S O U T H D E V O N A N D C O R N W A L L

I N S T I T U T I O N F O R T H E B L I N D

P L Y M O U T H

(The Charity is an unincorporated body managed by Trustees who are governed by the Constitution dated 9th March 1982. The Charity is registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948).

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THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIXTH

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 15 CHANNEL VIEW TERRACE, PLYMOUTH

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 10.30 A.M.

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SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND
The Old Harbour Office, Guys Quay, Sutton Harbour, Plymouth

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2025/2026

President and Chairman:	CLLR MRS M ASPINALL
Hon. Secretary:	MR EDWARD KEAST
	MISS STEPHANIE ROBINSON

Auditors

NORTHCOTT TRUMFIELD
Chartered Accountants
Devonshire Villa, 52 Stuart Road, Stoke
Plymouth, PL3 4EE

Bankers	Investment Advisors
LLOYDS TSB BANK PLC Royal Parade Plymouth PL1 1HB	CCLA Investment Management Limited CCLA Fund Manager Ltd, COIF Charity Funds Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London, EC4V 4ET

(Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948)

Supported by Voluntary Contribution

SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND
PRESIDENTS

1986 - G. P. BLADES, Esq.
1987 - G. P. BLADES, Esq.
1988 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1989 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1990 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1991 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1992 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1993 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1994 - Mrs. E. BROCK, M.B.E.
1995 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
1996 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
1997 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
1998 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
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2001 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
2002 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
2003 - Councillor B. C. A. MILLER, JP
2004 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2005 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2006 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2007 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2008 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2009 - Councillor A. KERSWELL
2010 - MR A KERSWELL
2011 - MR JOHN WARD
2012 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2013 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2014 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2015 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2016 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2017 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2018 - MR ROGER GARRATT
2019 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2020 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2021 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2022 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2023 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2024 - Councillor MRS MARY ASPINALL
2025 - MRS MARY ASPINALL

166th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND
The Old Harbour Office, Guys Quay, Sutton Harbour, Plymouth
Held at 15 Channel View Terrace, Plymouth

Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 10.30 a.m.
Chairman: Chairman
of the South Devon & Cornwall Institution for the Blind
Mrs Mary Aspinall

AGENDA

The Chairman of the Institution: to welcome everyone to this, our 166th Annual General Meeting.

Apologies:

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting - these are to be taken as read, having been previously circulated with the Annual Report.

The Chairman (In the Chair): To recommend the adoption of the Accounts and Report of the Trustees, and call upon Mr E Keast to second the motion.

Auditors: To appoint Northcott Trumfield as the Auditors

Election of Charity Trustees:

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Existing members willing to stand for the ensuing year:-

Mr E Keast Cllr Mrs M Aspinall

Ballot papers to be completed by Trustees. Each Trustee may vote for themselves and must obtain 50% of the vote of the members present to be re-elected.

To read the names of members voted onto the committee as Trustees

Election of Officers:
Ballot papers to be completed by Trustees. Trustees may vote for themselves and must obtain 50% of the vote of members present. The officers were nominated at the last meeting dated 23rd September 2026

President and Chairman
Cllr Mrs M Aspinall

Secretary
Mr E Keast

Investment Policy

Any Other Business

166TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

STONEHOUSE STREET, PLYMOUTH

MINUTES

Presiding: Chairman of the South Devon & Cornwall Institution for the Blind, Cllr Mrs M Aspinall

Members Present: Cllr Mrs M Aspinall Mr E Keast

Apologies: No Apologies

Minutes: Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting having already been circulated were taken as read.

Accounts and Report of the Trustees: Cllr Mrs M Aspinall moved the adoption of the Accounts and Report of the Trustees (having been previously circulated to all Management Committee members) and Mr E Keast seconded the adoption. All members agreed.

Auditors: The Chairman proposed to appoint Northcott Trumfield as the Auditors of the Charity and Mr E Keast seconded this motion. All members agreed.

Election of Trustees and Officers:
The following were elected as Trustees and Officers.

President and Chairman: CLLR MRS MARY ASPINALL
Hon. Secretary: MR EDWARD KEAST

MEMBERS

No members.

Investment Policy

The Trustees, at a meeting on 17th July 2018 agreed to adopt a balanced approach to the investment of the Charity's assets, other than the property in Stonehouse Street, Plymouth. The Trustees recognised that the balanced approach adopted in CCLA's COIF Charities Investment Fund does have a high equity content but are reassured, since one of the investment objectives of that Fund is to control volatility to 75% of the equity market, and agreed to move our investments from Lloyds Bank to CCLA in September 2018. This decision was reaffirmed at a meeting held on 23rd September 2026 to continue to hold our investments with CCLA's COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Any Other Business

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting

The Management Committee have pleasure in presenting this the 166th Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2026

The full report of the Trustees is contained within the following Report and Financial Statements

SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 March 2026

Charity No. 202125

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report along with the receipts and payments account of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comply with the charity's trust deed and applicable law.

1. Reference and Administrative Details

1.1 South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Blind

The Institution is governed under a Constitution dated 9 March 1982 and is a Registered Charity (No. 202125). The registered office is 2 Stonehouse Street, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3PE. The charity was formed in 1860.

1.2 Addresses

Principal Office:	c/o Stratton Creber Commercial The Old Harbour Office Guys Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0ES

1.3 Trustees and Executive Committee during the year

The following were the Management Committee at the time of approval of the report:

Councillor M. Aspinall	Chairman
Mr E. Keast	Hon. Secretary
Miss S. Robinson	Appointed 30 July 2025

1.4 Professional Advisers

Independent Examiners:	Northcott Trumfield Chartered Accountants Devonshire Villa 52 Stuart Road Stoke Plymouth PL3 4EE
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank PLC 8 Royal Parade Plymouth PL1 1HB
Investment Manager:	CCLA Investment Management Limited and CCLA Fund Manager Limited managers of COIF Charity Funds Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET

2. Structure, Governance and Management

2.1 Governance

The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1. Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees yearly at the Annual General Meeting where retiring trustees are eligible for re-election. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year. The Board of Trustees are known as the Management Committee.

Decisions are made and ratified at management committee meetings.

2.2 Recruitment of Trustees

Trustees are briefed about the charity, shown accounts and the operations of the charity.

2.3 Internal Control

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with applicable law, regulations and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

3. Objectives and Activities

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the charity are:

"To promote the welfare of the blind and the prevention of blindness in the area comprising South Devon and Cornwall, and for the purposes of the constitution the word blind shall be those persons state registered blind and, therefore, substantially and permanently handicapped by defective vision."

The trustees have paid due regard to the guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

3.2 Current Activities

The charity leases the freehold property to raise rent as investment income which is applied with other income to meet the running costs of the pension scheme and charity and to assist blind people in the designated area.

3.3 Grant making policy

Welfare for state registered blind

We receive applications from individuals or other charities on behalf of individuals. Each application is considered on its individual merits.

4. Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2026

We appointed a new Trustee, Miss Stephanie Robinson, on 30th July 2025, but continue to try and increase the number of Trustees. As in previous years, we continue to fund the Pension Scheme from our investments and the income from the rental of our premises, but find the increasing costs for such a small pension scheme impeding our ability to provide help to blind people in our area.

The building continues to be managed by Stratton Creber who provide regular reports on the condition of the building and any necessary repairs are addressed.
The Trustees agreed to send £40 Marks & Spencer vouchers to all our members as a Christmas gift this year. We receive a number of enquiries from blind and visually impaired persons or their helpers and where assistance could not be provided directly, they were referred to the relevant agency or charity.

The charity is grateful for all donations and support that it has received during the year.

5. Financial Review

The total receipts for the year were £36,090 and total payments £53,146 combined with £50,000 from liquidating part of the investment portfolio producing net receipts of £32,944. Cash funds at the year-end are £60,274. Total Net Assets were £859,105 (2025: £904,319) as at page 6. There are no restricted funds.

We engage COIF Charity Funds as investment managers. The investment policy is to adopt a balanced approach with CCLA Charities Investment Fund with an objective of controlling volatility to 75% of the equity market. In this year's accounts the investment is included at market value and the comparative has been re-stated.

We deem it important to keep a proportion of funds in cash deposits to react to any unforeseen circumstances.

The trustees consider the performance of the investment and its market value to be satisfactory.

The reserves of the Institution are represented by freehold property, investments in CCLA Charities Investment Fund Accumulation Units which were valued at £797,889 at the year end.

These investments generate income, which is used for the furtherance of our objectives, and are held in order that the Charity could survive a significant adverse change in fortune.

Approved by the Management Committee on 19 August 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Councillor M Aspinall

Trustee

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South Devon and Cornwall Institution for the Blind

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

G I NORTHCOTT Bsc(Econ), FCA, DChA
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England
and Wales
Northcott Trumfield
Chartered Accountants
Devonshire Villa
52 Stuart Road
Stoke
Plymouth
PL3 4EE

Date: 19 August 2026

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2026

	Unrestricted Fund 2026 £	Unrestricted Fund 2025 £
Receipts		
Interest and dividends on deposits and fixed investments	57	37
Tenant contribution to costs	4,292	4,124
Rental income	31,666	30,746
Other income	75	-
Total Receipts	36,090	34,907
Payments		
Christmas gifts and donations	920	1,040
Premises	210	-
Pension scheme compliance costs	33,412	27,915
Administrator costs	3,670	2,900
Insurance	4,851	4,124
Legal and professional	9,660	3,680
General expenses	423	416
Total Payments	53,146	40,075
Sale proceeds of investments	50,000	-
Net Receipts/(Payments)	32,944	(5,168)
Prepayment Adjustment	(6,254)	6,747
Cash Funds at 31 March 2025	21,076	32,991
Cash Funds at 31 March 2026	60,274	21,076

SOUTH DEVON & CORNWALL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £
Cash Funds			
Deposit account		58,850	19,658
Current account		514	512
Legacy account		632	628
Pension scheme account		278	278
Total Cash Funds		60,274	21,076
Prepayments and Debtors		493	7,405
Investment Assets			
COIF Investment Fund at valuation		472,899	550,389
Freehold property at valuation	2	325,000	325,000
Total Investment Assets		797,889	875,389
Assets Retained for Charity's Own Use			
Equipment		449	449
Liabilities			
Deferred income		-	-
Total Net Assets		859,105	904,319

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 19 August 2026
and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee: Councillor M Aspinall

Trustee: Mr E Keast

1. Trustees' Remuneration

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses in the year (2025 : nil).

2. Freehold Investment Property

This is re-valued at estimated market value by the trustees, following a professional valuation by Chartered Surveyors in May 2023, at £325,000.