

# **THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY**

**THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY ANNUAL  
REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

# THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Richard Warren Shepro	Chair of Trustees	18 December 2023
Christopher Grocock	Trustee – Treasurer	16 October 2024
Birgitte Kampmann	Trustee	11 July 2025
Cathy Kaufman	Trustee	11 July 2025
Professor Janet Beizer	Trustee	7 July 2024
Voltaire Cang	Trustee	18 December 2023
Cameron Stauch	Trustee	7 July 2023
Jane Levi	Trustee	7 July 2023
Kenneth Bruce Albala	Trustee	22 August 2022
Priya Mani	Trustee	22 August 2022
David Henry Matchett	Trustee – Registrar	22 August 2022
Naomi Hilary Duguid	Trustee	22 August 2022
Dr Scott Alves Barton	Trustee	5 August 2021
Dr Elaine Mahon	Trustee	5 August 2021
Professor Mark Bradford McWilliams	Trustee – Editor	5 November 2020
Carolyn Elizabeth Steel	Trustee – Secretary	6 August 2020

Charity number

1100956

Principal address

21 Wargrave House  
Navarre Street  
London  
E2 7JH

Reporting Accountant

Bradbury Stell  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
Unit 2 Beverley Court  
26 Elmtree Road  
Teddington  
Middlesex  
TW11 8ST

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### For the year ended 30 September 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, and *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)* (effective 1 January 2019).

## Objectives and Activities

The charity's objective is to promote research and advance education in all aspects of food and cooking for the benefit of the public. The charity interprets the terms *food* and *cooking* in their widest sense to include, among other things, agriculture, climate, history, culture, politics, and social justice as these relate to food and cooking. This interpretation is reflected in the charity's mission:

**"To change the conversation, expand the table, and improve the plate."**

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken to achieve these objectives.

The principal activity of the charity is the organisation of an annual symposium focused on a specific theme exploring food and cooking. In keeping with the charity's educational mission, there are no academic prerequisites or formal qualifications required to attend the symposium or participate in the charity's other activities.

The symposium is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis upon payment of a fee intended to cover costs. In-person attendance at St Catherine's College is subject to physical capacity constraints and is capped at 220 participants. An unlimited number of online-only participants may attend at a modest fee. Many online participants are based in Asia or the Global South, or have personal circumstances that make travel challenging or impossible.

## The 2025 Symposium

Following the charity's established practice, the theme for the 2025 symposium was selected by a vote of the 2022 symposiasts. The chosen theme was **"The Elements"**, a broad-ranging topic encompassing scientific, cultural, and environmental perspectives on food.

The symposium continued the two-part structure introduced in 2022:

- **In-person symposium:**  
Held at St Catherine's College, Oxford, from **11–13 July 2025**, attended by **153 symposiasts** from **21 countries**.

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- **Online symposium:**

Held from **18–31 July 2025**, with an additional **78 online-only symposiasts**, extending participation to **two further countries**.

Despite the continued closure of significant parts of the St Catherine’s campus due to the discovery of unsafe reinforced autoclave aerated concrete (RAAC), the symposium successfully convened as planned. Draft papers, video presentations, and related materials were distributed to all registered participants via the symposium website.

## Participation and Access

- **23 symposiasts** received subsidised places at a **50% reduced rate**, primarily students aged 18 or over enrolled in post-secondary education during the 2024–2025 academic year.
- Free places were offered to keynote speakers, guest chefs, invited plenary presenters, and **three competitively selected Young Chefs**, defined as practitioners with fewer than ten years’ professional experience.
- The Young Chefs were selected from **21 applicants** and the programme marked its **sixteenth year** in 2025.

## Programme Content

### Plenary Keynote Presentations

- **Professor Marion Nestle** — *The Elements: Food, Nutrition, Health, and Politics, 2025 Style*
- **Professor Ole G. Mouritsen** — *Elements of a Plant-Forward Cuisine*
- **Dr Théodore Kaboré** — *Agricultural Practices and Community Efforts to Restore Land Fertility in the Sahel*
- **Professor Claude Fischler** — *Gastronomy in an Age of Gastro-anomy*

### Additional Plenary Sessions

- Roundtable discussion: **“Choosing Our Words About Technologies and Food”**
- Plenary presentation on volcanic wines with **Robert Gilvesy** and **Ursula Heinzelmann**
- Demonstration of Japan’s *chanoyu* tea tradition, narrated by **Voltaire Cang**, including a tasting of matcha and seasonal sweets

### Panels and Papers

- **12 in-person panels** featuring **27 papers** delivered at St Catherine’s College
- **10 additional papers** presented online during the Zoom conference period
- Papers were selected from nearly **100 proposals** reviewed by committee

All presenters prerecorded 15–20 minute talks, which were made available online following the in-person symposium, allowing all participants access to the full programme.

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## Culinary Programme

Food formed an integral part of the symposium curriculum. Two lunches and two dinners were prepared by guest chefs with support from St Catherine's College catering staff.

Highlights included:

- **Friday dinner:**  
*An Ecuadorian Fire Feast* by **Chef Ana Ortiz** (Fire Made UK)
- **Saturday lunch:**  
*The Elements of Algerian Cuisine* by **Chef Hanane Tancrede Abdelli** (Mama Nissa, Paris)
- **Saturday dinner:**  
Cambodian feast by **Chef Joannès Rivière** (Cuisine Wat Damnak)
- **Sunday lunch:**  
Young Chefs' programme themed "*Mending Modern Melancholies*", mentored by **Chef Jennie Moran** (Luncheonette, Dublin)

## Other Workshops and Activities

Additional educational activities included:

- A plant-based edible paints workshop
- Screenings and discussions on artificial intelligence in agriculture and food waste
- A tasting experiment on umami led by **Professor Ole Mouritsen**
- Screening of *Umami*, a comedy-drama exploring culinary identity

## Post-Symposium and Continuing Activities

### Publication of Papers

Following the symposium, authors revise their papers, which are professionally edited and published in hard copy by **Equinox Publishing**. Many volumes are also available digitally via Google Books.

### Online Programmes

The charity continued its extensive online programming during the year. All sessions are free to attend and open to the public with advance registration and include:

- **Kitchen Table Conversations** (monthly Zoom discussions)
- **The Sifter "Ask" sessions**
- **Kitchen Lab** and **Kitchen Lab Techniques** cook-alongs

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## Communications and Outreach

- **Facebook:** over 7,428 followers
- **Instagram:** 6,194 followers
- **Newsletter:** 3,474 subscribers

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## Administration and Governance

The charity has no employees. Its activities are managed by the trustees with the assistance of vetted volunteers. Certain trustees undertook additional operational responsibilities during the year.

Payments made to trustees for services provided beyond normal trustee duties were as follows:

- **David Matchett:** £9,000 (2024/25) plus £3,000 backdated (2023/24)
- **Mark McWilliams:** £4,000 for professional editing services

*Cathy Kaufman*

Cathy Kaufman  
Chair of the Symposium  
31st March 2026

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## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery (the charity) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

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

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

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

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

#### **Bradbury Stell**

#### **Chartered Certified Accountants**

Unit 2 Beverley Court

26 Elmtree Road

Teddington

Middlesex TW11 8ST

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025



# THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		funds	funds		funds	funds	
		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	385	23,259	23,644	205	9,840	10,045
Charitable activities	4	98,932		98,932	101,784		101,784
Investments	5	824		824	764		764
Other income	6	654		654	708		708
<b>Total income</b>		<u>100,795</u>	<u>23,259</u>	<u>124,054</u>	<u>103,461</u>	<u>9,840</u>	<u>113,301</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	7	<u>123,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,273</u>	<u>105,263</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>105,263</u>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		-22,478	23,259	781	-1802	9840	8038
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year/</b>							
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		-22,478	23,259	781	-1,802	9,840	8,038
Fund balances at 1 October 2024		<u>52,880</u>	<u>18,512</u>	<u>71,392</u>	<u>54,682</u>	<u>8,673</u>	<u>63,355</u>
<b>Fund balances at 30 September 2025</b>		<u>30,402</u>	<u>41,771</u>	<u>72,173</u>	<u>52,880</u>	<u>18,512</u>	<u>71,392</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all the gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY

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## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		74,046		75,282	
Debtors				100	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>- 1,872</b>		<b>-3,990</b>	
Net current assets			<u>72,174</u>		<u>71,392</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>72,173</u>		<u>71,392</u>
			<u>72,173</u>		<u>71,392</u>



**Christopher Grocock**  
**Treasurer**  
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

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## Accounting policies

### Charity information

The Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery is an unincorporated charity established by a Deed of Trust made 14 March 2003.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Deed of Trust, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

## Accounting policies

(Continued)

### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

### 1.7 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

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The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

## 3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	385		385	205		205
American Friends		20,737	20,737		9,840	9,840
RINRI		2,522	2,522			
	<u>385</u>	<u>23,259</u>	<u>23,644</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>9,840</u>	<u>10,045</u>

## 4. Charitable activities

	Symposium & online course registration fees	Symposium & online course registration fees
	2025	2024
	£	£
Actual Symposium Fee	91,476	94,211
Kitchen Table Donations	2,145	2,178
Online Symposium Fee	5,312	5,395
	<u>98,932</u>	<u>101,784</u>

## 5. Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>824</u>	<u>764</u>

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## 6. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Royalties	164	235
Other income	490	473
	<u>654</u>	<u>708</u>

## 7. Charitable activities

	Food education 2025 £	Food education 2024 £
Symposium & online course costs	79,110	73,565
Student place subsidy		
	<u>79,110</u>	<u>73,565</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	30,035	27,630
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	4,000	4,068
	<u>113,145</u>	<u>105,263</u>
Director's fees	10,128	-
	<u>10,128</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	123,273	105,263
Restricted funds		
	<u>123,273</u>	<u>105,263</u>

## 8. Description of charitable activities

Food education  
Development and delivery of an annual symposium, online courses and publication of papers for academics and the general public covering food related topics.

## 10 Trustees

David Matchett received £12,000 for his services as registrar, £95.99 Subscriptions and £316 for general expenses.

Jake Tilson received £1,317.47 for Marketing & promotions, and £315.55 for menu printing and £29.75 for Printing, Postage & Stationery.

## 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

## 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Creditors	-	2118
Accruals and deferred income	1,872	1,872
	<u>1,872</u>	<u>3,990</u>

# THE OXFORD SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND COOKERY

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## 13. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 October 2024 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 October 2024 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 October 2025 £
		Incoming resources 2024 £	Resources expended 2024 £	Transfers £		Incoming resources 2025 £	Resources expended 2025 £	Transfers £	
Subsidises Proceedings	-				-	0	0		-
Student Subsidy Fund	-	9,840	-9,840		-	20,737	-20,737		-
	-	9,840	-9,840		-	20,737	-20,737		-

## 14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 30 September 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	52,880	18,512	71,392	30,402	41,771	72,173
	52,880	18,512	71,392	30,402	41,771	72,173

## 15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions with persons other than the trustees during the year (2024 - none).