

Addendum to the 2009 Accounts

Public Benefit

The British Sundial Society exists to provide an educational benefit to the public. It is affiliated to the Royal Astronomical Society. The Society's Objects are specifically to advance the education of the public in the science and art of sundials and dialling (gnomonics). Any surpluses in income are used in furtherance of the Society's objects. The trustees confirm that in the development of this policy they have had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance where relevant.

The Society is a membership charity open without restriction to any person whether UK resident or not. Its trustees are unpaid. The cost of membership is low (it has not been raised for some years and this in itself has to be a public benefit) and this serves to fund the main activities of the society which are:

- Publishing periodic Bulletins containing papers, letters and reviews or other material of interest concerning gnomonics.
- Maintaining and updating the two National Registers of known fixed sundials and of church mass dials which exist in the British Isles.
- Making available for sale to Members and the Heritage Organisations approximately every five years the complete National Register of sundials.
- Giving free advice to any member of the public on the preservation and restoration of existing dials and the construction of new ones.
- Suggesting the names of lecturers able to speak about sundials and related matters to any public forum.
- Operating an open award scheme to promote and recognise the best in design and construction of new sundials.
- Organising conferences, tours and visits related to the understanding and appreciation of sundials and dialling.
- Publishing books, booklets, monographs and leaflets on dialling and related matters.
- Maintaining a reference library of relevant books and documents devoted to dialling.
- Operating an interesting and free-to-all, educational web site devoted to dialling matters and including some copies of earlier Bulletin articles.
- Giving free advice to any member of the public wishing to understand and know more about sundials.
- Offering grants to UK residents to help toward the cost of restoration of publicly viewable dials.

The Society holds two annual conferences which are open to members and non-members alike and which are advertised both nationally and internationally. A one day meeting, historically held in Newbury, involves a voluntary entry fee of less than £10 which goes to cover room hire and refreshments. A three day/two night residential weekend conference is also held each year at different places around the country so as to permit easier and cheaper access for those living in the more remote parts of the Kingdom. Its charges are set to meet the cost at an expected level of attendance. Day rate charges (that is attendance without accommodation) are offered for those who might be local to the event or for those wishing to make use of alternative or cheaper local accommodation.

Reserves Policy

The Society maintains both Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves according to the policy set out in CC19. The Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund contains all donations to the BSS. Expenses to the fund include the annual Somerville Lecture and dial restoration grants.

Unrestricted reserves are maintained to provide a buffer for unforeseen operational costs, against uncertainties in income and to provide cover for troughs in the cash budget and for foreseeable expenses and asset replacement.

The Trustees are reviewing the designations by which unreserved funds are allocated and maintained.