

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JUNE 2024 TO 31 MAY 2025

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 May 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered name: The St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society

Registered charity number: 226912

Principal address:

79 The Park
St Albans
AL1 4RX

Trustees:

John Morewood (President)
Bryan Hanlon (Secretary)
Tony Dolphin (Treasurer)
Christine McDermott
Peter Burley

Independent examiner:

Cathy Phillips FCCA
22 Clarence Road
St Albans
AL1 4NE

Structure, governance and management

The Society is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution, which was adopted by members at the Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2016.

The Society has five Trustees: the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and two others. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually by the Annual General Meeting. The President and the other two Trustees are appointed by the Council from among its members. The Council is also elected annually by the Annual General Meeting.

The Council is responsible for the general management of the affairs of the Society and for organising its various activities.

Objectives and activities

The St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society ("the Society") is established for the following purposes:

1. to promote public interest in, and improve public knowledge of, the architecture, archaeology and history of St Albans and Hertfordshire;
2. to work to secure the protection of monuments, structures or other features of architectural, historical or archaeological interest;
3. to maintain its own library; and
4. to encourage the preservation, and the deposit in suitable collections, of written documents, in any format, and material of historical interest.

In the year ending 31 May 2025, the Society organised a series of 25 lectures. Some were held in person only at Dagnall Street Baptist Church; some were held over Zoom only; and some were held both in person and over Zoom. The lectures covered a wide range of architectural, archaeological and historical topics, with a mix of local, national and international themes.

The Society circulated to its members and posted on its website a quarterly newsletter containing information about the Society and articles about local architecture, archaeology and history. It arranged a number of excursions; and it maintained a library and a website for members and non-members.

The Society led and participated in campaigns to preserve sites and items of historical and architectural interest in St Albans. It was also actively involved in efforts to increase local awareness of the heritage of St Albans.

The trustees believe all these activities were in accordance with the Society's objectives and that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The trustees believe the performance of the Society has been very good. Membership has risen to above 700. Lectures were well attended; and excursions were fully booked. Members say they find the newsletter interesting and informative. The library and website are recognised as important sources of information.

Campaigning to ensure the preservation of local heritage, and to raise awareness of it, can be very frustrating at times. But the Society continues to lobby the local council, publish articles in local newspapers and to work with other interested parties, in particular to highlight local sites of historical and architectural interest that are 'at risk' due to neglect. It also used some of its funds to pay for the design and installation of information panels in the local Museum and Gallery.

Financial review

The Society's income decreased from £31,662 to £27,797 in the year ending 31 May 2025. This was largely because the previous year's figure was inflated by income from a one-off lecture delivered by Professor Michael Wood.

The Society's main source of income is membership subscriptions. Membership fees have been unchanged for several years, but the number of paying members has risen a little in the last year, so income from this source increased to £12,661. Gift Aid of £2,684 was received this year. The Society plays a role in the management of the St Albans Clock Tower and receives a share of the income it generates, which in 2024/25 amounted to £4,500. Other income included £1,976 for excursions, which was partly offset by costs of £1,512.

The Society's expenditure decreased from £27,571 to £23,801 in the year ending 31 May 2025.

The total cost of our extensive programme of lectures, including lecturers' fees and expenses, hall hire and technical support was £5,339. The cost of publishing our newsletter was little changed at £3,632. The cost of our library, including specialist software, book purchases and equipment was £3,285. Other costs that are essential for the running of the Society include payments to IT providers, insurance payments and postage costs. The Society also paid £1,850 for the design and installation of information panels in the Museum and Gallery.

On 31 May 2025, the Society held £53,885 in unrestricted funds, of which £27,295 was designated for particular purposes. The Trustees have reviewed the Society's reserves policy and continue to believe that undesignated funds should not fall below expected annual expenditure. Reserves are currently above this level.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

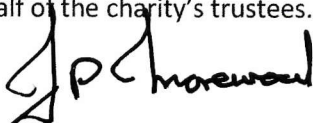
The Society is responsible for the Mayor's History Fund, which can only be used to assist researchers with the costs of research into the history of the St Albans District. St Albans and District Council have passed management of this Fund onto the Society, judging it better placed to assess the merit of applications for funding. The History Fund is ring-fenced within the Society's accounts and an appropriate proportion of interest income is allocated to it. On 31 May 2025, the Society held £3,269 for future awards.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J P Morewood', written over a horizontal line.

John Morewood – President

Date:

23 Sept 2025

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments	2	2,311		2,311	2,157
Debtors	3	237		237	250
Cash at bank					
Lloyds Bank current account		2,275		2,275	1,514
CAF Bank current account		194		194	531
PayPal		244		244	298
CAF Bank Gold account		49,138	3,269	52,406	49,572
		<u>54,399</u>	<u>3,269</u>	<u>57,668</u>	<u>54,323</u>
Liabilities					
Subscriptions received in advance	4	(515)		(515)	(884)
Payments due					(282)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>53,885</u>	<u>3,269</u>	<u>57,153</u>	<u>53,157</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>53,885</u></u>	<u><u>3,269</u></u>	<u><u>57,153</u></u>	<u><u>53,157</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY					
Undesignated funds		26,589		26,589	23,819
Designated funds	5	27,295		27,295	26,146
Restricted funds	6		3,269	3,269	3,192
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>53,885</u></u>	<u><u>3,269</u></u>	<u><u>57,153</u></u>	<u><u>53,157</u></u>

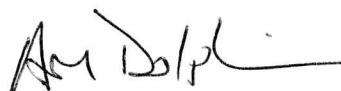
Notes:

1. Totals may differ from the sum of components due to rounding.
2. Prepayments include payments for subscriptions, insurance policies and library systems that extend beyond 31 May 2025.
3. Payment outstanding for publications purchased by St Albans Museum and Gallery.
4. Annual subscriptions to the Society that are received before the start of the relevant year are recorded as liabilities.
5. The Trustees have designated funds to be used for heritage projects in the St Albans District, and separately for the publication of a book on nonconformity in the area.
6. The Society is responsible for managing the Mayor's History Fund. The use of these funds is restricted and they can only be used for research into local history.

Approved by the Trustees of the Society and signed on their behalf.

Date: 23 September 2025

Signed :



Tony Dolphin
Hon Treasurer

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Subscriptions	12,661		12,661	12,074
Gift Aid	2,684		2,684	2,836
Donations: Clock Tower	4,500		4,500	5,000
Donations: Other	1,308		1,308	1,246
Charitable activities				
Lectures	579		579	3,480
Excursions	1,976		1,976	3,384
Publications	692		692	534
Library	647		647	421
Events	970		970	742
HA&H Sales	100		100	49
Sundry income	345		345	723
Investments				
Interest received	1,260	76	1,336	1,174
Total Incoming Resources	27,721	76	27,797	31,662
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Lectures	5,339		5,339	5,457
Excursions	1,512		1,512	2,804
Publications	46		46	1,318
Library	3,285		3,285	4,726
Newsletters	3,632		3,632	3,630
Website	451		451	452
Events	803		803	519
Research groups	154		154	766
St Albans heritage projects	1,881		1,881	
Donations	679		679	1,798
Subscriptions	315		315	314
Insurance	575		575	987
IT providers	1,291		1,291	1,049
New equipment	310		310	1,074
Postage, printing & stationery	2,758		2,758	448
Bank charges	669		669	760
Sundry costs	100		100	1,469
Mayor's History Fund				
Total Resources Expended	23,801		23,801	27,571
NET INCOME RESOURCES	3,920	76	3,996	4,091
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	49,965	3,192	53,157	49,066
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	53,885	3,269	57,153	53,157

Notes:

1. Totals may differ from the sum of components due to rounding.

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(Charity number 226912)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the Charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society (charity number 226912) for the year ended 31st May 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet.

Respective responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

24/9/2025



C Phillips FCCA
22 Clarence Road, St Albans, AL1 4NE