



The Iran Society

20 May 2025

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of
The Iran Society will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 18 June 2025
at The Army & Navy Club, 36 - 39 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN**

Under the charity's constitution, one-third of the Trustees and Council Members shall retire at each AGM and may offer themselves for re-election. Those retiring this year, and who are offering themselves for re-election, are:

Mr A C V Wynn*
Mr R M Mackenzie*
Dr F A Ala
Prof A Ansari

*Denotes Trustee

Dr S Horsman has tendered his resignation and Council has nominated Ms E Cohen-Haddon to take his place.

Nominations of further candidates to fill available vacancies for members of Council or Trustees may be made in signed form by a proposer and a seconder, accompanied by a signed letter of consent by the candidate, who may also submit a text of up to 150 words about their candidacy. Nominations must be received no later than Tuesday 04 June 2025.

Any member unable to attend the Meeting may appoint another person as a proxy to exercise all or any of that member's rights to attend, speak and vote at the Meeting. Proxies must be appointed by sending a signed notification to the Honorary Secretary to arrive no later than Tuesday 17 June 2025.

A copy of the Agenda is given overleaf.

D GYE
Honorary Secretary

Registered office: Hudson House, 8 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PP
Telephone: 020 7235 5122 Email: info@iransociety.org Website: www.iransociety.org
Registered Charity No: 1200807

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE IRAN SOCIETY
TO BE HELD AT 6.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025 AT
THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, 36 - 39 PALL MALL, LONDON SW1Y 5JN**

A G E N D A

1. The President's Welcome: The Right Hon. The Lord Lamont of Lerwick.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 05 June 2024.
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Trustees.
4. - To receive the Financial Statements and Report of the Honorary Examiner
 - To approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
 - To appoint the Honorary Examiner for the ensuing year
5. Election of Trustees and Members of Council

The following Trustees and Members of Council are retiring and offer themselves for re-election:

Mr A C V Wynn*
Mr R M Mackenzie*
Dr F A Ala
Prof A Ansari

*Denotes Trustee

The following Member is nominated for election to Council:
Ms E Cohen-Haddon

The following Member of Council is retiring:
Dr S Horsman

6. Election of Officers

The following Officers are nominated by Council for election:

Mr A C V Wynn
Mr R M Mackenzie

Chairman
Hon Treasurer

7. Any other business.

THE IRAN SOCIETY
(Registered Charity No. 1200807)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Contents	Page
Reference and Administrative Information	4
Report of the Trustees	5
Report of the Honorary Examiner	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes forming part of the financial statements	9

THE IRAN SOCIETY

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity number: 1200807

Trustees

The following Trustees held office during the year ended 31 December 2024 and up to the date of this report:

Mr A C V Wynn	<i>Chairman</i>
Mr D Gye	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Mr R M Mackenzie	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Hon J E Buchan	
Miss F Hart	
Mrs J Rady	

Advisory Council

The Trustees are also members of the Advisory Council, which also includes:

The Right Hon. The Lord Lamont of Lerwick (*President*)
Dr F A Ala
Prof A M Ansari
Mr D Blow
Ms N Farzad
Dr T Fitzherbert
Dr S Horsman
Prof V Martin
Dr A Tahbaz

Registered Office:

Hudson House, 8 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PP

Independent Examiner:

Mr J Ingham LLB, FCA

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank Plc, 1 Abbey Road, London NW10 7YQ

THE IRAN SOCIETY

Report of the Trustees

Structure, governance and management

The Iran Society ('the Society' or 'CIO') was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') on 24 October 2022, and is governed by its Constitution.

On 01 January 2023, all the activities, assets and liabilities of the former charity called The Iran Society (charity number 248678) were transferred to the CIO. The former charity was then merged with the CIO.

The Society is administered by the Trustees. There must be at least 3 trustees, being initially *ex officio* the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary. Up to a further 3 trustees may be appointed from among the members of Council. One third of the trustees shall retire at each AGM after the first AGM.

The Trustees are also members of a Council which advises the Trustees on all matters for which the Trustees have responsibility. There shall be no fewer than 3 nor more than 14 members of Council, including Officers and Trustees, but excluding the President. One third of the members of the Council shall retire at each AGM after the first AGM.

Objectives and activities

The Objects for which the Society is established are to advance education in the subject of Iran, its peoples and culture (but so that in no event should the CIO take a position on, or take any part in, contemporary politics) in particular through the study of language, literature, art, history, religions, antiquities, usages, institutions and customs of Iran.

The principal activity of the Society is to hold a series of lectures on subjects connected with Iran, its peoples, and culture.

Travel grants are awarded to enable students from UK universities to further their studies in Iran or other Persianate countries on subjects deemed of interest to members.

Membership of the Society is open to all those with an interest in Iran. The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider that the activities of the charity meet its charitable objects and provide a benefit to the public.

Achievements and performance

Our speakers during 2024 included Nahid Assemi, Michael Zirinsky, Antony Wynn, Alan Dillon, Rowena Abdul Razak, Robert Steele, and Fuchsia Hart, who lectured members at our Christmas party on Fath-Ali Shah's shrine patronage in early Qajar Iran.

During 2024, three travel grants for a total of £5,000 were awarded to university students to assist with Persian language studies and research into Shi'i hadith contradictions. A sum of £500 was granted to the National Trust to support the Persian Paradise exhibition at Sissinghurst, the former home of Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West, in particular a continuous screening of the film *Grass* showing the Bakhtiari migration in 1922.

The membership of the Society is made up of Ordinary members (224), Student members (24) and Honorary and Life members (28), making a total of 276 members.

Financial review

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required by law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- ◆ state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, safeguarding the assets of the charity, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves Policies

The Trustees have given special consideration to the level of reserves required to carry on the Society's activities, and have determined to apply the following principles:

- ◆ that the annual programme of lectures, secretariat, printing, website and other routine expenditures should be covered by subscriptions and income from the Society's investments,
- ◆ that the Rosemary Halsted bequest be used as directed to provide travel grants to university students,
- ◆ that other activities should be paid for by charging those attending, subject to the level of the Society's reserves.

Financial Report

The Financial Statements show the Society's financial position as at 31 December 2024. Total income for the year ended on that date was £11,749 (2023: £15,169). Total expenditure in the year was £15,901 (2023: £16,651). The result, excluding investment gains, was a deficit of £4,152, compared with a deficit of £1,482 recorded in the previous year. The value of the Society's investments increased during the year by £4,264, or 3.4%. At 31 December 2024, the portfolio was valued at £129,964. The Society's reserves at that date amounted to £139,236, of which £2,720 were classed as restricted funds. The Trustees consider that the financial position of the Society remains sound.

A C V WYNN
Chairman

REPORT OF THE HONORARY EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE IRAN SOCIETY ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

In my opinion, the Financial Statements on pages 7 - 12 give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31 December 2024 and of its Expenditure over Income for the period ended on that date.

John Ingham, LLB, FCA
Hon Examiner

THE IRAN SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Year ended 31.12.2024			2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from charitable activities	<i>Note 2</i>	7,763	-	7,763	11,032
Investment income		3,810	176	3,986	4,137
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		11,573	176	11,749	15,169
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable Activities	<i>Note 3</i>	5,251	5,000	10,251	14,837
Other expenditure	<i>Note 3</i>	5,650	-	5,650	1,814
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		10,901	5,000	15,901	16,651
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		672	(4,824)	(4,152)	(1,482)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	<i>Note 6</i>	3,863	401	4,264	14,064
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		4,535	(4,423)	112	12,582
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		131,981	7,143	139,124	126,542
Total funds carried forward		136,516	2,720	139,236	139,124

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

THE IRAN SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31 December 2024

BALANCE SHEET

		31.12.2024	31.12.2023
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	<i>Note 6</i>	129,964	125,700
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	<i>Note 7</i>	1,130	3,681
Cash at bank		9,475	16,885
		10,605	20,566
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within 1 year	<i>Note 8</i>	(1,333)	(7,142)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		9,272	13,424
NET ASSETS	<i>Note 9</i>	139,236	139,124
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	<i>Note 10</i>		
Restricted Fund		2,720	7,143
General Fund		136,516	131,981
TOTAL FUNDS		139,236	139,124

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on xx April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-

A C V Wynn
Chairman

R M Mackenzie
Hon Treasurer

THE IRAN SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value, and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in January 2019. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.2 Accounting period

The Financial Statements cover the year 01 January to 31 December 2024.

Figures for the prior year covered the period from the date of registration of the charity on 24 October 2022 to 31 December 2023.

1.3 Transfer of undertaking

On 01 January 2023, all the activities, assets and liabilities of The Iran Society (charity number 248678) were transferred to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) called The Iran Society (charity number 1200807).

The Iran Society (charity number 248678) was merged into The Iran Society (charity number 1200807) with effect from 01 January 2023.

1.4 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.5 Incoming resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities ('SoFA') when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, and the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Members' subscriptions are included in the SoFA when received.

1.6 Expenditure and liabilities

Resources expended on charitable activities comprise the costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

1.7 Fixed assets

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss taken to the SoFA.

Notes to the financial statements (cont)

2 Analysis of incoming resources

	Year ended 31.12.2024			Period ended 31.12.2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Membership subscriptions	5,703	-	5,703	5,484
Special events income	2,060	-	2,060	5,404
Royalties on book sales	-	-	-	144
	7,763	-	7,763	11,032

3 Analysis of resources expended

	Year ended 31.12.2024			Period ended 31.12.2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	
Charitable activities				
Lectures and other functions	2,496	-	2,496	4,098
Special events expenditure	2,255	-	2,255	4,789
Travel awards	-	5,000	5,000	750
Other grants	500	-	500	5,200
	5,251	5,000	10,251	14,837
Other costs				
Website	5,142	-	5,142	1,302
Other administration costs	508	-	508	512
	5,650	-	5,650	1,814

4 Trustee Remuneration & Related Party Transactions

No trustees received any remuneration during the period .

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

5 Taxation

As a charity, The Iran Society is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Notes to the financial statements (cont)

6 Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>General Fund</i>		
BP Plc	9,821	11,649
COIF Charities Global Equity Fund	114,089	103,452
M&G Fixed Interest 'Charibond' Fund	3,334	3,456
	<u>127,244</u>	<u>118,557</u>
<i>Restricted Fund</i>		
COIF Charities Global Equity Fund	2,720	7,143
	<u>2,720</u>	<u>7,143</u>
Total investments at market value	<u>129,964</u>	<u>125,700</u>
	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Reconciliation of investments</i>		
Market value of investments at 01 January	125,700	118,958
Disposals	-	(7,322)
Net realised gains/(losses)	-	798
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	4,264	13,266
	<u>129,964</u>	<u>125,700</u>

7 Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>		
Taxation - Gift Aid	924	894
Other debtors	-	2,587
Prepayments	206	200
	<u>1,130</u>	<u>3,681</u>

8 Creditors and accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>		
Other creditors	625	5,000
Accruals	578	2,062
Deferred income	130	80
	<u>1,333</u>	<u>7,142</u>

The charity did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties or any debts secured on assets of the charity during or at the end of the period.

Notes to the financial statements (cont)

9 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £
Investments	127,244	2,720	129,964
Current assets	10,605	-	10,605
Current liabilities	(1,333)	-	(1,333)
Net assets at 31 December 2023	136,516	2,720	139,236

10 Movements in Funds

	At 31.12.2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Gains and Losses £	Trans- fers £	At 31.12.2024 £
<i>Restricted fund</i>						
Rosemary Halsted Fund						
Movements during the period	7,143	176	(5,000)	401	-	2,720
	7,143	176	(5,000)	401	-	2,720
<i>General funds</i>						
General Fund						
Movements during the period	131,981	11,573	(10,901)	3,863	-	136,516
	131,981	11,573	(10,901)	3,863	-	136,516
Total funds	139,124	11,749	(15,901)	4,264	-	139,236

Purpose of restricted fund

The Rosemary Halsted bequest was made to provide income for travel grants to students for research or visits to Iran.