Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	**Sherborne Literary Society**
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1168489
Charity's principal address	Abbots Fee
	Greenhill
	Sherborne, Dorset
	Postcode DT9 4EP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Louise Sarah Troup	Chair	Appointed Chair 1 April 2026	Members
2	Robert John Bowmer	Membership Secretary		"
3	Rosanna Cunningham		Resigned 22 April 2026	"
4	John Douglas Gaye MBE			"
5	Naomi Barbara Marie-Francoise Hewitt	Secretary	Appointed 22 April 2026	"
6	Andrew Holt			"
7	Richard Henry Cadwallader Hopton			"
8	Mark Howard Pender	Treasurer	Stood down as Chair 31 March 2026	"
9	Alastair Poulain			"
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at General Meeting. May be co-opted by Committee until appointed at GM.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

In the year, payments were made to two trustees for specific services provided to the Society, as disclosed in the Accounts.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROMOTE THE ARTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE SHERBORNE AREA BY PROMOTING AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES (THROUGH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES) FOR THE APPRECIATION, UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYMENT OF LITERATURE IN THE BROADEST SENSE.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	The Trustees observed due regard to the public benefit, as required by the Constitution of the Society and the Charity Commission, by planning, organising and holding events and activities in the Sherborne, Dorset area for people interested in literature in the broadest sense.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about: • policy on grantmaking; • policy programme related investment; • contribution made by volunteers.	

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Accounts for the year, which are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, show a surplus for the year of £9,761 (2025: £4,558). The result comprises a deficit on unrestricted funds of £249 (2025: £4,558) and a surplus of £10,000 (2025: nil) on restricted funds, as described below.

Unrestricted funds

Membership fee income was received of £1,902 (2025: £2,481) was received. The Committee believe that this apparent fall in membership after continuous steady growth since the pandemic is misleading and due to a higher than average renewal prior to 31 March 2025, which impacts the comparison of 2025/26 memberships received at the beginning of the year under review with the prior year. Encouraging numbers of new members in April 2026 lead the Committee to believe that the Society's appeal remains strong. Awareness of, and interest in, the Society's varied programme of events and, notably, its annual three-day Travel Writing Festival ("TWF"), which commenced in April 2023 and now has a wide and prestigious reputation, continues to grow.

During the year under review, in April 2025, the Society held its third TWF. After all costs, this generated an excess of income over expenditure of £1,693 compared with £747 for the April 2024 event. Note that, because of the April timing of the festival, its overall financial result consists of cash flows spanning two accounting years.

Excluding figures from the Accounts relating to both the April 2025 and April 2026 TWFs (including the restricted funds as below) leaves an overall cash surplus of £3,259. As above, £1,902 of this is membership fees. Discounting that, the net income arising from the Society's other on-going activities and programme of events throughout the year after all admin costs, is a healthy £1,357.

A variety of events continues to be held, on average monthly, covering a diversity of literature. Highlights of the year included an event in Sherborne Abbey with Booker Prize winner Samantha Harvey and a joint poetry event with the Amateur Players of Sherborne.

In the year, the Society made donations totalling £500 to local schools to buy books.

Restricted funds

During the year the Society received funds gifted by a donor who wished to establish a literary prize of £10,000 to be presented to a British or European author, the prize to be linked to the April 2026 Sherborne Travel Writing Festival (as above) and used to further its popularity, prestige and fundraising potential. After completing due diligence procedures, the Society accepted a donation of £15,000,

to cover the prize and related costs. The prize was awarded to Adam Weymouth at the 2026 Festival The actual prize amount remained as a restricted fund and creditor at the financial year-end.

It is a term of the donation that the donor remains anonymous. The donor's identity is known only to the Committee and the "curator" of the Festival, to whom the initial approach was made. The Prize will be an annual award, running from year to year unless terminated by either party.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The Committee reviews its funding levels at every meeting to ensure that the level and nature of its activities do not prejudice its financial stability. At the Committee Meeting of 12 June 2024, it was decided to maintain a minimum reserve of £10,000. Since that date, this policy has been regularly reviewed and adhered to and was last re-confirmed at the Committee Meeting of 22 April 2026.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	No funds are in deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	The Charity's operating income comes mainly from membership fees and ticket revenue from events. Most events are designed to both further the Charity's aims by, for example, presenting a book or author, while at the same time generating revenue. In addition, significant income was received in the year by donation as described in Section D.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	[signature]	[signature]
Full name(s)	LOUISE SARAH TROUP	MARK HOWARD PENDER
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	5 August 2026	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Sherborne Literary Society	1168489

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st April 2025		31st March 2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership subscriptions	1,902	-	-	1,902	2,481
Ticket Sales	20,283	-	-	20,283	21,097
Donations, Grants and Sponsorship	3,632	15,000	-	18,632	2,205
Bank interest	426	-	-	426	212
Miscellaneous Income	4,008	-	-	4,008	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	30,251	15,000	-	45,251	25,995
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	30,251	15,000	-	45,251	25,995
A3 Payments					
Personnel costs	4,162	-	-	3,339	3,339
Administration, stationery & general	1,187	-	-	1,187	837
Venues and event costs	3,960	-	-	3,960	2,335
Equipment and event IT	1,095	-	-	1,095	986
Speakers' fees	2,240	-	-	2,240	4,030
Speakers' costs	3,690	-	-	3,690	2,627
Advertising, printing and design	7,000	-	-	7,000	3,090
Hospitality & catering	1,635	-	-	1,635	1,423
Website	3,263			3,263	1,946
Insurance	91	-	-	91	274
Costs relating to administering Restricted Fund project	1,673	5,000	-	6,673	52
Donations made	494	-	-	494	500
Sub total	30,490	5,000	-	35,490	21,437
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	30,490	5,000	-	35,490	21,437
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 239	10,000	-	9,761	4,558
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,905	-	-	16,905	12,347
Cash funds this year end	16,666	10,000	-	26,666	16,905

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account - Lloyds	464	-	-
	Deposit Accounts - Lloyds	15,933	10,000	-
	Petty Cash	269	-	-
	Total cash funds	**16,666**	**10,000**	-

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing award	**Restricted**	**10,000**	**April 2026**
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	L Troup	LOUISE SARAH TROUP	5 AUG 2026
	M Pender	MARK HOWARD PENDER	5 AUG 2026

NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

(1) Restricted Funds

The Restricted Funds shown in these Accounts relate to a donation of £15,000 received for the purpose of awarding a prize to an author in the travel writing genre, The Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing, of which £5,000 was disbursed in costs during the year. The figure of £10,000 shown under Liabilities represents the Prize which was paid in April 2026.

(2) Payments to Connected Persons

The following payments were made to trustees for specific services provided to the Society relating to The Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing.

Trustee Name	Reason	Legal Authority	Amount Paid (£)
Richard Hopton	Literary expertise/advice	Governing Document	1,364
Louise Troup	" " "	" "	1,260

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Sherborne Literary Society		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	1168489
Set out on pages	1&2 (Receipts & Payments Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and 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.

Signed:		**Date:**	25 June 2026
Name:	Donald Nordberg		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MBA, University of Warwick PhD, University of Liverpool PhD, University of Exeter		
Address:	Stourbend House Goughs Close Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1BU		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	