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The Orwell Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2025



Barnhill on Jura

Registered charity in England and Wales number 1159072

Trustees' report, financial statements and supporting notes

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The Society

The Society is a membership organisation for George Orwell enthusiasts and scholars worldwide. Its charitable purpose is to promote public understanding and appreciation of Orwell's life and work.

Charity	Details
Name	The Orwell Society
Charity number	1159072
Register contact address	1 Prospect Road, Pilsley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 8EY
Website / email	www.orwellsociety.com / info@orwellsociety.com

Trustees and office holders

The following trustees are listed on the Charity Commission register. Office holders and other roles are taken from the Society's website.

Trustee	Role
Richard Horatio Blair	Patron and trustee
Quentin Kopp	Chair and events
Christopher John Harrison	Membership Secretary
Les Hurst	Research and digital officer
Masha Karp	Journal editor
Ian Edward Bloom	Secretary
Bruce Robert Dear	Education and communities
Demsey Slater C/o Spencer Gardner Dickins Ltd	Treasurer

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Trustees' Report

Activities and achievements

The Society continued to promote understanding of Orwell through visits to places associated with his life, publications, online discussion, school projects and awards for young writers.

Member events

Members visited Jura in June 2025, including Barnhill, where Orwell wrote Nineteen Eighty-Four. The Polperro visit from 3 to 6 October included talks and contact with Polperro Primary Academy. Who made excellent use of their Teacher and School Award from the Society to develop the children's knowledge and vocabulary of nature. Orwell's lifelong interest in nature which is evident throughout his work was kindled on childhood family holidays in Polperro. A Marrakech visit from 5 to 12 November explored George and Eileen Orwell's time in Morocco. The financial records also include Paris, Eton, Sutton Courtenay and a London walking tour.

The annual general meeting and prizegiving took place in London on 10 May 2025. Gary Younge was the guest speaker.

Publications and online resources

The Orwell Society Journal continued under editor Masha Karp. Issue 25 included research, literary discussion and book reviews; issue 26 included Leyla Ferrand's winning 2025 story, The Year of Y. The website published articles and educational material. George Talks recordings remained a public resource; a discussion of books about Orwell published in 2024 was made available in February 2025.

Education and awards

School projects reported during 2025 included Polperro Primary Academy's work on Orwell and nature, and Trinity Academy St Edward's in Barnsley, where the Society supported teaching, books and contact with Richard Blair and Quentin Kopp.

The 2025 Young Journalist awards recognised Anna Lamche in the review category and Joseph Rodgers in the political column category, with Sunny Sunday and Joshua Shortman as the respective runners up. Leyla Ferrand won the Dystopian Fiction Prize for The Year of Y; Isaac Cave was runner up.

These activities further the Society's purpose by connecting readers with Orwell's writing and places, supporting classroom study and encouraging new literary and journalistic work.

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Financial Review

Income was £77,882 (2024: £49,350 on a comparable gross events basis). Member subscriptions were £17,937 (2024: £14,022), donations were £1,150 (2024: £320), event income was £55,494 (2024: £33,500) and other income, including interest, was £3,301 (2024: £1,508).

Expenditure was £54,526 (2024: £52,669), producing net income of £23,356 (2024 net expenditure of £3,319). Event costs totalled £37,778 and the corresponding event surplus was £17,716.

Funds carried forward were £180,417 (2024: £157,061), including heritage assets of £152,500 (2024: £152,500). Funds excluding heritage assets were £27,917 (2024: £4,561). Cash balances were £37,196 and accrued interest of £323 is included in debtors. The £10,000 member loan remains a liability and is not part of the Society's reserves.

Reserves and future plans

The previous report stated a reserves target of an average £20,000. Funds excluding heritage assets at 31 December 2025 exceed that target before assessing any restricted or designated balances and other amounts unavailable for general expenditure.

Free reserves will continue to be used to ensure the charity's work is supported and delivered in line with the charity's objectives. The trustees have considered the existing free funds at 31 December 2025 and anticipated cash flows for the foreseeable future and are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient reserves to meet its trading liabilities as they may fall due, thus continue to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis.

The Trustees do not currently consider investment in equities, investment funds or other higher-risk assets appropriate given the Society's need to preserve capital and retain access to funds for its charitable activities. This policy will be reconsidered should the Society accumulate substantial funds that are not expected to be required in the foreseeable future.

Structure and Governance

The Society is an unincorporated association governed by a constitution adopted on 18 October 2014 and amended on 28 April 2018 and 17 April 2021, as recorded by the Charity Commission. The published constitution provides for three to nine trustees and the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Members elect trustees at general meetings; trustees may also fill vacancies between meetings, with appointees retiring at the next annual general meeting and eligible for re-election.

The published governance framework covers trustee conduct, equality and diversity, health and safety, safeguarding, reserves, financial controls, liquidity and investment, risk management, data protection, conflicts of interest, complaints and IT security.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements, maintaining appropriate accounting records, safeguarding the Society's assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. They must select suitable accounting policies, apply them consistently, make reasonable estimates and assess whether the going concern basis is appropriate.

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Charitable Purpose and Risks

Charitable purpose and public benefit

The Society's purpose is to promote public understanding and appreciation of George Orwell's life and work. Its activities include educational events, publications, research, awards and the preservation of Orwell related heritage assets.

School work, awards, publications and publicly available online resources support wider access to Orwell's work. Member visits provide opportunities to explore its historical context.

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning the year's and future activities and are satisfied that the charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity.

Principal risks

The previous report identified risks from changes in public attitudes to Orwell, loss of charitable status, relocation of the BBC statue, reduced membership income, increased costs and loss of funds through fraud or error.

Risks are managed through appropriate financial controls, insurance, trustee oversight, segregation or independent review of financial transactions where practicable, approval procedures for significant expenditure and commitments, and policies covering areas such as safeguarding, data protection, conflicts of interest and health and safety.

The Trustees review the Society's principal risks and the effectiveness of the related controls periodically and when there is a significant change in the Society's activities. Where a significant new risk is identified, the Trustees consider whether additional controls or mitigating actions are required.

The Trustees consider that the major risks to which the Society is exposed have been identified and that appropriate measures are in place to manage those risks.

Approved by the trustees on

Signed on their behalf by Quentin Kopp, Chair.

Signature: Quentin Kopp

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Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Society (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts did 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 financial statements to be reached.

Martin Chapman
.....

Martin Chapman

Spencer Gardner Dickins Limited
3 Coventry Innovation Village
Cheetah Road
Coventry
CV1 2TL

Dated: Oct 27, 2026 | 14:28 GMT .....

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Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Income from			
Member subscriptions	2	17,937	14,022
Donations	2	1,150	320
Member events	2	55,494	33,500
Other income including interest	2	3,301	1,508
Total income		**77,882**	**49,350**
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Bursaries prizes and awards	3	3,712	6,250
Journal	3	9,774	9,983
Website and other charitable costs	3	708	589
Member events	2	37,778	31,068
Total charitable expenditure		**51,972**	**47,890**
Expenditure on other activities	3	2,554	4,779
Total expenditure		**54,526**	**52,669**
Net income and movement in funds		**23,356**	**(3,319)**
Funds brought forward	10	157,061	160,380
Funds carried forward	**10**	**180,417**	**157,061**

The 2024 comparative member events receipts and costs have been presented gross; see note 2. The comparative net movement and closing funds are unchanged. Figures are presented in whole pounds.

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Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		—	—
Heritage assets	**4**	**152,500**	**152,500**
Current assets		—	—
Stocks	6	550	708
Debtors and prepayments	5	11,371	2,060
Cash at bank and in hand	5	37,196	33,634
Total current assets		**49,117**	**36,402**
Creditors due within one year	7	(6,092)	(16,347)
Net current assets		**43,025**	**20,055**
Total assets less current liabilities		**195,525**	**172,555**
Creditors due after more than one year	8	(15,108)	(15,494)
Net assets		**180,417**	**157,061**
Funds of the Society	**10**	**180,417**	**157,061**

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Trip prepayments and member deposits are presented separately rather than offset. Deferred life membership income is split between amounts expected to be released within one year and the remaining balance.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on Oct 27, 2026 | 11:06 GMT

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Quentin Kopp — Chair — Signature: Quentin Kopp

Demsey Slater — Treasurer — Signature:

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Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, applicable regulations, FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 second edition 2019. The Society is a public benefit entity. Sterling is the functional and presentation currency. Amounts are shown to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The assessment considers available cash, future operating commitments, trip deposits and prepayments, and the repayment terms of the member loan. Heritage assets are held for charitable purposes and are not treated as readily available operating cash.

Having considered the free reserves on hand and the expected foreseeable costs of the charity, the trustees consider that the charity is a going concern and continue to prepare the accounts on that basis.

Income and life membership

Income is recognised when the Society is entitled to it, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Subscriptions relating to future periods are deferred. Life membership receipts are released over the estimated period of membership and reviewed when relevant information changes. Gift Aid is recognised when entitlement exists, recovery is probable and the amount is measurable; recognition is not conditional solely on submission or payment of a claim.

Member events and expenditure

The draft accounts present the Society's event income and related expenditure gross, with payments for future events included in prepayments and members' advance receipts included in creditors. In previous years only the overall trip surplus or deficit was recorded as income or expenditure. However, given that the charity has potential financial risk associated with the organising of trips, having reviewed appropriate guidance the charity consider it more appropriate to show trip income and trip expenditure separately on the income statement.

Expenditure is recognised when an obligation exists, settlement is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Charitable costs include awards, journal publication, the website and member events; administrative and other support costs are shown separately.

Heritage assets and stocks

Heritage assets are recorded at cost or, when donated, at their estimated value on receipt. Carrying values are reviewed for impairment. No depreciation is charged where the residual value is not less than carrying value. Stocks held for sale are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Items distributed free are charged to expenditure when distributed.

Funds and financial balances

Unrestricted funds are available for the Society's general purposes. Restricted funds are subject to donor restrictions and designated funds are earmarked by the trustees. Debtors and creditors are recognised at settlement value, with appropriate provision for amounts not recoverable. Cash excludes separately recognised accrued interest.

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Financial instruments

The Society only enters into basic financial instruments, comprising cash at bank and in hand, debtors, creditors and loans. Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, where applicable.

Financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date for evidence of impairment and any identified impairment loss is recognised in expenditure.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows expire or are settled. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Society's contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire.

Notes to the financial statements

2 Income and member events

	2025 £	2024 £
Member subscriptions	17,937	14,022
Donations	1,150	320
Member events	55,494	33,500
Other income including interest	3,301	1,508
Total income	**77,882**	**49,350**

Other income in 2025 includes bank interest of £973 and sundry receipts of £2,328. Sundry receipts include sales of slates and journals and a £300 Guardian receipt. Member subscriptions include the life membership income recognised in note 9.

Event	Income £	Costs £	Surplus £
Barcelona	1,143	0	1,143
Paris	1,684	853	831
Polperro	8,896	7,880	1,016
Eton	428	436	(8)
Sutton Courtenay	269	437	(168)
Marrakech	18,296	10,192	8,104
London walking tour	764	360	404
Jura	24,014	17,620	6,394
Total	**55,494**	**37,778**	**17,716**

Comparative presentation

In the previous accounts, the 2024 event surplus was £2,432. The 2024 trip analysis gives gross receipts of £33,500 and costs of £31,068. Presenting these gross increases comparative income and expenditure by £31,068, to £49,350 and £52,669 respectively. The deficit of £3,319 and closing funds of £157,061 are unchanged.

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Notes to the financial statements

3 Expenditure and trustee expenses

	2025 £	2024 £
Bursaries prizes and awards	3,712	6,250
Journal	9,774	9,983
Website	708	589
Member event costs	37,778	31,068
Total charitable expenditure	**51,972**	**47,890**
AGM costs	200	2,056
Trustee meeting costs	0	378
Bank charges	513	604
IT and communications	569	384
Other costs including slates	1,272	1,357
Total other expenditure	**2,554**	**4,779**
Total expenditure	**54,526**	**52,669**

Demsey Slater, a trustee and the Treasurer, is an employee of Spencer Gardner Dickins Limited. Paul Spencer, Independent Examiner, is founder of Spencer Gardner Dickins Limited who is the firm assisting with preparation of these accounts and maintenance of the charity's accounting records. All services have been provided free of charge.

The charity had no employees during the year or preceding year.

4 Heritage assets

	2025 £	2024 £
Orwell statue at the BBC	150,000	150,000
Peter Davison book collection	2,500	2,500
Total heritage assets	**152,500**	**152,500**

The statue is carried at the value provided at transfer to the Society. The book collection was donated in 2017 and was previously reported to be on indefinite loan to the Museum of Wigan Life.

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5 Debtors and cash balances

	2025 £	2024 £
Barcelona trip prepayments	3,847	0
Marrakech trip prepayments	5,381	0
Polperro trip prepayments	1,820	1,760
Accrued bank interest	323	0
Other expense advances	0	300
Total debtors and prepayments	**11,371**	**2,060**
NatWest	13,012	16,895
PayPal	11,967	5,172
Nationwide	12,217	11,567
Total cash balances	**37,196**	**33,634**

6 Stocks

Closing stock is £550 (2024 £708), comprising journals estimated at £500 and one slate estimated at £50.

7 Creditors due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Jura trip balance	2,414	11,024
Deferred life membership income	352	352
Heritage project accruals	2,006	2,006
Other accruals	1,320	2,965
Total	**6,092**	**16,347**

8 Creditors due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Loan from Richard Blair	10,000	10,000
Deferred life membership income	5,108	5,494
Total	**15,108**	**15,494**

Richard Blair is a trustee and the Society's Patron. The loan balance is £10,000 at both year ends. This money has been loaned interest free, unsecured and is repayable on demand. No trustee received any remuneration or other benefits from the charity during either the current or preceding year.

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Notes to the financial statements

9 Deferred life membership income

	2025 £	2024 £
Balance at 1 January	5,846	6,198
Adjustment	(34)	
Life membership income recognised in the year	(352)	(352)
Balance at 31 December	**5,460**	**5,846**
To be recognised within one year	352	352
To be recognised after more than one year	5,108	5,494

10 Funds and reserves

	2025 £	2024 £
Funds at 1 January	157,061	160,380
Net income or expenditure	23,356	(3,319)
Funds at 31 December	**180,417**	**157,061**
Less heritage assets	(152,500)	(152,500)
Funds excluding heritage assets	**27,917**	**4,561**

At 31 December 2025 and 31 December 2024 the charity had no restricted funds.