REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2026

The Trustees of Keele World Affairs present their annual report and accounts for the period ended 28 February 2026 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission and the constitution of Keele World Affairs.

1 OUR AIMS

The charitable aims of Keele World Affairs are:

(1) To advance education for the public benefit through lectures and other forms of learning in fields of international politics, economics, and global issues;

(2) To create an environment that encourages lifelong learning through the programmes it organises;

(3) To share the knowledge gained during its programme with the wider community.

Since the foundation of Keele World Affairs in 1980 as an informal community association, its primary focus has been on international politics, economics, and global issues. This remained the aim of the trustees following the registration of Keele World Affairs as a charity and has continued in the latest year.

It is increasingly recognised that a unique feature of Keele World Affairs, appreciated by speakers and members alike, is the lengthy Q & A session in which over 300 members can raise thoughtful questions about the speaker's analysis and opinions, a two way process unlike a traditional lecture. In our website and materials we describe Keele World Affairs as the UK's leading Forum for International Politics and Global Issues.

2 OUR ETHOS AND OUR ACCESS POLICY

Keele World Affairs serves the region and society more widely (by for example bringing public figures into contact with our members) and as a charitable trust it seeks to benefit the public through the pursuit of the above aims. Our policy is for subscriptions to be affordable by any member of the community whatever their economic status.

In return for the voluntary effort that is made to sustain the efforts of the charity, we expect subscribing members to follow our guiding principles of lifelong learning by regular attendance during the season, engagement in the questioning of speakers on the topics covered, and support that leads to a good learning environment.

Applications to join Keele World Affairs are considered in the light of these principles and we are committed to maintaining a membership that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. We believe that our members benefit from learning within a diverse community and that a great deal of learning occurs through social interaction, conversation and shared experiences during our meetings.

3 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Committee of charity trustees are responsible for the policies and overall management of Keele World Affairs activities. They meet during the year as required. The Committee is supported by teams of some 50 member volunteers who help implement policies and manage activities. All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses (other than out of pocket expenses) were paid to them in the accounting period.

During the year Bill Boynton and Don Muir were re-elected as Trustees for a further 12 months. Ian Wise, Richard Arkle, Gary Provis, Adrian Cartwright, Mark Lambert and John Sherwood were appointed

as Trustees on 19th April 2025 and served for the remainder of the year. Dr David Garnett, Catherine Escott, and Samantha Ellsmore served as Trustees for part of the year. Professor Helen Parr stepped down as a Trustee. Bill Boynton has indicated his wish to step down as our Chair and as a Trustee at our AGM on 30 April 2026 and Ian Wise has been appointed as Chair-Elect with a view to succeeding him as Chair at that meeting.

During the year the Constitution was updated and filed with the Charity Commission.

4 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Programme of meetings

During the period, 20 meetings took place.

4.2 Speakers

The following speakers addressed Keele World Affairs meeting during the period covered by the report. They include academics, historians, scientists, diplomats, journalists, and politicians.

Professor Michael Clarke	**Former Director General, Royal United Services Institute**
Professor Danny Dorling	**1971 Professor of Geography, University of Oxford**
Jonathon Porritt CBE	**Founder, Forum for the Future and former Chancellor Keele University**
Dr Caroline Lucas	**Former Leader and MP, Green Party**
Chris Doyle	**Director, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding**
Professor Linda Woodhead MBE FBA	**F.D. Maurice Professor in Moral and Social Theology, King's College London**
Professor Anand Menon	**Director, UK in a Changing Europe, King's College London**
Elisabeth Braw	**Senior Fellow Atlantic Council, Journalist, Author**
Professor Paul Rogers	**Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies, Bradford University**
Danny Sriskandarajah	**Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation**
Dr Avinash Paliwal	**Reader in Int. Relations, SOAS, University of London**
Professor Nic Cheeseman	**Professor of Democracy and International Development, University of Birmingham**
Professor Richard Murphy	**Emeritus Professor at Sheffield University Management School**
Laura Clarke OBE	**Chief Executive Officer, ClientEarth**
Michael Stephens	**Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, FPRI**
Professor Sir Vernon Bogdanor CBE	**Professor of Government, King's College London**
Dr Gillian Tett	**Provost of Kings College, Cambridge University**
Professor Mark Galeotti	**Hon. Professor UCL SSEES, Senior Assoc. Fellow at RUSI, Director, Mayak Intelligence**
Charles Parton OBE	**Senior Associate Fellow, RUSI and Former Diplomat**
Bill Emmott	**Chairman IISS Trustees, former editor-in-chief The Economist**

4.3 Communications

We communicate frequently with all World Affairs members by email and this encourages commitment to the programme that is the basis of their educational experience. There is a preview of each meeting and guidance on how to benefit most from attendance at our meetings.

4.4 Our Website

We have commenced a project to upgrade the website and move to another platform during 2026 that will be easier to update. Information about Keele World Affairs and its aims is available to subscribing

members and to the public at www. http://kwaku.org.uk/. To make our educational activities widely available, we maintain an archive of our meetings published whenever we have the consent of the speaker. In January 2025 we launched our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@KeeleWorldAffairs where the latest videos of our speakers can now be viewed.

4.5 Member Feedback and Opinion

Keele World Affairs is run by the trustees on the Foundation Model in which they take the decisions, so regular surveys of subscribing members are important to provide feedback about their educational experience.

4.6 Engagement with our educational programme

During the period covered by this report, books by a number of the speakers were available at book signings at our meetings. We invite local booksellers to organise them and we seek no profit.

5 ADVISORY PANEL.

Dr Gillian Tett, Provost of King's College Cambridge joined our Advisory Panel during the year.

6 RELATIONSHIP WITH KEELE UNIVERSITY

Our relationship with the university remains strong and we are grateful for access to its excellent facilities. The Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences are ex-officio members of Keele World Affairs. Vice-Chancellor, Prof Trevor McMillan is invited annually to address our members about developments at Keele University, and did so on 20 March 2025. Prof McMillan retired in September 2025 and was succeeded by Prof Kevin Shakesheff who addressed members on 19 February 2026.

Signed: *J W Boynton*

Chair

Date: 15 March 2026

Keele World Affairs CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 28 February 2026

Receipts and Payments for Years ending 28th February

	2026		2025	
	£		£	
Receipts				
Course enrolment fees	20,380		19272	
Donations	36		126	
Other Receipts	0		340	
Total receipts		20,416		19,738
Payments				
Speaker expenses	7,045		6519	
Other meeting expenses	1,949		1,802	
Internet and audio visual services	4,325		3,631	
Other IT costs	4,476		2,691	
Membership administration	105		429	
Insurance and legal	449		375	
Total payments		18,349		15,447
Net surplus		2,067		4,291
Reserves brought forward		30,586		26,295
Reserves carried forward		32,653		30,586

Keele World Affairs CIO

Balance Sheets as at 28 February

	2026	2025
	£	£
Bank accounts	29,653	27,586
Computers and equipment	3,000	3,000
Reserves	32,653	30,586

Accounting policies

1.Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts from course enrolment fees are collected and recognized in the year to which they relate. Expenses are recognized in the year in which they are paid including VAT which cannot be recovered.

2. Charitable status

Keele World Affairs CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number 1164457. As a result of its charitable status, no liability to tax arises on its income.

3. Computers and equipment

The computers and equipment include laptops and equipment used during meetings and are stated at Trustees' valuation.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

J W Boynton

J W Boynton

Date: 15 March 2026

Trustee

R M Arkle

R M Arkle

Date: 15 March 2026

Trustee