

The Benefits To Your Society of Being a Member of The Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS)



Updated: September
2016

Benefits of FAS Membership

1. Advice

The FAS can provide advice on the running of an astronomical society.

Formed in 1974, the FAS was conceived as a sort of union of astronomical societies and groups, liaising together where practicable, for their mutual benefit.

Benefits of FAS Membership

2. Public Liability Insurance (PLI)

This covers legal claims made against a society by members of the public for injury or loss while attending a meeting or observing session organised by the society.

Claims may run into thousands of pounds, so insurance is essential. A single premium may cost many £100s per year; the FAS organises a block insurance that costs much less.

Benefits of FAS Membership

2. Public Liability Insurance (PLI)

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FAS provides a FAQs to all member societies which helps to explain the PLI cover

The PLI is an additional cost to member societies over and above the FAS membership subscription.

Benefits of FAS Membership

3. Speakers List

The FAS provides a list of speakers willing to give talks to astronomical societies on an expenses only basis.

Your society committee will greatly appreciate the help this could give them in arranging the programme for your society meetings.

Benefits of FAS Membership

4. Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times a year and includes member society news, forthcoming meetings and events, astronomy book and software reviews. Your society can submit news items for the newsletter.

An expanded electronic PDF version is also available.

Benefits of FAS Membership

5. The Handbook

A copy of the FAS Handbook is supplied to your society and includes the Speakers list, the contact details for all astronomical societies in the FAS, the PLI cover details and safety advice for the holding of meetings and observing sessions. It also contains information on the FAS Council, organisation and meetings, FAS publications and Regional Groups. It is updated annually.

Benefits of FAS Membership

6. The Astrocalendar

Published annually and on sale at a very reasonable price, the Astrocalendar provides observational details of the night sky for the forthcoming year.

It covers the planets, lunar phases, meteor showers and eclipses and includes a set of monthly sky charts.

Benefits of FAS Membership

7. 'Stargazer's Guide to' Booklets

The FAS also sells the following low cost, value for money booklets:

“Stargazer's Guide to Buying a Telescope”

“Stargazer's Guide to Observing the Night Sky”

Benefits of FAS Membership

8. AGM and Convention

The Annual General Meeting of the FAS is accompanied by an astronomy convention which features a programme of excellent astronomy talks and trade stands selling astronomy equipment, books, software etc.

Always a popular astronomy day out and well worth attending!

Benefits of FAS Membership

9. Awards

The FAS presents the 'Eric Zucker' Award (plaque & £50 gift token) to someone judged to be a great promoter of astronomy to the public or astronomy educator.

Small value grants and other prizes are sometimes awarded to member societies by the FAS.

Benefits of FAS Membership

10. Publicity for Member Societies

The FAS routinely provides the contact details for its member societies via the following outlets:

- The FAS website**
- Monthly Sky at Night Magazine CD ROM**
- In response to special requests e.g. from RAS, Nat. Ast. Week Committee etc..**

Benefits of FAS Membership

11. Guidance & Advice

The FAS has published information to help its members societies with issues encountered when running a society.

Guidance published to date includes information on Child Protection. This is tailored specifically at astronomical societies and society public observing sessions

Benefits of FAS Membership

12. Drawing on Experience of Others

The FAS has the ability to draw from member society's experiences when another society may be facing similar issues

This networking works especially well within the regional groups

Benefits of FAS Membership

13. FAS Website

**For more information on the FAS go to:
www.fedastro.org.uk**

The website includes links to the websites of member societies and other astronomy websites, information on astronomy holidays and education, UK observatories etc.

Your society can post its own diary and events information onto the website for free.

Contacting the FAS

The FAS likes to hear from its member societies and you can do this via:

- e-mail links to the FAS Secretary and other Council members on the FAS website.**
- Postal contact details in each newsletter**
- Become part of a recognised Regional Group which may appoint a representative to attend FAS Council meetings**
- Contact through the Annual General Meeting**

**Best Wishes and Clear Skies
from your FAS**

