



**TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD
31 OCTOBER 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017**

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1169953
LEGAL FORM	Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed under the Charities Act 2011
TRUSTEES AT 31/12/17	Philip Wallace (Chairman); Roy Blunt; Jane Clark, Theresa Cooper, Peter Crabb, Mike Foley, Cedric Longville and Nick Pollock
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	Constitution as incorporated on 31/10/16
OBJECTS	To advance education in the science of astronomy and related subjects for the public benefit by furthering the knowledge of its members, promoting and conducting observations, and by providing facilities for active participation in astronomical observation
CONVERSION TO CIO	The members of the Cardiff Astronomical Society agreed at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 21 July 2016 that the Society should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The Cardiff Astronomical Society (CIO) was formed and registered as a charity on 31 October 2016 when it took over all the activities of the former Cardiff Astronomical Society.
INSPECTOR OF ACCOUNTS	Philip Smith
SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP	The Society had 335 paid-up members as at 31 December 2017.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 31 OCTOBER 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

Trustees/Committee - The Trustees met five times and the Committee on seven occasions during the period. The Trustees have delegated most of their duties and powers to the Committee which, thus, takes care of the main operational issues.

Fortnightly Talks - It was another busy and successful period for the Society which continued to hold well-attended evening meetings for members every other week from September to July to listen to talks given by visiting astronomical experts including, in particular, academics from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff University. A total of 24 lectures were given between 31 October 2016 and 31 December 2017.

Public Events

31 March 2017 (BBC Stargazing Live at Dyffryn Gardens) - The Society continued its support of the very popular BBC outreach series Stargazing Live by organising another tie-in public event at this National Trust site where the Society's Observatory is located. This was recognised by the BBC as such and added to their publicised list of UK-wide activities. Whilst the presenters were in Australia introducing the TV audience to the southern stars, members of the Society gave the public introductory tours of the night sky in the northern hemisphere using the naked eye, binoculars and a range of manned telescopes including that in the Society's own observatory. This event has consistently attracted a large audience with people of all ages, backgrounds, experience and some who are absolute beginners and wish to join in a 'taster session'.

30 July 2017 (Solar Viewing at Brecon Beacons Mountain Visitor Centre) - A day of sunshine and showers but the National Park Warden had thought ahead and provided some cover. The event was to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the national park, and the Society was only one of the organisations invited to join in the celebrations. The NP Chairwoman made a special visit to the Society's set-up to thank the Society for its continued support over many years.

14 October 2017 (Stargazing at Brecon Beacons Mountain Visitor Centre) - A warm and humid day for October but thick clouds came across as the Society's outreach team drove up to Brecon. However, the outlook promised to be dry and so the Society's equipment was set up on the field, but a gazebo was also erected to provide a retreat should it rain. Despite the poor sky conditions, telescopes and binoculars were, as always, put on show as visitors often wish to ask about the different types, costs, ease of use etc. The event, once again, proved to be a sell-out and the Society's team was kept busy organising a number of activities including a talk on the life cycle of stars, a demonstration of the setting up of observing equipment (in conditions that became quite favourable), a series of naked eye tours of the night sky, a Q&A session with a free raffle of some good books and a photograph of the Moon taken by one of the Society's leading astrophotographers.

28 October 2017 (Stargazing at Dyffryn Gardens) - A packed house once again around the Society's Observatory, but the weather did not co-operate. The Society's Observatory was open for 'tours' of the facility and the astronomical equipment owned by the Society. In addition, video documentaries were given via a laptop computer and two short talks were delivered. There was an array of telescopes outside for the public to see and ask questions about and virtual observations of various celestial objects was provided. Star charts were distributed for use on clearer nights and an exhibition of astronomical images taken by a Society officer was in place. The position of the ISS was displayed in real time and people were informed how they could easily sight it when it traverses the UK. The event concluded with a Q&A session which, again, proved to be of value.

18 November 2017 (Stargazing at St Fagans National Museum of History) - A successful evening during which the Society worked alongside colleagues from the National Museum of Wales, Astro Cymru and the Usk Astronomical Society to entertain more than 200 members of the public of all ages who wished to talk about stargazing. The Society's outreach team had their facilities in place in good time which was fortunate as the first visitors from a wide geographical area arrived nearly an hour early for this fully booked event. It was yet another successful evening for the Society and, more importantly, for those attending.

Observatory - For regular stargazing events and occasional solar viewing the Society continues to run its own excellent Observatory, situated in the grounds of the Dyffryn Gardens, just outside Cardiff. Amongst other astronomical equipment, the Observatory houses a state-of-the-art 11" HD computer-driven telescope for use at star parties and observing sessions.

Library - The Society continued to maintain a comprehensive Library of astronomical books which is available for use by all members attending the fortnightly talks.

Website - The Society's website <http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk/> was reviewed during the year and various changes and simplifications were made.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 31 OCTOBER 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017 (in £)

Available Funds at 31 October 2016		Available Funds at 31 December 2017	
Current Account Opening	1,722.79	Current Account Closing	1,587.68
Reserve Bank Opening	4,088.22	Reserve Bank Closing	5,591.04
Petty Cash Opening	239.15	Petty Cash Closing	432.62
PayPal	824.79	PayPal	410.17
TOTAL	6,874.95	TOTAL	8,021.51
Surplus of Income over Expenditure			1,146.56

Income and Expenditure

Category	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Subscriptions	4,727.00	107.12	4,619.88
Raffle	911.50	284.06	627.44
Merchandise	291.80		291.80
Donations	34.76		34.76
Miscellaneous	580.00		580.00
Interest	2.82		2.82
Special Events	229.50	292.50	- 63.00
Books for members	35.00	37.00	- 2.00
Travel		236.76	- 236.76
Insurance	36.67	1,240.13	-1,203.46
Observatory		779.73	- 779.73
Equipment/Maintenance		346.90	- 346.90
Speaker expenses	66.56	1,211.27	-1,144.71
Hospitality		243.04	-243.04
Website		335.86	- 335.86
Newsletter etc		278.98	- 278.98
Library		44.98	- 44.98
Telephone		20.00	- 20.00
Printing/copying		84.55	- 84.55
Postage		33.36	- 33.36
Other		192.81	- 192.81
TOTAL	6,915.61	5,769.05	1,146.56

These accounts were approved by the Trustees of the Society on ...27/02/2018... and signed

Signed ...PHILIP WALLACE.... (Philip Wallace) Signed .. ROY BLUNT (Roy Blunt)

Notes:

Reserves Policy - The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the Society's needs. This is based on the Society's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the Society will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure arises. The Trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

Public Benefit - The Society acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'objects' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved these are provided in the Trustees' report.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the Trustees/members of the Cardiff Astronomical Society on the accounts for the first period as a CIO ended 31 December 2017 and to provide a basis for the Society's return for 2016/17 to be made to the Charity Commission.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the inspector

The Society's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and have noted that an audit of the Society's accounts is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and an independent examination is not required under section 145 of the Act. However, the Trustees consider that an informal inspection of the accounts by an independent person should, for the sake of good order, be carried out.

It is the inspector's responsibility to examine the accounts, state whether particular matters have come to their attention, and then report on their findings. The purpose of the inspection was to establish the credibility of the finances of the Cardiff Astronomical Society for the period 31/10/2016 to 31/12/2017.

Statement by the inspector of the accounts

Period of examination:	31/10/2016 to 31/12/2017
Examination Date:	17/03/2018
Auditor:	Philip Smith
Treasurer (31/10/16 to 15/12/16)	Peter Crabb
Treasurer (15/12/16 to 14/02/17)	Philip Wallace
Treasurer (14/02/17 to 31/12/17)	Roy Blunt

Observations/Suggested Improvements/Comments from the inspection

My inspection included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from the Treasurer concerning any such matters. A small number of items of expenditure were not supported by invoices or other supporting documentation.

Findings

No matter has come to my attention (other than that mentioned above) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the accounting records maintained by the Society were deficient. I have also raised queries that I had with the Trustees and am satisfied with the responses I received. The results of the inspection were satisfactory and in my opinion the Accounts are a true and credible reflection of the Society's financial results and position at 31 December 2017.

Suggestions/Comments

All items of expenditure should be supported by invoices/receipts, particularly with regard to Cash Book entries. Where these are not available the relevant occurrences should be brought to the attention of the Society's Trustees and Committee by the Treasurer.

Signed: ... PHILIP SMITH ... (Inspector – Philip Smith) Date31/03/2018....