The Liverpool Merchants' Guild
Annual Report & Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2025
Registered Charity
No.206454

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2025

Index

Page	
1 – 6	Trustees' Annual Report including statement of trustees' responsibilities
7 - 9	Auditors' Report
10	Statement of Financial Activities
11	Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024
12	Statement of Financial Position
13	Statement of Cash Flows
14 – 23	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31st December 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025, which have been prepared in accordance with part 8 of the Charities Act 2011.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was established by the will of the late Catherine Wright in 1868 as "Wright's Institution" and was incorporated along with all its subsidiary funds by Royal Charter in 1914 as The Liverpool Merchants' Guild. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 206454. The Charity's address is 110-114, Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AG.

The Royal Charter was amended by a Scheme of the Charity Commission in May 1972 which extended the objects of the Guild and the ways in which benefits could be paid to beneficiaries, established a Common Investment Fund in respect of all of the separate funds that comprised the Guild, and granted unrestricted powers of investment. At the same time the Byelaws were updated to reflect these changes.

A Supplemental Royal Charter was granted in December 2006 which updated and replaced the original Charter and subsequent amendment after the Charity Commission had agreed a Scheme which updated the definitions of the objects of the Charity and the powers of investment. The Board of Management were also granted power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves and a simplified procedure for dealing with any future amendments to the Royal Charter was introduced.

In addition to the Royal Charter there are a set of Byelaws which deal with administrative and management matters. The Byelaws were extensively revised in conjunction with the granting of the Supplemental Charter in December 2006. In particular, the new Byelaws recognised a single class of membership of the Guild, being persons paying an annual subscription of £2.10. Ex-officio membership of the Guild and the Board of Management was, with the consent of the existing office holders, brought to an end.

The Board of Management of the Guild is elected from the members of the Guild.

The following persons, who are all trustees, have been members of the Board of Management during the year: -

Elected members: -

Mr R.J. Carter	(Chairman)
Mr S.T. Chapple-Gill	
Mrs G. Ferrigno	
Mr A.T. Morris	
Mr L. Downey	
Mr D. Bailey	
Mr W T M Roberts	
Dr C Lewis-Jones	
Mr W J F Kingdon	(Appointed 30 September 2025)
Mrs C Gall	(Appointed 30 September 2025)

One third of the elected members are appointed on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting.

There are two Sub-Committees appointed by the Board of Management.

Finance Sub-Committee – which deals with the management of the Guild's investments

Mr R.J. Carter	(Chairman)
Mr A.T. Morris	
Mr L. Downey	
Mr D. Bailey	

Selection Sub-Committee – which deals with the award of pensions and grants.

Mrs G. Ferrigno	(Chair)
Mr R.J. Carter	
Mr S.T. Chapple-Gill	
Mr D. Bailey	
Mr W T M Roberts	
Dr C Lewis-Jones	
Mr W J F Kingdon	(Appointed 30 September 2025)
Mrs C Gall	(Appointed 30 September 2025)

New members are recruited on the basis of the skills, relevant experience or expertise that they are able to contribute to the Board of Management. They undergo a short period of induction training explaining the constitution of the Guild, the responsibilities of a Member of the Board of Management and the workings of the sub-committee to which they will be allocated.

Day to Day Management

The day-to-day management of the Charity is conducted by Monetta LLP in their capacity as Secretaries.

Risk Management

The Board of Management has assessed the major risks and uncertainties facing the charity and have identified these as: -

Security of Assets, Investment Policies, Fraud, Disaster Recovery and Safety during Visits to Beneficiaries

A summary of the plans and strategy for managing these risks are as follows: -

1. Security of Assets

Safe custody arrangements have been made with regard to the Guild's investments such that all share and stock certificates are held by either the New York Mellon Bank or in electronic format by Rathbone Nominees Limited.

2. Investment Policies

The Trustees have put in place a written investment policy and have delegated discretionary management of the Guild's investments to Rathbone Investment Management who regularly monitor the performance of the Guild's investments which performance is also regularly reviewed at meetings of the Finance Committee.

3. Fraud

The Trustees regularly monitor the financial performance of the Guild. There is a segregation of duties and, whilst cash balances of Liverpool Merchants' Guild are frequently managed by both the Secretaries and the Investment Managers, the Trustees insist on confirmation that both the Secretaries and the Investment Managers have adequate professional indemnity and insurance cover in place.

4. Disaster Recovery

The Secretaries ensure that data back-up procedures are in place together with adequate insurance cover.

5. Safety during Visits to Beneficiaries

The Trustees ensure that procedures with regard to the staff of the Secretaries visiting beneficiaries at home are strictly adhered to.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity as defined by the Supplemental Royal Charter of December 2006 are: -

To relieve individuals who have been a professional or self-employed person, a person who worked in a supervisory capacity, or a clerical or non-manual worker, and their dependants, who are residing in Merseyside, or who have so resided for a continuous period of not less than fifteen years, who are not less than fifty years of age and who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress, either by paying pensions or by making grants or loans of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce such need, hardship or distress as aforesaid.

To accept and administer any funds or property given or bequeathed to the Guild upon any trusts for charitable purposes which, in the opinion of the Board of Management of the Guild, can be conveniently carried out and administered by the Guild.

Benefit takes the form of pensions or grants of money for specific items of expense of such an amount as the Board of Management consider suitable to the circumstances of each individual case.

Achievements and Performance

Pensions were awarded to 24 new beneficiaries during the year (2024 - 25). The circumstances of existing beneficiaries were also reviewed resulting in an increase to their pensions of £55,500 Total pensions paid during the year amounted to £799,743. The Sub-Committee also made payments of grants totalling £134,100. The number of beneficiaries in receipt of pensions at the end of the year was 196 (2024 - 213).

Plans for Future Periods

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild continues to provide funding towards the support of independent living by means of the provision of specialist equipment or residential adaptations for individuals with special needs.

The principal short term and long term aims and objectives of The Liverpool Merchants' Guild are to increase the number of beneficiaries and positive efforts are still being made to achieve this aim, including updating the Guild's website to facilitate electronic applications.

All current beneficiaries have recently been informed that, in addition to making regular payments, The Liverpool Merchants' Guild also make grants available for items of exceptional expenditure. Additionally, grants are available to new applicants, and this is stated both on the Guild's website and published in application guidelines.

Marketing

A range of materials, including a website, posters and brochures, have been produced to promote the Guild and it is hoped that this will result in an increase in the number of applications for benefit not only for grants to support independent living but also for ordinary pensions.

Finances

The Supplemental Charter of December 2006 granted the Board of Management power to invest funds, employ a professional fund manager and to arrange for the investments of the Guild to be held in the name of a nominee in the same manner as trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

The capital funds of the Guild may also be invested in a Common Investment Fund established by a Scheme of the Charity Commission on 4th May 1972.

In March 2007 the Charity Commission approved a Scheme whereby the previously separate named funds were formally amalgamated into a single fund entitled The Liverpool Merchants' Guild.

The capital of the Guild is grouped into four funds:

The Permanent Endowed Fund is made up of all the original separate funds which were incorporated into the Guild at the time the original Royal Charter was granted together with subsequent bequests which had stipulated that the capital was not expendable. This fund is a restricted fund and only income may be expended in furtherance of the objects of the Guild.

The Legacies Fund is also a restricted fund but comprises bequests to the Guild where there has been no stipulation regarding capital. The whole of this fund is expendable on the objects of the Guild although at present only the income is being used.

The General Fund is an unrestricted fund and comprises unconditional bequests to the Guild. At present only income is being utilised with any unspent income at the end of each year being transferred to the Reserve Fund.

The Reserve Fund is an unrestricted fund and comprises unspent income accumulated over many years. Part of the Reserve Fund has been utilised in previous years to finance loans to beneficiaries to enable them to carry out essential property repairs. A further part of the Reserve Fund is invested temporarily.

Rathbone Investment Management continued to manage the Guild's investments on a discretionary basis, in accordance with the parameters set by the Finance Committee, under the terms of their appointment which commenced on 1st October 2013.

The funds have performed as follows during the year: -

Bespoke Composite Benchmark -- year to 31.12.2025 = 16.90%

Common Investment Fund	**31.12.2024**	**31.12.2025**	**%-age change**	**Benchmark**
Market value	49,467,973	51,568,903		
Cash held by Rathbones	777,018	1,214,024		
	50,244,991	52,782,927		
Income generated	-	1,227,647		
	50,244,991	54,010,574	7.49%	16.90%

Reserve Fund	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	%-age change	Benchmark
Market value	4,753,401	5,076,514		
Cash held by Rathbones	69,902	59,993		
	4,823,303	5,136,507		
Income generated	-	82,557		
	4,823,303	5,219,064	8.205%	16.90%
Management fees taken	195,369	199,982		

During the year the Common Investment Fund and the Reserve Fund had combined realised gains on investments totalling £278,268 and unrealised gains on investments amounting to £2,702,682.

Overall, taking cash balances into account, the combined value of the Common Investment Fund and the Reserve Fund at 31st December 2025 amounted to £58,723,800 which was an increase of £3,006,970 on the combined value of the Common Investment Fund and the Reserve Fund at 31st December 2024 in the sum of £55,716,830.

There were no legacies or donations received during the year (2024 – nil).

The principal funding sources of the Charity are the investments which the Charity holds. During the reporting period investment income amounted to £1,322,854 which sum substantially covered the Guild's expenditure on charitable activities of £1,096,959.

Going Concern

In accordance with the requirements of FRS102 SORP, the Trustees have reviewed the financial position of the Guild. This review has covered a period up to 31st December 2026 and the Trustees of the Guild are unanimously of the view that the Charity is a going concern.

The Trustees are also unanimously of the view that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

Reserves

Whilst all charitable payments are entirely discretionary and there is no irrevocable commitment for further expenditure, the Board of Management consider that a reasonable level of reserve would equate to approximately 12 months expenditure. Current free reserves, £5,960,561, are approximately 55 months expenditure.

The Board of Management are comfortable with the level of reserves held, particularly in view of its intention to actively seek to increase the number of beneficiaries.

Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Board of Management to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Board of Management is required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Charities SORP (FRS 102) issued by the Charity Commission and with applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Board of Management is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Royal Charter of 2006. It is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 8 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission (Public Benefit).

Post Balance Sheet Events

The Trustees have been closely monitoring events since the beginning of 2026 and can report that there has been a decrease of 13.4% in the level of dividend income generated by the Guild's investments comparing the first six months of 2026 with the first four months of 2025.

Secretaries

The Secretaries of the Guild are Monetta LLP, Chartered Accountants, 110-114 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AG.

Bankers

The Guild's principal bankers are Barclays Bank PLC, City Office, 48B and 50 Lord Street, Liverpool, L2 1TD.

Investment Managers

The Guild's Investment Managers are Rathbone Investment Management, Port of Liverpool Building, Pier Head, Liverpool, L3 1NW.

Auditors

The Guild's auditors are Alexander Myerson & Co Limited, 61 Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 9ER.

Solicitors

The Guild's solicitors are Brabners LLP, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool, L2 3YL.

Website: www.liverpoolmerchantsguild.org.uk

E-Mail: info@liverpoolmerchantsguild.org.uk

Telephone and Fax
Tel: 0151 703 1080
Fax: 0151 703 1085

On behalf of the Board of Management

R J Carter

.....

Mr R.J. Carter
Chairman

Date 4/8/.....2026

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of The Liverpool Merchants' Guild

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Liverpool Merchants' Guild (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;

- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Burns BSc BFP FCA
Senior Auditor
For and on behalf of Alexander Myerson & Co Limited 2/9/2026

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

61 Rodney Street
Liverpool
L1 9ER

Alexander Myerson & Co Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31st December 2025

	Note	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds			2024
		Endowed Funds £	Legacies Fund £	General Fund £	Reserve Fund £	Total Funds £	£
Income and endowments from							
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions		-	-	17	-	17	17
Income from Investments							
UK Investment Income		734,562	32,304	120,608	49,470	936,944	1,125,911
Non UK Investment Income		281,561	12,382	46,230	33,087	373,260	349,060
Deposit Interest		1,379	61	226	10,984	12,650	16,316
Total Income and endowments		**1,017,502**	**44,747**	**167,081**	**93,541**	**1,322,871**	**1,491,304**
Expenditure on							
Expenditure on raising funds	3	165,451	7,276	27,165	-	199,892	195,369
Expenditure on Charitable activities	4	907,953	39,929	149,077	-	1,096,959	1,118,818
Total Expenditure		**1,073,404**	**47,205**	**176,242**	**-**	**1,296,851**	**1,314,187**
Net gains on investments	8 & 10	2,193,766	96,476	360,195	330,513	2,980,950	2,912,510
Net Income		2,137,864	94,018	351,034	424,054	3,006,970	3,089,627
Transfers between funds	7	55,902	2,458	9,161	(67,521)	-	-
Net Movement of Funds		**2,193,766**	**96,476**	**360,195**	**356,533**	**3,006,970**	**3,089,627**
Total Funds Brought Forward		41,427,638	1,820,405	6,801,343	5,667,444	55,716,830	52,627,203
Total Funds Carried Forward		**43,621,404**	**1,916,881**	**7,161,538**	**6,023,977**	**58,723,800**	**55,716,830**

For an analysis of the comparative figures for the year ended 31 December 2024 see page 11

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year ended 31st December 2024

	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		
	Endowed Funds £	Legacies Fund £	General Fund £	Reserve Fund £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions	-	-	17	-	17
Income from Investments					
UK Investment Income	885,340	38,935	145,364	56,272	1,125,911
Non UK Investment Income	260,364	11,450	42,749	34,497	349,060
Deposit Interest	10,655	469	1,749	3,443	16,316
Total Income and endowments	**1,156,359**	**50,854**	**189,879**	**94,212**	**1,491,304**
Expenditure on					
Expenditure on raising funds	161,707	7,111	26,551	-	195,369
Expenditure on Charitable activities	926,046	40,725	152,047	-	1,118,818
Total Expenditure	**1,087,753**	**47,836**	**178,598**	**-**	**1,314,187**
Net gains (losses) on investments	2,028,848	89,223	333,116	461,323	2,912,510
Net Income / Expenditure	2,097,454	92,241	344,397	555,535	3,089,627
Transfers between funds	(68,606)	(3,018)	(11,281)	82,905	-
Net Movement of Funds	**2,028,848**	**89,223**	**333,116**	**638,440**	**3,089,627**
Total Funds Brought Forward	39,398,790	1,731,182	6,468,227	5,029,004	52,627,203
Total Funds Carried Forward	**41,427,638**	**1,820,405**	**6,801,343**	**5,667,444**	**55,716,830**

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild

Statement of Financial Position

31st December 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Investments and cash held by the Common Investment Fund	8		52,699,823		50,049,386
Current Assets					
Debtors & prepayments due within one year	9	228		102	
Debtors due after more than one year	9	63,416		63,416	
Investments	10	5,076,514		4,753,401	
Cash at Bank		951,225		906,610	
		6,091,383		5,723,529	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors & accruals due in less than one year	11	67,406		56,085	
Reserve Fund / Net Current Assets			6,023,977		5,667,444
Total Assets less Current liabilities			**58,723,800**		**55,716,830**
Funds of the Charity:					
Restricted Funds:					
Permanent Endowed Funds	14		43,621,404		41,427,638
Legacies Fund	14		1,916,881		1,820,405
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	14		7,161,538		6,801,343
Reserve Fund	13		6,023,977		5,667,444
Total Charity Funds			**58,723,800**		**55,716,830**

Approved on behalf of the Board of Management on 4/8/2026

R J Carter .....
Chairman

Mrs G Ferrigno .....
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31st December 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	3,006,971	3,089,627
Adjustments for:		
Net gains on investments	(2,980,950)	(2,912,510)
Dividends, interest from investments	(1,322,854)	(1,491,287)
Increase in debtors	(126)	5,213
Increase in creditors	11,321	3,346
Net cash used by operating activities	(1,285,638)	(1,305,611)

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net cash used by operating activities	(1,285,638)	(1,305,611)
Cash Flows from investing Activities:		
Dividends, interest from investments	1,322,854	1,491,287
Proceeds from sale of investments	16,733,959	17,310,922
Purchase of investments	(16,177,053)	(17,412,971)
Net cash provided by (used by) investing activities	1,879,760	1,389,238
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the the reporting period	594,122	83,627
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,488,023	1,404,396
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2,082,145	1,488,023
Made up as to:		
Reserve Fund - Current Assets - Cash at bank	951,225	906,610
Common Investment Fund - Fixed Assets - Cash Deposits	1,130,920	581,413
	2,082,145	1,488,023

Notes To The Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

Legal status

Liverpool Merchants' Guild constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

a Scope and basis of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value, and are in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ('the SORP'), FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS 102'), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Irleand (FRS 102) issued on 16th July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1st April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. This is discussed in the Trustees' report at page 5 under the heading 'going concern'.

b Incoming Resources

Income arising on the Common Investment Fund investments is allocated to each fund in proportion to the value of the funds at 31st December 2024.

c Investment Income

Dividends and bank interest are included as incoming resources when they are received.

d Legacies and Donations Received

Legacies and donations are recognised upon receipt or when it is probable that they will be received.

Receipt is normally probable when:

- there has been grant of probate:
- the exectors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy:
- any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

e Taxation

The Guild is a registered Charity and is not liable to UK taxation on its charitable activities and is not registered for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated inclusive of any applicable VAT.

f Pensions and Grants

All charitable payments are made for the benefit of individuals who meet the criteria for elegibility as set out in the Guild's Byelaws and Regulations and are made for the relief of hardship or need. All awards are made at the discretion of the Board of Management which does not enter into any commitment to renew or repeat any payment.
Charitable payments are accounted for as and when paid.

g Loans to Beneficiaries

Loans are granted to beneficiaries for the purpose of funding essential property maintenance or repairs. They are interest free and are repayable when the beneficiary ceases to occupy the property involved. Loans are only made from the Reserve Fund.

h Investments

Investments held as fixed assets and current assets are all listed on a recognised stock exchange and are included in the financial statements at market value.

Those investments which are held as current assets are part of the Reserve Fund and are highly liquid investments which are readily realisable.

1 Accounting Policies (cont)

i Investment Gains and Losses

Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the Common Investment Fund investments are allocated to each capital fund in aliquot portions. Gains or losses arising on investments of the Reserve Fund are treated as additions or reductions to that fund and are available to set off against future expenditure.

j Fund Accounting

Following advice from the Charity Commission in June 1972, the Guild's capital funds were reclassified from a single permanent endowed capital account into restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted funds have been further subdivided into permanent and expendable funds.

Funds in existence in June 1972, the date of implementation of the scheme by the Charity Commission, have been classified as permanent endowed funds and any additions to those funds since that date have been treated as additions to the permanent endowment. New funds received since June 1972 have been classifed as restricted or unrestricted funds according to the terms or conditions attaching to the bequest to the Guild. Details of the various funds are set out in Notes 14 and 15.

All funds classified as restricted are held for the specific purpose of paying pensions or other benefis to eligible beneficiaries.

k Debtors due after more then one year

Debtors due after more than one year comprise loans to beneficiaries, both secured and unsecured. As there is no certainly when these amounts will be recovered the net present value, therefore, cannot be measured.

l Current Assets - Investments

Current asset investments represent stocks and shares quoted on recognised stock exchanges. Such stocks and shares can be immediately sold in exchange for cash which is receivable on the ordinary settlement terms of the stock exchange in question and have been revalued on the basis of prices quoted on the relevant Stock Exchange.

m Current Assets - Cash at Bank

Cash at bank represents monies held either at Barclays Bank or with Rathbone Investment Management. Such monies are immediately available and no notice period is required for access to same.

n Current Liabilities - Creditors & Accruals

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

o Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting Policies (cont)

Other financial assets

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 *Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty*

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Expenditure on Raising funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment Management fees	199,892	195,369
	199,892	**195,369**

4 Expenditure on Charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Pensions	799,743	821,013
Grants	134,100	137,553
Auditors' remuneration	6,600	6,000
Secretaries fees	151,200	147,600
Postage, stationery and web design etc.	5,316	6,652
	1,096,959	**1,118,818**

Expenditure on Charitable activities is allocated in proportion to the endowed, legacy and general fund values at 31st December 2024.

All charitable payments are for the benefit of individuals. At 31st December 2025 there were 196 beneficiaries. (2024 : 213).

5 Trustees Remuneration

No member of the Board of Management or any connected persons received any remuneration in respect of their services as trustees. Additionally no member of the Board of Management or any connected persons received or waived any reimbursement of expenses. (2024 - none)

S T Chapple Gill, a member of the Board of Management is a consultant to the firm Brabners LLP. Mr D. Bailey, also a member of the board of management, is a partner in the firm Brabners LLP. Brabners LLP provide legal services to the Guild. An Order has been obtained from the Charity Commission allowing the Guild to continue to utilise the services of this firm. £nil was charged by Brabners during the year (2024 - £nil). The amount outstanding to Brabners LLP at 31 December 2025 was £nil (2024 - £nil).

6 Employees

The Liverpool Merchants' Guild does not have any employees and does not provide any retirement or post employment benefits to anyone. (2024 - none)

7 Transfer between funds

At the end of each year transfers are made to or from the Reserve Fund in respect of the surplus or deficit of income on each of the other funds and is made up as follows:

	Note	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		
		Endowed Funds	Legacies Fund	General Fund	Reserve Fund	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions		-	-	17	-	17
UK Investment Income		734,562	32,304	120,608	49,470	936,944
Non UK Investment Income		281,561	12,382	46,230	33,087	373,260
Deposit Interest		1,379	61	226	10,984	12,650
		1,017,502	44,747	167,081	93,541	1,322,871
Expenditure on raising funds	3	165,451	7,276	27,165	-	199,892
Expenditure on charitable acitvities	4	907,953	39,929	149,077	-	1,096,959
		1,073,404	47,205	176,242	-	1,296,851
Net surplus before gains and losses, to be transferred		(55,902)	(2,458)	(9,161)	67,521	-

8 Fixed Assets

Investments

Common Investment Fund	In UK	Outside UK	Total 2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Market Value 1st January 2025	23,109,188	26,358,785	49,467,973	47,052,405
Acquisitions	3,964,493	10,832,925	14,797,418	15,403,353
Disposals	(6,231,419)	(9,115,505)	(15,346,924)	(15,438,972)
Realised (losses) / gains	414,083	(232,914)	181,169	124,226
Unrealised gains on revaluation of Investments	1,497,751	971,516	2,469,267	2,326,961
Market Value 31st December 2025	**22,754,096**	**28,814,807**	**51,568,903**	**49,467,973**
Cost at 31st December 2025	**16,493,396**	**24,314,450**	**40,807,846**	**37,768,685**
Investment Cash Deposits				
Cash at Bank	**1,130,920**	**-**	**1,130,920**	**581,413**
Total Common Investment Fund Investments	**23,885,016**	**28,814,807**	**52,699,823**	**50,049,386**

8 Fixed Assets (cont)	Value 31.12.2025	%	Value 31.12.2024	%
UK Investments	**£**		**£**	
Banks	994,812	4.37	678,180	2.93
Beverages	647,814	2.85	1,025,150	4.44
Commodities	910,092	4.00	753,572	3.26
Consumer Services	528,354	2.32	-	-
Finance & Credit Services	1,128,662	4.96	690,642	2.99
Gas, Water & Multi-utilities	850,418	3.74	976,550	4.23
Global Investments	870,025	3.82	2,186,440	9.46
Industrial Metals & Mining	644,475	2.83	896,557	3.88
Industrial Support Services	965,063	4.24	944,445	4.09
Infrastructure Funds	1,215,438	5.34	1,583,850	6.85
Life Assurance	537,915	2.36	299,390	1.30
Oil & Gas	2,805,074	12.33	2,538,459	10.98
Overseas Index Linked Government Bonds	524,480	2.30	823,258	3.56
Personal Care, Drug & Grocery	873,592	3.84	919,833	3.98
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	1,323,840	5.82	1,004,928	4.35
Precious Metals & Mining	543,392	2.39	472,800	2.05
Private Equity Stock	-	-	391,745	1.70
Real Estate Investment Trusts	692,405	3.04	-	-
Software & Computer Services	625,140	2.75	1,088,700	4.71
Tobacco	-	-	619,200	2.68
UK Conventional Government Bonds	1,940,866	8.53	1,570,928	6.80
UK Investment Grade Bonds	1,956,819	8.60	1,900,389	8.22
UK Investment Grade Bonds - Higher Quality	2,175,420	9.56	1,744,172	7.55
	22,754,096	**99.99**	**23,109,188**	**100.01**
Investments outside the UK				
Asia Pacific Investments	2,407,259	8.35	1,635,070	6.20
European Investments	3,438,102	11.93	2,133,055	8.09
Japanese Investments	2,103,019	7.30	2,454,630	9.31
US Shares	20,866,427	72.42	20,136,030	76.39
	28,814,807	**100.00**	**26,358,785**	**99.99**
Total Quoted Investments	**51,568,903**		**49,467,973**	

There were no individual direct holdings that represented more than 5% of the total value of fixed and current asset investments at 31st December 2025.

8 Fixed Assets (cont)

All investments are investments in quoted securities or unit trusts. These have been revalued at 31st December 2025 on the basis of prices quoted on the relevant Stock Exchange or by the fund manager.

All of the fixed asset investments are held in direct furtherance of the charity's objects.

9 Debtors

		2025	2024
		£	£
Due within one year	Other debtors	228	102
		228	**102**
Due after more than one year	Secured loans to beneficiaries	51,184	51,184
	Unsecured loans to beneficiaries	12,232	12,232
		63,416	**63,416**

Loans to beneficiaries are interest-free and have no fixed date for repayment.

As there is no certainty as to when loans to beneficiaries will be recovered, the net present value of those loans cannot be measured

10 Current Asset Investments

Quoted Investments in UK	2025	2024
	£	£
Market Value 1st January 2025	4,753,401	4,154,410
Acquisitions	1,379,635	2,009,618
Disposals	(1,387,035)	(1,871,950)
Realised gains / (losses)	97,099	111,771
Unrealised gains on revaluation of investments	233,414	349,552
Market Value 31st December 2025	**5,076,514**	**4,753,401**
Cost at 31st December 2025	**4,321,894**	**3,840,303**

Current asset investments represent the temporary investment of previous accumulations of income.

All investments are investments in quoted securities. These have been revalued at 31st December 2025 on the basis of prices quoted on the relevant Stock Exchange.

10 Current Asset Investments (cont)

	Value 31.12.2025 £	%	Value 31.12.2024 £	%
Banks	61,948	1.22	33,612	0.71
Commodities	89,595	1.76	54,858	1.15
Consumer Services	53,190	1.05	-	-
Finance & Credit Services	51,922	1.02	65,453	1.38
Gas, Water & Multi-utilities	43,377	0.85	36,100	0.76
Global Investments	95,067	1.87	44,520	0.94
Industrial Support Services	113,457	2.23	108,655	2.29
Infrastructure Funds	24,336	0.48	21,167	0.45
Oil & Gas	76,606	1.51	69,561	1.46
Overseas Index Linked Government Bonds	-	-	78,293	1.65
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	179,270	3.53	136,084	2.86
Private Equity Stock	-	-	39,395	0.83
Real Estate Investment Trusts	66,395	1.31	-	-
UK Conventional Government Bonds	186,832	3.68	145,890	3.07
UK Investment Grade Bonds	189,991	3.74	225,004	4.73
UK Investment Grade Bonds - Higher Quality	261,209	5.15	179,616	3.78
European Investments	804,966	15.86	656,083	13.80
Asia Pacific Investments	235,262	4.63	-	-
US Shares	1,939,594	38.21	2,308,447	48.56
Japanese Investments	603,497	11.89	550,663	11.58
	5,076,514	**100.00**	**4,753,401**	**100.00**

11 Creditors - amounts due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	67,406	56,085
	67,406	56,085

12 Capital Funds

	£	£
Balance 1st January 2025	50,049,386	47,598,199
Net incoming resources for the year	(67,521)	82,905
Transfer to Reserve Fund	67,521	(82,905)
Realised investment gains	181,169	124,226
Unrealised gains on revaluation of investments	2,469,267	2,326,961
Balance 31st December 2025	**52,699,822**	**50,049,386**

13 Reserve Fund

	£	£
Balance 1st January 2025	5,667,444	5,029,004
Net incoming resources for the year	93,541	94,212
Transfer from from Capital Funds	(67,521)	82,905
Realised gains / (losses) on disposal of investments	97,099	111,771
Unrealised gains on revaluation of investments	233,414	349,552
Balance 31st December 2025	**6,023,977**	**5,667,444**

14 Capital Funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted Funds		
Permanent Endowed Fund	**43,621,404**	**41,427,638**
Legacies Fund	**1,916,881**	**1,820,405**
Unrestricted Funds		
General Fund	**7,161,538**	**6,801,343**
Total Capital Funds	**52,699,823**	**50,049,386**

In March 2007 the Charity Commission approved a scheme whereby the individual named funds that had comprised the Permanent Endowed Fund were formally amalgamated into one single fund entitled The Liverpool Merchants' Guild.

The following is a list of funds that now comprise the Liverpool Merchants' Guild Permanent Endowed Fund:-

Mrs W M Allen Fund
American Chamber of Commerce Fund
Miss Olivia Atherton fund
Mrs James Barrow Fund
Thomas Bartlett Fund
Mrs E E Bartley Fund
Frederic Bowden Fund
James Lord Bowes Fund
Mrs Anna Brancker Fund
Frank Brocklehurst Fund
John Bury Annuity Fund
William Cliff Fund
C H Collie Fund
Aileen Congrieve Fund
John Cropper Fund
John G & Mary Dobson Fund
Emma Elliston Fund
Isolina Gee Fund
General & Roger Lyon Jones Fund
Andrew Gibson Fund
Isabel Grace Hall Fund
Harrison Fund
John Hill Fund
William Imrie Liverpool Clerks Benevolent Fund
E Alan Johnston Fund
Helen Johnston Fund
Johnston Family Fund
Kathleen Stewart Kendall Fund
Anita G Lawrence Fund
Miss Henrietta McKay Fund
Thomas Moss Fund
Essie Newberry Fund
Thomas William & Alice Eleanor Oakshott Memorial Fund
The Misses Paton Fund
Mercey Richardson Fund
Lucie Amelia Ridley Fund
Frank Rigby Fund
John Winser Sheriff Fund
W H Shirley Fund
W M Simpson Fund
Henry Tate Fund
Charles & Kate Thorne Fund
The William Henry & Harriet Watt Fund
Frank & Gwen White Fund
Mr & Mrs George Wilson Fund
J Marke Wood Fund

15 Summary of Net Assets by Funds - 31 December 2025

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
Restricted Funds	£	£	£
Permanent Endowed Funds	43,621,404	-	43,621,404
Legacies Fund	1,916,881	-	1,916,881
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	7,161,538	-	7,161,538
Reserve Fund	-	6,023,977	6,023,977
	52,699,823	**6,023,977**	**58,723,800**

Summary of Net Assets by Funds - 31 December 2024

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
Restricted Funds	£	£	£
Permanent Endowed Funds	41,427,638	-	41,427,638
Legacies Fund	1,820,405	-	1,820,405
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	6,801,343	-	6,801,343
Reserve Fund	-	5,667,444	5,667,444
	50,049,386	**5,667,444**	**55,716,830**

Restricted funds are held for the specific purpose of paying pensions or other benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The capital of the permanent endowed funds may not be expended, only the income arising on these funds may be utilised in the payment of pensions or other benefits to beneficiaries.

Unrestricted funds may be utilised for any purpose of the Guild.

16 Commitments

Payment of pensions and grants is entirely discretionary. The Board of Management is of the opinion that there were no commitments for either revenue or capital expenditure at 31st December 2025 (2024 - £nil).

17 Related Parties

S T Chapple Gill, a member of the Board of Management is a consultant to the firm Brabners LLP. Mr D. Bailey, also a member of the board of management, is a partner in the firm Brabners LLP. Brabners LLP provide legal services to the Guild. An Order has been obtained from the Charity Commission allowing the Guild to continue to utilise the services of this firm. £nil was charged by Brabners during the year (2024 - £nil). The amount outstanding to Brabners LLP at 31 December 2025 was £nil (2024 - £nil).

There are no other related party transactions.

18 Financial instruments

	2025	2024
Carrying amount of financial assets	£	£
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Debtors	63,416	63,416
Cash held	2,082,145	1,488,023
	2,145,561	1,551,439
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA		
Investments held by Reserve Fund	5,076,514	4,753,401
Investments held by Common Investment Fund	51,568,903	49,467,973
	56,645,417	54,221,374
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost		
Accruals	67,406	56,085