

# THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1000751

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1990-10-31

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** The Thorney Island Society  
10 Old Pye Street  
London  
SW1P 2DG

**Phone** 0203 883 1583

**Email** [info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk)

**Website** [www.thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk](http://www.thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT WHICH AREA SHALL HEREINAFTER BE REFERRED TO AS THE OLD WESTMINSTER VILLAGE 1) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN OR AFFECTING OLD WESTMINSTER VILLAGE2) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE OLD WESTMINSTER VILLAGE3) TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN OLD WESTMINSTER VILLAGE.

**Activities:** We are a local conservation and amenity group founded in 1985 to protect and represent the interests of residents and businesses in the "village" of ancient Westminster (originally "Thorney Island"). In 1994 the society adopted the activities of the Friends of St James's Park and The Green Park. We maintain a large archive collection of documents and memorabilia, and arrange social activities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** OLD WESTMINSTER VILLAGE (THIS AREA INCLUDES THE TWO ROYAL PARKS OF ST JAMES'S PARK AND THE GREEN PARK).
- City Of Westminster

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£8,881	£8,707	-	-
2023-09-30	£11,343	£8,094	-	-
2022-09-30	£8,648	£5,200	-	-
2021-09-30	£76,235	£154,912	-	-
2020-09-30	£117,073	£43,094	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Agapi Fylaktou		2022-11-08
Glenn Murphy		2023-12-05
Hari Kitching		2022-11-08
Julia Stepanian		2024-11-05
LUCY VERONICA PECK		2014-11-12
Robert Timms		2020-11-10
Victor John Keegan		2014-11-12

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**

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# Accounts

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FRIENDS OF ST JAMES'S PARK  
& THE GREEN PARK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

The Society's Christmas Party in December 2020 was held 'virtually' for the first time in our history with a highly entertaining Thorney Island Quiz, bringing members together from across continents and time zones. The Committee continued to respond quickly to changing conditions during the ongoing Covid pandemic. This involved liaising with hosts and venues to either cancel or postpone visits and in other cases to recruit new speakers with expertise in the history and architecture of Thorney Island. As a result we launched a successful series of Zoom talks which attracted over 320 member registrations and 100 non-member attendees. This varied programme of talks, presented by volunteer members of the Society and other expert speakers, made a significant contribution to the Society's overall financial position, resulting in a small surplus for the 2020/21 year. We launched a new YouTube channel so that recordings of our Zoom talks could be accessed more widely. Since the channel's launch in February, viewers have collectively watched over 100 hours of recordings, and we would encourage members to subscribe to the channel to be automatically notified of future additions.

The Society adapted to changing government restrictions. Recently Committee members have been able to resume the work of consolidating the material in our archives in Old Pye Street and deciding how to store and present our resources in future. As life has 'opened-up' we have worked together with our partner organisations and venues to offer a mixed programme of 'virtual' and 'in-person' visits for the 2021/22 year ahead. We hope that this approach will go some way towards overcoming the sense of loss we have all felt, unable to meet together as usual for walks, visits and events.

The Society's day to day operations continued virtually. We have been represented at the regular on-line meetings hosted by Nickie Aiken, MP for The Cities of London and Westminster and by Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council. The Society commented on 40 planning applications over the year and the Planning Hub which



FRIENDS OF ST JAMES'S PARK  
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we set up in August 2020 has expanded to include 9 local residents' groups. The London Gardens Trust took over the role of spearheading the legal action against the Government's application to construct the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens. Our participation in the work of the London Forum and other groups concerned with the government's planning legislation was a major priority during the year.

Sue Ball

Chair

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**  
Registered Charity No 1000751  
**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2020-21**

As for so many organisations, our in-person events continued to be significantly disrupted in 2020-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, our series of digital events, held via Zoom, proved to be very successful and helped us ensure a modest surplus overall – as well as providing varied and interesting talks which were “the next-best thing” given the circumstances.

The restricted funds held on behalf of the Save Victoria Tower Gardens (SVTG) campaign, for fees associated with the planning inquiry, were almost entirely disbursed by the end of the 2020-2021 financial year; with the London Gardens Trust taking over the coordinating and fundraising role for the next stage of the legal process, SVTG funds are not expected to feature prominently in our 2021-2022 accounts.

Expenditure on rent was significantly higher compared to 2019-2020; however, this was an artificial one-off issue caused by delays in collection due to a change in the managing agent for Old Pye Street and is reflected in the £1,500 sundry creditors in the previous year's accounts, reversed in this year's accounts.

We have continued to adopt a cautious approach to our reserves policy, maintaining higher reserves than 12 months' typical expenditure plus provision for unforeseen expenses, due to the continued uncertainty regarding the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. If, as we all hope, the situation stabilises further in the coming months, we expect to revisit our reserves policy as a result.

We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of time, personnel and software from Blue Orchid Hotels/Integrity Group in building our new CRM (customer relationship management) system and associated website, which we expect to be live in early 2022, and which will allow easier administration of memberships, events, news and planning information as well as providing a better website experience for our members.

This is my first annual report as Treasurer; I would like to thank our previous Treasurer, Gordon Slater, for his smooth handover to me at the start of the year.

Robert Timms – Treasurer

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2020	21,569.11		21,569.11	20,066.18
Add net (deficit)/surplus for the year	611.69		611.69	1,502.93
Reversal of 2020 sundry creditors	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00
Balance at 30 September 2021	23,680.80		23,680.80	21,569.11
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2020		82,027.51	82,027.51	9,551.25
Add net surplus/(deficit) for the year				
-Victoria Tower Gardens		(79,289.63)	(79,289.63)	70,501.26
- Integrity International		0.00	0.00	1,975.00
Balance at 30 September 2021 (VTG £762.88; Integrity £1,975.00)		2,737.88	2,737.88	82,027.51
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	23,680.80	2,737.88	26,418.68	103,596.62
<b>Represented by</b>				
Lloyds Bank Accounts				
Instant Savings 07214020	807.22		807.22	627.10
Treasurer's Account 00355214	13,391.15	2,737.88	16,129.03	94,722.64
Old Pye St Account 00287456	522.44		522.44	834.96
PayPal Account	40.86		40.86	0.00
Epworth (formerly Affirmative) Deposit	8,919.13		8,919.13	8,911.92
Sundry creditors	0.00		0.00	(1,500.00)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	23,680.80	2,737.88	26,418.68	103,596.62

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**  
Registered Charity No 1000751

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership fees	3,678.30		3,678.30	3,484.00
Visits - net surplus	2,508.75		2,508.75	678.68
Christmas party - net surplus	0.37		0.37	191.29
Summer party - net surplus	0.00		0.00	0.00
Bank interest	7.33		7.33	62.59
Christmas raffle - net surplus	0.00		0.00	606.88
Donations - general	862.05		862.05	952.43
Sundry	428.30		428.30	
Donations & gift aid - Save VTG campaign		68,749.42	68,749.42	108,497.26
Donation - Integrity International		0.00	0.00	2,600.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,485.10</b>	<b>68,749.42</b>	<b>76,234.52</b>	<b>117,073.13</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Civic society insurance	279.00		279.00	283.33
Printing, postage, stationery	1,104.40		1,104.40	930.58
Membership of other societies	161.00		161.00	46.00
AGM expenses	0.00		0.00	0.00
Books and materials for archives	11.20		11.20	87.75
Miscellaneous expenses	458.53		458.53	430.70
Website	190.60		190.60	28.86
Restricted expenditure - Save VTG		148,039.05	148,039.05	37,996.00
Restricted expenditure - Integrity		0.00	0.00	625.00
Expenses re Old Pye Street	4,668.68		4,668.68	2,665.72
Rent	3,856.16		3,856.16	2,000.00
Electricity	124.99		124.99	117.39
Business rates	564.00		564.00	456.00
Water	123.53		123.53	92.33
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,873.41</b>	<b>148,039.05</b>	<b>154,912.46</b>	<b>43,093.94</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>611.69</b>	<b>(79,289.63)</b>	<b>(78,677.94)</b>	<b>73,979.19</b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY (Registered Charity No 1000751)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Thorney Island Society (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Gwyndaf Edward John

Address: Msasa, 40 Beech Waye, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8BL

Date: 25 July 2022

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1000751

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# Accounts

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FRIENDS OF ST JAMES'S PARK  
& THE GREEN PARK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

We celebrated the start of the 2019-2020 year with The South Westminster Community Choir who entertained members and invited guests at the Christmas Party, with a recital of carols and a lively brass accompaniment. In January and February, the society launched the first two in a series of four short talks in the Archives on the subject of Christchurch Gardens and Ignatius Sancho, the polymath African buried in Christchurch Gardens. Our corporate partner the Blue Orchid Hotel Group/Integrity International supported this innovative programme and also allocated professional staff to begin the development of a new website and database for the Society.

The Spring/Summer Newsletter was produced and mailed in March but our diary of scheduled visits and walks was abruptly curtailed by Covid-19 and the lockdown which affected so many aspects of all our lives. We took the decision to defer the visits to 2021 and to set-up a skeleton series of virtual-educational talks for members to enjoy. The committee learned a great deal from this experience and we are grateful for the time and expertise of our contributors, all of whom are members of the Society. The support, encouragement and understanding of members sustained the committee during this period. One of the disappointments of the year was the cancellation of our T@35 birthday celebrations in St James's Park and the Cinnamon Club.

As part of the Society's planning role, we contributed to Westminster City Council's deliberations of a policy to retain or remove statues as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement and going forward we will be consulted as part of The Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. The Society initiated a planning group/hub comprising the amenity/resident groups in the south Westminster area and responded to over 60 planning applications including major building developments. We supported the Judicial Review taken by The London Parks Trust against the Government over the fact that the decision on the Planning Inquiry will be made by a member of the very Government that has promised to build the Holocaust Memorial come what may. The 5-week Planning Inquiry started in October with The Thorney Island Society as 'an interested party' opposing the application.

Our accounts for 2019-2020 reflect a significant shortfall in unrestricted income as a result of Covid-19. The coming year will be a challenge to maintain our financial position and focus on our delayed priorities. Our Treasurer, Gordon Slater retires this year after 15 years in the role and attendance at nearly every Thorney Island dinner, visit, party, sorting in the archives and envelope-stuffing since then! We are most encouraged by the nomination to the Committee of two new local residents in the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Sue Ball  
Chair

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**  
Registered Charity No 1000751  
**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2019-20**

I am pleased to report that the Society had a successful financial year in 2019-20 despite the extraordinary circumstances, recording a surplus of £1,503 on our ordinary activities. Regrettably, many of our planned activities including our 35th birthday party had to be cancelled, so we are especially grateful for the loyalty of our members at this time. On the expenditure side, we were able to further reduce postage and printing costs through greater use of email, though we are pleased with the quality of the bi-annual newsletter. We again thank Blue Orchid Hotels for their generous hospitality at our parties and AGM.

These figures are dwarfed by the further amount of £108,000 raised in support of the Save Victoria Tower Gardens campaign, which was used at the request of the organising group to obtain professional advice on the planning application, and will be used for legal representation at the forthcoming inquiry. We are also very pleased to receive a special grant of £2,600 from Integrity International for various development projects.

We are grateful to Gwyndaf John for acting as independent examiner in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This is my 16th and last report as Treasurer; I am delighted to be handing over to Robert Timms, and wish him and the Society every success in the coming years.

Gordon Slater - Treasurer

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted income funds</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2019	20,066.18		20,066.18	18,791.63
Add net (deficit)/surplus for the year	1,502.93		1,502.93	1,274.55
Balance at 30 September 2020	21,569.11		21,569.11	20,066.18
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Balance at 1 October 2019		9,551.25	9,551.25	557.88
Add net surplus/(deficit) for the year - purse				(557.88)
-Victoria Tower Gardens		70,501.26	70,501.26	9,551.25
- Integrity International		1,975.00	1,975.00	
Balance at 30 September 2020		82,027.51	82,027.51	9,551.25
(VTG £80,052.51; Integrity £1,975.00)				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	21,569.11	82,027.51	103,596.62	29,617.43
<b>Represented by</b>				
Lloyds Bank Accounts				
Instant Savings 07214020	627.10		627.10	436.82
Treasurer's Account 00355214	12,695.13	82,027.51	94,722.64	25,027.17
Old Pye St Account 00287456	834.96		834.96	500.68
Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities	8,911.92		8,911.92	8,849.61
Sundry creditors	(1,500.00)		(1,500.00)	(5,196.85)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	21,569.11	82,027.51	103,596.62	29,617.43

**THE THORNEY ISLAND SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No 1000751

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership fees	3,484.00		3,484.00	3,870.00
Visits - net surplus	678.68		678.68	2,390.05
Christmas drinks party - net surplus	191.29		191.29	383.98
Summer drinks party - net surplus			0.00	403.75
Bank interest	62.59		62.59	59.31
Christmas raffle - net surplus	606.88		606.88	541.82
Donations - general	952.43		952.43	142.01
Donations - for 18th century purse			0.00	380.00
Donations & gift aid - Save VTG campaign		108,497.26	108,497.26	57,438.75
Donation - Integrity International		2,600.00	2,600.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,975.87</b>	<b>111,097.26</b>	<b>117,073.13</b>	<b>65,609.67</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Civic society insurance	283.33		283.33	283.33
Printing, postage, stationery	930.58		930.58	1,272.64
Membership of other societies	46.00		46.00	46.00
AGM expenses			0.00	0.00
Books and materials for archives	87.75		87.75	53.32
Miscellaneous expenses	430.70		430.70	1,182.31
Website	28.86		28.86	380.94
Restricted expenditure - 18th century purse			0.00	1,296.98
Restricted expenditure - Save VTG		37,996.00	37,996.00	47,887.50
Restricted expenditure - Integrity		625.00	625.00	
Expenses re Old Pye Street	2,665.72		2,665.72	2,938.73
Rent	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Electricity	117.39		117.39	261.33
Business rates	456.00		456.00	469.00
Water	92.33		92.33	208.40
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,472.94</b>	<b>38,621.00</b>	<b>43,093.94</b>	<b>55,341.75</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,502.93</b>	<b>72,476.26</b>	<b>73,979.19</b>	<b>10,267.92</b>

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Signed:



Name: Gwyndaf Edward John

Address: Msasa, 40 Beech Waye, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8BL

Date: 28 March 2021