



The Trollope Society, PO Box 505, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 9RW
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The 38th Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture
of the Trollope Society will take place
at 6.00pm on Wednesday 22nd October 2025
in The Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EW

AGENDA

1. Introduction by Chair
2. Apologies
3. To receive the Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd October 2024.
4. To receive the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025
5. To note the appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees
6. To note the appointment of the Independent Examiner
7. Chairman's Report

Following the AGM

- Trollope Society members will be joined by members of the Reform Club for a wine reception.
- The 38th Annual Lecture will be given by Dr Alison Milbank, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Literature at the University of Nottingham and Canon Theologian of Southwell Minster. The subject of the lecture will be *'Trollope the Moralist: A Victorian Dante.'*

In this lecture, Dr Milbank will explore Trollope's role as a moralist, setting aside traditional critical divides to propose a bold comparison with Dante. Like Dante's souls, Trollope's characters reveal their virtues and vices through speech, letters, and the free indirect style that draws readers into their inner lives. The talk will suggest that Trollope's richly detailed world mirrors Dante's, where setting and irony reflect moral states, and that Trollope, like Dante, invites us to learn through observing character, habit, and the shaping of desire.

- The evening will conclude with a two-course buffet supper for ticket holders.

President: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford DL

Vice-Presidents: Gyles Brandreth, Susan Hampshire CBE, The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major KG CH, Joanna Trollope CBE, Hugh I. Trollope

Trustees: Dominic Edwardes (Chair), Jennifer Bryant-Pearson, Susan Cooper, Priscilla Hungerford MBE, Nigel Smith, Chris Skilton

Executive Committee: Jean Ammar, Mark Green

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Trollope Society
held at the Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EW on Thursday, 23 October 2024

Present: Dominic Edwardes (in the Chair) and 58 members and guests of the Trollope Society.

1. Introduction by Chair:

The Chair of the Society, Dominic Edwardes, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the magnificent Library of the Reform Club for the 37th AGM and Annual Lecture of the Trollope Society. He said that this year, members of the Trollope Society would be joined, after the business of the AGM, by members of the Reform Club for the Annual Lecture.

The Chair extended a very warm welcome to Trollope Society members and their guests, the Vice-President of the Society, Sir John Major, and the speaker for the evening, Jake Kerridge, who would be giving the annual lecture on the subject of 'Forget the Fourth Milestone: Trollope As Crime Novelist' after the AGM.

The Chair also confirmed that there was a photographer in attendance, James Basire, who had photographed numerous Trollope Society events and was a master of capturing marvellous photos even in low light. The Chair said that anyone who preferred not to be photographed, should let James know.

Before the business of the AGM, there was a minute's silence to remember members of the Society who were lost in the last year including:

Professor Francis O'Gorman who was a dedicated Trolloperian and a close friend of the Society. He frequently took part in the online BIG READs, delivering insightful talks on *Framley Parsonage*, *The Way We Live Now*, and *Orley Farm*. The Society was deeply grateful for his support and contributions, and his absence will be keenly felt by all.

Lord Cormack, a long-standing member of the Society, was a politician, historian, journalist, and author. He served as a Member of Parliament for 40 years, from 1970 to 2010.

Christine Leslie was also a close friend of the Society, generously hosting London Reading Groups at Notting Hill Prep School. More recently, she joined the Society's trip to Florence. She will be greatly missed.

2. Apologies:

President:	The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford
Vice Presidents:	Susan Hampshire OBE
	Joanna Trollope OBE
	Hugh I Trollope
	Timothy West
	Gyles Brandreth
Executive Committee members:	Jean Ammar
	Christina Dunford
	Priscilla Hungerford

3. To receive the Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on 19 October 2023:

The Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on 19 October 2023 were received. These had already been agreed by the Trustees and Executive Committee. Copies of the Minutes were available to download from the Society's website.

4. To receive the Trustees' Report and Accounts:

Nigel Smith introduced himself as the Treasurer and a Trustee of the Society. He said that the full report and accounts, which are necessarily very detailed and long, were in the AGM papers. However, to make the information more digestible, and reminding us of the insights of AT, who said in *Rachel Ray* that "short accounts make long friends", the main financial figures had been extracted and circulated to those attending the AGM.

The Treasurer said that he would comment briefly on three things - the independent review of our accounts, the income and expenditure account, and the balance sheet.

Review of accounts: the Treasurer acknowledged the contribution of Ensors, the Society's independent reporting accountants. He confirmed that they have broad expertise with charities, and they have had a good look at all the Society's numbers and have given the Society an unqualified report, which gives us some comfort.

Income and Expenditure account: the Treasurer pointed out that the Society achieved a surplus of some £4800 in the year, which was a satisfactory result although he said that the Society will before long have to undertake significant expenditure on upgrading our website which will claw back more than this amount.

He reminded everyone that Trollope said in *Can You Forgive Her* that "there is no human bliss equal to twelve thousand a year", so that we ought to be ecstatic with a gross income of about £72,000: however that isn't quite the case when expenditure in the year was £68,000, and the balance between the two figures is quite fine and could easily go either way in any particular year.

The Treasurer said that the costs of the core activities delivered to members and indeed more widely, such as the publication of *Trollopiana*, the holding of online events, and the maintenance and development of the website, plus our overheads, have to be financed in the first instance by subscription income. This is a lesser figure, even though subscriptions are up, so there is a gap which has to be filled if possible by any surpluses on the Society's paid-for events, by any profits on book sales and merchandise sales, and critically importantly by donations. The Treasurer said that the Society is immensely grateful for these donations which amounted to some £13,000 in the year, which covered what otherwise would have been a significant deficit, and which have enabled the Society to continue to run a wide range of activities in the past year.

Balance sheet: the Treasurer said that the key thing is the unrestricted free reserves which at just about £62,000 are, for now at least, at a reasonable level for a charity of the Society's size. The Treasurer said this he thought this position broadly aligns with a comment from Trollope in *The Way We Live Now*, where he said "it is a comfortable feeling to know that you stand on money which is your own." The Treasurer hoped that members could feel at least some comfort that the reserves should enable the Society to cope with a financially bad year, permit it to keep up in the digital world (including the need for a website upgrade) and enable it to invest in new projects to promote the work of Trollope, all in an inflationary environment. The Treasurer offered a final quote from Trollope: "after money in the bank, a grudge is the next best thing" - but the Treasurer said, the Society does not have any grudges, rather gratitude to all of those who support the Society.

5. To note the appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees:

Chris Skilton was appointed a Trustee and had joined the Committee with effect from 1 January 2024 and there had been no further changes to the Trustees and Executive Committee in the last year. The Honorary Officers, Trustees and Executive Committee of the Society are as follows:

Our President is:	Lord Fellowes of West Stafford
Our Vice-Presidents are:	Susan Hampshire
	The Rt. Hon. Sir John Major KG, CH
	Joanna Trollope
	Hugh Trollope
	Timothy West
	Gyles Brandreth
The Trustees are:	Dominic Edwardes (Chair)
	Susan Cooper (Hon Secretary)
	Nigel Smith (Hon Treasurer)
	Jennifer Bryant-Pearson
	Priscilla Hungerford
	Chris Skilton
Members of the Executive Committee are:	Jean Ammar
	Christina Dunford
	Mark Green

6. To note the appointment of the Independent Examiner:

The Chair confirmed that Ensors had been reappointed as Independent Examiner.

7. Chair's Report:

The Chair said that the past year had been marked by both significant achievements and challenges for the Society and that he would outline the membership status, key events, and initiatives, including highlights such as the 'Women in Trollope' Conference, the Big Read, Online Conversazioni, and various events.

Membership: The Chair said that the Society had worked to sustain and grow its membership base. Following an increase in membership during the pandemic, from 581 members in 2019 to 795 in 2022, this upward trend had been maintained, with membership standing at 806 members as of September 2024. The Chair said that this success was due to a blend of online and in-person activities and the Society's responsiveness to member feedback.

The Chair reported that a key development was the shift to the GoCardless Direct Debit service, which had simplified membership subscriptions and donations resulting in 273 Direct Debits set up, surpassing the 240 with the previous provider.

Donations: The Chair reported that donations continued to be vital to the Society's operations. Over the past year, donations totalling over £12k, had funded core activities, including website upkeep, the expansion of online events, and general administration.

The Big Read fundraising campaign in early 2024 generated significant support for the online reading groups. The Chair extended his thanks to everyone who had donated, as those contributions ensured the Society's sustainability and continued success.

The Chair reported that in October 2024, the Society launched its first Legacy campaign, offering free Will-writing services for England and Wales residents in partnership with Free Wills. Legacies are essential to securing the Society's future, and the Chair encouraged members to consider leaving a gift to ensure Trollope's works continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

Women in Trollope Conference: In September 2023, the Society hosted the 'Women in Trollope' conference at Somerville College, Oxford, celebrating the portrayal of women in Trollope's fiction. The event brought fresh insights into Trollope's literary legacy, exploring his depiction of gender and society. The conference was well-received, with attendees praising the engaging discussions and scholarly presentations. Many participants expressed interest in attending future conferences, and the possibility of holding another conference in 2026 is being investigated.

Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Westminster Abbey: The Chair said that the Society celebrated the 30th anniversary of the installation of the Anthony Trollope memorial stone in Poets' Corner with a wreath-laying ceremony, followed by a dinner in the Attlee Room at the House of Lords on 6th December 2023. The Society was extremely grateful to the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle, for welcoming us to the Abbey and leading the wreath-laying ceremony.

Our President, Lord Fellowes, attended with Lady Emma and was joined by our Vice-Presidents, including Sir John Major, Joanna Trollope, Susan Hampshire, and Timothy West. Gyles Brandreth was appointed as a Vice-President of the Society at the dinner. The Chair said that the Society will return to Poets' Corner for a brief wreath-laying ceremony on 9th December 2024, followed by an informal lunch at the Cellarium Café in the Abbey.

Visit to Winchester: The visit to Winchester in April 2024 was a highlight of the year, thanks to meticulous planning by Susan Cooper. The itinerary included a visit to Hampshire Archives, a lecture on 'Trollope and Hampshire' by archivist David Rymill, and a seminar on *The Warden* led by Michael Williamson. The Friday evening reception and dinner in the cathedral grounds were particularly well-received, offering members a chance to socialise and engage in discussions about Trollope's works. The activities concluded with a guided tour of The Hospital of St Cross, a visit to Winchester College, and to St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate Church.

Big Read: The Chair reported that the Big Read programme, launched during the pandemic, had continued to thrive, attracting over 100 participants every two weeks. These online sessions offer an in-depth exploration of Trollope's novels and short stories, fostering lively discussions and enhancing members' appreciation of his works. The Big Read's success is evident not only in its attendance numbers but also in the quality of dialogue and connections formed among participants. Many members have developed lasting friendships through this shared experience of reading Trollope.

Online Conversazioni: In January 2024, the Society introduced a series of Online Conversazione talks, featuring speakers from the 'Women in Trollope' conference. These talks extended the impact of the conference, offering further insights into Trollope's portrayal of women. The Chair confirmed that recordings of these talks, as well as introductions to each Big Read novel, were available on the website, allowing members ongoing access to valuable content.

Physical Reading Groups: While the Zoom events successfully expanded the Society's reach, the Chair confirmed the Society's commitment to maintaining the in-person meetings, which are integral to fostering local connections among members.

The **Cambridge Reading Group** had continued to discuss Trollope's works in chronological order of publication. The next meeting was scheduled for 24 November 2024, when the group would discuss *The Small House at Allington*. The Chair thanked Pamela Barrell, who had hosted the group in her home for 25 years, providing wonderful homemade teas and Michael Williamson who had taken over running the group, which will in future meet at the Friends House in Cambridge.

Throughout the year, the **North West Reading Group** had met both in person and via Zoom. With discussions planned up to June 2025, the group planned to explore a mix of Trollope and other literary works, appealing to a broader audience while maintaining a focus on Trollope.

The Chair reported that attendance at the **London Reading Group** had fluctuated, but those who had participated had consistently found the discussions rewarding. The next meeting was due on 20 November 2024, focusing on *The Duke's Children*. While attendance has been lower than anticipated, the Chair was optimistic that the quality of discussions will attract more members over time.

The Chair said that if any member was interested in setting up a local in-person group, they should get in touch as the Society would be happy to help promote any group via the website, newsletters and local promotion.

The Worshipful Company of Marketers Grant: The Society had been awarded a £2,500 grant from the Marketer's Charity to support the Big Read programme from January to June 2024. The initial marketing campaign yielded 379 registrations, and Meta reported a 70% better performance than similar campaigns. While a subsequent campaign for *Is He Popenjoy?* encountered technical issues, the remaining budget was successfully used for the 'Take A Trollope on Holiday' summer reading campaign. This initiative reached over 24k people and generated significant engagement across social media platforms, further strengthening our online community.

Website Development: The Chair said that the website was an essential platform for the Trollope Society. In the year to September, recorded 70k users were recorded (a 125% increase) and a staggering 208k page views. However, the site was built more than ten years ago and the underlying platform was outdated and technical difficulties were occurring, in particular with the membership system. The Society has initiated discussions regarding potential upgrades or a complete rebuild of the website. This initiative will represent a significant investment by the Society, aiming to create a user-friendly, beautiful website that will support future activities and growth.

Advertising and Marketing Efforts: The Google Grants program had been instrumental in increasing the Society's visibility, leading to a rise in website traffic and participation in Society events. In the past year, \$26k of our Google Grant was utilized, resulting in approximately 7k clicks to the website.

Newsletters: The Society's e-newsletter, *Everybody's Business*, had been a vital communication tool for reaching Trollope enthusiasts worldwide. The mailing list neared 2,500 subscribers, with open rates consistently exceeding 70%. The newsletter had continued to provide updates on events, website content, and membership news, ensuring the Society stayed connected with our audience.

Trollope Society (USA): The Chair said that challenges to working with the Trollope Society (USA) had persisted, including missed deadlines and delayed payments. The Trollope Society (USA) has a new President, Claire Laporte, and the Chair hoped that under her leadership, the recent difficulties could be put behind us and a stronger relationship could be built going forward.

Book Sales and Merchandise: From April 2023 to the end of March 2024 gross sales of £6,400 had been achieved for books and merchandise. In July 2024, the Society's distributor, Marston Book Services, went into administration. As a result, the Society had had to accelerate the closure of the publishing program, which the Society had initially planned to do within the next year. The Chair confirmed that fortunately, the Society had written off the value of the book stocks, so the closure of the publishing program had little impact on the Society's financial position. The Chair said that around 200 books had been retrieved from the warehouse and the Society had held a clearance sale starting on 1 October 2024. This had been a great success with just six titles left in stock. The Chair thanked

Mark Green, who had not only collected the books from the warehouse but had spent much of October at the Post Office sending out books ordered in the Clearance Sale.

Looking Ahead:

- The Chair said that the Society will be holding a short wreath-laying ceremony at Westminster Abbey on 9 December 2024, providing another chance for members to come together and celebrate Trollope's contribution to literature.
- On 31 July 2025 we will be returning to the Reform Club for a joint dinner with the Thackeray Society, the arts and culture Society of the Reform Club, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Way We Live Now*.
- The Chair said that a trip to Bruges in 2025 was also planned and a conference on the theme of 'Trollope: the law and transgression' in 2026.

Website Redevelopment: The Chair reported that the anticipated redevelopment of the Society's website was set to begin in the coming months. The goal was to create a modern, user-friendly website and the Society will engage with members throughout the process, soliciting feedback and suggestions to ensure the new site meets their needs.

Conclusion: The Chair noted that, in conclusion, the year from April 2023 to March 2024 had been marked by growth, community engagement and a renewed commitment to promoting the works of Anthony Trollope. The efforts of members, volunteers, and trustees had contributed to the Society's successes, and the Chair looked forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

The Chair thanked members of the Committee for their commitment and hard work. He said that the Committee arranged trips, dinners and social events, coordinated reading groups, produced *Trollopiana* three times a year, ran the website and social media, and worked to promote the reading and enjoyment of Trollope's work in every way possible. He thanked all the Committee: Jean Ammar, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson, Susan Cooper, Mark Green, Priscilla Hungerford, Chris Skilton and Nigel Smith. He also thanked Chris Dunford, our Financial Assistant, for all her work and support in running the Society. The Chair gave special thanks to Mark Green, editor of *Trollopiana*, who had continued to produce one fascinating edition after another, and to Susan Cooper, Honorary Secretary, who continued to do a huge amount of work both in running the Society and planning the social events.

The AGM then concluded and was followed by a wine reception when members of the Reform Club joined Society members. This was followed by the 37th Annual Lecture given by Jake Kerridge, a journalist and book reviewer specializing in crime fiction for *The Daily Telegraph*. Trollope once said of sensation fiction: "it is a branch which I have not myself at all cultivated." But can crime novelists claim Trollope as one of their own? Jake will argue that Trollope was, in fact, a crime novelist despite himself—whether competing with Wilkie Collins in the 'disappearing diamond' genre or pioneering the psychological suspense novel.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY

(Charity Registration No. 803130)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY

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**THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

General information

Registered office and charity number

P O Box 505
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 9RW

Charity No: 803130

Trustees

The following Trustees have held office since 1 April 2024:

Dominic Edwardes (Chair)
Jennifer Bryant-Pearson
Susan Cooper
Priscilla Hungerford
Nigel Smith
Christopher Skilton

Honorary Secretary

Susan Cooper

Bankers

Lloyds
39 Piccadilly
London, W1V 0AA

Close Brothers
10 Crown Place
London, EC2A 4FT

Independent Examiner

H Rumsey FCA, Dch A
Ensors
Chartered Accountants
Connexions
159 Princes Street
Ipswich, IP1 1QJ

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Society are the education of the public in the life and work of Anthony Trollope.

The activities carried out in support of these objectives include the holding of educational events, in person or online, the delivery of an annual lecture, the publication three times a year of the journal *Trollopiana*, the sale of books published by the Society, the sale of merchandise, fund raising events, and travel events.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Achievements and performance

Introduction

The Trustees of the Trollope Society are pleased to present this report, covering the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The year has seen sustained engagement, new initiatives, and progress on key projects. Building on the momentum of recent years, the Society has delivered an extensive programme of events, publications, and digital engagement activities, while laying the groundwork for future growth and development. This report outlines our activities across membership, events, publications, digital services, and wider outreach.

Membership

The Society had 803 members as of 31 March 2025. This included 655 Annual Members, 137 Life Members and 11 Charter Members. Income received via GoCardless Direct Debits in the year was £9,188, including £6,099 in membership subscriptions and £3,089 in donations. GoCardless remains a secure and reliable system, with 278 Direct Debits active at year end. To support members unable to use the digital system, a new combined membership and donation form was introduced, enabling paper Direct Debit instructions for offline sign-ups.

The Society continues to welcome members from across the UK and internationally, with notable participation in the BIG READ from members in North America, Europe, and Australia. The online and hybrid format of many Society activities ensures that members unable to attend in-person events still benefit from meaningful engagement with Trollope's work and community.

Donations

In addition to income from subscriptions, the Society received one-off and regular donations from members. A significant proportion of this income came through engagement with the BIG READ programme. These contributions helped fund speaker fees, platform maintenance, and administrative costs associated with the Society's online programme. Several participants converted their one-off donations into monthly contributions, demonstrating the long-term value they place on the Society's activities.

Zoom Events Programme

The Society's Zoom-based events continue to be a major component of our engagement strategy, offering access to high-quality literary discussions to members across the globe. The 2024 BIG READ featured in-depth readings of *The Prime Minister*, *Lady Anna*, *Is He Popenjoy?*, *The Duke's Children* and *An*

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

Autobiography. Over 2,700 participant sessions were recorded, with regular attendance averaging 110 participants per session. Introductions were given by distinguished academics and contributors.

Complementing the BIG READ, a monthly Online Conversazione series was developed, building on the themes explored in the 2023 'Women in Trollope' conference. Nine talks took place between February and November 2024, drawing 655 participant sessions. Topics ranged from 'Women and Money in Trollope' to 'Too Much Obedience: Trollope's Griseldas', with speakers including Professor Helen Small, Dr Ellen Moody, and Professor Deborah Morse. The series attracted new participants and expanded the academic reach of the Society's programming, and the talks are now a valuable digital resource for members.

The 2025 BIG READ launched in January covering six novels not previously featured in the programme. These include *The Vicar of Bullhampton*, *Dr Wortle's School*, *The Claverings*, *John Caldigate*, *The Three Clerks* and *Ayala's Angel*. By the end of March 2025, the series had recorded 1,205 participant sessions. The format of reading novels in approximately 14-chapter blocks, discussed every fortnight, continues to foster lively and thoughtful exchanges.

All talks are recorded and made available in the Members' Area of the Society's website, significantly enhancing the value of membership and creating a lasting archive of critical engagement with Trollope's work.

Each series of the BIG READ has concluded with a specially commissioned academic talk. These have been delivered by leading scholars in the field and have become a highlight of the programme. In the reporting period, concluding talks were given by Dr Nicholas Shrimpton (on *The Prime Minister*), Professor Dinah Birch (on *Lady Anna*), Professor Deborah Denenholz Morse (on *Is He Popenjoy?*), Professor Steven Amarnick and Professor Dinah Birch (on *The Duke's Children*), and Dr Nicholas Shrimpton (on *An Autobiography*). Their contributions helped to deepen participants' understanding and appreciation of the novels, and the concluding talks continue to attract high attendance and engagement.

Physical Events

The Society delivered a vibrant schedule of in-person events alongside its digital programme.

The Winchester trip (discussed in last year's report) took place in April.

The 37th AGM and Annual Lecture was held on 23 October 2024 at the Reform Club. Jake Kerridge, crime fiction reviewer for *The Daily Telegraph*, delivered a lively lecture entitled "Forget the Fourth Milestone: Trollope as Crime Novelist." The event included the AGM and dinner, and was attended by members, trustees, and guests. Costs were covered through ticket sales, with a small deficit offset by merchandise revenue on the evening.

In December 2024, the Society marked the anniversary of the death of Anthony Trollope with a wreath-laying ceremony in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. A simple but moving tribute, the ceremony brought together members to honour Trollope's contribution to English literature. The ceremony was followed by lunch at the Celarium Café in Westminster Abbey.

On 21 March 2025, the Society co-hosted a special book launch at the Athenaeum in London to mark the publication of *Anthony Trollope: A Very Short Introduction* by Professor Dinah Birch. The event brought together 67 guests, including authors, academics and Society members. Dinah Birch generously covered the cost of room hire. The Society provided light refreshments, covering £482.40 of the total cost, offset by

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

£393.43 in voluntary donations. 52 books were sold, recovering the full cost of stock provided by Oxford University Press.

The London Reading Group continued to meet quarterly, reading novels aligned with the BIG READ or tied to anniversaries. In April 2025, the group held a special birthday event at St George's Bloomsbury, Trollope's baptismal church. Attendees toured the church, visited the font, and enjoyed a seminar and discussion led by Dr Sati McKenzie. Future meetings are planned around works such as *Can You Forgive Her?* and *The Way We Live Now*, offering opportunities for continued discussion and interpretation of Trollope's works.

Regional groups remained active. The Cambridge Reading Group relocated to a new venue, The Meeting House, Hartington Grove, in November 2024, and held meetings throughout the year. Organised and facilitated by Michael Williamson, the group has committed to reading Trollope's novels in chronological order. The North West Group delivered a full programme of in-person and online discussions, expanding their scope to include comparative readings and biographical studies. Titles read in 2024 included *Castle Richmond*, *Doctor Wortle's School*, and Richard Mullen's biography of Trollope.

Planning for the Brussels and Bruges trip, scheduled for 29 August – 2 September 2025, was finalised during the year. The five-day itinerary includes visits to the Trollope family home in Bruges, the Assebroek Cemetery, a boat trip, and seminars on Phineas Finn, *The Noble Jilt*, and *Can You Forgive Her?*. 29 participants had confirmed their place by the end of the reporting period.

Publishing and Communications

Three issues of *Trollopiana* were published:

Issue 128 (May 2024) featured reflections on the 2024 BIG READ, regional group updates, and an article exploring Trollope's clerical characters in historical context.

Issue 129 (August 2024) compiled talks from the Online Conversazione series and included reviews of recent academic publications on Trollope.

Issue 130 (February 2025) introduced a new six-page events flyer, offered updates on the BIG READ 2025, and featured an article on the 150th anniversary of *The Way We Live Now*.

The publication schedule remained consistent, with each issue produced to a high editorial standard under the guidance of Mark Green. Contributors included established scholars and new voices. Articles reflected a wide range of interests, from close readings of Trollope's novels to reflections on Trollope's relevance to current social and political debates.

A new welcome letter was introduced to improve communications with new members, providing them with clear guidance on how to access resources, participate in events, and get the most out of their membership. Email newsletters were issued regularly to promote events, share member news, and provide updates on publications.

The Marketors' Charity Grant

The Society was awarded a £2,500 grant from the Worshipful Company of Marketors in support of the BIG READ January–June 2024. The grant funded speaker fees, design costs, and digital advertising. The initial Meta campaign generated 379 registrations and exceeded performance benchmarks by over 70%.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

Website and Digital Engagement

The website continued to play a central role in the Society's communications and membership services. During the reporting period, 68,000 users visited the site, generating 214,000 page views. The most visited pages included the lecture archive, BIG READ registration, and the Trollope character database. Members continue to praise the site's wealth of information and ease of access to resources.

However, as mentioned last year, the website's ageing platform posed increasing challenges. In May 2025, the Trustees issued an Invitation to Tender to ten digital agencies for a full website rebuild, with a working budget of £30,000 including irrecoverable VAT. A member survey helped define user needs, and a decision on the preferred supplier was scheduled for June 2025. The new site will aim to improve accessibility, streamline administration, and offer a more modern user experience.

Books and Merchandise

Following the collapse of Marston Book Services, the Society successfully retrieved approximately half of its remaining book stock. A clearance sale was held in autumn 2024 to dispose of remaining inventory. Sales generated a modest surplus and brought the Society's long-running publishing project to a close. All stock from the Complete Edition has now been sold, and the series is officially out of print. The Trustees wish to express thanks to Mark Green who managed the stock retrieval and sale process.

Trollope Society USA

Relationships with Trollope Society USA improved over the course of the year. Timely payments for Trollopiana were received, and the Chairs of both societies held a constructive meeting in spring 2025. Further collaboration is expected.

Looking Ahead

The Trustees look forward to a number of key events in the coming year.

A celebratory dinner marking the 150th anniversary of *The Way We Live Now* took place at the Reform Club on 31st July 2025 in partnership with the Reform Clubs arts and culture group, The Thackeray Society.

A guided literary tour of Kensal Green Cemetery took place on Friday 1st August 2025, including a visit to Anthony Trollope's grave and a buffet lunch beforehand at The William pub.

On 8th December 2025, the Society will return to Westminster Abbey for a wreath-laying ceremony in Poets' Corner. The event will be followed by a lunch at the Cellarium Café, offering members a chance to gather informally and reflect on Trollope's legacy in a historic setting.

Plans are also in place for a two-day conference at Magdalene College, Cambridge on 27–28 March 2026. The theme, *Anthony Trollope: The Law and Transgression*, invites papers on the intersections between legal, moral and social boundaries in Trollope's fiction. A call for papers has been issued and delegate registration opened. The conference will combine academic insight with broader appeal to general readers and Society members.

The Trustees are grateful to all members, volunteers, speakers and supporters who have contributed to another successful and fulfilling year for the Society.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

Financial review

The Society earned a surplus of £13,091 in the year (£4,893 in 2024). This was a good outcome and will make a significant contribution to the major update of our website planned for later this year. The overall financial position is satisfactory and will enable the Society to continue and expand the full range of its normal activities going forward.

Membership and subscription income in the year was £19,760 (£17,629 in 2024) whilst donation income remained very strong at £16,842 (£12,126 in 2024).

Merchandise and book sales grossed £4,102 (£6,593 in 2024) and after allowing for storage and postage costs, and accounting for any remaining stocks in a prudent manner the net contribution from these sales was £3,525 (£2,374 in 2024). Whilst the contribution to our overall surplus was satisfactory, the book sale activity has now terminated although merchandise sales will continue on a small scale.

Our charitable activities, in particular educational events and the publication of Trollopiana, are generally unlikely to generate surpluses even if exceptions can arise. We had three main events in the year, the AGM including our annual lecture, the trip to Winchester, and a book launch, and the net contribution arising from these was £1,030 (£4,846 net surplus in the previous year). The net cost of publishing Trollopiana was £11,225 (£12,253 in 2024).

Our other overhead costs were £21,429 (£21,760 in 2024).

The Society's total funds increased from £63,488 to £76,579 following the surplus of £13,091.

Our investment policy is to keep some of our cash in term deposits that earn interest. The Trustees do periodically consider other investment types but consider short term security to be an important consideration, although we will keep this under review. Interest returns have risen appreciably recently, albeit they will reduce next year, but inflation has increased our costs and we have held the subscription cost at the same level.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Society is exposed, and a risk register is maintained and regularly updated. The Trustees are satisfied that, so far as practicable, arrangements are in place to mitigate the exposure.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Society needs to maintain a level of free reserves both to enable cash flow to be managed if income fluctuates or unexpected external events happen, and to enable investments in new and existing activities to take place. In addition, it is important to enhance the Society's digital activities and presence and we will be spending some £30,000 in 2025/6 to upgrade our website. The current level of reserves of some £76,579 is reasonably satisfactory in this context although inflation continues to have an adverse effect.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Society is deemed to be a going concern and will realise its assets and meet its liabilities under the normal course of operation.

Structure, governance and management

The Society is a registered charity, governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 September 1987 varied by a Deed dated 20 March 1990, which provides that the Trustees shall stand possessed of the Trust Fund and the income thereof upon trust to apply the same for the following educational purpose, namely the study and publication of the works of Anthony Trollope.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

The Trustees have the power to appoint new Trustees.

The Trustees meet four times a year. In addition, a number of operations meetings are regularly held, attended by Trustees and Operations Committee members who are volunteers helping the Society in a number of ways.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 2 September 2025

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Dominic Edwardes
Chairman and Trustee

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Trollope Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the Society, 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 Society'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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the 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.

H Rumsey FCA, Dch A
Ensors
Chartered Accountants
Ipswich

Date: 9 September 2025

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	36,602	-	36,602	29,755
Charitable activities	3	17,273	-	17,273	39,799
Other trading activities	4	1,742	-	1,742	992
Investments	5	4,588	-	4,588	1,931
Total income		60,205	-	60,205	72,477
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	46,878	-	46,878	67,584
Raising funds	7	236	-	236	-
Total expenditure		47,114	-	47,114	67,584
Net movement in funds for the year		13,091	-	13,091	4,893
Balances brought forward 1 April 2024		61,717	1,771	63,488	58,595
Balances carried forward 31 March 2025		74,808	1,771	76,579	63,488

All of the activities of the Society are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	1,075	1,075
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	9	4,445	4,660
Cash at bank		<u>148,716</u>	<u>133,954</u>
		153,161	138,614
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(77,657)</u>	<u>(76,201)</u>
Net current assets		<u>75,504</u>	<u>62,413</u>
Net assets	11	<u>76,579</u>	<u>63,488</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted		74,808	61,717
Designated	12	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,771</u>
Net funds		<u>76,579</u>	<u>63,488</u>

The only movements in funds are those shown in the statement of financial activities on page 9.

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 September 2025

Dominic Edwardes
Trustee

Nigel Smith
Trustee

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

The Trollope Society is a registered charity, and its principal address is disclosed on page 1.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trollope Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following 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) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Society, and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.1 Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which is dependent upon the continued support of the members.

1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Society is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Subscription income is accounted for on a pro-rated basis.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Society; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from charitable activities and other trading activities is accounted for when receivable.

Income received in relation to future accounting periods is carried forward as deferred income.

1.3 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended where there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Society to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Cost of raising funds comprises the costs associated with fundraising.

Charitable expenditure comprises costs incurred by the Society in the delivery of its activities.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Society and include examiner's fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Society.

All costs are allocated directly between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Resources expended (continued)

The Society is not registered for VAT therefore all amounts are shown gross of VAT.

1.4 Fixed assets

The library of antiquarian books is stated at remaining cost, following sale of a portion of the library in 2017/2018. The Trustees consider this on an annual basis for impairment.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable Society and have not been designated for any other purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

1.6 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the Society becomes party to the contractual provision of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Financial instruments (continued)

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest method. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Society's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In application of the Society's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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 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 revision and future periods where the revision affects both the current and future periods.

1.9 Taxation

Due to the charitable status of the Society, no taxation arises on the results for the year.

1.10 Foreign currency

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

2	Donations and legacies	2025	2024
		£	£
	Subscriptions	19,760	17,629
	Donations	16,842	12,126
		<u>36,602</u>	<u>29,755</u>
3	Income from charitable activities	2025	2024
		£	£
	Sales of books	2,360	5,601
	Sales to TSNY	4,263	1,498
	Members' events	9,648	31,202
	Marketors' grant	1,002	1,498
		<u>17,273</u>	<u>39,799</u>
4	Other trading activities	2025	2024
		£	£
	Other sales	1,742	992
		<u>1,742</u>	<u>992</u>
5	Investment income	2025	2024
		£	£
	Interest receivable	4,535	1,814
	Royalty income	53	117
		<u>4,588</u>	<u>1,931</u>

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

6 Charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Trollopiana	15,488	13,751
Cost of sales of stock	53	1,258
Publicity and promotion	2,147	3,792
Postage	695	650
Digital and online event costs	4,354	5,956
Members' events excluding AGM	5,187	22,445
Storage and dispatch	288	2,961
Marketors' grant expenditure	1,002	1,498
Support costs		
Administration	5,200	5,612
Office expenses	3,113	1,452
Subscriptions	20	20
Bank and credit card charges	1,700	1,890
Governance costs		
Annual general meeting	3,431	3,911
Independent examination	4,200	2,388
	<u>46,878</u>	<u>67,584</u>

Society expenditure reimbursed to two Trustees totalled £3,597. (2024: £9,614). Trustees received no remuneration during either year and the Society had no employees in either year. All of the expenditure reimbursed was Society expenditure paid for personally. No personal expenses for travel or subsistence were claimed by the Trustees.

7 Raising funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Merchandise costs	236	-
	<u>236</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Tangible fixed assets	2025	2024
	£	£
Library of antiquarian books – at cost	1,075	1,075
	<u>1,075</u>	<u>1,075</u>

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

9 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	4,445	4,660
	<u>4,445</u>	<u>4,660</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Charter deposits	42,494	42,494
Accruals and deferred income	25,163	23,707
Other creditors	10,000	10,000
	<u>77,657</u>	<u>76,201</u>
<u>Deferred income:</u>		
Deferred income brought forward	17,402	29,818
Released to income in the year	(17,402)	(29,818)
New deferrals	20,982	17,402
Deferred income carried forward	<u>20,982</u>	<u>17,402</u>

11 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted	Designated	Total
	funds	Funds	funds
At 31 March 2025	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,075	-	1,075
Current assets	151,390	1,771	153,161
Current liabilities	(77,657)	-	(77,657)
	<u>74,808</u>	<u>1,771</u>	<u>76,579</u>
 At 31 March 2024	 £	 £	 £
Fixed assets	1,075	-	1,075
Current assets	136,843	1,771	138,614
Current liabilities	(76,201)	-	(76,201)
	<u>61,717</u>	<u>1,771</u>	<u>63,488</u>

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

12 Designated funds	2025	2024
	£	£
The Trollope Memorial Fund	1,771	1,771
	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,771</u>

The Trollope Memorial Fund was established to pay for the carving and installation of a memorial stone to Anthony Trollope in Westminster Abbey in 1993. The resultant surplus is held against future costs.

13 Comparative year's statement of financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	29,755	-	29,755
Charitable activities	3	39,799	-	39,799
Other trading activities	4	992	-	992
Investments	5	1,931	-	1,931
Total income		<u>72,477</u>	-	<u>72,477</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	67,584	-	67,584
Raising funds	7	-	-	-
Total expenditure		<u>67,584</u>	-	<u>67,584</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		4,893	-	4,893
Balances brought forward 1 April 2023		56,824	1,771	58,595
Balances carried forward 31 March 2024		<u>61,717</u>	<u>1,771</u>	<u>63,488</u>

14 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to note for the year (2024: None). There were donations from one Trustee in the year totalling £60 (2024: None).

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE TROLLOPE SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	17,649	15,601
Gift aid - subscriptions	2,111	2,028
Donations and gift aid thereon	16,842	12,126
Income from goods and services – TSNY income	4,263	1,498
Sales of Trollope novels	2,360	5,601
Members’ events and AGM	9,648	31,202
Interest receivable	4,535	1,814
Copyright income	53	117
Other sales - merchandise	1,647	924
Other sales - Trollopiana	95	68
Marketors’ grant	1,002	1,498
	<u>60,205</u>	<u>72,477</u>
Expenditure		
Trollopiana	15,488	13,751
Cost of sales	289	1,258
Promotion and public relations	2,147	3,792
Administration	5,200	5,612
Office expenses	3,113	1,452
Subscriptions	20	20
Postage	695	650
Digital and online event costs	4,354	5,956
Bank and credit card charges	1,700	1,890
Members' events and AGM	8,618	26,356
Accountancy	4,200	2,388
Storage and dispatch	288	2,961
Marketors’ grant expenditure	1,002	1,498
	<u>47,114</u>	<u>67,584</u>
 Surplus for the year	 <u>13,091</u>	 <u>4,893</u>