THE BRITISH-ITALIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. 84th Annual General Meeting

The Society held its 84th Annual General Meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 7 October 2024 at The Medical Society of London, Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB. 34 members attended.

The meeting was opened by the President, the Hon Olga Polizzi CBE, Lady Shawcross, and the Chair, Peter Jones CMG.

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved at the meeting and signed by the Chair.

The Chair presented the Annual Report of the Trustees for 2023-24.

The Treasurer presented the Society's Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which had been circulated separately. Further copies were available on request from the Society's Secretary.

The Meeting passed resolutions approving both the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts for 2023-24.

The Meeting approved a resolution reappointing WellTax Limited as independent examiners of the Accounts.

Roberta Faccio, having been co-opted in May 2024, was elected as Trustee for a term of three years.

Carla Passino, having been co-opted in May 2024, was elected as Trustee and Programme Director for a term of three years.

Richard Northern was re-elected as Trustee for a further term of one year.

Luca Marin was re-appointed as Treasurer of the Society until the next AGM.

The Chair noted that three Trustees, Sidney Ross, Eugenio Bosco and Tina Villarosa had come to the ends of their terms of office, and that Sidney Ross and Eugenio Bosco, both former Vice Chairs, had been appointed Honorary Directors of the Society.

2. Membership

At 31 March 2025 (and 31 March 2023 and 2024) the figures for membership of the Society were:

Category	2023	2024	**2025**

Ordinary (including Country*) Members	277	267	244
Life Members	88	87	83
Complimentary**	39	38	25
Student and Under-26	7	6	6
TOTAL	411	398	358

* Country includes overseas members

** Complimentary includes 12 months' membership for recent speakers plus a number of office-holders from partner organisations or institutions.

3. Awards and Grants

The Trustees approved the following new grants during 2024-2025:

a) A grant of £450 to Tricolore Theatre Company for recording the Italian audiobook for the dual language storybook for children *'Un Bambino di Nome Porro'***.**
b) A grant of £800 to Operative Productions community interest company for translating into English the original libretto of the newly composed opera '*Aqua Tofana'* to be performed in London.
c) A grant of £1,500 to the Ashmolean Museum's fund to acquire *Fra Angelico's Crucifixion* painting.
d) A grant of £500 to the Festival della Musica Italiana a Londra in connection with a *concert in celebration of Puccini's centenary***.**
e) A grant of £500 to Margherita Torretta for an event at the Italian Cultural Institute on the life and works of *Elisabetta de Gambarini*.
f) A grant of £500 to Peggy Nolan for a recording of *Boccherini String Quartets*.
g) A grant of £300 to Anna Oggero for her project '*Where's Home?'*, celebrating Italian heritage in the UK and beyond.
h) A grant of £500 to Elena Spagnuolo for her bilingual podcast about the *Treni della Felicità*.

The 2024 biennial **British-Italian Society Student Prizes** were presented at the Society for Italian Studies' Annual General Meeting in London on 31 January 2025:

a) An award of £500 to George Brocklehurst (Warburg Institute, University of London), winner of the Postgraduate prize.
b) An award of £200 to George Rayson (University of Cambridge), runner-up for the Postgraduate prize.
c) An award of £250 to Eleanor Summers (University of St Andrews), winner of the Undergraduate prize.

d) An award of £100 to Isabel Winter (University of Cambridge), runner-up for the Undergraduate prize.

The total committed in grants, awards and prizes in 2024-25 amounted to £6,100.

4. Rivista

The Society published the latest edition of its annual magazine *Rivista* in March 2025.

We are very grateful to the Editor, Mrs Philippa Leslie, who again put together an excellent edition. Digital versions of this and previous editions can be found on the Society's website. Hard copies of the magazine can be obtained from the Secretary.

We invite members who would like to contribute material or to place an advertisement in the next edition, which will appear in early 2026, to contact the Editor or the Events and Communications Officer.

5. Events

The Society continues to offer a varied programme, including both live meetings in the London area and some virtual lectures. The online events enable us to offer access to our country and overseas members and to take advantage of expert lecturers who may be based outside the UK.

We organised the following lectures and events during the 2024-25 financial year:

April – *From Galileo to Modern Astronomy*, a talk by Dr Roberto Maiolino.

May – BIS Summer Drinks Reception with Guest of Honour Professor Michael Mainelli, the Lord Mayor of London, kindly hosted by the Society's President, the Hon Olga Polizzi, Lady Shawcross.

May – *Fede Galizia: a Still-Life Pioneer in Counter-Reformation Milan*, a talk by Lara Veroner.

June – a tour of the Gucci store, Bond Street.

July – **Charles de Chassiron Memorial Lecture** - *Women in the Arts of Byzantium*, a talk by Dr Andrea Mattielo.

September – *The Madrigal Reimagined*, a launch concert illuminated by contemporary readings by the Monteverdi String Band.

October – *A Man of Honour: Leonardo Sciascia and His Battles Against the Mafia*, a talk by Caroline Moorehead.

November – **Leconfield Lecture** – *Two Faces of the Post-War Italian Film Industry: Dino de Laurentis and Suso Cecchi d'Amico*, a talk by Professor Stephen Gundle.

December – Christmas dinner for BIS members and guests.

January – *The Jews, the Medici and the Ghetto of Florence*, a talk on Zoom by Dr Piergabriele Mancuso.

February – *Venice and the Sea in Art and Culture*, a talk by Professor Emerita Deborah Howard, in a joint event with the Venice in Peril Fund.

March – *Art, Passion and Power: Italian Treasures of the Royal Collection*, a talk by Dr Michael Hall.

6. The Leconfield Lecture

Stephen Gundle, Professor of Film and Television Studies at the University of Warwick, delivered the annual Leconfield Lecture, the main event in the Society's calendar, at the Italian Cultural Institute in November 2024. Professor Gundle gave us an entertaining and informative presentation on two leading figures of the post-war Italian film scene: producer Dino de Laurentis and screenwriter Suso Cecchi d'Amico. Professor Gundle explored their respective backgrounds, ways of operating and most significant achievements, including a string of classics from both the Italian film scene and Hollywood.

7. Acknowledgements

We would like to record our thanks to our Patron, His Excellency Inigo Lambertini, the Italian Ambassador, for his staunch support throughout the year. We would like to thank Dr Francesco Bongarrà, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, for his and his team's continued support and collaboration.

We thank our President for her continued wise guidance and generous hospitality.

We thank all our speakers, who have given the Society such diverse, interesting and stimulating lectures and talks throughout the year.

We thank all our Trustees, especially those whose terms of office were completed this year, for their service in guiding and managing the Society.

The Trustees are also extremely grateful to Rhuna Barduagni, Events and Communications Officer, for her continued excellent service to the Society and its members throughout the year.

As ever, we thank our members for continuing to support and contribute to the Society's programme and activities.

The website address for the Society is www.british-italian.org. The email address for enquiries about membership and events is rhuna@british-italian.org (tel: 020 3974 1015).

THE BRITISH-ITALIAN SOCIETY

IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE KIND PEOPLE WHO HAVE REMEMBERED THE SOCIETY IN THEIR WILL

If you would like to leave a legacy to the Society, just ask your solicitor to add the appropriate clause stating the Society's name and Charity number: ***253386***

August 2025

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity No. 253386

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2	Trustees Report
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4	Receipts and Payments
5	Statement of Assets and Liabilities

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

The Society was founded in 1941 and operates under its constitution and rules adopted 10 July 1967 as amended 25 July 1979, 30 June 2009 and 9 June 2010, in order to increase the knowledge and understanding in the United Kingdom of Italian culture in its widest sense, in terms of history, institutions, way of life, language and contribution to civilisation. The Charity Registration Number is 253386.

PATRON	HE The Italian Ambassador Inigo Lambertini
PRESIDENT	The Hon Mrs Olga Polizzi CBE
HONORARY DIRECTORS	Mrs Susan Kikoler Miss Sidney Ross Mr Eugenio Bosco
OFFICERS	
Chair:	Mr Peter Jones
Treasurer:	Mr Luca Marin
TRUSTEES	Mr Peter Jones Mr Richard Northern Mrs Silvia Pieretti Malim Prof Jane Everson Ms Caroline Moorehead Mr Luca Marin Ms Roberta Faccio Mr Jon Wareing Mr Jonny Malim Ms Francesca Barra Ms Carla Passino
Events and Communications Officer:	Ms Rhuna Barduagni
ADVISERS	
Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc London Corporate Banking
Independent Examiner:	WellTax Limited 24 Fitzroy Square London W1T 6EP
PRINCIPAL OFFICE:	86-90 Paul Street London EC2A 4NE

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires the Trustees of the Society to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year. In addition, the Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the Society are:

- To increase knowledge and understanding in the United Kingdom of all aspects of Italian culture and of the Italian way of life, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Italian history, literature, art, music, politics, business, commerce, and the Italian language.
- To disseminate knowledge in those fields by means, inter alia, of lectures, publications, exhibitions, readings, concerts and the like.
- To encourage and to work with other individuals and organisations with similar objectives, in particular by awarding of academic or other prizes in the field of Italian studies broadly construed.
- Where possible and practical, to assist communities in need, whether by reasons of flood, earthquake, or other calamities whatsoever and whether in the United Kingdom or Italy.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are recruited from members of the charity and are elected by the membership at an Annual General Meeting. They serve for a term of up to 3 years. They are eligible to seek re-election when their term expires, but are expected to stand down when they have served for a maximum of nine consecutive years.

Activities during the year

The Society ran a full programme of lectures and events during the year, and funded several charitable donations, in addition to publishing the annual Rivista magazine.

The Society's Policies

Policy on Income Reserves

The Society's running costs usually produce an annual deficit, which is covered by reserves built up through fund-raising events, and by legacies left to the Society. It is the Society's policy to preserve these legacies as intact as possible.

Policy on Selection of Investments

The Society aims to maintain the investments which formed the greater part of the legacies bequested as a broadly-based portfolio of high-yielding blue-chip equities.

Policy on Grant Recipients

The Society donates funds in accordance with its stated aims, namely:

1. To increase knowledge and understanding in the United Kingdom of Italy in all its aspects, for example by giving prizes to graduates and undergraduates for essays which raise the profile of Italian studies at British and Irish universities.
2. To assist organisations or persons in need of support for worthwhile cultural initiatives, or in need of help following major natural disasters or other calamities in Great Britain or Italy, by donating funds for relief or recovery.

Peter Jones

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Trustee

Date: 01/10/2025

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of the British Italian Society (Charity no. 253386) for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



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WellTax Limited
24 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6EP

Date: 01/10/2025

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds (General)	Unrestricted Funds (Legacies)	Total funds	Last Year
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions	8,482	--	8,482	9,360
Activities	11,484	--	11,484	6,428
Rivista advertising	650	--	650	1,425
Donations received	1,092	--	1,092	1,775
Gift aid	1,594	--	1,594	1,817
COIF fixed interest fund	14	--	14	814
JM Finn dividends & interests	--	5,246	5,246	5,752
Barclays deposit interests	--	210	210	18
Sub total	23,316	5,456	28,772	27,389
ASSET AND INVESTMENT SALES		46,781	46,781	59,907
Total Receipts	23,316	52,237	75,553	87,296
PAYMENTS				
Activities	9,644	--	9,644	9,242
Annual dinner (net of receipts)	4	--	4	19
Rivista	5,625	--	5,625	5,499
Secretarial services	12,000	--	12,000	12,000
General admin expenses	1,954	--	1,954	1,785
Payment processing fees	313	--	313	230
Donations & grants	6,550	--	6,550	1,250
Investment management fee	--	1,825	1,825	1,733
Sub total	36,090	1,825	37,915	31,758
ASSET AND INVESTMENT PURCHASES	--	46,329	46,329	41,813
Total Payments	30,090	48,154	84,244	73,571
Net Receipts (Payments)	(12,774)	4,083	(8,691)	13,725
Transfers between funds	6,000	(6,000)	--	--
Cash funds last year end	11,156	13,709	24,865	11,140
Cash funds this year end	4,382	11,792	16,174	24,865

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT
31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted Funds (General) £	Unrestricted Funds (Legacies) £
Cash funds	PayPal account	667	--
	Barclays current account	5,388	--
	Barclays deposit account	--	5,208
	JM Finn client current account	--	501
	JM Finn client deposit account	--	6,083
	Cash on hand	30	--
	Creditors	(1,703)	--
	Total cash funds	4,382	11,792

		Current Value £
Investment assets	Value as at 1 April 2024	239,526
	Investment additions	46,329
	Sale proceeds	(46,781)
	Profit on disposal	790
	Revaluation loss	(13,235)
	Value as at 31 March 2025	226,629

	Current Value £
Total Funds and Assets	242,803

Peter Jones

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Trustee

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THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

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