



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
		Period start date			Period end date	
		1	JAN	2025	31	DEC 2025
From					To	

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY

Other names charity is known by SHAC

Registered charity number (if any) 1190304

Charity's principal address 45 THE DRIVE

ISLEWORTH

Postcode TW7 4AA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	F A J L JAMES	CHAIR (Officer)		
2	R A JOHNSTONE	TREASURER (Officer)		
3	A E WOODMAN	AMBIX SECRETARY DEPUTY CHAIR from the AGM on 12 May 2025 (Officer)		
4	B T MORAN	JOURNAL EDITOR (Officer)		
5	C A COBBOLD	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Officer)		
6	C J CAMPBELL	SOCIETY SECRETARY (Officer)		
7	A LYKKNES	SOCIETY AWARDS (Officer)		
8	J M RAMPLING			
9	P J FORSHAW			
10	J WILSON			
11	H CHANG			
12	V M QUIRKE			

13	D G HEDESAN			
14	T TAAPE			
15	L M PRINCIPE			
16	P J RAMBERG			
17	S LANG			

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)¹

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution (CIO registered 08.07.20 and operational from 01.01.21).
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association of 302 members (number at year end 2025).
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p>With 42 days' clear notice before each AGM of the Society, the Trustees will advise members of the Society of the identities of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Trustees who wish to continue as such and under the Constitution are permitted to do so without reappointment at the AGM; (b) Trustees who wish to continue as such and are seeking reappointment at the AGM as required by the Constitution; and (c) nominees of the existing Trustees for new appointments as Trustees at the AGM –

and members of the Society will be invited to make further nominations. Such further nominations must be made with the written consent of the nominee and with no less than 28 days' clear notice before the AGM.

Trustees serve for 3 years after which they retire or are re-elected subject to competitive nomination. The trustees may fill casual vacancies but their choice must be ratified at the next AGM.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

A Risk Register, including measures put in place to minimise risk, was approved by the Trustees at the Council meeting, March 2024

No fraudulent activity has been detected during the year.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The scholarly study of all aspects of the history of the chemical sciences (including alchemy), the holding of meetings for the presentation and discussion of scholarly papers, either on its own or in conjunction with other learned societies, and the publication of relevant material, especially in the Journal of the Society, currently called *Ambix*.

The trustees in 2025 have had due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The trustees believe that a broad understanding of the history of the chemical sciences (including alchemy) is of benefit to the public by helping them to understand the place of chemistry in society and culture over the centuries. As a learned society it aims to advance education, the arts, culture, heritage and science through scholarly and/or curatorial activity relating to the history of alchemical and chemical science in any part of the world. Specifically, the charity achieved this by the following:

The charity's scholarly journal *Ambix* has for over 80 years been a major means of academic scholarly exchange, and therefore is of public benefit. It is sold to institutions and libraries, as well as distributed to members (annual membership fee is £40, reduced to £30 for retired members of 10 years' standing and to £25 for students)

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The net surplus from membership subscriptions and this publishing activity (together with any donations and interest on deposits), supports a range of further activities benefiting the public:–

(i) The Society provides study grants to members who are students, early career researchers and independent scholars (membership being open to anyone).

(ii) The Society organises and funds scholarly meetings, workshops, seminars and webinars, attendance at which is not confined to members.

(iii) The Society's substantial newsletter *Chemical Intelligence* is available free to the general public online; it advertises and reports not only the Society's events and activities but those of other organisations involved in the history of alchemy and chemistry. The Society also maintains a website with similar objectives.

(iv) *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry*, an occasional supplement to *Ambix*, is available at no extra cost to full institutional subscribers to the relevant annual volume of *Ambix* and to members subscribing for the relevant year.

(v) The Society's Morris Award, Partington Prize.

(vi) Brock Award

The Brock Award honours Professor William 'Bill' Hodson Brock, one of the leading historians of chemistry of the last fifty years. The Award is for outstanding contributions in the fields of the history of alchemy and chemistry. The individual's impact on the community of historians of alchemy and/or chemistry, through historical research, publication, support and encouragement of students and fellow researchers and contributions to the wider promulgation of the subject are the criteria for selection.

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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

<p>The charity continues to rely heavily on the contributions of volunteers, without whose efforts the Charity would be unable to operate.</p> <p>We welcomed Yiran Tao as the new Administrative Assistant.</p>
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

On Monday 12 May 2025, the Society held its AGM on Zoom.

Meetings

All SHAC meetings are open to both members and non-members of the Society. In some cases, a small charge may be made to contribute towards costs.

During the year SHAC held three meetings and five on-line seminars. SHAC is enormously grateful to all the institutions that hosted and supported the meetings throughout the year.

On 14 January the SHAC Postgraduate and Early Career Workshop: 'Alchemy and Chemistry as Vessels for Cultural Discourse' was held at St John's College, Oxford. The speakers were Josh Werrett, Paulina Gennerman, Lea Elisabeth Hinterholzer, Brian Li, Ellen Hausner, Elena Morgana, Sergei Zotov, Johannes Chan, Sajdeep Soomal, Silvia Pérez-Criado, Christopher Halm, Robert Slinn, Sofiya Kamalova Rogova, and Justin Sledge.

On 29 March, the SHAC Spring meeting was held at the Warburg Institute on the theme of 'Biographies of Alchemists and Chemists'. The speakers were: Laurence Chen, Sergei Zotov, Charlotte Abney Salamon, Anna Simmons, Annette Lykknes, Carsten Reinhardt and Judith Kaplan. At the end there was a roundtable discussion to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding at SHAC. The participants were Robert Anderson, John Brooke, Peter Morris, Gerrylynn Roberts and Michael Sutton.

On 16 and 17 October, the SHAC Autumn/Fall meeting was held at the Science History Institute, Philadelphia. The speakers were Meagan Allen, Matteo Soranzo, Claire Litt, Brian Li, Sarah Lang, Farzad Mahootian, Alan Rocke, Sarah Lowengard, John Powers, George Borg, Stephen Weininger, Patrick Charbonneau, Christopher Halm and Jeffrey I. Seeman. SHAC is grateful to Taylor and Francis for supporting a wine reception at the meeting.

The Society continued its series of free online seminars open to all covering a wide range of topics in the history of alchemy and chemistry. These are then placed on the SHAC YouTube channel, freely accessible to all. The speakers were Sarah Hijmans, Christopher Halm, Ellen Hausner, Francesca Antonelli and Stefania Buosi-Moncunill.

Publications

Ambix: The Society published four issues of its scholarly journal *Ambix* in 2025.

February 2025: Volume 72, Issue 1

Constructing Naturalness in Industrial Settings: A Transdisciplinary Exploration

Paulina S. Gennermann, Gina Maria Klein & Sophia Wagemann

A Game of Terms: Constructing Naturalness in German Flavour Regulation, 1959–2008

Paulina S. Gennermann

Ivory Emulation: The Naturalness of Early Bioinspired Plastics
Artur Neves

“Cycles of Clockwork Precision”: Hormonal Contraception and Natural Menstruation

Sophia Wagemann

The Nature of Skincare: Categorising Cosmetics with Bioactive Ingredients in the Case of Qeauty-Cosmetic

Gina Maria Klein

Can Chemical Substances be Natural?

Marabel Riesmeier

May 2025: Volume 72, Issue 2

Sperm Whales, Wax Sculptures, and Historical Analysis: The Role of Fat Chemistry in Authenticating Artworks in Early Twentieth-Century Germany

Josephine Musil-Gutsch

The Byzantine Alchemist Christianos and His Procedures on Indian Lac

Marco Bellini

New Sources for Reconstructing the Discovery of Potassium and Sodium: Manuscripts and Letters relating to their Electrical Detection, Isolation, Naming, Announcement, and Publication by Humphry Davy

Frank A. J. L. James

A Consideration of John Davy’s “Analysis of the Snake-Stone”

Rachael Pymm

August—November 2025: (Volume 72, Issues 3 &4) was a Special Edition, *Fine Arts: Heat Technologies, Matter Theory, and Agency in the Premodern World*, guest edited by Hannah Elmer and Tillmann Taape and included papers by both guest editors as well as Carmen Schmechel, Tianna Helena Uchacz, Andrés Vélez Posada and Ana María Jiménez, Hannah Elmer and Thijs Hagendijk, Peter Oakley, Katharina Vones and Peter Oakley, Marcia Vilarigues, Thijs Hagendijk, Andreia Ruivo, Alexandra Rodrigues and Carla Machado, Yijun Wang.

In 2025 Bruce T. Moran was editor of *Ambix* with Viviane Quirke and Peter J. Ramberg as Associate Editors, Tillmann Taape and Sarah Hijmans as Book Reviews Co-Editors.

There were 69,755 downloads of articles published in *Ambix* and its back catalogue (dating from 1937) from 1 January 2025 through to 31 December 2025.

Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry

During 2025 work has been completed on the third volume of *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry - Book of the Light of the Great Magistery*. Lawrence M. Principe’s critical edition, English translation, and detailed study of the *Book of the Light of the Great Magistery* by the Franciscan friar, alchemist, and prophet of the antichrist John of Rupescissa (ca. 1310-1366) will be published in 2026 by Routledge.

Chemical Intelligence

Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published in 2025, in February and August. Both were edited by Karoliina Pulkkinen. This publication advertised and reported not only the Society's events, but those of other organisations involved in the history of chemistry. It was distributed to members by email and was made available free to the public online.

The Partington Prize

The Partington Prize was established in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman. It is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The prize consists of five hundred pounds (£500). Entries for the 2026 Prize were invited during 2025 and the next winner will be announced in spring 2026

SHAC Award Scheme

The Society invited applications for funding under its Award Scheme with a deadline of 31 May 2025. Following consideration by a committee, Research Awards (for which both early career scholars and independent scholars are eligible) were approved as follows:

Research Awards**Caroline Douglas**

Elizabeth Fulhame and the proto-photographic networks of 1780s Edinburgh

Awarded: £946

Ellen Hausner

The Rise of the Character: a visually abstract method of transmitting meaning in alchemical texts, c. 1300-1700

Awarded: £1000

Sarah Hijmans

Participation in the Symposium "Engaging with Improbable Experiments" at the History of Science Society Conference in New Orleans, November 2025

Awarded: £829

Karoliina Pulkkinen

Science and legitimization

Awarded: £1000

Yuuka Sawai

Chicago World's Congress of Chemists (1893): Focusing on the state of chemistry in the United States

Awarded: £980

Sofiya Kamalova

Archival research at Corporate Archives of Bayer

Awarded: £717

Eduardo Godoy Yáñez

Analyse the Material Evidence to Construct the Truth: An Approach to the Sensorial Understanding of Chemistry in the Chilean Courts of Justice, 1850-1900

Awarded: £984

Cecilia Seilern und Aspang

The Changing Nature of Lab-Grown Gems: A history of the changing perception of lab-grown gems from the early modern period to today.

Awarded: £1000

Subject Development Awards**Sergei Zotov**

Conference “Visita Interiora: ReImagining Allegory in Alchemical Tradition”

16-17 June 2025 at Venice, Palazzo Giustinian Lolin (University of Warwick Venice Centre)

Awarded £1000

Julian Silverman

Alchemy and Information Literacy: Exploring Science and Symbols by Connecting Chemistry and Art History

Awarded: £951.85

Sean Coughlin

Invisible Alchemy: The Paradox of Past Scents

Awarded £879.31

Joaquín Pérez Pariente

Summer School on the History of Chemistry

Awarded £1000

The Turba seminars on alchemy included presentations from: Dagmar Wujastyk (Indian alchemy), Peter Oakley (experimental furnaces), Georgiana Hedesan, Petr Pavlas and Vojtech Kase (EMLAP history of alchemy collection) and Vojtech Kase and Petr Pavlas (iWeems app as applied to history of alchemy) .

AD HOC

During 2025 AD HOC held a number of meetings, continuing with the hybrid format with in-person attendees at the University of Cambridge and others joining online from anywhere in the world. The meetings were generally held during Cambridge terms, on a fortnightly basis. At some meetings we had presentations followed by Q&A, and at others discussions of pre-circulated texts.

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

As reported in the Annual Report of 2024, Council agreed in March 2023 that the level of reserves would be set at £140,000 owing to the continuing uncertainty regarding future income from the journal publication created by open access “Plan S” and the position of hybrid journals such as Ambix. This uncertainty remains and the quoted value of the reserves is currently unchanged. Although the Charity made record payouts to award winners in the year, this reserve level was exceeded at the end of 2025, standing at £144,937.00. The situation is under review by the Officers of the Charity who intend to recommend to the Trustees that the reserve level should be increased by the annual inflation rate each year. This was 2.25% in 2024 and 3.4% in the calendar year 2025, so the revised reserve limit at the end of 2025 would be £148,000 if this recommendation is acted upon.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

No fund is in deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Frank James	Anna Woodman
Full name(s)	FRANK JAMES	ANNA WOODMAN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Deputy Chair
Date	9 April 2026	



Charity Name
Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry 1190304 incorporating 313777

No (if any)

CC16a
modified to
list 2
restricted
funds

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Jan-25		31_Dec 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted fund: General to the nearest £	Restricted fund: Sources to the nearest £	Restricted fund: Morris Prize to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Prior Year
A1 Receipts					
Membership subscriptions for 2026+	5380			5380	5072
Membership subscriptions for 2025	5207			5207	5355
Ordinary Society meetings	662			662	0
One-off special projects	0			0	0
spare line				0	0
Journal Ambix: Fixed payment and royalty on sales	17685			17685	19474
Sources supplement to Ambix: royalties				0	0
Donations	0			0	0
Gift aid	0			0	0
Interest	3743	467	40	4250	2705
Miscellaneous	0		0	0	0
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	32676	467	40	33183	32607
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	32676	467	40	33183	32607
A3 Payments					
Administration	4310			4310	3412
Ordinary Society meetings	2335			2335	537
One-off special projects	0			0	0
spare line				0	0
Ambix editorial expenses	3080			3080	3614
Sources supplement to Ambix: printing, publication, and distribution				0	0
Awards, prizes, and grants	13461		353	13814	7863
Archiving	0			0	0
Bank and Paypal charges	577		25	602	602
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	23763	0	378	24141	16029
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total payments	23763	0	378	24141	16029
Net of receipts/(payments)	8914	467	-338	9043	16578
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	136023	16974	1448	154446	154446
Cash funds this year end	144937	17441	1110	163488	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted fund: General to nearest £	Restricted fund: Sources to nearest £	Restricted fund: Morris Prize to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Santander current account	316	38	2
	Paypal account	9709	1168	74
	CAF Account	14443	1738	111
	NS&I investment account	0	0	0
	Cash	0	0	0
	Shawbrook	66777	8036	511
	MCA	53692	6461	411
	Total cash funds	144937	17441	1110
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund Sources	Restricted fund Morris Prize
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Uncashed incoming cheques	0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				
	Membership subscriptions for > 2025 paid in advance during 2025	Unrestricted: general	5,207	
	Awards, prizes, and grants outstanding	Unrestricted: general	9,788	
	Estimate of expenses known to have been incurred during or resulting from 2025 activity but not yet invoiced to	Unrestricted: general	1,000	
	Total		15,995	
				hypothetical wind-up of Society
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Frank James	FRANK JAMES	25.03.26	
	Anna Woodman	ANNA WOODMAN	25.03.26	

The Charity -

- a) has given no guarantee where any potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement, and
b) has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

On accounts for the
period ended

31/12/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1190304

Set out on pages

1 to 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31/12/2025.

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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

SAmbrose

Date:

14 April 2026

Name:

Susan Elizabeth Ambrose

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCCA FCA

Address:

Butt Miller Limited

1 Minster Court, Tuscam Way, Camberley, Surrey

GU15 3YY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

No items to disclose.