

**THE JOHNSON SOCIETY:
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Charity no: 1200987

**THE JOHNSON SOCIETY:
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

CONTENTS

Legal and Administrative Information	2
Trustees' Report	3
Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 - 10

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status

The organisation is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation set up on 11 November 2022.

Trustees

The trustees are as follows:

Elected until 2025 AGM

Richard Davies

David Leytham

Martha Ross Smith

Elected until 2026 AGM

Marilyn Davies

Rod Hannam

Annette Rubery

Elected until 2027 AGM

David Arthur

Phil Jones (Chairman)

Colin Greateorex

Correspondence address

Richard Davies, 18 Cricket Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 8ER

Bankers

Lloyds TSB plc, Victoria Branch, London

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

Constitution

The Johnson Society is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) operated in accordance with the constitution dated 25 September 2022. It is run in accordance with the guidelines and directives as laid down by the Charity Commissioners.

Trustees

(As set out under the Charities Act 2011)

1. Trustees will all serve for a period of three years, after which they will retire from their role. They may choose to offer themselves for re-election as trustee for up to two further consecutive terms, after which they will step down for a year before seeking to serve again.
2. Three trustees will retire at each AGM, and the meeting will elect three trustees to serve for three years.
3. The trustees' responsibility is for the general control and management of the administration of the charity. They are responsible for the proper and appropriate running of the charity, and for ensuring that it meets its obligations laid out in the terms of its constitution.
4. The trustees will appoint a managing body, the Johnson Council, which will carry out the day-to-day running of the Society. This body will include the trustees and other Society members.

Paid-up members of the Johnson Society are entitled to stand for election as trustee at the AGM.

Aims and objectives of the charity

The Johnson Society has been in existence since 1910 and as a charitable body since 1995. The merging of the original charity with the new CIO was completed on 7 June 2023.

The aims and objectives of the Johnson Society are to advance the education of the public in the life, works and times of Dr Samuel Johnson (1709–1784) by any means the charity trustees see fit, including:

- Encouraging interest in, and study of, the writings, life and times of Samuel Johnson.
- Supporting the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum in the City of Lichfield by helping to maintain and enhance its contents, and by working with the Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee of Lichfield City Council.
- Assisting in preserving physical memorials of Johnson and his contemporaries, including books, manuscripts, artefacts, buildings, statues and Johnson's Willow.
- Participating in annual commemorations of Johnson's birthday.
- Promoting knowledge of eighteenth-century history in general.

Organisational structure and decision making

The trustees meet twice a year to review progress.

The Johnson Council holds three meetings per year. All main decisions affecting the charity are made at these meetings. This includes policy decisions, main spending and strategic planning. The Chairman has the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Urgent matters requiring Council approval outside these times may be communicated to Council Members by email and ratified by a simple majority vote.

The Society treasurer has delegated powers to authorise routine financial transactions.

Risk Management

The risks facing the charity are recognised and actively monitored and the necessary steps are taken to lessen these risks.

Achievements

The CIO was set up in November 2022 and commenced active running of Society business on 1 May 2023 when the new bank account became available.

The principal achievements for the year were as follows:

1. The support for a number of projects with a Johnsonian interest, these being:
 - a. Assistance towards the refurbishment of a maquette of the Johnson statue in Lichfield Market Square held by King Edward VI School Lichfield.
 - b. Assistance towards the restoration of the 'Johnson's head' bust in Bird Street, Lichfield.
 - c. The siting of a blue plaque commemorating Anna Seward.
 - d. Financial support for 'The Portrait', a new play about Johnson.
 - e. The successful propagation of cuttings of the Johnson Willow in the USA (Vassar college).
2. Delivering:
 - a. a series of lectures during the winter months on relevant topics, made available to a wider audience via Zoom;
 - b. the Society's keynote Annual Lecture on 2 March;
 - c. the Johnson Birthday Supper in September, featuring an Address by the Society's new President.
3. Helping Lichfield City Council to develop future plans for the Birthplace Museum and with other heritage projects.
4. Working with Lichfield District Council on the care and propagation of Johnson's Willow.
5. Publishing the Society's annual *Transactions*, including reports of lectures and events, and original articles on Johnson and his age.

Financial review

The income and expenditure for the year and financial position of the charity are as shown in the annexed financial statements.

The Society is still awaiting a final payment from the residue of the legacy which was made to it in 2022. The timing of the receipt and total to be received is uncertain as it involves the sale of property which is subject to a life interest.

None of the Society's funds is in deficit at the end of the financial year.

Reserves policy

The trustees take an active and realistic approach to the management of our reserves, which accords with the regulatory frameworks in which we work and with good practice as laid down by the Charity Commission. The Society has adopted the following guidelines:

1. *Contingency funds*: to meet unknown contingences and liabilities that may arise at some future date – 10%*
2. *Long-term funds*: to fund specific larger projects, in the medium to longer term, whose timing may not be predictable. The longer-term project currently envisaged, if the opportunity arises, is to assist the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum to expand, by contributing to the cost of acquiring adjacent premises. This would enable the Birthplace to display more of its collections, and to improve its facilities for visitors and researchers alike – 60%
3. *Short/medium-term funds*: to fund ad hoc projects which are likely to arise more frequently than long-term projects, but which will generally be more modest in scope and spend level. As a general principle, the Society would aim to fund such projects in partnership with others, rather than meeting the full cost itself – 30%.

* Irrespective of total funds, contingency funds should not fall below £20k.

Investment policy

Our current account with Lloyds plc is monitored on an ongoing basis. Balances that exceed our immediate cash requirements are placed in an interest-bearing deposit account.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

PW Jones (Chairman)

Date

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE JOHNSON SOCIETY ON
THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024 SET OUT ON PAGES 7 TO 11**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ending 31 December 2024.

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).

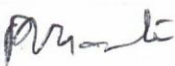
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 10 March 2025

Mr P Martin, Chartered Accountant

11 Church Road, Shenstone,
Lichfield
WS14 0NG

THE JOHNSON SOCIETY
 CHARITY NUMBER 1200987
Statement of Financial Activities
 for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Receipts:					
Receipts from Donors	2	3,111.38	0.00	3,111.38	2,686.57
Receipts from Organised Events	3	2,976.53	435.00	3,411.53	5,029.14
Receipts from Trading & Transactions	4	497.50	0.00	497.50	978.34
Receipts from Investments	5	10,005.58	0.00	10,005.58	9,141.17
Total Receipts		16,590.99	435.00	17,025.99	18,194.08
Payments:					
Donations & Refund of Subscriptions	7	2,775.00	0.00	2,775.00	16,410.00
Cost of Organised events	8	4,239.28	0.00	4,239.28	5,103.50
Other Payments	10	1,553.31	0.00	1,553.31	1,503.43
Total Payments		13,545.85	0.00	13,545.85	25,139.21
Net Receipts/(Payments)		3,045.14	435.00	3,480.14	(6,945.13)
Gains / (Losses) on Investments		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Movement in Funds		3,045.14	435.00	3,480.14	(6,945.13)
Balances brought forward at 1st Jan 2024		225,614.45	979.95	226,594.40	233,539.53
Balances Carried Forward at 31st December 2024		228,659.59	1,414.95	230,074.54	226,594.40
Distribution of Funds					
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
The Johnson Society		228,659.59	0.00	228,659.59	225,614.45
Friends of the Birthplace		0.00	339.95	339.95	339.95
Peter Barrett Fund		0.00	1,075.00	1,075.00	640.00
		228,659.59	1,414.95	230,074.54	226,594.40

THE JOHNSON SOCIETY

Balance Sheet

as at 31st December 2024

Assets	2024	2023
Cash held & not banked	35.85	9.35
Current Account	8,134.60	4,722.92
Business Reserve Account	3,564.14	3,522.18
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	218,000.00	218,000.00
Friends of the Birthplace	339.95	339.95
Debtors	0.00	0.00
Gross Assets	230,074.54	226,594.40
Less Creditors	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	230,074.54	226,594.40

The notes form part of these financial statements.

There is an outstanding Gift Aid claim from 2024 totalling £372.59

N.B. The figures for 2023 are a combination of those of the CIO and the previous unincorporated charity.

Approved by the Trustees on 17th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

R. A. Davies, Hon Treasurer.

THE JOHNSON SOCIETY

Notes to Accounts

Note 1 - Receipts from Donors	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Annual Subscriptions	3,101.38	0.00	3,101.38	2,636.57
Donations	10.00	0.00	10.00	50.00
Legacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Friends of the Birthplace	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>3,111.38</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,111.38</u>	<u>2,686.57</u>

Note 2 - Receipts from Organised Events	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
AGM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lecture & Chair Ceremony	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00
Annual Supper	2,819.41	0.00	2,819.41	3,971.80
Birthday Celebrations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lecture Series	157.12	0.00	157.12	425.34
Peter Barrett Fund	0.00	435.00	435.00	590.00
Outings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>2,976.53</u>	<u>435.00</u>	<u>3,411.53</u>	<u>5,029.14</u>

Note 3 - Receipts from Trading & Transactions	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Booklets & Leaflets	0.00	0.00	0.00	196.49
Transactions	442.50	0.00	442.50	414.21
Other Merchandise	55.00	0.00	55.00	367.64
	<u>497.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>497.50</u>	<u>978.34</u>

Note 4 - Receipts from Investments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Interest Received	10,005.58	0.00	10,005.58	9,141.17
	<u>10,005.58</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,005.58</u>	<u>9,141.17</u>

Note 5 - Other Receipts	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Gift Aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	358.85
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>358.86</u>

Note 6 - Donations & Refund of Subscriptions	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Annual Subscriptions	185.00	0.00	185.00	0.00
Donations	2,590.00	0.00	2,590.00	16,410.00
Friends of the Birthplace	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>2,775.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,775.00</u>	<u>16,410.00</u>

THE JOHNSON SOCIETY

Notes to Accounts

Note 7 - Cost of Organised events

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
AGM	68.87	0.00	68.87	65.59
Lecture & Chair Ceremony	431.90	0.00	431.90	443.66
Annual Supper	3,284.96	0.00	3,284.96	3,725.90
Birthday Celebrations	273.65	0.00	273.65	451.55
Peter Barrett Lecture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lecture Series	179.90	0.00	179.90	416.80
Outings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>4,239.28</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,239.28</u>	<u>5,103.50</u>

Note 8 - Cost of Trading & Transactions

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Booklets & Leaflets	95.00		95.00	0.00
Transactions	4,883.26		4,883.26	1,827.00
Other Merchandise	0.00		0.00	295.28
	<u>4,978.26</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,978.26</u>	<u>2,122.28</u>

Note 9 - Other Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Alliance of Literary Societies Subscription	20.00	0.00	20.00	20.00
BALH Subscription	75.00	0.00	75.00	150.00
Insurance	71.27	0.00	71.27	68.26
Presidents Medallions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Presidents Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Printing & Stationery	22.49	0.00	22.49	91.13
Postage	1,089.90	0.00	1,089.90	904.55
Web Site	189.65	0.00	189.65	145.83
Zoom Expenses	80.00	0.00	80.00	70.00
Miscellaneous	5.00	0.00	5.00	53.66
	<u>1,553.31</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,553.31</u>	<u>1,503.43</u>