Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1	1	2025	**To**	31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name British Philosophical Association

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1208038

Charity's principal address c/o Philosophy, Lancaster University
Bailrigg
Lancaster
Postcode **LA1 4YL**

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	Fiona Macpherson	President		
2	Simon Kirchin	Director		
3	Garrath Williams	Treasurer		
4	Julian Baggini			Co-opted by elected trustees
5	Derek Brown			
6	Sophie-Grace Chappell			
7	Jennifer Corns		Until 16.9.2025	
8	Joshua Forstenzer			
9	Ian Kidd		Until 11.11.2025	
10	Rosanna Keefe			
11	Martin O'Neill			
12	Robert Penney			Co-opted by elected trustees
13	Heather Widdows			
14	Fiona Woollard			
15	Jonny Thomson		From 13.5.2025	Co-opted by elected trustees
16	Barry Smith		From 16.9.2025	Co-opted by elected trustees
17	Anne-Marie Mccallion		From 7.11.2025	[Elected by membership]
18				
19				
20				

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
Checking of accounts	David Crayston	Accounts Manager, Edge of the World Ltd, Merchant House, Market Square, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2AN

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)	12 trustees elected, 4 trustees nominated

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.

The BPA became a registered charity on 29 April 2024. It held its first Annual General Meeting as a registered charity on 13 September 2024, and its second AGM on 16 September 2025.

The following trustees stepped down in the course of 2025:

- Jennifer Corns
- Ian Kidd

The following trustee was elected by the membership in 2025:

- Anne-Marie Mccallion

The following nominated trustees were appointed in 2025, in line with §13.2 of the constitution:

- Jonny Thomson
- Barry Smith

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

For the public benefit the advancement of education, specifically by the promotion of excellence in the teaching of, study of, and research in the academic discipline of Philosophy in the United Kingdom within higher education and also within the wider community.

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 British Philosophical Association is a learned society which was formally recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 29 April 2024, having previously operated as an unincorporated association.

Our activities for 2025 reflected the pattern set out in our earlier application for charitable status and as reported to the Commission in our annual return for 2024. Through these activities, the trustees aim at the public benefit by supporting and promoting the discipline of philosophy in the UK, taking regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

One of the BPA's main aims to is make access to the formal study of philosophy at all levels from post-16 as inclusive as possible. To this end the BPA has collaborated with other societies and with representatives from university departments. Working with other philosophical societies and associations, we raised substantial funds and commissioned research into EDI in philosophy, to:

- produce detailed demographic information on participation in philosophy in the UK;
- report on the experience of people from all backgrounds of their participation in philosophy in the UK;
- make recommendations to address any problems identified in the research.

Having completed the first part of this work in autumn 2024 (with the publication of commissioned research by Eleanor Glanville Institute, University of Lincoln), our main activity in 2025 was to consult with members (both departments and individuals) and other philosophical associations as to the measures our profession can take to address under-representation and exclusion. This will feed into further research and activities to support EDI in 2026.

This work aims to ensure that philosophy education offers benefits to as wide an audience as possible, regardless of race, sex and other protected characteristics.

Philosophy Matters and British Philosophy Fortnight

A major activity was the first British Philosophy Fortnight, which took place in March 2025. This included many events hosted by philosophy departments across the country, social media activities including a range of videos on the nature and importance of philosophy, and a schools philosophy competition with prizes sponsored by two exam boards, the AQA and OCR. This campaign aims to show the broad public relevance of philosophy as an academic discipline and to promote its study and teaching.

We also took considerable preparatory activity for the second British Fortnight. (This subsequently took place in March 2026.)

Departments Under Threat

The BPA has continued to assist colleagues and departments where there has been the threat of significant cuts in provision. Of necessity, most of this work goes on "behind the scenes," e.g. to lobby managers who are considering cuts to philosophy provision or to support colleagues who may be facing threats of redundancy.

This work aims to support the continuing health of higher educational provision in philosophy.

Philosophy in Schools

Since the successful launch of the Association for Philosophy Teachers in 2023, the BPA has continued a close working relationship. The APT chair, Robert Penney, is a co-opted trustee of the BPA; the BPA Director, Simon Kirchin, liaises regularly with the APT.

Our trustees also contribute to the discussions relating to the AQA A-level in Philosophy, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)'s Subject Benchmark Statement for Philosophy, the Cambridge OCR exam board and its philosophy-related provisions.

We also contribute to broader discussions within the Arts and Humanities Alliance, to promote the profile and contributions of philosophy within the broader humanities.

Again, this work aims to support educational provision in philosophy.

Resources for Early Career Philosophers

Provision of philosophy education naturally depends on the continued entry of qualified philosophers into professional teaching and research. However, the situation for PhD philosophy students seeking careers in philosophy is especially difficult at the moment. Having previously launched extensive resources and tip sheets for philosophers starting their careers (https://bpa.ac.uk/resources-for-early-career-philosophers/), in 2025 we began preparations for an early career mentoring scheme.

By supporting the entry of new members into the profession, this activity also supports the continuing health of educational provision in philosophy.

Additional Activities

BPA trustees liaise with other relevant bodies concerned with education and research – for example, by attending the British Academy's Strategic Forum for the Humanities and the Academy's Learned Societies' meeting concerning future plans for the Research Excellence Framework, the future of research funding, the early career network, and the existence of cold spots where there are regions lacking provision in the humanities in higher education.

In 2025, the BPA launched our first round of prizes to recognise outstanding work and initiatives in philosophy, to support the public profile of philosophy, and inviting nominations from our members. (These prizes were subsequently awarded in March 2026.)

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.

The BPA has no grantmaking programme. It also has no investments.

The BPA does not have a volunteer scheme, although our members are involved in many activities, alongside the trustees – for example, in planning/organising events as part of British Philosophy Fortnight.

Section D Achievements and performance

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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Philosophy Matters and British Philosophy Fortnight
We undertook our first #PhilosophyMatters campaign including the first British Philosophy Fortnight in March 2025.

British Philosophy Prizes
To help raise the profile of the discipline, we launched our first round of prizes to recognise outstanding work and initiatives in philosophy,

Planning Future Work on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
We have consulted on how to take forward the research commissioned and carried out in 2024 (https://bpa.ac.uk/2024/12/12/edi-in-philosophy-2024-report/).

Support for Early Career Philosophers
Following the 2024 launch of our resources for early career philosophers (https://bpa.ac.uk/resources-for-early-career-philosophers/), we began planning an ECR mentoring scheme.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The BPA aims to hold approximately one to two year's income in reserve, to offset any fluctuations in income or expenditure.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

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.

We do not engage in any fundraising – all income is derived from membership payments.

We do not hold any investments.

The accounts were prepared by Garrath Williams, as BPA Treasurer.

The accounts were then checked by David Crayston, Accounts Manager at Edge of the World Ltd, and also formerly Director of the Westmorland County Agricultural Society Ltd (2016-20, 2022-5).

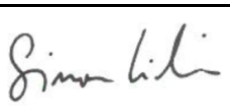
Section F Other optional information

This report was approved by the trustees at their meeting of 15 September 2026.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Simon Kirchin	Garrath Williams
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Director	Treasurer
Date	7 October 2026	7 October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
British Philosophical Association	1208038

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

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					
Individual memberships	3 415	-	-	3 415	2 654
Institutional memberships	4 040	-	-	4 040	3 160
Contributions to EDI research (restricted)	-	1 000	-	1 000	
Prize money sponsorship	154	-	-	154	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	7 609	1 000	-	8 609	5 814
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
[None]	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7 609	1 000	-	8 609	5 814
A3 Payments					
Adminstrator	1 330	-	-	1 330	1 636
Meeting expenses	2 242	-	-	2 242	92
Website and email account	959	-	-	959	862
Insurance	772	-	-	772	716
Banking, paypal, postal, misc charges	36	-	-	36	43
Election expenses	-	-	-	-	66
M/ship Foundation for Science & Tech'y	287	-	-	287	273
Philosophy Matters campaign	2 628		-	2 628	2 400
EDI research	-		-	-	26 225
Sub total	8 254	-	-	8 254	32 313
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
[None]	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8 254	-	-	8 254	32 313
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 645	1 000	-	355	- 26 499
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18 285	25 292	-	43 577	70 076
Cash funds this year end	17 640	26 292	-	43 932	43 577

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	Cash at bank, less EDI research commitment	9 604	-	-

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
Paypal funds	1 223	-	-
Funds reserved for EDI research	6 813	26 292	-
Total cash funds	17 640	26 292	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Garrath Williams	15-Sep-26