

**The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2015



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## THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. These have been subject to independent examination.

**Charity name:** The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

**Charity registration number:** 1129312

**Company registration number:** 6798106

**Registered Office and operational address:**

Suite 101 QC30  
30 Queen Charlotte Street  
Bristol  
BS1 4HJ

**Trustees and Directors**

Teresa Anderson (Chair)	Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre
Peter Trevitt (Treasurer)	Techniquest
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre
Dr Stephen Breslin	Glasgow Science Centre
Vicky Brightman	Royal Botanic Gardens
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life (Appointed 23 September 2014)
Verena Cornwall	Winchester Science Centre
Karen Davies	Science Museum (Appointed 23 September 2014)
Dr John Ellison	Eden Project (Resigned 23 September 2014)
Dr Christopher Lennard	Cambridge Science Centre (Resigned 10 October 2014)
Terence O'Connor	STFC
Scot Owen	Techniquest Glyndwr
Anthony Richards	Science Museum (Resigned 23 September 2014)
Louise Smith	Dundee Science Centre
Leigh-Anne Stradeski	Eureka! The National Children's Museum
Dr Kenny Webster	Thinktank Birmingham (Resigned 24 September 2014)
Phil Winfield	At-Bristol

**Secretary**

Dr Penny Fidler

**Executive Team**

Dr Penny Fidler, Chief Executive Officer  
Michaela Livingstone, Special Projects Manager (until December 2014)  
James Summers (from January 2015)

**Structure, Governance and Management**

*Governing document*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)**

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*Appointment of Trustees*

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

*Induction of Trustees*

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum & Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

*Risk management*

The major risks to which the organisation is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board.

**Objectives and Activities**

*Objectives of the organisation*

To serve and support science and discovery centres and related organisations, in the UK and beyond, fostering learning and engagement in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

*Vision* - A society where people are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

*Mission* - To bring together the ASDC membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

*ASDC Website* - [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk)

**Operational Report**

*Overview*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) had a busy and effective sixth year in operation, achieving a UK-wide membership, delivering national strategic science learning programmes, working with relevant Government departments, Parliamentary offices, research councils and national organisations and bringing the sector together to advance the field.

The membership of ASDC is made up of the nation's leading science centres, discovery centres, science museums, learned societies and other educational and science organisations who share the ASDC vision of a society where people are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

Together, the ASDC network engages over 20 million people each year with science, technology, engineering and maths, both at their science centres and through their community and schools outreach programmes. Ten million of those they engage are girls and women making it a powerful national infrastructure to inspire more females into science and engineering. Public visitors are given the opportunity to explore and discover the sciences in their leisure time with family and friends (building family science capital), whilst the many millions of participating school students investigate the sciences through future-focussed hands-on curriculum-linked education programmes.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)**

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Science and discovery centres and museums within the ASDC membership act as 'science hubs' for publically accessible science in their cities and regions. The ASDC activities over the past year have enabled geographically separated members to share best practice, ideas, resources and knowledge, so they in turn can enhance the quality, sustainability and value for money they offer to school students and members of the public in their region of the UK. Working together as a national infrastructure aiming to inspire, they provide a strategic approach to the science learning, STEM skills and engagement strategy of the nation.

Within the current year, ASDC provided a range of national meetings, including, a high-profile National Conference in September 2014 at the Royal Society, specialist professional meetings, sector-wide training events and other activities to bring staff within the ASDC membership together to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

ASDC also acted on behalf of the sector, advising Downing Street and Government on a national initiative to inspire more girls to take physics and engineering, discussing with Ministers the opportunities for capital funding for charitable science centres as well as inputting into Select Committee inquiries.

As a major part of our operations, ASDC creatively conceives UK-wide strategic science learning and engagement programmes and seeks funding to deliver these in partnership with science and discovery centres across the UK.

In this financial year, ASDC secured two major new national programmes which are now underway for national delivery at science centres across the UK. The first is in partnership with the UK Space Agency delivering a national science engagement programme for families and school children to celebrate the British Astronaut Tim Peake's flight into space in December 2015. This will be delivered at 20 UK Science Centres and Museums to 250,000 children and adults. The second new major national engagement programme is around food and drink linking environment, nutrition and health commissioned by the Wellcome Trust which will be delivered by 9 UK centres to 130,000 people in the summer of 2016.

ASDC also secured funding for Phase 2 of the highly successful 'Explore Your Universe' Programme, funded by The Science and Facilities Research Council (STFC). Phase 1 completed at the start of 2014 and attracted 156,880 people to engage with the latest in the physical sciences. In Phase 1 ASDC had created a host of shared resources, and selected, trained and equipped ten UK science centres to run high-end practical physics and engineering workshops with schools and families celebrating the UK's excellence in space science, particle physics and related fields. Over the two-year programme, ASDC also awarded 38 grants to its members for a total of £90,000. Phase 2 of this national programme is now well underway and ASDC has trained 10 additional partner science centres and universities, taken all 20 partners on a trip to CERN and managed a series of equipment grants to a number of the centres.

In 2014 ASDC secured funding from The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to undertake and deliver a major new report, entitled 'UK Science and Discovery Centres: Effectively Engaging Under-Represented Groups'. This was published in May 2014 and included a series of 22 case studies from ASDC members in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales showing how they effectively reach large numbers of underserved groups through innovative hands-on science programmes. This report has been extremely well received by colleagues nationally and internationally and science centres have told us that the exemplars of best practice are now being replicated as a direct result of this report. What is clear from this report is that when done well (in partnership and with community co-creation), science centres can attract thousands of people in a single day from communities high on the indices of deprivation to take part in science programmes at their centres.

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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ASDC also applied for two EU grants as the UK partner which were successful and continued some support to centres involved in former ASDC national programmes such as our national molecular biology programme 'Hands-on DNA' where ASDC trained, equipped and supported fifteen centres to run high-level molecular biology workshops with schools in their regions.

ASDC has a central office in Bristol and currently has an executive team of 2.6 staff namely the CEO, the special projects manager and the projects associate (0.6).

Further information about ASDC and its activities and projects can be found on the charity's website [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk) and regular updates are via twitter @sciencecentres.

#### **Core Activities**

All Government core funding for ASDC was cut in March 2010 and despite strong fundraising efforts ASDC have not yet secured alternative core funding to replace this. The income for ASDC is now achieved through competitively bidding for national strategic science learning programmes that advance the ASDC vision and mission, combined with a small proportion of funding achieved in membership subscriptions and conferences.

#### **ASDC Membership Fees**

The 2014-15 ASDC membership fees were:

- Small centres: £525 per year
- Larger centres: £950 per year

#### **Strengthening the sector by bringing staff together to share knowledge and best practice**

ASDC convened a variety of Profession Development and knowledge exchange events and conferences for science engagement practitioners across the UK including:

#### ***The 2014 ASDC National Conference at the Royal Society (24 September 2014)***

In September 2014, ASDC held their fourth Annual National Conference. This highly successful conference was delivered in partnership with our members, The Royal Society, London.

The 2014 conference attracted high profile speakers including:

- David Watson, Head of Campaigns, Prime Minister's Office
- Professor Alice Roberts, Patron of ASDC and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham & broadcaster
- Helen Thomas Executive Producer, BBC Science
- Professor Louise Archer and Professor Justin Dillon, King's College London
- Clare Matterson, Director of Medical Humanities and Engagement at the Wellcome Trust

The national conference attracted 157 of the UK's leading science engagement professionals and stakeholders, including a high proportion of CEO's and senior managers. Participants came from 83 organisations including UK and European science and discovery centres, science festivals, science museums, media partners, universities, government departments, research councils, charities and industry. In addition we had a number of partners exhibiting including from a research council, the Longitude Prize and CERN.

ASDC held a black tie dinner at the Royal Society the evening before the conference attended by around 70 colleagues from the ASDC membership, research councils and funding bodies. The ASDC

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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AGM took place earlier in the day on Sept 23rd 2014 also hosted by the Royal Society open to all ASDC members.

#### ***The 2014 & 2015 ASDC National Education Conference***

The 2015 ASDC National Education Conference was held on Wednesday 25 February 2015 hosted by ASDC members The Manchester Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). The theme of the conference was 'Boosting Primary Science and STEM careers across the UK'. Speakers included the CEO of STEMNET, Head of Education at the UK Space Agency and a primary science expert from Wellcome Trust. The conference was attended by 75 science education specialists from across the UK.

#### ***2014 ASDC National Marketing Conference***

The 2014 ASDC National Marketing Conference, took place on 16 May 2014 hosted by At-Bristol Science Centre, with speakers from the BBC, Aardman Animations, the Chartered Institute of Marketing and more. The theme was 'Attracting more visitors to your science centre or museum' and had 50 delegates from across Scotland, England and Wales.

#### ***Other ASDC meetings and events included:***

- Over 60 conference calls to share best practice on a range of content and skills between ASDC members and to enhance charitable operations in a simple and cost-effective manner.
- An ASDC members dinner in the Netherlands as part of the 2014 European science centre meeting (Ecsite) bringing together 50 UK members.
- A National Meeting at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories in November 2014 to share best practice amongst staff at UK science centres running hands-on inspirational physics and space activities as part of the Explore your Universe programme.
- Four ASDC trustee meetings (hosted by Cambridge Science Centre, Kew Gardens, Glasgow Science Centre and At- Bristol Science Centre) bringing together Trustees who are CEOs and senior managers of 15 UK centres.
- An ASDC Specialist Charette bringing together 25 experts from across the UK to discuss the latest evidence on what really works in engaging girls with Physics and engineering and how this can be practically implemented across UK Science Centres. Experts came from academia, Science Centres, Museums and specialist bodies like the Institute of Physics and was hosted by BIS.

#### **Acting as the sector body for UK Science and Discovery Centres and UK informal science learning**

ASDC is well established as the representative body for the UK science and discovery centre sector and is gaining a national and international reputation as the leading UK body for informal science learning. ASDC is frequently approached by European and national organisations, government departments and learned bodies who wish to seek advice and to work with the sector. This has included:

#### ***Working with Government and Parliament***

for example in 2014 - 15:

- ASDC worked with Number 10 Downing Street to advise how the sector could increase the numbers of girls taking physics and engineering and worked with Government Departments to promote the Your Life Campaign. At its launch around a third of all organisations pledging support were ASDC members.
- ASDC held conversations with the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology on Informal STEM Education and supplied advice and data to civil servants to brief ministers on the sector.
- ASDC was invited to brief MP's on the whole UK science centre sector by writing an article in 'Science in Parliament' the Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, sent to all MP's.

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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- ASDC worked with the sector to create a submission into the Public consultation on Science Capital expenditure for the coming 5 years, and discussed the issues with science centres, Government departments and the Select Committee relating to the fate of the 20 million 'Inspiring Science' capital fund.

#### ***ASDC national tour by Sir Mark Walport: Government Chief Scientific Adviser***

ASDC arranged a national tour for the Government Chief Science Adviser Sir Mark Walport to speak directly with the public about Climate Science in the spring of 2014. Venues included ASDC members at Manchester, Bristol, Belfast, Birmingham, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

#### ***Raising the profile of UK centres here and abroad.***

Over the year, ASDC raised the profile of the work of UK science and discovery centres and museums by promoting their strategic capabilities as a major infrastructure for science learning.

For example:

- ASDC CEO spoke at national and international conferences as an expert on Informal Science Education and UK science centres.
- ASDC co-chairs the European Space Group covering a wide range of informal science engagement across Europe.
- ASDC worked with the BBC to facilitate partnerships with member centres for a variety of programmes.
- ASDC worked with a number of specific national programmes across the year including the International Year of Light 2015, programmes for World Space Week and a BP programme on evaluation looking at addressing low science capital.
- ASDC has worked with Ecsite (the European network of science centres) in a variety of advocacy activities and spoke at their conferences and meetings.
- ASDC offered advice and consultancy on a range of items for members, funders and research councils.

#### ***Acting as a central source of information for our members***

ASDC shared with its members the latest opportunities and sector developments via a monthly newsletter sent to several thousand science engagement professionals across the UK and world. The latest items are also shared via targeted emails, twitter and the ASDC website. These include funding and other opportunities, conferences, Government initiatives, Parliamentary consultations, and international and national research on the impact of science centres.

#### ***Increasing the financial sustainability of our members by facilitating collaborations***

Activities included brokering meetings of consortia of science centres with funding bodies, encouraging centres to apply for collaborative grants, and bringing together professionals with a shared interest (e.g. marketing managers, education managers, physics groups, space groups). ASDC has awarded around 80 grants to science centres and museums over the past few years for activities ranging from space science to molecular biology.

#### **Project Activities**

A major part of ASDC's operations relates to discussing, designing, bidding for and then delivering major national strategic science learning programmes in partnership with the national infrastructure of UK science and discovery centres.



**Across 2014 - 15 ASDC bid for and was successfully awarded the following science projects:**

1. National Astronaut Programme (Level 1 - for £185K)
2. National Astronaut Programme (Level 2 - for £500K) awarded in April 2015
3. National Food and Drink Programme commissioned by the Wellcome Trust (£750 K)\*
4. STFC Capital Funds for science centres (£35K)
5. Delivery of Phase 2 of Explore Your Universe (£86K)
6. BIS Report (Finalising) on underserved audiences (£28.5K)
7. HYPATIA - An EU Grant as the UK Partner
8. CIMULACT - An EU Grant as the UK Partner

Of the above, only the National Astronaut Programme (Level 1 & 2), the BIS report, the STFC Capital Funds and the STFC Phase 2 are restricted and have transactions in the current year's accounts. The National Food and Drink Programme\* is unrestricted.

**The following were delivered in 2014 - 15.**

**The National Astronaut programme Level 1 and 2**

Tim Peake, the European Space Agency's first British Astronaut, is scheduled to blast-off into space in 2015 to spend six months living and working aboard the International Space Station. To celebrate this fantastic mission and the wonders of human space flight, the UK Space Agency has partnered with the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) to train, equip and support 20 science centres to deliver a season of astronauts and adventure for families and schools at Science Centres across the UK leveraging their relationships locally and regionally.

The whole programme is called 'Destination Space' and is led by ASDC and developed in partnership with the National Space Centre in Leicester, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre in Cheshire and Science Museum in London.

This exciting interactive programme is aimed at families and schools, and has created a series of exceptional hands-on activities, experiments, schools workshops, a family show, meet-the-expert sessions, digital activities and a variety of events, as well as providing each centre with hundreds of items of equipment ranging from a recreated Spacesuit to a vacuum chamber and parts of a spacecraft. All the activities focus on Tim's mission and the endeavours of human space flight, giving young people the confidence, curiosity, and interest to continue to explore and ask questions long after they leave the science and discovery centres.

'Destination Space' is a three-year national programme (Level 1 runs across financial years 2014-16, and Level 2 runs across financial years 2015-17) which will inspire curiosity in young minds with the wonders of human spaceflight and will promote the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical skills that make spaceflight possible. The programme also enables families and schools to find out about the creative talented team behind Tim and his mission, as well as the technology needed to travel to, live on and return from the International Space Station. Tim will be carrying out a comprehensive science programme on the Space Station much of which people can explore through 'Destination Space'. ASDC have also created a bespoke handbook and website which will go online in October 2014 at [www.DestinationSpace.uk](http://www.DestinationSpace.uk) with the latest images, videos, resources, transmissions from space and games relating to Tim's mission.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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**Explore your Universe (Phase 2)**

ASDC is delighted to have in place a strategic partnership with STFC which brings together some of the most fascinating and diverse science in the country with the talents and infrastructure of the nation's largest network of science engagement organisations.

Phase 1 of 'Explore your Universe; from atoms to astrophysics' ran from January 2012 – January 2014 and was highly successful in its aim of inspiring young people and families across the UK with the wonders of the physical sciences by sharing the amazing stories and technologies of STFC.

Funding was secured from STFC in 2014 for Phase 2 of this highly successful Programme which will run from February 2014 - February 2016. In the current year as part of Phase 2, ASDC has selected, trained and supported ten additional centres (five UK ASDC science centres and five UK Universities) to deliver all the programme activities with school children and families at their centres across the UK.

Phase 1 of the 'Explore your Universe' national programme created a series of exceptional hands-on physics and engineering-based activities, experiments, schools workshops, family shows and meet-the-expert activities. The project selected, trained, equipped and supported ten UK science and discovery centres to run this high-end suite of programmes with school students and families at their centres across the UK. In just one year these ten science centres and two STFC facilities engaged 156,880 children and adults. Over 75,000 participants were girls and women and over 46,000 participants met and spoke with a scientist or engineering expert. This two-year national strategic project was led by ASDC with expert input from The National Space Centre in Leicester and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre in Cheshire. The science centres delivering the Explore Your Universe Programme are based in Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Widnes, Oxford, London, Bristol, Hampshire and Sussex.

Each partner science centre and STFC facility was given a set of flexible equipment including a thermal imaging camera, a solar telescope, a particle accelerator in a salad bowl, pieces of a satellite blanket and the detector at CERN, meteorites and over 50 other items of equipment and full training on using every item.

The Explore Your Universe programme also created a bespoke training manual containing all the experiments, activities and resources, a website ([www.exploreyouruniverse.org](http://www.exploreyouruniverse.org)), a number of workshops and shows for families and schools as well as a full evaluation programme and marketing pack. ASDC also ran training academies for science centre staff and scientists, national meetings, a buddy support programme, conference calls and bespoke support for all centres.

The programme was fully evaluated by science learning academics at King's College, London making it the UK's largest multicentre study of the impact of science and discovery centre programmes. One of the key evaluation findings was that this physics and engineering programme inspired both girls and boys equally – there was no difference between the proportions who said that after a one, or two hour workshop they had felt more interested in studying science.

Explore Your Universe workshops and activities are now embedded in science centre programmes across the UK and will continue to celebrate STFC science long into the future.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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**Evaluation results from students aged 14-16 after a workshop**

- 81% said they would recommend this masterclass to other people their age
- 78% said that they had never used or rarely use this type of equipment at their school
- 60% said that they thought their experience in the masterclass would help them with their school science classes
- 43% said that the masterclass made them feel more interested in studying science

**Their teachers said...**

- 96% rated the workshop very good or good
- 74% said they would talk about the workshop with students when back at school
- 90% said they would recommend the workshop to other teachers

**STFC Capital Equipment**

The Science and Technology Facilities Council granted the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) £35K for capital equipment to increase the reach, impact and national capabilities of the Explore Your Universe Programme. This grant was agreed in early 2014 and the capital funds were administered by ASDC and allocated amongst ASDC and 12 delivery partners in the Explore Your Universe programme. The funds were used to purchase hundreds of items of equipment to enhance the programme's science engagement with the public and a full report of all expenditure by each partners is online.

**BIS Report: UK Science and Discovery Centres: Effectively Engaging Underserved Groups**

Over the past years, ASDC has been in discussion with BIS sharing the on-going embedded programmes that a variety of science and discovery centres and museums regularly and successfully run to attract underserved audiences. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) commissioned ASDC to bring together all this knowledge and expertise and produce a report in 2014 to share best practice in this area with other science engagement practitioners in the UK. This report was published alongside the Chancellors launch on May 7 2014 of a national initiative on girls into engineering and physics and is on line here: [www.sciencecentres.org.uk/reports/underserved](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/reports/underserved)

This ASDC report covers interventions addressing three specific groups of society who are under-represented in STEM; school children and families from socio-economically disadvantaged areas, school children and families from a range of ethnic backgrounds, and women and girls in physics and engineering. For each we sought a series of case studies showcasing what works, and what is successful in attracting people to participate in science. Engaging wider audiences is not only needed as a matter of societal equity, but for our future well-being and economic growth.

This report has been extremely well received by science engagement professionals both in the UK and across Europe and the USA. Many have commented on its usefulness and noted their intention to replicate some programmes. A key factor was the 22 case studies detailing methods and successes, with each case study author offering to assist colleagues in setting up these programmes.

**National Food and Drink Programme (unrestricted)**

ASDC successfully bid for a major national programme on the subject of Food and Drink, commissioned by Wellcome Trust. The aim of the programme is to use the theme of food and drink to engage people in the UK with research on the connections between environment, nutrition and health and their implications, to improve understanding of the need for change within local and global food systems.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)**

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ASDC is working with a host of expert partners, including Eden Project, At-Bristol, Oxfam and Bristol, the European Green Capital, to develop exceptional content and meaningful experiences for families from all backgrounds around the latest research in food and drink. ASDC and partners will then train, equip and support nine UK Science Centres to engage 130,000 people in their communities to explore these global stories and the need for change. ASDC will also work in partnership with Aardman Animations to create a digital experience for the 130,000 people who engage with the programme at outreach events and at science centres. This programme is unrestricted and has been issued as a service contract rather than a grant.

***Former funded programmes that ASDC still supports***

**'Hands-on DNA' National Molecular Biology Project**

ASDC conceived and secured funds from The Wellcome Trust to run a National Strategic programme to make inspirational, practical molecular biology experiences accessible to students in all parts of the UK. Although ASDC's funded element of the programme completed in June 2012, ASDC still advises those involved in various ways, and manages interest from overseas and other partners.

**Financial Overview**

*Overview*

The total income for the period was £305,750 (2014: £237,060). Total expenditure for the year was £272,704 (2014: £247,971) giving a surplus of £33,046 (2014: deficit of £10,911).

*Reserves and Investment Policies*

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. Currently we have £161,354 in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

**Future Plans**

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) strives to create a society where people of all ages and backgrounds, in all parts of the UK are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

ASDC is the UK's largest network dedicated to out-of-school science learning and family science learning and ASDC will continue to work with national stakeholders from industry, charitable trusts, government, school science initiatives, university groups and public bodies to celebrate the unique achievements and potential of the ASDC network.

ASDC will promote and lobby to increase the quantity and quality of excellent hands-on, creative and practical science experiences that school children have access to, particularly in informal settings. In addition, ASDC will champion the importance of family science learning and of mechanisms that strive to increase diversity and participation in science at all levels.

The charity works to achieve many of its aims through national strategic programmes, training and by bringing together the membership, who together engage 20 million people (10 million girls and women), to play a more strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

Over the coming year, ASDC will run a host of collaborative national projects, programmes and events and one-day specialist meetings to share knowledge, ideas and best practice between the many thousands of staff within the ASDC membership.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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**This will include:**

- **Working closely with National Strategic bodies** in Government, the media, universities and others to support national strategic science learning programmes.
- **Delivering the three-year ASDC National Astronaut Programme** 'Destination Space' to 250,000 people across the UK funded by the UK Space Agency. This will run from 2014 - 2017 with particular focus on work in 2015 preparing to train, equip and support the 20 science centres for the Rocket launch on December 15 2015 and Tim Peake's time in space.
- **Delivering the two-year National Food and Drink Programme** and working closely with the Wellcome Trust and their work package leaders as well all advisors, our content experts and the nine science centres we have selected to run the programme.
- **Delivering Phase 2 of Explore your Universe** with STFC to broaden the programmes reach to inspire a new sense of excitement amongst young people around the physical sciences by sharing the amazing stories and technologies of STFC.
- **Delivering the 2015 National Conference** on September 24 in Bristol. This high-profile one-day national conference will bring together professionals from the UK's leading science and discovery centres, science museums, environment and natural history organisations as well as other science-based visitor attractions and university public engagement departments. Speakers are from the BBC, Wellcome Trust and Aardman Animations as well as public engagement experts from the sector. The 2015 AGM will be part of the Pre-conference on September 23, followed by the Conference Dinner.
- **Delivering the two EU programmes** that ASDC successfully secured as the UK partner.
- Working with the ASDC Education Group to deliver the **2016 ASDC Education Conference**.
- Working with the ASDC Marketing Managers Group to deliver the **2016 ASDC Marketing Conference**.

ASDC will also submit funding applications for a series of major programmes to pursue the stated vision and mission.

Strategic objectives for the coming year are:

- To serve and support our membership and to champion their activities
- To be relevant and important to the work of our members and other national stakeholders
- To add value to the UK's national science learning and science engagement agendas by fostering collaboration

To be financially secure

**Description of Restricted Funds**

**The National Astronaut programme Level 1 and 2**

The UK Space Agency has partnered with ASDC to train, equip and support 20 science centres to deliver a season of astronauts and adventure for families and schools at Science Centres across the UK to share Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

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**STFC Phase 2**

Continuation of ASDC's national strategic programme to inspire students across the UK with the physical sciences by training, equipping and supporting 20 centres to run activities as part of the 'Explore Your Universe' Programme (with emphasis on reaching diverse audiences).

**STFC Capital Equipment**

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) granted the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) £35K for capital equipment to increase the reach, impact and national capabilities of the Explore Your Universe National Engagement Programme. Grants were administered for equipment amongst programme partners.

**BIS Report**

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills funded ASDC to undertake nationwide research and write a report entitled 'UK Science and Discovery Centres, Successfully Engaging Undeserved Audiences'. This was published in May 2014.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Small Company Exemptions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The report follows the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2005.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

**Trustee – Teresa Anderson**

Date: 23 September 2015

**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2015 which are set out on pages 16 to 21.

*Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

*Basis of independent examiner's report*

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

*Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1. Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E J Corrigan FCA  
Corrigan Associates Bristol LLP  
The Tramshed  
25 Lower Park Row  
Bristol BS1 5BN

Date:



THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Investment income		167	-	167	195
Grants and contracts		31,250	197,532	228,782	173,345
Other income	2	76,801	-	76,801	63,520
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>108,218</b>	<b>197,532</b>	<b>305,750</b>	<b>237,060</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
External costs of projects		18,374	124,548	142,922	113,559
Cost of provision of services		30,965	97,617	128,582	132,864
Governance costs		1,200	-	1,200	1,548
<b>Total resources expended</b>	3	<b>50,539</b>	<b>222,165</b>	<b>272,704</b>	<b>247,971</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>57,679</b>	<b>(24,633)</b>	<b>33,046</b>	<b>(10,911)</b>
Transfers between funds	8	(16,087)	16,087	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources and net movement in funds</b>	4	<b>41,592</b>	<b>(8,546)</b>	<b>33,046</b>	<b>(10,911)</b>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2014		119,962	8,546	128,308	139,219
<b>Balance carried forward 31 March 2015</b>		<b>161,354</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>161,354</b>	<b>128,308</b>

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All gains and losses recognised during the period are included above.

The notes on pages 18 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	6	59,974	83,792
Cash and bank balances		158,563	55,591
		<u>218,537</u>	<u>139,383</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	(57,183)	(11,075)
		<u>161,354</u>	<u>128,308</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<u>161,354</u>	<u>128,308</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			
		<u>161,354</u>	<u>128,308</u>
Financed by:			
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds	8	-	8,546
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	8	161,354	119,762
	8	<u>161,354</u>	<u>128,308</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (b) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Enterprises (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 September 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee – Teresa Anderson

Trustee – Phil Winfield

The notes on pages 18 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**1 Accounting policies**

*Basis of accounting*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) published in March 2005 and applicable accounting standards and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Enterprises (effective April 2008).

*Income*

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

*General funds*

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

*Resources expended*

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

Expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

*Pension scheme*

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**2 Other incoming resources**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Membership income	29,638	30,475
Other income	47,163	33,045
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>76,801</b>	<b>63,520</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

<b>3 Expenditure</b>	External cost of projects £	Cost of provision of services £	Governance £	2015 £	2014 £
Purchases	112,022	-	-	112,022	88,181
Salaries	-	102,016	-	102,016	104,581
Pension contribution	-	3,771	-	3,771	4,061
Staff training and welfare	-	22	-	22	-
Travel and subsistence	11,336	4,027	-	15,363	11,948
Entertaining	551	402	-	953	529
Premises costs	-	5,494	-	5,494	7,511
Telephone and fax	-	2,032	-	2,032	1,252
Postage and stationery	374	1,664	-	2,038	1,922
Subscriptions	-	526	-	526	508
Bank charges	417	80	-	497	458
Irrecoverable VAT	9,403	-	-	9,403	6,859
Insurance	11	641	-	652	696
Computer costs	3,017	1,773	-	4,790	2,069
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	504
Board costs	-	-	-	-	348
Bad debts	-	-	-	-	65
Sundry expenses	-	7	-	7	8
Accountancy fees	555	4,758	1,200	6,513	7,176
Consultancy fees	-	600	-	600	600
Advertising and PR	339	369	-	708	85
Other marketing costs	4,897	387	-	5,284	8,518
Legal and professional fees	-	13	-	13	92
	<b>142,922</b>	<b>128,582</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>272,704</b>	<b>247,971</b>
<b>4 Net incoming resources</b>					
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-				2015 £	2014 £
Cost of independent examination				1,200	1,200
Directors' remuneration				-	-
<b>5 Salaries</b>				2015 £	2014 £
Gross Salaries				94,298	94,699
Employers National Insurance				7,718	9,882
Pension contributions				3,771	4,061
Directors' and trustees remuneration and expenses				-	-
				<b>105,787</b>	<b>108,642</b>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 (continued)

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of full time equivalent employees in the year was:

	2015 number	2014 number
Management	1	1
Administration	2	2
	—	—
	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	—	—

**6 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2015 £	2014 £
Trade debtors	58,583	81,413
Other debtors and prepayments	1,391	2,379
	—	—
	<b>59,974</b>	<b>83,792</b>
	—	—

**7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2015 £	2014 £
Trade creditors	40,776	3,297
Tax and social security	9,429	3,200
Other creditors	5,279	3,378
Accruals	1,699	1,200
	—	—
	<b>57,183</b>	<b>11,075</b>
	—	—

**8 Statement of funds**

	B/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	C/fwd £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	119,762	108,218	(50,539)	(16,087)	161,354
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
STFC Capital equipment	-	35,000	(36,423)	1,423	-
STFC Phase 2	8,073	50,502	(68,276)	9,701	-
BIS report	473	-	(1,229)	756	-
Astronaut	-	112,030	(116,237)	4,207	-
	8,546	197,532	(222,165)	16,087	-
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>128,308</b>	<b>305,750</b>	<b>(272,704)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>161,354</b>

Transfers have been made, in line with our reserves policy, to cover excess staff costs incurred whilst undertaking the projects.

**9 Funds**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2015 are represented by:				
Current assets	218,537	-	218,537	139,383
Current liabilities	(57,183)	-	(57,183)	(11,075)
	161,354	-	161,354	128,308

**10 Pensions**

The pension charge amounted to £3,771 (2014: £4,061). At the year-end £nil (2014: £561) was outstanding and is included in other creditors.

**11 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits**

There was no trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31 March 2015, nor for the year ended 31 March 2014.