



Members of the committee

President: John D. Wilson
Vice President: John D. Wilson
Secretary: John D. Wilson
Treasurer: John D. Wilson
Public Relations: John D. Wilson

Membership Secretary: John D. Wilson
Membership Secretary: John D. Wilson
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Membership Secretary: John D. Wilson

HIGHLANDS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Unaudited Statement of Receipts and Payments

28 February 2021

Charity Number: SC037209

Independent Examiner

Mr. John D. Wilson
26 Leys Drive
Inverness
IV2 3JA

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
26 Leys Drive
Inverness
IV2 3JA

Contact Address

5 Boswell Crescent
Inverness
IV2 3ET

Andrew Wilson 01753 507107@gmail.com

Trustees (and members of the committee)

Eric Walker	Chairman
David Davidson	Vice Chairman
Rhona Fraser	Secretary
Andrew Brough	Treasurer
Arthur Milnes	(till August 2020)
Paul Jenkins	
Pauline Macrae	
Pat Escott	
Antony McEwan	(ex-officio-equipment consultant)
Gerry Gaitens	(ex-officio - Observatory Manager)
Gael Hillyard	Membership Secretary from October 2019- Sept 2020)
Lorraine Shepherd	Membership Secretary (from Oct 2020)

Independent Examiner

Neil Johnstone
26 Leys Drive
Inverness
IV2 3JA

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
2-6 Eastgate
Inverness
IV2 3NA

Contact Address

5 Boswell Crescent
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IV2 3ET

Andrewbrough1977@gmail.com

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their report and receipts and payments account for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Origins

The Society was formed in 1993 as the Inverness Astronomical Society, merging the next year with the Moray Astronomical Society to form the present society. A formal constitution was drafted in 1996.

Governing Document

The Society is a charitable unincorporated society, and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Objects

The Highlands Astronomical Society aims to promote and extend the awareness of, and interest in, all branches of astronomy and cosmology. We host educational, practical and social activities in the Highlands of Scotland, within a friendly and stimulating environment, accessible to all ages and levels of knowledge.

The Society seeks to achieve its aims through a varied programme of meetings, activities and events, including talks, exhibitions, observing sessions open to the public and social events. The Highlands Astronomical Society also aims to contribute worthwhile observational data to national and international astronomical organisations.

Astronomy is one of the few remaining sciences where valuable contributions and discoveries are still being made by amateurs. These facts are recognised and actively encouraged by professional astronomers and scientists.

Trustees

The trustees during the year were as listed on page 2. Where shown, some also held the title 'Office Bearer'. Any new appointments as trustee are made following approaches to suitably qualified people, who then agree to accept appointment. New trustees are given the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator's booklet 'Guidance and good practice for Charity Trustees' to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, and are asked to sign as having read it.

The Office Bearers are appointed or reappointed by the members at our annual general meeting which is held in April each year. Committee members are appointed by the Office Bearers when required. The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

We have in use a child protection policy (CPP) that reflects current Scottish legislation. New trustees are given the link to our policy to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, and are asked to sign as having read it.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed including those at the Observatory, and in particular those related to the operations and finances of the trust, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate such risks.

Reserves

The Society aims to have unrestricted funds at any one time of at least £1,500.

The JSL Observatory.

The JSL Observatory houses a fully computerised **Meade 14" catadioptric telescope** within a Pulsar 9 foot dome. The main telescope supports an **80mm refracting telescope**. The adjacent observing station has disabled facilities including a lavatory and a laptop with a large wall mounted screen which is used to view telescope images remotely. It also houses the Society's library, and has room to allow us to hold small groups. We have a computerised EQ3 mount for use with our smaller telescopes, a **Skywatcher MAK90**, a **60mm refractor** and a **4" Vixen refractor telescope**. These offer alternate views from smaller telescopes. We also have an **8 inch Vixen Schmidt - Cassegrain**. We were kindly donated a radio telescope for use on cloudy nights. We can also offer 4 pairs of 10 x 50 binoculars which are available for loan to society members and visitors.

A link between the Astro-cam attached to the Meade 14" in the dome and the flat-screen in the warm room in a Project called 21C-ObSee allows views from the eyepiece to be seen in comfort and encourage visitors and recruit new members. Youngsters and people with limited mobility will also be more able to partake in astronomical observing.

We are most grateful to the National Trust for Scotland for allowing us to locate the observatory on their property at the Culloden Battlefield.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, we have been unable to use the Observatory; however members of the Observing Team have carried out security & inspection visits to the observatory throughout the year to ensure our assets are protected & maintained.

We give advice on buying and setting up telescopes to members and the public.

Activities and Achievements

We normally meet once a month in the Smithton-Culloden Free Church with Youngstars sessions led by Pauline Macrae and Trina Shaddick. Guests are welcome at our meetings. However we only had one indoor meeting this year due to Covid restrictions preventing social gatherings, the meetings in April and May being cancelled. Our AGM was undertaken via the internet, the members being sent the normal AGM papers via the email. The required quorum numbers were reached and the report was passed without alterations. From June our monthly talks were given on Zoom (including a December Quiz - which was organised by SIGMA with members of other Northern astronomy Societies). The Zoom talks are later edited and uploaded to YouTube by Eric Walker.

Due to the Covid situation all visits to the Observatory were stopped as were the planned Science Festival in May, Belladrum in August and the Highland Council 'Open Doors' event in September. In October, the Observatory was visited by a children's author, Corrina Campbell, and her publisher to launch her new children's book called "The Girl Who Stole the Stars" via Facebook. No visitors were allowed and there was just one member of HAS there.

Eric Walker was asked to become a member of the Orkney International Science Festival's 2020 Online Technical Team & Presentation Team. This proved very beneficial to the individual and to our Club as the training and experience of OISF2020 helped us design and construct live observing webcasts at 1080p with interactive co-host & audience participation - these are very popular & successful. YouTube recordings of these webcasts have enabled us to appeal to another cohort and grow our membership. These skills were also used when Eric Walker became involved in National Astronomy Week in November when he broadcasted twice during that event.

Highlands Astronomical Society

We continue to campaign for dark skies, are a 'community consultant' to Highland Council.

Website & Social Media

Social media now plays a major part in our communications for existing & potential members and it also enables us to share our successes, including details of observing events & astrophotography taken by our members, with both a local & global audience.

Our website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts are attracting increasing numbers of regular followers and this enables us to promote our Club activities and facilitates public outreach.

Our social media links are

- o **Website:** www.spacegazer.com
- o **Facebook & Messenger:** Highlands Astronomical Society
- o **Instagram:** highlands.astro
- o **Members only WhatsApp groups**, set up by our Membership Secretary, Lorraine Shepherd. This includes:-
 - o **Nebulous News:** event alerts, especially short notice, such as aurora sightings, live observing webcasts, noctilucent cloud sightings
 - o **Cosmic Convoys:** anything astronomy related

The Monthly Newsletter, 'Stargazey Pie' and Constellation of the Month

This is written (given at the Zoom monthly meetings) in a knowledgeable and enthusiastic way by Pauline Macrae (and occasionally by Gael Hillyard and once by Eric Walker) Stargazey Pie now consists of Club News and the Constellation of the month as our talks can be seen on YouTube. The 'Pie' sent to all members via email. Pauline still writes articles for the Youngstars.

News Media

Our meetings were for the first few months of this session advertised in 'Astronomy Now' and local magazines but due to Covid restrictions this was stopped.

External Educational Activities

We give talks to local societies and organisations promoting astronomy, our society and its facilities. Obviously due to Covid this contact has been limited but this year we gave talks by Zoom to 2 U3A groups and 3 astronomy clubs.

Fund-raising Activities and grants

Normally pre-arranged visits and 'special events' at the observatory have gained us useful donations. However due to the Covid pandemic this year, this has proved impossible.

Membership

The Society's membership has remained steady this year despite the pandemic. Members have joined and left as usual, but overall we reached a membership level of 63. We have discussed at length at Committee ways of keeping our current members and of increasing it.

Other Astronomical Societies

The COVID situation has promoted a collaboration with North Scotland based Astronomy Clubs/Groups (SIGMA in Moray, Caithness Astronomy Group, Aberdeen Astronomical Society and North Ronaldsay Astronomy Group), loosely forming the North of Scotland Amateur Astronomy Association ("NOSAAA not NASA"). We have all come together to share our online talks. Feedback from several of these other groups indicates we should continue this and indeed formalising the arrangement.

We have maintained our 'twinning' relationship with the Dunedin astronomical society in New Zealand by sending links to our YouTube channel.

Governance

Monthly bank statements are scrutinised by the Chairman and the Secretary via email due to the pandemic which has also encouraged increasing use of Online banking services. The Society has three approved cheque signatories, with any two of the three to sign (as long as the cheque is not made out to one of them).

Closing Remarks

Finally and with great regret, we have to mention the sudden death during the year of Arthur Milnes, a long standing member and stalwart of the club. He played a major part in erection of our first observatory and in the maintenance of our present one. He served as Vice-President and President and was active in organising the annual Xmas Quiz as well as the raffle. He often lead the break-out groups being especially keen in imparting his great knowledge and enthusiasm to beginners. He had a passion for space and flying and gave several talks on these subjects. He will be sorely missed.

The Chairman would like to express his sincere thanks to all of the Society Committee for their invaluable support. His job throughout the reporting year could not have been done without their backing and effort. As well as the Committee, of course, it is the support and participation of the members which makes this a highly recognised and active astronomy club in the heart of the Scottish Highlands.

Financial results

The society has an increased liquidity compared to recent years and has retained a satisfactory level of reserves by year end.

Whilst membership levels remained similar to the previous year, the sale of some old equipment and a reduction in outgoings have contributed to the increase in liquidity. Total cash reserves of the society at the end of the year stood at £2776 and £715 is due to be claimed for Gift Aid for this year and previous year.

The above does not include the assets owned by the Society, which have a current value of approximately £81,250.

On behalf of the trustees

Signed: Eric W. Walker, Chairman

Signed: Rhona B. I. Fraser, Secretary

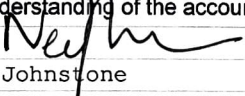
Date:

10 APR 2021

Date:

8/4/2021

Examiner's report

Independent examiner's report on the accounts							
Report to the trustees/members of	Highlands Astronomical Society						
Registered charity number	SC037209						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
	01	03	2020		28	02	2021
Set out on pages	9 to 11						
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>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 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.</p>						
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 						
Signed:				Date:	10/4/2021		
Name:	Neil Johnstone						
Address:	26 Leys Drive Inverness IV2 3JA						

Highlands Astronomical Society – unrestricted funds

Statement of Receipts and Payments

for the year ended 28 February 2021

2021

2020

Income

£

£

Membership Subscriptions	1,369	1,390
Grant Aid for Equipment	-	-
Gift Aid Refund (including interest)	-	736
Donations	130	589
Fundraising	261	713
Outreach Income (Courier mostly)	-	75
Raffle	33	401
Bank Interest	-	2
Sundry Income	20	155
HAS Events and Outings	-	-

Total Receipts

1,813

4,061

Expenses

£

£

Venue Costs	73	870
Public Liability Insurance - HC	307	500
Observatory Ground Rent	-	158
Observatory Maintenance	-	96
Observatory Electricity	-	-
Observatory Comms	54	76
Observatory Equipment	-	-
Grant Aided Equipment	-	-
Speaker Expenses	330	836
Secretarial	81	-
Outreach Costs (Youngstars & Obs Visits)	-	86
Sundry Costs	42	200
HAS Events And Outings	-	-

Total Expenditure

887

2,822

Net Receipts(Expenditure) for the period

926

1,239

Fund Balance brought forward

1,885

646

Fund Balance carried forward

2,811

1,885

Highlands Astronomical Society

Statement of Balances

As at 28 February 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at Bank and on hand		
Cash at Bank	2,776	1,830
Cash on hand	35	55
Closing Balances	<u>2,811</u>	<u>1,885</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted Funds	2,811	1885
Closing Balances	<u>2,811</u>	<u>1885</u>
Assets		
Observatory at Estimated Market Value	64,000	64,000
Astronomical equipment at estimated market value	17,000	17,000
Computing equipment at estimated market value	250	250
Unclaimed Gift Aid at year-end	690	406
	<u>81,940</u>	<u>81,656</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees by the treasurer and
authorised for issue on **April 2021**



Date: 10/4/2021

Andrew Brough, Treasurer



Date: 12 APR 2021

Eric Walker, Chairman

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended **28 February 2021**

1. Accounting policies

Reserves

All funds are unrestricted funds which may be applied to any purposes as decided on by the trustees, so long as these are within the objects of the charity.

Income and expenditure

Income and expenditure is recognised at the time of receipt or payment.

2. Nature of funds

The Highlands Astronomical Society Fund is a general purpose fund into which all The ongoing income is placed and the operating costs of the Society are met.

3. Trustees' and other remuneration

No trustee receives any remuneration for their services. The Society has no paid employee

4. Reserves

The Society has a policy of holding a reserve of £1,500 against unforeseen eventualities.

5. Donations and grant assistance received

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Miscellaneous donations	130	257
Total	130	257