



TRUSTEES & ACTIVITIES REPORT 2025

Plymouth Athenaeum

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PLYMOUTH
ATHENÆUM
FOUNDED 1812

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OUR MISSION

Research, study and discussion

Promote the cultivation of useful knowledge, to encourage habits of research, and to afford opportunities to persons of various pursuits to study and discuss with each other any scientific, literary or artistic subject.

Meetings, lectures and dissemination of information

Hold, conduct or promote meetings, conferences, lectures, exhibitions or training courses and to disseminate information to publicise the work of the Charity and other organisations operating in similar fields, and to disseminate cultural, artistic and scientific knowledge.

Writing, printing, filming

Cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, periodicals, journals, magazines, books, leaflets or other documents, films, recorded tapes or materials reproduced on electronic media.

“Promote the cultivation of useful knowledge, to encourage habits of research, and to afford opportunities to persons of various pursuits to study and discuss with each other any scientific, literary or artistic subject.”

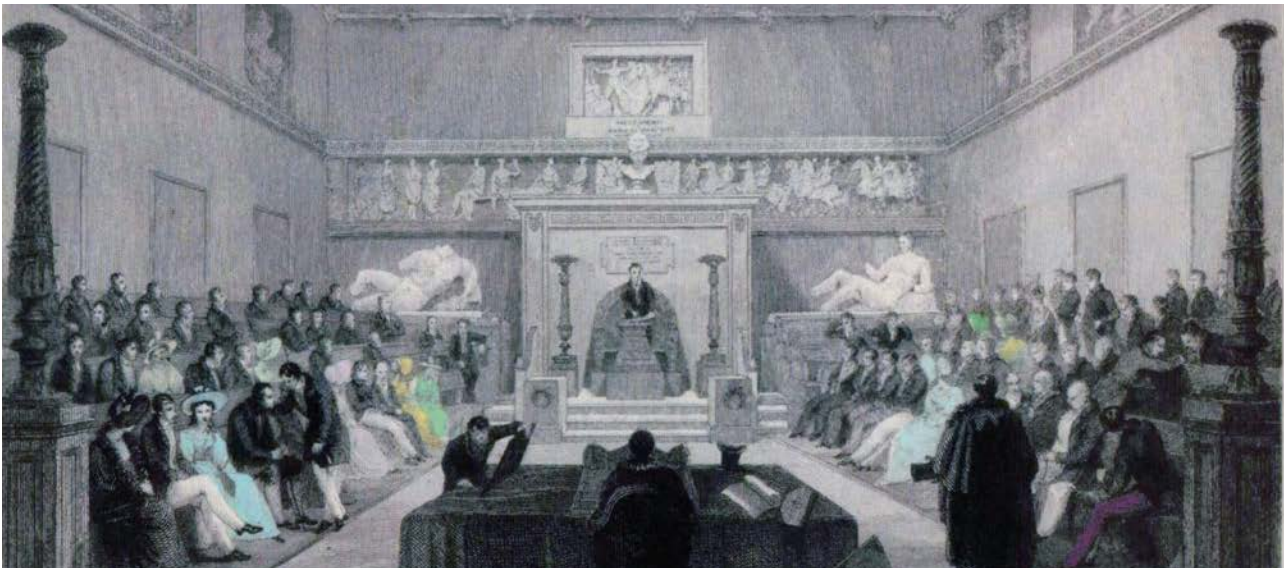
Libraries, activities and research

Form and carry on libraries, collections and museums and to present displays and exhibitions. Form and carry on sections of the Charity devoted to particular branches of literature and the arts, science and technology. Promote or carry out research and disseminate and exchange the results of it.

OUR HISTORY

Foundation

The Society was founded in October 1812 as the Plymouth Institution. Architect and founding member, John Foulston, designed the building that would become the permanent home of the Society. 'The Athenaeum' had a classical Greek-style facade and opened in February 1819. The Institution strengthened through mergers with the Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society (1851) and the Plymouth Mechanics' Institute (1899).



The Blitz

Foulston's original 'Athenaeum' was a victim of the Luftwaffe during World War Two. It was destroyed during the Blitz on the night of 21-22 April 1941. The damage resulted in the loss of the Institution's library, art and museum collections. A 'homeless' period of 20 years followed with the Institution basing itself at 13 Alexandra Road, Mutley, and holding meetings and lectures in venues including the city museum.

From the Ashes

The Institution was renamed the Plymouth Athenaeum when it moved into its present building in June 1961. It is located on almost the exact location of Foulston's pre-Blitz original.

The Library

Before the Blitz, our library housed more than 10,000 volumes. The library was restored as part of the rebuilt Athenaeum in 1961.

BUILDING NEWS

Activating the Athenaeum

During 2024/25 we concluded the Plymouth Octopus Project (POP) funded *Activating the Athenaeum* feasibility study with WonderZoo Arts and Plymouth South Enterprise Network. Work undertaken during the study has contributed to developing our strategy to create a viable future for the sustainable operation of the Athenaeum building.



High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

During 2024/25 we completed façade improvements works to the Plymouth Athenaeum building. The works were part funded by the award of a grant, facilitated by Plymouth City Council, of £86,194 from Historic England.

The HSHAZ works included:

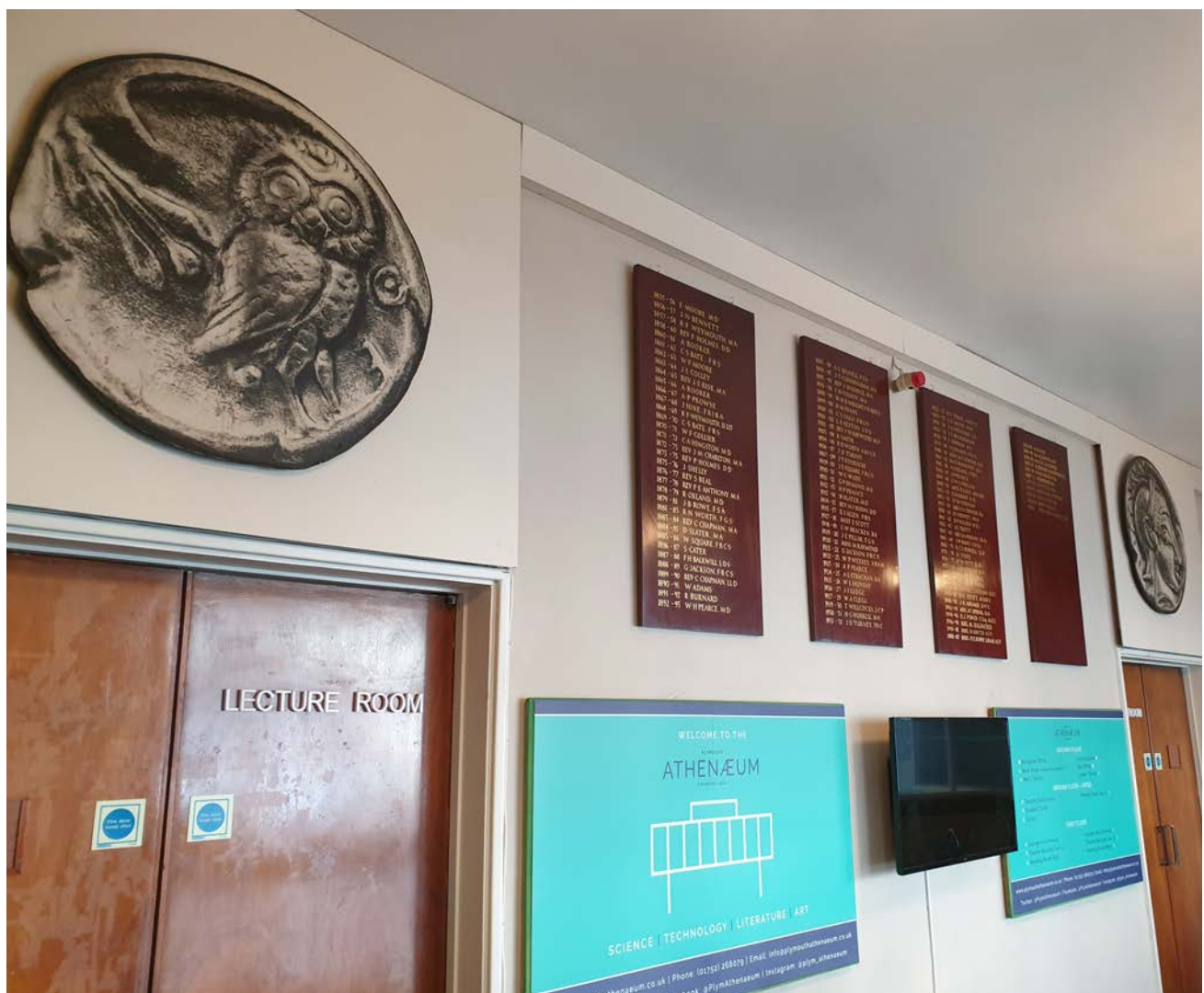
- repair and repainting window glazing and steel frames
- repair and specialist cleaning of concrete wall cladding and brickwork
- repair of concrete columns and plinths
- repair of roof parapets and edging
- repair and update original external lighting and signage.

The Plymouth HSHAZ programme - 'reinvigorating the Abercrombie Estate' - was a four-year programme celebrating, enhancing and adapting the city centre's post-war heritage and making it a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time.

Managed by Plymouth City Council and Plymouth Culture, with support from The Box and Plymouth Octopus Project, the scheme was part of a £95 million government-funded programme delivered by Historic England to unlock the potential of 60 different high streets across the country.

Honours on display

In early 2025, the Society's honours boards were relocated from the Upper to the Lower Foyer to improve their visibility for visitors to the building. The boards list the Society's Presidents since 1812 and Honorary Life Members since 1961.



Building management

The Board would like to thank the Building & Maintenance and Health & Safety teams for their ongoing work to make the ensure that the spaces open within and outside the Athenaeum, including car parks, are fit for members and building users.

The team - Roy Hexter, Ian Manning, David Ryles and Owen Ryles - undertake important maintenance, repair and health & safety work inside and outside the building, saving the Society tens of thousands of pounds every year. Without them, the Society simply could not function.

Members' Update Events

During the year we held two members' update events in July and December 2024. At the December event, we shared our new *Strategic Review* with members attending. The events provided members with an opportunity to find out more about our progress to fully reopen the Athenaeum building and how we will start rebranding the activities of the Society during 2025/26.

Friends Network

At the end of the year, we set up a 'Friends of the Athenaeum' membership scheme. Its aim was to draw community support for the building through volunteering, raising awareness of its place in the community, promoting its activities and fundraising. The Trustees believed establishing a thriving community network of 'Friends' supporters could support the Society's aim of making the building alive and flourishing as an arts, culture and learning hub in the heart of Plymouth.

Social Investment

During the year we began to hold detailed discussions with a group of local social investors keen to support and facilitate the refurbishment, full re-opening and operation of the Athenaeum building. We hope to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion during 2025/26.

MANAGEMENT

Trustees, committees and positions

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr W. Telford (Chair)

Mr R. Hexter

Mr I. Manning

Mrs M. Tully

Met: 4 times

Mr J. Hutchins (Vice-Chair)

Dr P. Holden

Mrs J. Pengilley

COMPANY SECRETARY

Mr O. Ryles

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr O. Ryles (Chair)

Mr I. Manning

Met: 13 times

Mr R. Hexter

Mrs M. Tully

PRESIDENT

Prof Sir Ghilleen Prance FRS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr D. Ryles and Mrs E. Willey

Staff and volunteers

The Board of Trustees would like to put on record its great thanks to Owen Ryles for his ongoing work in the management and operation of the Society.

The Trustees thank the Society's volunteers who helped to undertake catering, library, activities and cleaning duties.

Financial Report

A full report - *Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements* - is sent separately.

Membership

There were 65 Full members, 5 Life members, 1 Family member (Under-16) and 1 Junior member (16-18) at 31 March 2025.

Statement of public benefit

During the year 2024/25, the Society organised a programme of in-person and online events, activities, and publications that helped it to fulfil its charitable aims of promoting learning in the fields of science, technology, literature and art.

Outside our regular programme of members' activities, we also offered free public entry to lectures and talks during the year and provided contemporary and archival digital material and lectures and talks on our website and through YouTube and Soundcloud.

We also collaborated with or provided facilities for individuals and organisations within the Athenaeum building to engage in learning in the arts and sciences.

“the Society organised a programme of in-person and online events, activities, and publications that helped it to fulfil its charitable aims”

ACTIVITIES

Art Group

The Art Group members continue to maintain their cheerful meetings and have even attracted a couple of new members. Our attendances vary with the season and personal engagements but are usually well into double figures.

The Spring Project “Plymouth” allowed us to paint the town, so naturally the next topic could only be “Red”! This dominant colour featured in paintings of robins, squirrels, letter boxes and red wine.

The Autumn project, “Amazon”, was designed to complement an upcoming lecture by incoming President, Prof Sir Ghilleen Prance, who joined in our critique. Pictures of colourful flora and fauna were accompanied by scenes of deforestation and culture contact with indigenous tribes.

In contrast to the Equatorial climate, our Winter project was “SNOW ‘N ICE”, where the challenge was to paint white. Winter landscapes and sports vied with animals in white coats.

In Spring we all became as Shakespeare said “rude mechanicals” in preparing an exhibition to join in the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Plymouth Mechanics’ Institute (more on this in next year’s report).

Finally, the group sends it thanks to Joy, Monica, Roy and Owen for keeping the teas and coffees going!

Wilf Harrison

Astronomy Group

The Astronomy Group explored a range of subjects during the year. In May it discussed ‘Recent Events in Astronomy’. The group discovered more about exoplanets, a solar eclipse over the U.S. and northern Europe, a comet over Normandy and the latest Artemis and James Webb telescope news.

In July, the Group focused on the exploration of Mars, from orbital satellites to surface rovers to a manned landing. The theme for its September session was *All about the Sun* – how it was formed, how it works and how long it will last.

Comet c/2023 A3 was the subject for the Group's November session. The session covered Comet c/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) and other things you may have missed recently. 'The Weird & Wonderful Athenaeum Christmas Astronomy Quiz' rounded off 2024 with questions that tested cosmic knowledge, memory and powers of recall.

Documentary Zone

The Group presented a screening and discussion of the Netflix documentary *Our Great National Parks: Chilean Patagonia* in November. Narrated by President Barack Obama, the documentary revealed how the magnificent Chilean Patagonia is rapidly becoming one of the most protected places on the planet.

Lectures

Our first spring lecture of 2024 saw Prof Karl Cordell discusses *Poland and Ukraine: An unlikely alliance*. The two countries have a long, shared history - some parts of western Ukraine, such as Lviv, formed part of the Polish state for several centuries and parts of eastern Poland once had large native Ukrainian populations.

Dr Harry Bennett then lectured on the operation *Exercise Tiger* tragedy of 28 April 1944 when German motor torpedo-boats attacked a convoy of American tank landing ships in Lyme Bay during a practice invasion exercise (*Exercise Tiger*) for the landings on Utah Beach. Two vessels of convoy T4 were sunk and a third badly damaged. The official death toll was put at 749 US Navy soldiers and US Army sailors.

Maintaining the Second World War theme, *The business of D-Day: Cashing in on Operation Overlord*, told the story of how the Normandy landings has become a multi-billion dollar industry 80 years on from D-Day. Held on the 80th anniversary of the landings, Owen Ryles revealed how Operation Overlord has become a global money-maker, reaping returns in billions of dollars from battlefield and remembrance tourism, to merchandise, films and video games.

The Autumn series began with the President's Address - *A Summer Stroll Around the Barbican*. Eileen Willey provided an illustrated talk and a gentle pictorial journey around Plymouth's historic Barbican.

Prof Sir Ghilleen Prance then discussed the irreplaceable Amazon rainforest and the impact of man's intrusion into it in *The survival of the Amazon rainforest is under threat*. Prof Prance is a botanist and has travelled and researched extensively in South America,

with a focus on sustainability and management of the environment. He has carried out extensive fieldwork, principally in the Amazon rainforest, where he lived with many Amazonian tribes and identified more than 350 new species of plant.



In November, Bryan Short lectured on Cleopatra, Queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt from 51 to 30 BCE. The lecture revealed what we know of her life and illuminated aspects of her character and appearance that may provide a better understanding of what it was that enabled her to captivate the two most powerful men of her time and, what events led to her downfall and untimely death.

The Autumn series concludes with Dr Sandra Barkhof's lecture on the wave of Germanophobia that swept across Britain during the First World War. During World War One, Britain was gripped with Germanophobia, with both the government and the press playing central roles. Germanophobia impacted the German community living in the UK and resulted in a change of name for the British Royal Family.

In the spring, Dr Patrick Holden looked at *The end of the 'Liberal International Order': implications for Europe*. Dr Holden discussed the impact of the decline of liberalism in

international affairs (in particular the rise of Donald Trump) on European states and institutions.

Literature Group

The year began with the Group sharing their favourite non-fiction works in April. The following month they delved into the *Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling. Published in 1902, it is among Kipling's best-known works.

In June the Group looked at the poetry of World War II. Less well known than the First World War poets, soldiers, conscientious objectors, civilians, editors, and journalists all published poetry during the Second World War. Play reading was back on the agenda in July with *Augustus Does His Bit: A True-to-Life Farce*, by George Bernard Shaw. *Augustus Does His Bit* is a comic one-act play about a dim-witted aristocrat who is outwitted by a female spy during World War I.

The Voyage of the Beagle by Charles Darwin was the subject of the Group's September session. The book is a vivid travel memoir as well as a detailed scientific field journal covering biology, geology, and anthropology from Darwin's Beagle voyage between 1831 and 1836. Darwin, who made a number of visits to the original Athenaeum building preparing for the voyage, sailed from Plymouth in December 1831.

In October, the Group's play-reading session focused on *The Last Straw*, a one-act play by Bosworth Crocker. *The Last Straw* is a one-act tragedy, based upon the psychological law of suggestion. The following month, the Group gave members a chance to share and discuss the poems of Dylan Thomas. Born in Swansea, Wales, in 1914, Dylan Thomas is famous for his acutely lyrical and emotional poetry, as well as his turbulent personal life.

Christmas stories was the festive theme for the Group's final session of 2024 in December, while 2025 kicked off with members sharing their favourite nature or wildlife books in January.

Limericks was the theme for the Group's final session of 2024/25. A limerick, which was popularised by Edward Lear, is a humorous form of verse that appeared in County Limerick in the early years of the 18th century.

Photographic Group

During the year, the Group presented a monthly showcase of members' work. The themes included reflections, industry, summer, sport and leisure, cityscapes, landscapes and nature.

Science & Technology Forum

The Science & Technology Forum met once, in November, to put the life and work of 19th century natural historian, Charles Spence Bate under the microscope. Correspondent of Charles Darwin, leading authority on Crustacea and one of the country's foremost dentists, Spence Bate was a Fellow of the Royal Society and the Linnean Society and President of the British Dental Association and the Odontological Society - the first from outside the capital. He also served as President of both the Devonshire Association and the Plymouth Athenaeum.

Talks

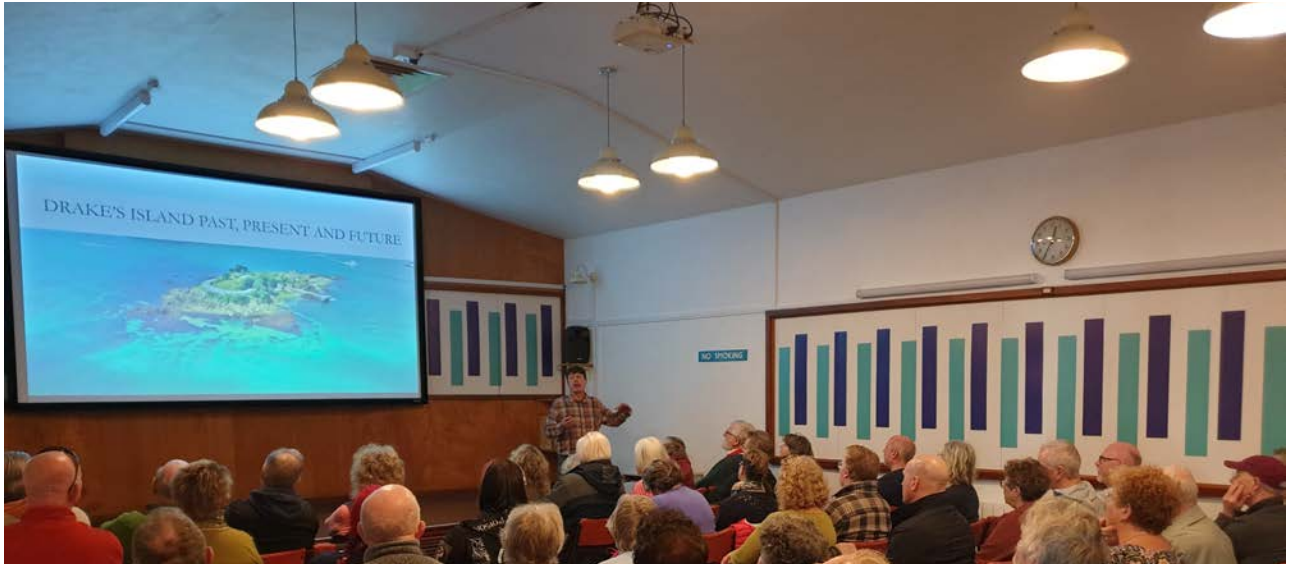
A full programme of in-person lunchtime talks took place for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic during 2024/25. The first talk in the autumn series focused on the film *Dartmoor: The Source of Many Rivers*. The film, which was preceded by a short talk from Eileen Willey, was made and narrated by Brian Maddock, who was a walks guide for Dartmoor National Park Authority for more than 30 years.

This was followed by *An inconvenient truth: Richard Owen, dinosaurs and Plymouth*. In it Owen Ryles investigated Plymouth's long - and falsely - laid claim to be the venue for the naming of dinosaurs. Join us as we try to separate fact from fiction in the city's assertion that it be credited as the birthplace of these 'terrible reptiles'.

In *Future Saltram: Investing in heritage, nature and wellbeing in Plymouth*, Cat Richards discussed the *Future Saltram* project and how the house and estate can continue to play a pivotal role in supporting health, well-being, and education in Plymouth as the historic estate grows.

The autumn series concluded when Prof Sir Ghilleen Prance discussed the horticulture, science and education at the heart of the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Founded in 1840, the Gardens house the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world. Prof Prance, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society and past President of the Linnean Society, was Director of the Gardens from 1988-99.

The Spring series saw Robert King discussing the *Past, present and future of Drake's Island*. With a background as a 22-year veteran in the Royal Engineers, Robert spent more than a decade as a dive instructor running marine conservation sites for UK NGOs around the world. In 2017 he became the Warden of Drake's Island for the then owners. Part of the remit was to research the history of the island.



The city's wildlife was in the spotlight as Eileen Willey shared her experience of *Recent encounters of a natural kind in Plymouth* and *Spies, spas and science: Devon & Cornwall Natural History Society 1838-51* was the topic for the third of our Spring talks series. Owen Ryles revealed the story of Darwin, dukes and discovery at the Devon & Cornwall Natural History Society, one of the three organisations that merged in the 19th century to form the current Plymouth Athenaeum.

Members were also able to attend for free a series of talks at the Athenaeum provided by the Devonshire Association during the year.

Writers' Group

In May, the Group began holding its twice-monthly *Write on the Night* sessions. Participants were given a prompt - such as a photograph or quote - and a set time in which to write. Participants then shared their work with the rest of the group. In its other online sessions, members had the opportunity to share and receive feedback on work they had produced. The Group also regularly held monthly in-person sessions.

Plymouth Athenaeum

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Derry's Cross,
Plymouth, PL1 2SW

PLYMOUTH
ATHENÆUM
FOUNDED 1812

Charity registration number 216963

Company registration number 00019639 (England and Wales)

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr R B K Hexter Dr P G Holden Mr J N Hutchins Mr I Manning Mrs J Pengilley Mr W Telford Mrs M Tully
Secretary	Mr O D Ryles
Charity number	216963
Company number	019639
Principal address	22 Derry's Cross Plymouth PL1 2SW
Registered office	22 Derry's Cross Plymouth PL1 2SW
Independent examiner	One Plus One Accountants 34/36 Fore Street Bovey Tracey Devon TQ13 9AE

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

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THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 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 charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 company is a charity and its objects are that of the study and promotion of the fine arts, literature, science and technology. The company achieves its objectives by holding meetings and lectures on subjects within its constitution and the provision of a library.

Achievements and performance

This association has published its Proceedings continually from its foundation in 1812. The latest set of proceedings was published in 2014 and work is in hand towards producing our next set of Proceedings. A programme of activities, including talks and discussion groups, took place at the Athenaeum building and online during the year with arts and science themes. The year's lecture programme took place at Plymouth Athenaeum and online.

Financial review

In accordance with the trust deed, the directors have the power to invest in stock, shares and investments in which they see fit. The policy is to adopt an investment strategy to build value to the portfolio with a medium degree of risk. The investment yielded a return of £4,964 (2024: £4,542)

Structure, governance and management

The Plymouth Athenaeum is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 April 1884 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 21 December 1961, 29 June 2009, 20 August 2018 and 4 December 2023

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

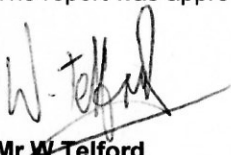
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr R B K Hexter
Dr P G Holden
Mr J N Hutchins
Mr I Manning
Mrs J Pengilley
Mr W Telford
Mrs M Tully

The report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Mr W Telford

Dated: 16/10/25

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Plymouth Athenaeum (charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

One Plus One Accountants.

One Plus One Accountants

34/36 Fore Street
Bovey Tracey
Devon
TQ13 9AE

Dated:.....*30/10/2025*.....

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	1,510	-	1,510	69,573
Charitable activities	4	22,045	-	22,045	25,771
Investments	5	3,417	1,862	5,279	4,936
Total income		26,972	1,862	28,834	100,280
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	51,386	689	52,075	106,474
Governance cost	9	996	-	996	972
Total resources expended		52,382	689	53,071	107,446
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(1,230)	(739)	(1,969)	12,357
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(26,640)	434	(26,206)	5,191
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		119,301	153,332	272,633	267,442
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		92,661	153,766	246,427	272,633

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investment	11		189,399		188,144
Tangible assets	12		49,777		47,665
			<u>239,176</u>		<u>235,809</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	13	3,681		31,864	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,096		17,524	
			<u>19,777</u>	<u>49,388</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(12,526)		(12,564)	
Net current assets			<u>7,251</u>		<u>36,824</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>246,427</u>		<u>272,633</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			153,766		153,332
Unrestricted funds – general			92,661		119,301
			<u>246,427</u>		<u>272,633</u>


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16/10/25


Mr W Telford
Trustee


Mr O D Ryles
Company secretary

Company Registration No. 019639

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Plymouth Athenaeum is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 22 Derry's Cross, Plymouth, PL1 2SW.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.4 Incoming resources

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the statement of financial activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	Equally over the term of the lease to 2060
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line basis
Computers	25% straight line basis

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of the financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Basic financial assets

2 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.

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations and legacies	1,510	31,989
Government grant	-	37,584
	<u>1,510</u>	<u>69,573</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2025 £	Charitable Income 2024 £
Subscriptions	3,161	3,312
Catering	1,502	2,315
Bar Surplus	(295)	(295)
Rental income	17,677	20,439
Other income	-	-
	<u>22,045</u>	<u>25,771</u>

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from listed investments	3,102	1,862	4,964	4,542
Interest on cash deposits	315	-	315	394
	<u>3,417</u>	<u>1,862</u>	<u>5,279</u>	<u>4,936</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2025				
	<u>3,233</u>	<u>1,703</u>		<u>4,936</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Charitable activities

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Employment cost	-	21,000	21,000	-
Establishment costs	-	18,323	18,323	88,176
Portfolio management costs	1,837	-	1,837	1,733
Legal and professional	-	-	-	4,268
Repairs and maintenance	-	3,781	3,781	6,125
Office expenses	-	1,266	1,266	1,212
Subscription and donations	-	1,054	1,054	1,202
Sundry and other costs	-	63	63	13
Cleaning	-	1,456	1,456	1,197
Bank charges	-	135	135	136
Printing, postage and stationery	-	462	462	355
Activity expenses	-	597	597	526
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	2,101	2,101	1,531
	1,837	50,238	52,075	106,474
	1,837	50,238	52,075	106,474
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds - general	1,148	50,238	51,386	
Restricted funds	689	-	689	
	1,837	50,238	52,075	
For the year ended 31 March 2024				
Unrestricted funds - general	1,083	104,741		105,824
Restricted funds	650	-		650
	1,733	104,741		106,474

7 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was :

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	1	1
Employment costs	2025	2024

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8	Employees	(Continued)			
			£	£	
	Wages and salaries		21,000	-	
9	Governance		2025	2024	
			£	£	
	Independent examiners' fees		996	972	
			996	972	
10	Net gains/(losses) on investments				
		Unrestricted funds general	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
	Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	1,844	1,106	2,950	8,288
	Revaluation of investments	(3,074)	(1,845)	(4,919)	4,069
	For the year ended 31 March 2025	(1,230)	(739)	(1,969)	12,357
	For the year ended 31 March 2024	7,723	4,634		12,357

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Investments held as fixed assets

	Listed Cash Deposits		Total
	Investment		
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	184,678	3,466	188,144
Additions - separately acquired	19,818	20,547	40,365
Disposals	(12,536)	(21,655)	(34,191)
Revaluation	(4,919)	-	(4,919)
At 31 March 2025	187,041	2,358	189,399
Amortisation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	-	-	-
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	187,041	2,358	189,399
At 31 March 2024	184,678	3,466	188,144

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	85,199	79,693	164,892
Additions	-	4,213	4,213
Disposals	-	(21,937)	(21,937)
At 31 March 2025	85,199	61,969	147,168
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	37,799	79,428	117,227
Depreciation charged in the year	1,317	716	2,033
Depreciation on disposal	-	(21,869)	(21,869)
At 31 March 2025	37,799	58,275	97,391
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	46,083	3,694	49,777
At 31 March 2024	47,400	265	47,665

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	2,875	30,951
Prepayments and accrued income	806	913
	<u>3,681</u>	<u>31,864</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		238	-
Deferred income	15	660	106
Trade creditors		-	1,424
Other creditors		-	-
Accruals and deferred income		11,628	11,034
		<u>12,526</u>	<u>12,564</u>

15 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	660	106

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	660	106

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Investments	118,174	71,025	189,399
Tangible assets	49,777	-	49,777
Current assets/(liabilities)	7,251	-	7,251
	<u>175,202</u>	<u>71,025</u>	<u>246,427</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

Charity registration number 216963

Company registration number 00019639 (England and Wales)

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr R B K Hexter Dr P G Holden Mr J N Hutchins Mr I Manning Mrs J Pengilley Mr W Telford Mrs M Tully
Secretary	Mr O D Ryles
Charity number	216963
Company number	019639
Principal address	22 Derry's Cross Plymouth PL1 2SW
Registered office	22 Derry's Cross Plymouth PL1 2SW
Independent examiner	One Plus One Accountants 34/36 Fore Street Bovey Tracey Devon TQ13 9AE

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

CONTENTS

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Trustees' Report	1 - 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the financial statements	6 - 13

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 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 charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 company is a charity and its objects are that of the study and promotion of the fine arts, literature, science and technology. The company achieves its objectives by holding meetings and lectures on subjects within its constitution and the provision of a library.

Achievements and performance

This association has published its Proceedings continually from its foundation in 1812. The latest set of proceedings was published in 2014 and work is in hand towards producing our next set of Proceedings. A programme of activities, including talks and discussion groups, took place at the Athenaeum building and online during the year with arts and science themes. The year's lecture programme took place at Plymouth Athenaeum and online.

Financial review

In accordance with the trust deed, the directors have the power to invest in stock, shares and investments in which they see fit. The policy is to adopt an investment strategy to build value to the portfolio with a medium degree of risk. The investment yielded a return of £4,964 (2024: £4,542)

Structure, governance and management

The Plymouth Athenaeum is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 1 April 1884 as amended by Special Resolutions dated 21 December 1961, 29 June 2009, 20 August 2018 and 4 December 2023

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

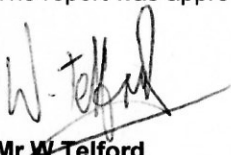
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr R B K Hexter
Dr P G Holden
Mr J N Hutchins
Mr I Manning
Mrs J Pengilley
Mr W Telford
Mrs M Tully

The report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Mr W Telford

Dated: 16/10/25

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Plymouth Athenaeum (charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

One Plus One Accountants.

One Plus One Accountants

34/36 Fore Street
Bovey Tracey
Devon
TQ13 9AE

Dated:.....*30/10/2025*.....

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	1,510	-	1,510	69,573
Charitable activities	4	22,045	-	22,045	25,771
Investments	5	3,417	1,862	5,279	4,936
Total income		26,972	1,862	28,834	100,280
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	51,386	689	52,075	106,474
Governance cost	9	996	-	996	972
Total resources expended		52,382	689	53,071	107,446
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(1,230)	(739)	(1,969)	12,357
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(26,640)	434	(26,206)	5,191
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		119,301	153,332	272,633	267,442
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		92,661	153,766	246,427	272,633

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

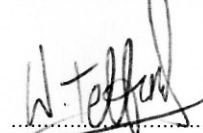
	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investment	11		189,399		188,144
Tangible assets	12		49,777		47,665
			<u>239,176</u>		<u>235,809</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	13	3,681		31,864	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,096		17,524	
			<u>19,777</u>	<u>49,388</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(12,526)		(12,564)	
Net current assets			<u>7,251</u>		<u>36,824</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>246,427</u>		<u>272,633</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			153,766		153,332
Unrestricted funds – general			92,661		119,301
			<u>246,427</u>		<u>272,633</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16/10/25


Mr W Telford
Trustee


Mr O D Ryles
Company secretary

Company Registration No. 019639

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Plymouth Athenaeum is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 22 Derry's Cross, Plymouth, PL1 2SW.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.4 Incoming resources

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the statement of financial activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	Equally over the term of the lease to 2060
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line basis
Computers	25% straight line basis

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of the financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Basic financial assets

2 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.

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
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Government grant	-	37,584
	<u>1,510</u>	<u>69,573</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Rental income	17,677	20,439
Other income	-	-
	<u>22,045</u>	<u>25,771</u>

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Interest on cash deposits	315	-	315	394
	<u>3,417</u>	<u>1,862</u>	<u>5,279</u>	<u>4,936</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2025				
	<u>3,233</u>	<u>1,703</u>		<u>4,936</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Charitable activities

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
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Establishment costs	-	18,323	18,323	88,176
Portfolio management costs	1,837	-	1,837	1,733
Legal and professional	-	-	-	4,268
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Office expenses	-	1,266	1,266	1,212
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Restricted funds	689	-	689	
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Unrestricted funds - general	1,083	104,741		105,824
Restricted funds	650	-		650
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7 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was :

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	1	1
Employment costs	2025	2024

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Employees

(Continued)

	£	£
Wages and salaries	21,000	-

9 Governance

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiners' fees	996	972
	996	972

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	1,844	1,106	2,950	8,288
Revaluation of investments	(3,074)	(1,845)	(4,919)	4,069
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For the year ended 31 March 2024	7,723	4,634		12,357

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Investments held as fixed assets

	Listed Cash Deposits		Total
	Investment		
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	184,678	3,466	188,144
Additions - separately acquired	19,818	20,547	40,365
Disposals	(12,536)	(21,655)	(34,191)
Revaluation	(4,919)	-	(4,919)
At 31 March 2025	187,041	2,358	189,399
Amortisation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	-	-	-
Carrying amount			
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12 Tangible fixed assets

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Disposals	-	(21,937)	(21,937)
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THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
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Prepayments and accrued income	806	913
	<u>3,681</u>	<u>31,864</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		238	-
Deferred income	15	660	106
Trade creditors		-	1,424
Other creditors		-	-
Accruals and deferred income		11,628	11,034
		<u>12,526</u>	<u>12,564</u>

15 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	660	106

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	660	106

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Investments	118,174	71,025	189,399
Tangible assets	49,777	-	49,777
Current assets/(liabilities)	7,251	-	7,251
	<u>175,202</u>	<u>71,025</u>	<u>246,427</u>

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).