
Assets total			<u>42,300</u>		<u>42,300</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 2013.
- 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: None.
- Transactions with trustees: None.

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. Note there is still technically an uncleared cheque for £75 made payable to Dr Robert Piccionne 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. The cheque was still not presented for payment during 2013 and can be considered void.

3. Lorimer Trust income from investment income on financial assets management by the ASE Trust.
4. Meeting expenses comprise of £968 Room Hire at the Augustine United Church, £100 for Imaging Group Room Hire, £63 Meeting Refreshments and £70 Speakers' travel and meals.
5. Federation of Astronomical Societies annual membership.
6. Public Liability Insurance is with the Federation of Astronomical Societies.
7. No equipment purchases in 2013.
8. The 2012 figure represents the final two months of Safestore storage; the 2013 figure represents the annual cost for storage at the Augustine United Church.
9. No Contents insurance is in place currently - this was compulsory in 2012 for Safestore storage.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. This includes estimated values of the modern instruments available to members, and of three historic telescopes.
13. 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.
14. This figure is a rough estimate of the value of three globes plus the 1990s valuation for a "starfinder" instrument by Sir William Peck.

## **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).

*18 May 2014. Horst Meyerderks, Secretary.*

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

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

<b>Report to the trustees/members of</b>	The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh		
<b>Registered charity number</b>	SC022968		
<b>On the accounts of the charity for the year ended</b>	31st December 2013 which are set out on pages 6-9		
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	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.		
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	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.		
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>o to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting record and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations,</li> </ul>                     have not been met, or                 </li> <li>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li> </ol>		
<b>Signed:</b>	Helen Bourquin	<b>Date:</b>	5/6/14
<b>Name:</b>	Helen Bourquin Associate Member ACIE		
<b>Address:</b>	67 Station Road, Roslin EH25 9LP		