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Member Information Sheet

The Stornoway Astronomical Society ("the Society") exists to provide a meeting point for all persons with an interest in astronomy, to promote that interest across Lewis and Harris, and to inform its membership on astronomical and other related scientific topics. The Society is first and foremost aimed at residents of Lewis and Harris, but there are no restrictions on membership, and visitors at meetings are always welcome.

The Society's current principal activity is a monthly meeting, which consists normally of a lecture on a particular astronomical related subject along with any astronomical news for the current month. Weather permitting, the winter meetings may be followed by an outdoor observing session with telescopes and binoculars for those who wish to remain behind and enjoy the night sky. Additional planned observing sessions are also held during the winter months. The Society owns several items of equipment, but members and visitors are always welcome to bring along their own in addition.

Our Meetings are held monthly as follows:

Stornoway – First Tuesday of each month at 07.30pm (excluding July and August).

Tarbert – First Wednesday of each month at 07.00pm (excluding April, July and August).

Dates and times are sent out in advance by email; in addition they are advertised on the Society's website, on our Facebook page, and in various public places around Stornoway in the run-up to each meeting. A full programme of meetings for each year can normally be found on the notice boards in Stornoway and Tarbert Public Libraries.

The Society's Annual General Meeting is held every autumn, and is open to all members (though not visitors). The A.G.M. is used to present any Society business requiring the approval of the members and to receive the Society's annual accounts and reports, in addition to the election of the committee. Notice of an A.G.M. will be sent out several weeks in advance. The committee may also call an Extra-Ordinary Meeting (E.G.M). if required, at any time.

The S.A.S. was founded by John Morrison in 2009, after giving a talk on astronomy at the An Lanntair arts centre in Stornoway, and realising that there was sufficient interest to form a local group. Since then, interest in the Society has steadily advanced. The current president of the Society is Donny Mackay BA, BSc, FBRs.

Membership Fees

Full annual membership fees are £20 for adults, £10 for senior citizens (65 and over), £5.00 for under-16s, and £25.00 for family membership.

Membership is due each year on the anniversary month of joining the Society.

Equipment and Lending Library

As mentioned, the Society owns several items of equipment, some of which are available for hire by members for a small fee (to cover insurance and administrative costs only). Please note that hirers will also require to sign a short hire contract form. Hires will typically be for the duration of one month, although longer periods (with appropriate fees) may be allowed at the discretion of the committee. A list of this equipment is available on the website.

The Society also has a lending library of astronomy/science books and materials available to members. As with the equipment for hire, this is subject to a small charge of 50p per item. Members may borrow up to three items at any one time for up to two months. Both the lending library and equipment for hire are regarded as member privileges, and they will be withdrawn from any particular member if the committee have reason to believe that these privileges are being abused.

Several items of equipment and much of the lending library were generously donated by members. The Society always welcomes donations like these, or any monetary donations made towards the Society's running costs. Anyone wanting to make a donation should get in contact with one of the committee, either in person or via the website.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. A copy of our full annual programme for the current year is available on our web-site.

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