



<http://www.stornowayastro.org>

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## Member Information Sheet

September 2010

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, currently held in facilities provided by the M.C.A. Stornoway Coastguard Station. These either consist of a talk on a particular subject along with any astronomical news for the month, or an outdoors observing session with telescopes and binoculars. Observing sessions are generally held in the winter months, and are of course weather dependant - if a planned session is unable to go ahead, then an indoor meeting will be held in its' place. The Society does own several items of equipment, but members and visitors are always free to bring along their own in addition.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, usually at 7:30pm. Dates and times are sent out by email; in addition they are advertised on the Society's website, and in various public places around Stornoway in the run-up to each meeting. In addition, there is an Annual General Meeting held every autumn, which 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 - presentation of the Society's annual accounts, and so forth - and to elect the Society's Council. Notice of an A.G.M. will be sent out several weeks in advance. The Council may also call an Extra-Ordinary A.G.M. if it is required; again, there will be several weeks notice. A membership calendar is provided on this information sheet, though all dates should be considered provisional until confirmed by one of the methods mentioned above.

The current President & Chairman of the S.A.S. is John Morrison, who founded it in 2009 after giving a talk at the An Lanntair arts centre on astronomy and realising there was sufficient interest to form a local group. Since then interest in the Society has steadily advanced, and we hope to be fully incorporated by the end of 2010.

### Membership Fees

Full annual membership fees are £15 for adults and £5 for under-16s. Fees are payable at the beginning of every October. Members joining the Society part-way through the year will be subject to reduced fees calculated on the basis of the amount of time left until October (effectively £1.25 per month, as stated in the Constitution). For visitors a per-meeting donation of £2 for an adult and £1 for under-16s is suggested.

### Equipment and Lending Library

As mentioned, the Society owns several items of equipment. Some of this is available to hire by members for a small fee. This is to cover insurance and administrative costs only; note that hirers will also need to sign a short hire contract. Hires will typically be for the duration of a month, although longer periods (with appropriate fees) may be allowed at the discretion of the Council. 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 counted as member privileges, and they will be withdrawn from a member if it is felt by the Council they are being abused.

Several items of the equipment and much of the lending library was 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 executive officers, either in person or via the website.

### Membership Contact

The Society's main method of contact is by email; it is recommended that all Society members have an email account, of which there is a wide choice of free web-based services available. However the Society will also send information out by post if so requested on the membership form. Any information held by the society will be done so in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

### Meetings Calendar 2010-2011

Please remember that for the most part these dates are provisional - double check the website to confirm the date of any upcoming meetings.

September 29th - 2010 AGM
October 5th
November 2nd
December 7th
January 2011 - no meeting
February 1st
March 1st
April 5th
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th
August 2nd
September 6th
September or October - 2011 AGM

All information on this info sheet will also be available on the website, updated as appropriate.