



## **TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019**

### **LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>CHARITY NUMBER</b>	1169953
<b>LEGAL FORM</b>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed under the Charities Act 2011
<b>TRUSTEES AT 31/12/19</b>	Roy Blunt (Treasurer), Jane Clark, Nick Pollock and Philip Wallace (Chairman);
<b>GOVERNING INSTRUMENT</b>	Constitution as incorporated on 31/10/16
<b>OBJECTS</b>	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
<b>CONVERSION TO CIO</b>	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.
<b>INSPECTOR OF ACCOUNTS</b>	Philip Smith
<b>SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP</b>	The Society had, as of 31 December 2019, 177 adult members, 7 junior members and 49 family memberships (this includes an additional 79 family members) for a total of 312 members.

### **THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Trustees/Committee** - The Trustees met twice and the Committee on 6 occasions during 2019. The Trustees have delegated most of their duties and powers to the Committee which, thus, takes care of the main operational issues. A major effort this year from both Trustees and Committee members has been getting CAS registered for Gift Aid support from the Government – this has involved a great deal of effort on

the parts of Trustees Roy Blunt and Nick Pollock and Membership Secretary Katherine Compton, for which the Society is very grateful.

**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 January through to July, resuming in September and continuing into December 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 21 lectures were given between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019 as well as the 2019 AGM. Average attendance at each talk was approximately 75, with several talks exceeding 100 attendees.

**Public Events** – During 2019, the Society was involved in a series of highly successful public events, including:

- **19th January Star Attractions at NMW (National Museum of Wales)**. This year's annual event at the National Museum was bolstered by the continuing presence of the Soyuz capsule exhibit. CAS had its usual prominent position in the foyer and also contributed its Chairman as a speaker for two free lectures on the science of Star Trek and Doctor Who, both of which were fully booked and well-received by the audience. The day went very smoothly with at least 7,000 visitors.
- **22nd June Solar Observing at Brecon**. As with previous years, CAS volunteers and equipment travelled to the Brecon Beacons Mountain Visitor Centre for a day of solar observing open to the public. Fortunately the weather cooperated and we were able to show a great number of visitors our Sun – which was virtually inactive, with no sunspots or prominences. Nonetheless the event was successful and a number of very complimentary comments were received from the public.
- **20th July Moon Landing Event at NWM**. With the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing being on a Saturday, CAS participated in a major event at the National Museum to commemorate this milestone. Its Chairman once again delivered a pair of short lectures, this time on the Apollo Program and on debunking the various conspiracy theories. For this event, CAS held pride of place in the centre of the Museum's foyer, along with a large scale model of a Saturn-V rocket made by CAS member Ian Davies. The event proved extremely popular with over 3,000 visitors.
- **18th October Stargazing Evening at Brecon**. This was the second year of partnering with Dark Sky Wales (DSW) for this event as the 2018 evening had proven successful. With additional volunteers and equipment and a repeat of the three-group, three-activity schedule that worked previously, CAS and DSW welcomed 120 guests to this event that ran smoothly and successfully, with a great many positive comments from guests. The Society is grateful to both DSW and the Brecon Beacon National Park for their collaborative support on this event.
- **Additional Events** – during the year CAS participated in a several other large-scale events, working with groups such as the Open University and St David's Hall, most notably for the Transit of Mercury and for the Planets Suite event.
- **Monthly Star Parties**. Starting in January and continuing through to December (with a summer break), the Society continued running its monthly Star Parties at our observatory for both members and the public. During the Autumn and early winter, these have increased significantly in popularity, leading to a new system whereby members of the public register their interest in advance so we can control the number of guests. These were all well-attended and were very well-received by the guests, with several coming back for a second visit and others becoming Society members. The Trustees would like to thank the National Trust and in particular the staff at Dyffryn Gardens for their continuing help and support with these events.

**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" GoTo telescope for use at star parties and observing sessions. Due to weather damage, some repair work was needed to the Observatory roof but this was promptly carried out by volunteers and the Observatory remains fully operational.

**Library** - The Society continued to maintain a comprehensive Library of astronomical books which is available for use by all members attending the fortnightly talks. A number of books have been added to the collection this year, as the Committee try to obtain books written by our speakers where possible.

**UKMON (UK Meteor Observation Network)** - CAS continued to provide observational data (obtained from its cameras at the CAS Observatory) to UKMON. Edward Cooper has monitored and maintained this system and has contributed a significant amount of data and images to the national network.

**Website** - The Society's website is at <http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk/>

**Links with other Societies** – The Society has had some success in 2019 in establishing relationships with other societies in the South Wales area. Of particular note are CAS members Edward Cooper and Philip Wallace visiting the Bridgend Astronomical Society as speakers and making arrangements for a CAS member to speak to the Cardiff Humanist Society (scheduled for January 2020). The Trustees hope that these links will continue to develop in 2020 and be beneficial for all the societies involved.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019 (in £)**

<b>Available Funds at 1 January 2019</b>		<b>Available Funds at 31 December 2019</b>	
Current Account Opening	1,875.48	Current Account Closing	1,473.12
Reserve Bank Opening	6,093.92	Reserve Bank Closing	5,596.83
Petty Cash Opening	405.65	Petty Cash Closing	392.26
PayPal	297.34	PayPal	270.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,672.39</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,732.87</b>
<b>Expenditure exceeds Income by</b>			<b>939.52</b>

**Income and Expenditure**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
Subscriptions	3,209.50	74.18	3,135.32
Raffle	622.00	133.90	488.10
Merchandise	160.00	206.54	-46.54
Donations	28.00		28.00
Amazon/EasyFundRaising	22.98		22.98
Miscellaneous	352.00		352.00
Interest	2.91		2.91
Special Events	0.00		0.00
Books for sale to members	0.00		0.00
Travel		141.20	-141.20
Insurance		1,322.64	-1,322.64
Observatory		283.35	-283.35
Equipment/Maintenance		434.22	-434.22
Speaker expenses		1,747.25	-1,747.25
Hospitality		244.52	-244.52
Website		287.76	-287.76
Newsletter etc.		99.84	-99.84
Library		55.79	-55.79
Telephone		20.00	-20.00
Printing/copying		142.50	-142.50
Stationery		2.00	-2.00
Postage		47.16	-47.16
Other		94.06	-94.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,397.39</b>	<b>5,336.91</b>	<b>-939.52</b>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees of the Society on 05/03/2020 and signed

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

### **Notes to the Accounts:**

**Reserves Policy** - The Trustees have kept under consideration 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 from 1 January to 31 December 2019 and to provide a basis for the Society's return for 2019 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 1 January to 31 December 2019.

### **Statement by the inspector of the accounts**

Period of examination:	01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019
Examination Date:	01/03/2020
Auditor:	Philip Smith
Treasurer (01/01/19 to 31/12/19)	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 relatively low value items of expenditure were not supported by invoices or other supporting documentation.

### **Findings**

No matter has come to my attention (other than those 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 Treasurer 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 2019.

Signed: **PHILIP SMITH** (Inspector – Philip Smith)    Date **01/03/2020**