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THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

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CHARITY INFORMATION

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Homero Aridjis

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CONTENTS

CHARITY INFORMATION 2
CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT 5

THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES
- PRIMARY OBJECTS 7
- COVID-19 7
- BOOK GRANTS 8
- VOLUNTEERING & IN-KIND DONATIONS 8
- ENHANCEMENT PLAN: PHASE II 8
- PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 9

PUBLISHING
- INTRODUCING SWEDENBORG SERIES 11
- SWEDENBORG REVIEW 11
- DUAL LANGUAGE EDITIONS 12
- THE SWEDENBORG COLLECTED EDITION 12
- STUDY GUIDES 12
- SWEDENBORG HOUSE PRESS 12
- WORKS IN PREPARATION 14
- EBOOKS 15
- DISTRIBUTION 15

CAFÉ & BOOKSHOP 17

EVENTS
- READINGS & SCREENINGS 19
- TALKS & TOURS 20
- PARTNERSHIPS 21
- PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS 22
- COLLABORATIVE EVENTS 23
- THE SWEDENBORG FILM FESTIVAL 24

MUSEUM
- EXHIBITIONS 25
- THE SWEDENBORG RESIDENCY 28
- IN PLANNING 28

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE
- ACCREDITATION 29
- VISITORS 29
- ARCHIVAL SUPPORT FOR EXHIBITIONS 29
- CATALOGUING 29
- ACQUISITIONS 30

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- ACADEMIC CONFERENCE 31
- THE SWEDENBORG DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP 31

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

EDUCATIONAL VISITS 32

THE BUILDING
UPGRADES 33
FIRE PREVENTION & SECURITY 33
ACCESS 33
MAINTENANCE 34
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY 34
GREENING PLAN 34

DIGITAL MEDIA
WEBSITE 35
SOCIAL MEDIA 35
YOUTUBE & LIVE STREAMING 35
SWEDENBORG RADIO 36

FINANCIAL REVIEW
RISKS & UNCERTAINTIES 37
INVESTMENT POLICY 38
RESERVES POLICY 38
DONATIONS & LEGACIES 38

GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT
GOVERNANCE 41
AGM & 2024 COUNCIL ELECTION 41
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2024 41
THE ADVISORY & REVISION BOARD 41
STAFF 42
VOLUNTEERS 42
HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY 42
COMPANY MATTERS 43
PUBLIC BENEFIT 43
STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES 43

THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 45
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 50
BALANCE SHEET 51
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS 52
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 53

OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY 67
MISSION STATEMENT 67
SUBSCRIPTIONS 67
DONATIONS & LEGACIES 68
LIST OF COLLECTORS 68

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

The work and accomplishments of the staff, volunteers, partners and contractors at Swedenborg House throughout 2025 are wonderfully set out in the following pages of this *Annual Report*. It is a story of broadening public engagement, not only with visitors to our Bloomsbury premises, who arrived in record numbers, but also with audiences worldwide through the dissemination of books—including our best-selling *Introducing Swedenborg* by Peter Ackroyd—an active digital media programme, and a wide range of academic scholarships, conferences, collaborations and other initiatives.

There is little I can add to this *Report* other than to highlight a few notable achievements and provide additional context. A few years ago, Stephen McNeilly, our Executive Director, presented to the Board of Trustees a ten-year Enhancement Plan designed to invest in activities that support and advance the Society's primary objects, as set out more than two centuries ago in our Governing Documents. Prudent management of the Society's assets had placed us in a position to increase annual funding for these activities in a sustainable manner, without compromising our long-term financial integrity. Phase II of the Enhancement Plan was approved by the Trustees in 2025, representing a significant expansion of our activities. Balancing ambition with capacity is a challenge for any rapidly growing organization, and the team at Swedenborg House is to be commended for the way in which they have achieved this balance. The following list, necessarily incomplete, demonstrates their productivity over the course of 2025.

There was the Society's centenary exhibition, *Elective Affinities*, celebrating 100 years at Swedenborg House. The exhibition attracted extensive media coverage, generated strong attendance and led to valuable new institutional contacts. We continued to advance our core publishing programme, particularly the landmark *Collected Works of Swedenborg*, alongside new dual-language editions, exhibition catalogues and a range of literary titles. In November, an inaugural biennial academic conference was held at Swedenborg House, which brought together more than two dozen leading scholars from around the world. Together with The Swedenborg Doctoral Scholarships, this initiative is helping Swedenborg House become the leading international academic institution dedicated to Swedenborg studies.

The Swedenborg Film Festival moved to the larger, iconic, Curzon Soho, with a packed programme of Swedenborg-focused short films. Other new initiatives included audio publishing and podcast development, seminars, talks and book launches, alongside enhanced activity across social media platforms. Circulation of the *Swedenborg Review* surpassed 2,000 copies. Amid all this activity, the team also succeeded in maintaining our Grade II-listed building in Bloomsbury while modernizing it to support the new uses we are finding for the space. They make it look easy. It is not. We are similarly grateful to our partners, Arcana Coffee, for helping us create a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere at Swedenborg House.

During 2025, three Trustees reached the end of their terms of office, including Rufus Moore, who served as Chair with grace and distinction. Dr Kristin King and Ms Erica Wyncoll-Kerr, who served as Treasurer, also stepped down. All three were exemplary, both in the quality of their contributions and in the manner in which they made them. Finally, very little of the forward momentum at Swedenborg House would be possible without Stephen McNeilly's stewardship as Executive Director, for which the Trustees are profoundly grateful.

Alec Morley, Chair

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OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

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OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

PRIMARY OBJECTS

The Society exists to provide for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and influence on later generations. The primary charitable objects of the Swedenborg Society are summarized as:

- *To print, publish, purchase, sell and distribute as grants the literary remains of Emanuel Swedenborg plus biographies and literature in agreement with his writings;*
- *To organize meetings, lectures, conferences and other functions as a means of directing attention to, and promoting interest in, the works of Swedenborg;*
- *To encourage study of the works of Swedenborg.*

The Society undertakes a number of activities to further these objectives:

- *We grant books to public and university libraries;*
- *We organize events, lectures, seminars and exhibitions at Swedenborg House;*
- *We develop links with academic institutions to assist the research and study of Swedenborg's writings and their impact on later philosophical thought;*
- *We operate a bookshop to make the writings of Swedenborg and later books based on his ideas available to the public;*
- *We house a library, archive and museum and a permanent collection of artefacts;*
- *We foster a community to all who share an interest in or a curiosity about the ideas and works of Swedenborg.*

COVID-19

Items related to COVID-19 are no longer considered an area of special concern for the trustees at Swedenborg House. Activities, planning and income from room hire, book sales and the investment portfolio have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The measures described in previous reports have allowed the Society to safely navigate this uncertain period. The trustees believe that, on balance, the Society has so far responded positively to the difficulties posed by the pandemic. As a consequence, this item will no longer be included as a special item in the Society's *Annual Report*.

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BOOK GRANTS

The Society continues in its policy of giving publications as grants to libraries, universities and other public institutions in the UK and overseas. The Society was a member of the umbrella body called Swedenborg Publishers International (SPI), up until its absorption into a different model in mid-2025. SPI provided funding for translation and publishing projects around the world and the Society will look to continue this funding via alternative avenues. The Society is keen to further its efforts in this sphere and is taking an active role in providing financial support for translating projects and research.

VOLUNTEERING & IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Society is fortunate to be able to draw on an enthusiastic team of volunteers and in-kind giving to assist with the furtherance of its objectives. Much of this effort continues to be provided by volunteers who support our exhibitions and events programme plus members of the Society's Advisory and Revision Board, who also play an important role in establishing a suitable forum for scholarly discussion and publishing strategy. In-kind giving here includes specialist work in translating, translation consultancy, editing, research, copy-editing and proofreading. Other in-kind giving includes design, artwork and photography. When open to the public, the Society's bookshop also draws upon the key support of volunteers who also assist in welcoming visitors to Swedenborg House. Warm gratitude is extended to all those who have offered their time or expertise, free of charge, during 2025.

ENHANCEMENT PLAN: PHASE II

In 2014, the trustees announced broad plans for a range of enhancements to the Society's activities and infrastructure. During 2025 trustees agreed to phase two of this plan, which includes a wide range of new infrastructure improvements and activities. Enhancements are to include new publishing projects, an extended academic programme, digital media upgrades plus a fully international programme of events and exhibitions. As part of this programme, three major exhibitions were staged at Swedenborg House in 2025, providing attractions for people to visit daily at Swedenborg House across 39 weeks of the year. In March and April, two exhibitions ran concurrently—*Hereafter* in the ground floor gallery and *Dormitorium* in Swedenborg Hall—resulting in record numbers of visitors and book sales, along with positive media coverage. The coffee shop, run by Arcana Coffee, built on its impressive first year of operation, helping to make the Swedenborg House bookshop into a lively community hub with a clientele of regulars from amongst the local residents, office workers and students, mixing alongside tourists, exhibition-goers and bibliophiles. Swedenborg House has become a place to meet; and a true cultural reference point. Renovations to the building included further work to improve stock and archival storage areas in the basement; improvements to the bathrooms on the no. 21 side of the building; the reinstatement of an internal doorway to mark the centenary of Swedenborg House, linking the gallery to Swedenborg Hall (as marked in original plans from 1925); restoration of the damaged pillar at the foot of the fire escape to the hall; and the underpinning of one of the Bloomsbury Way

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coal holes. The year saw the Swedenborg Society stage the first of what will become an ongoing series of biennial academic conferences, with scholars from around the world coming to Swedenborg House for the three-day event in November. Plans are already at advanced stages for the next conference to be held at the prestigious Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Institutional partnerships in 2025 included: Curzon Soho; Alchemy, music mentoring and youth programme; Goldsmiths University; Lund University; Small Publishers Fair; London Review of Books; Resonance FM; Three Impostors Press; Frith Street Gallery; Large Glass gallery; Sylvia Kouvali gallery; Kate MacGarry gallery; Modern Art gallery; Mattias Vendelmans gallery; Trinity Laban Conservatoire; Bound & Infinity bookshop; Spiracle audiobooks; Kinoteka Polish Film Festival; Polish Cultural Institute, London; University of Highlands and Islands.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Council monitors the Society's performance through a range of financial and non-financial performance indicators. The key ones are:

	2025	2024
Number of visitors	42,000	32,000
Number of Members	579	584
Number of Friends	347	311
Social media followers	11,383	10,375
Distribution	6,994	6,280
Contribution from property	£156,107	£137,623



The Swedenborg Film Festival at Curzon Soho © Mela Hilleard 2025.

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PUBLISHING

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PUBLISHING

The Swedenborg Society continues its commitment to publish and translate Swedenborg's works and to produce a diverse range of publications exploring his intellectual and cultural impact. Titles in preparation include new English translations of Swedenborg's books; dual-language Latin-English editions of Swedenborg; scholarly study guides; introductory books; exhibition catalogues and art books; and academic studies. The Society's publishing programme also features the Collected Works of Swedenborg—a new scholarly edition of Swedenborg's work encompassing his entire published output, utilizing new English translations and some existing English translations modified for consistency of style alongside fresh critical apparatus and scholarly introductions.

INTRODUCING SWEDENBORG SERIES

Two titles have already been published in this series, which is aimed at readers of all levels of knowledge, but with particular emphasis on newcomers to the world of Swedenborg: Peter Ackroyd's short biographical study, *Introducing Swedenborg*, which was the best-selling title in the Swedenborg House bookshop for the second year running; and *Introducing Swedenborg: Correspondences*, an overview of one of Swedenborg's far-reaching ideas, by Gary Lachman, which will be reprinted in a pocket paperback format in 2026. Lachman's book was the subject of a prestigious talk by the author at the Engelsberg Seminars, organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, in November 2025. More titles for this series are in planning, including books on Swedenborg's notions of influx and of heaven.

SWEDENBORG REVIEW

Issue 0.06 of the *Swedenborg Review* was printed in December 2025 in time for complimentary copies to be distributed to all those who attended the Swedenborg Film Festival's high-profile screening at the 250-seat auditorium of the Curzon Soho. The issue was then formally launched five days later at the Society's AGM on 11 December. Over 850 copies were mailed out to Members, Friends and contributors. Contributions to the issue included essays, fiction, poetry, photography, artwork, reviews, memoir, short-form articles and a crossword by: Chiara Ambrosio, Anonymous Bosch, Chloe Aridjis, Charles Baudelaire, Zelda Cahill-Patten, Jacob Cartwright, Rebekka Cartwright, Diane Eagles, Travis Elborough, Anthony Finnigan, Richard Hand, Seyi Keyamo, Sally Kindberg, Mikey Kirkpatrick, Minakata Kumugusu, Alan Lewin, Stephen McNeilly, Alex Murray, Denise Prentice, the Quinn Fizzlers, Anya Reeve, Tess Richards, Adam Skipper and James Wilson. The staff for this issue of the Swedenborg Review were Stephen McNeilly (Editor), supported by an editorial team of Anya Reeve, Adam Skipper and James Wilson. The issue celebrated 100 years of the present Swedenborg House with contributions from all members of staff, along with past trustees and artists sharing their affectionate memories for the inspirational home of the Swedenborg Society.

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DUAL LANGUAGE EDITIONS

A new English translation and newly edited Latin text of *Prophets and Psalms*, edited and translated by John Elliott, with assistance from consultant Robert Gill, was completed in 2025 and is aimed for publication in 2026. The dual language series highlights and continues the Society's stated commitment to preserve and promote the Latin texts of Swedenborg as primary source material for ongoing research and study. Robert Gill and Stephen McNeilly have begun to look at Swedenborg's 1769 work *Summaria Expositio Doctrinae Novae Ecclesiae* (*Brief Exposition*) as the potential next title in this series.

THE SWEDENBORG COLLECTED EDITION

The aim of the series is to publish, in unabridged form, an authoritative English edition of Swedenborg's complete published works with full academic apparatus in line with university press standards. It is intended for this series to underpin new scholarly and institutional projects and also to serve as a primary resource for new doctoral research. This year saw work continue in preparing new editions of *Heaven and Hell*, *The Last Judgment*, *The Worlds in Space*, *Divine Providence* and *Divine Love and Wisdom*, the latter two titles being new translations by K C Ryder. All texts are being looked over to achieve consistency of style for presentation in the Collected Works of Swedenborg edition. Stephen McNeilly is to serve as the Series Editor for the Collected Edition with the support of the in-house publishing team. Introductions to the works are to be commissioned from a broad range of academics and will be peer reviewed in line with broader academic standards. Scholarly introductions are currently being commissioned from academics to be included in the series. Accompanying and counterpointing the publication of English translations will be a new series of Latin editions.

STUDY GUIDES

Work continued on preparing volumes 4 and 5 of Norman Ryder's *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772)* for print publication. Edited by James Wilson, plans are also being put in place for a digital and online version of the project that will enable records of new editions and translations of Swedenborg from around the world to continue to be logged going forwards. A new revised edition of the Society's academic anthology, *Philosophy, Literature, Mysticism: an anthology of essays on the work and influence of Emanuel Swedenborg* is almost complete and further progress has been made on a follow-up volume focusing on art and social reform.

SWEDENBORG HOUSE PRESS

As part of the Society's newly developed enhancement plan, a new publishing imprint, Swedenborg House Press, was created in 2025 to match the broader range of genres and formats that the Society is able to publish by writers, academics and artists responding to the cultural and intellectual legacies of Emanuel Swedenborg, the Swedenborg Society and its rich archival holdings at Swedenborg House in London.

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—Gifts Returned by the River

A volume of poetry, essays, photography, short stories and literary non-fiction, born out of the *Histories & Hauntings* exhibition staged at Swedenborg House (October-December 2023) and edited by Iain Sinclair. *Gifts Returned by the River* features work by: Alice Albinia, Renchi Bicknell, Javier Calvo, B. Catling, Jack Catling, Gareth Evans, Allen Fisher, Jürgen Ghebrezgiabiher, Jarett Kobek, Stephen McNeilly, Michael Moorcock, Louis Petit, Victor Rees, Anya Reeve, John Rogers, Adolfo Barberá Del Rosal, Matthew Shaw, Iain Sinclair, Ben Wickey and Carol Williams. The book was initially published in a limited run of 200 numbered copies which were presented in a tracing paper wrap with inserts of two separately printed poems as 'gifts'. A further 26 copies in a green cover featured additional holographic material from Iain Sinclair. Launched on 30 May at Swedenborg House, with several of the contributors speaking, the book almost sold out its run in one night. A standard paperback version with cover artwork by Anonymous Bosch and designed by the Quinn Fizzlers was published in October 2025 and promoted with appearances by Iain as part of the Thames Festival (at Southwark Cathedral) and the Small Publishers Fair (at Conway Hall).

—Lud Heat

A mixture of poetry, diary and speculative non-fiction, Iain Sinclair's *Lud Heat: A Book of the Dead Hamlets* was first issued through Sinclair's own Albion Village Press in 1975. Featuring several references to Swedenborg and the parts of London where Swedenborg formerly resided (Wellclose Square) and was laid to rest at (Prince's Square/Swedenborg Gardens), *Lud Heat* has become a much revered work which has had significant influence over subsequent generations of writers and artists. A new redesigned edition was produced by Swedenborg House Press to commemorate *Lud Heat*'s fiftieth anniversary. The new edition features photography from Anonymous Bosch, design by the Quinn Fizzlers, additional written material from Iain Sinclair's personal archives, and contextualizing essays by Travis Elborough and Adolfo Barberá del Rosal. It was published in a limited edition of 200 copies which came with a hand-numbered insert reproducing a map drawn by Brian Catling for the first Albion Village Press edition. The book was launched at Swedenborg Hall on 22 October as part of a sold-out event staged by the London Month of the Dead; it was further promoted with Iain's appearance at the Small Publishers Fair (in Conway Hall); and as part of the *Retracing Swedenborg: Texts, Contexts And Changing Perspectives* academic conference at Swedenborg House (6-8 November). The anniversary of *Lud Heat* received lengthy write-ups in The Quietus and Zona Motel and was accompanied by the Concrete Atlantis label releasing a cassette of *The Lud Heat Tapes* 1979 (an unbroadcast programme made for the BBC Radio 3), which was exclusively for sale from the Swedenborg House Bookshop.

—Annie Oake's Orchids

A sequence of twelve new poems by Iain Sinclair in response to accompanying photography by Anonymous Bosch. The photographs and the poems both relate to the Hawksmoor churches featured in *Lud Heat*. *Annie Oake's Orchids* was released in a limited edition publication of 100 hand-numbered copies, with a further 26 copies featuring holographic material by Iain Sinclair, and it was launched at the Small Publishers Fair with a reading by Iain Sinclair on 25 October.

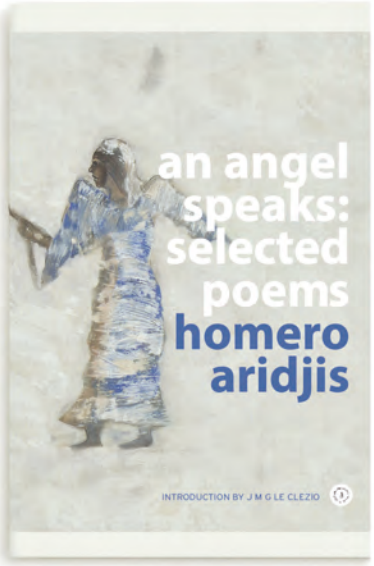
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—HEREAFTER

Hereafter, edited by Simon Moretti is the latest publication within the Swedenborg Archive Series, produced as a document and continuation of Moretti's *Hereafter* exhibition at Swedenborg House, which ran from 17 January until 30 June 2025. The volume contains newly commissioned works from award-winning writers Chloe Aridjis, Andrew Durbin, Jennifer Higgie and Deborah Levy, as well as selections of poetry and prose by Charles Baudelaire, William Blake, Ithell Colquhoun, John Donne, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Derek Jarman, Stéphane Mallarmé, Edgar Allan Poe, Rainer Maria Rilke, Wallace Stevens and Tristan Tzara. The book also features photography by Robert Glowacki, Paul Heber-Percy, Nick Malyon, Simon Moretti, the Quinn Fizzlers and others documenting the exhibition and the artworks and archival items within it. The artists involved were: Eileen Agar, Paul Becker, William Blake, Ithell Colquhoun, Haris Epaminonda, Paul Heber-Percy, Donna Huddleston, Derek Jarman, Linder, Goshka Macuga, David Noonan, Ben Rivers, Daniel Silver, Michael E Smith, Pelle Swedlund, Joëlle Tuerlinckx, George Frederic Watts and James John Garth Wilkinson. The *Hereafter* book was launched at Swedenborg House on 16 October with a musical performance by Maxwell Sterling.

—An Angel Speaks

First published in the Swedenborg Archive series in 2015, *An Angel Speaks* is a career-spanning selection of Homero Aridjis's poetry presented in both the original Spanish and in English translation. It is drawn from a reading Homero Aridjis gave in Swedenborg Hall in 2012 and is accompanied by a transcription of that evening's audience Q&A session, shedding light on his long-held interest in Swedenborg, along with an essay on Homero's work by the Nobel Prize-winning author J M G Le Clézio. A new expanded paperback edition of *An Angel Speaks* was published in 2025 with the addition of seven new poems. The new edition was launched with an event that also marked Homero's 85th birthday and his awarding of the Griffin Poetry Prize at Swedenborg Hall on 12 April, where Homero read poems in Spanish and actor Fiona Shaw read the English translations. The event was recorded and these recordings were used by Spiracle to make an audiobook version (the first official professionally produced audiobook of one of the Society's publications), which was made available for free download in June. An introduction for the audiobook by Chloe Aridjis has since been featured in the *Swedenborg Review*. The new paperback edition of *An Angel Speaks* was included in the 'Best of 2025: Letters from Latin America' selection in the *Morning Star*.



WORKS IN PREPARATION

A companion book to the *Elective Affinities* centenary exhibition (18 September 2025-28 February 2026) is under way. Edited by Stephen McNeilly, texts will feature

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contributions from artists and writers involved in the exhibition, plus new invited contributors. Another publication that will appear in 2026 in connection to the *Elective Affinities* exhibition is *Wheat Geometry Axioms*, published in partnership with Hundtēontiġ Editions, and featuring a sequence of twelve texts by Iain Sinclair in response to a selection of artworks included in the exhibition. Also to be published in the same series and in partnership with Hundtēontiġ Editions, is a chapbook entitled *Swedenborg House and other Number Coordinates*. Both are edited by Stephen McNeilly. Other new books in preparation include Toby Litt's *On Swedenborg, Skateboarding and Sunlight* and Brian Dillon's *On Objects and Afterlife*—both are to be included in the Swedenborg Archive series. A book version of Chloe Aridjis's hugely popular *Stilled Shadows* magic lantern show is also underway and a new edition of William Blake's poetry, inspired by Swedenborg entitled *The Mental Traveller and Other Poems* is also in preparation. This is the first in a series of new Swedenborg related poetry editions. Malcolm Peet, author of *Medicine, Mysticism and Mythology: Garth Wilkinson, Swedenborg and Nineteenth-Century Esoteric Culture*, is researching and drafting a monograph on another important nineteenth-century Swedenborgian, Charles Augustus Tulk (1786-1849).

EBOOKS

The Society has 6 titles available in Kindle format. These include *Introducing Swedenborg: Correspondences*, by Gary Lachman; Carl Robsahm's *Memoirs of Swedenborg*; P L Johnson's *The Five Ages*; R W Emerson's *Swedenborg: Introducing the Mystic*; Kristin King's *Gardens of Heaven*; and Iain Sinclair's *Blake's London*. Other works, such as back issues of the *Swedenborg Review*, are available for free digital download from the Swedenborg Society's website or academia.com. Other titles planned for ebook conversion include William Rowlandson's *Imaginal Landscapes: reflections on the mystical visions of Jorge Luis Borges and Emanuel Swedenborg*; John S Haller, Jr's *Distant Voices: Sketches of a Swedenborgian World View*; Ken Worpole's *The New Jerusalem: the Good City and the Good Society*; Malcolm Peet's *Medicine, Mysticism, Mythology: Garth Wilkinson, Swedenborg and Nineteenth-Century Esoteric Culture*; and Iain Sinclair's *Swimming to Heaven*. Ebook formats are included in the Society's publication strategy going forward, including its new translations of Swedenborg and the landmark Collected Works of Swedenborg edition.

DISTRIBUTION

In 2025, 41 titles were distributed across the UK and abroad by Combined Book Services of Tonbridge, Kent. Gillian Hawkins of Hawkins Publishing Services was the sales representative, and books were stocked by Waterstones, Tate Britain, London Review Bookshop, John Sandoe Books, Nord Books AB (Stockholm), and Books Etc., amongst others. Online specialists such as Aphrohead, Fishpond World, Paperback Shop, Rarewaves and Super Bookdeals also continue to make orders. Orders to CBS from other distributors, such as Gardners, saw books supplied indirectly to other independent bookshops and online retailers (notably, Amazon). In the USA, the Swedenborg Foundation via their partner the Chicago Distribution Center, distributed 16 of the Swedenborg Society's titles. The world famous Shakespeare & Company bookshop in Paris have become regular customers for Swedenborg Society publications—a direct result from contact made at the 2025 Small Publishers Fair.

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CAFÉ & BOOKSHOP

CAFÉ

Arcana Coffee opens Monday-Friday daily 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., serving a range of high-quality coffees, teas, cold drinks and sweet and savoury cakes and pastries, for dine-in or takeaway. Arcana Coffee also provides catering packages on request to room hirers throughout the year. The coffee shop continued to serve thousands of customers during the course of what was only its second year in full operation, and it has maintained and grown a large number of regulars, including many of Swedenborg House's tenants and neighbours. Combined with the literary air of the bookshop and exhibitions open daily in the adjacent gallery, the café has become a favourite meeting place for those with an interest for the arts.

BOOKSHOP

The Swedenborg House bookshop continues to play an important role in the activities of Swedenborg House. It welcomes thousands of visitors every year and provides a friendly welcome for customers, event attendees, researchers, hirers and contractors as well as our Friends and Members. With its easily recognizable and distinctive bow window onto Bloomsbury Way, its Victorian wooden cabinets and shelving (installed in 1925 from the Society's old premises on Bloomsbury Street) and rotation of items from its museum and archive collection on prominent display, it also provides a focal point for passers–by in London's historic and literary Bloomsbury neighbourhood. Being surrounded by many of the capital city's most distinguished cultural and academic institutions, galleries and museums, the bookshop is seen by and draws in many tourists and students who are new to London. The windows, tables and counter displays in the bookshop are regularly changed and new titles from other publishers stocked to showcase the incredibly diverse influence Swedenborg has had on literature and art; the bookshop also, at times, hosts wall texts and display items as part of exhibitions in the neighbouring Swedenborg House gallery. The bookshop works smoothly in tandem with the café, introducing many newcomers to Swedenborg and the work of the Swedenborg Society in relaxed and friendly surrounds. 2025 saw a record volume of books sold, with staff encouraged to spend parts of their week working from the shop—a way of being available to the public and a chance to share with them the staff's accumulated knowledge, enthusiasm and affection for the Society's publications, events programmes and archive collection.



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EVENTS

The events programme remains a key strategy for promoting the work of the Society and Swedenborg, as well as bringing in new people and existing Friends and Members. Where possible, events remain free to the public and seek to promote a variety of content and activities, including talks, conferences, reading groups, workshops, tours and the Swedenborg Film Festival. Details of the 2025 exhibition programme are contained in the MUSEUM section on pages 25-28.

READINGS & SCREENINGS

—Home | Mela Hilleard [Organized as part of the Influxus programme]
Swedenborg Hall hosted a screening of Mela Hilleard's film *Home* on 28 January 2025, introduced by Anya Reeve and followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker. The screening was supported by a display of photography in the Gardiner Room. The film, which had previously débuted at the Kinoteka Polish Film Festival, 'focuses on family, identity, emigration, as well as the circle of life, death and rebirth'.

—Homero Aridjis | An Angel Speaks
A new expanded paperback edition of Homero Aridjis's collection *An Angel Speaks* was launched on 12 April 2025 at Swedenborg Hall with live readings from Homero (in Spanish) and Fiona Shaw (in English). The occasion also marked Homero's 85th birthday and his recent awarding of the prestigious Griffin Poetry Prize. Audio recordings of the readings were made by Spiracle and later used to create the first professionally produced audiobook of one of the Society's publications.

—The Sky Trembles and the Earth Is Afraid and the Two Eyes Are Not Brothers | Ben Rivers
A screening of Ben Rivers's 'labyrinthine and epic film that moves between documentary, fiction and fable', as part of the programme of events to accompany the *Hereafter* exhibition, took place in Swedenborg Hall on 17 April 2025.

—Gifts Returned by the River | Book launch
Alice Albinia, Renchi Bicknell, Gareth Evans, Victor Rees, John Rogers and Iain Sinclair all spoke or gave readings in Swedenborg Hall as part of the launch for *Gifts Returned by the River*, on the evening of 30 May 2025. *Gifts Returned* is a book born out of the *Histories & Hauntings* exhibition staged at Swedenborg House in October-December 2023 and the book's launch saw the whole building opened up, giving attendees the chance to see the current exhibition (*Hereafter*). Over 300 people attended during the course of the evening, and they were able to purchase copies of the limited-edition tracing-paper wrapped book at a specially reduced price for the occasion; or secure one of the much sought-after 26 copies with a green cover, which featured additional holographic material inscribed by Iain Sinclair.

—Small Publishers Fair
Creating closer ties to the London independent publishing community, the Society took

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part in the annual Small Publishers Fair on Friday and Saturday 24-25 October 2025. The Society's participation promoted the publication of *Gifts Returned by the River*, ed. Iain Sinclair (2025) in a new paperback edition, along with other recent titles such as *Swedenborg's Lusthus*, ed. Stephen McNeilly (2024), and the expanded paperback edition of Homero Aridjis's *An Angel Speaks* (2025). The Society had a book stall in Conway Hall for the two days of the fair, selling a large amount of its publications to new customers, and making important connections with other publishers and booksellers. (The world-renowned bookshop Shakespeare & Company, in Paris, has begun to regularly stock a selection of Swedenborg Society titles after encountering the Society's stall at the fair.) As part of the fair's programme of readings Iain Sinclair read from the latest Swedenborg House publication, the collaboration between Sinclair and Anonymous Bosch, *Annie Oake's Orchids*.

TALKS & TOURS

—Brian Dillon: On Objects and Afterlife | Swedenborg Birthday Meeting [Organized as part of the programme of events to accompany the Hereafter exhibition]
This year's Swedenborg Birthday Meeting saw Brian Dillon as the guest speaker on the subject of 'Objects and Afterlife'—a well-received talk for which there are plans for publication in the Swedenborg Archive series.

—Xiaolu Guo in Conversation with Iain Sinclair | Call Me Ishmaelle
To mark the recent publication of her new novel *Call Me Ishmaelle* (Chatto & Windus), longstanding collaborator with Swedenborg House, Xiaolu Guo was in conversation with Swedenborg Society President, Iain Sinclair, in the Wynter Room at Swedenborg House on 28 March 2025. *Call Me Ishmaelle* is a reimagining of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick, a work that Melville began to write after developing an interest in Swedenborg, following conversations about Swedenborg and metaphysics with the German philologist George Adler during their transatlantic crossing from New York to London in October 1849.

—Open House
On Saturday 13 September 2025, the Swedenborg Society held an open day of Swedenborg House as part of the annual Open House festival celebrating London's architecture, communities and sites of interest. The open day, attended by over 250 people, saw the building opened to the public, allowing visitors to explore the Hall, the library rooms, the bookshop, staircases, corridors, light well and vestibule. Volunteers staffed each of the spaces open to the public, available to field any questions, and a free leaflet about the building and its history, prepared by James Wilson, was given to visitors. The documentary film, *Heaven, Hell and Other Places* was played on a loop in Swedenborg Hall. The Open House festival began to expand in 2021 from being an event that lasted one weekend to being an event that lasted more than a week, spanning across two weekends. The expanded format has encouraged participating buildings and organizations to stage more activities. In 2025, and led by James Wilson, the Society, put on (for groups of 20) a guided tour of Swedenborg House on 15 September; and a guided walk of 'Swedenborg's London' on 17 September, commencing at Swedenborg House and finishing at Paternoster Row, near St Paul's Cathedral. On

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the evening of 18 September, the private view took place for the new exhibition, *Elective Affinities*, curated by Stephen McNeilly, marking the centenary of the present Swedenborg House (on the very anniversary of the first documented meeting held there). The evening was listed as part of the Swedenborg Society's programme for Open House giving Open House festivalgoers an additional opportunity to explore Swedenborg House, learn of its history and view artworks and material from its rich archives. During the course of the evening there were over 400 visitors.

—*Building a Windmill | Ken Worpole & Melissa Benn in Conversation*
On 25 September 2025, following the recent publication of his new essay collection *Brightening from the East: Essays on landscape and memory* (Little Toller Books), Ken Worpole gave an illustrated talk about his visit to the community at Tvind in Denmark in 1976. This was followed by a wider discussion of some of the subjects and themes of Ken's essay collection—historic patterns of communitarian sentiment in East Anglia; utopian landscapes; urban architecture; open-air schools and other twentieth-century radical social initiatives—with writer and journalist Melissa Benn.

—*More Weight: A Salem Story. Ben Wickey in Conversation with Alan Moore, Iain Sinclair & Victor Rees* [Organized as part of the programme of events to accompany the *Elective Affinities* exhibition]
Ben Wickey, Alan Moore (via video link), Iain Sinclair and Victor Rees were in discussion in Swedenborg Hall on 6 December 2025 for the UK launch of Wickey's debut graphic novel *More Weight: A Salem Story* (Top Shelf Productions, 2025).

PARTNERSHIPS

In April 2025 the Swedenborg Society partnered with Spiracle to issue the Society's first professionally produced audiobook—a version of *An Angel Speaks* by Homero Aridjis. Discussions have since taken place about further collaboration in 2026. A good relationship has been forged with the organizers of the Small Publishers Fair, which takes place annually in October at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Plans are being formulated to stage an iteration of the Fair at Swedenborg House in the future. After hosting the closing live event for the *Close Readings* podcast series in Swedenborg Hall, talks are underway for this to become a regular collaboration, bringing further high-profile authors into the milieu of Swedenborg House. Similar discussions have also emerged with the Longplayer Trust concerning the hosting of their Longplayer Conversation (which was staged at Swedenborg House in 2024). The Society continues its relationships with Open City and the Open House festival, as well as the Bloomsbury Festival, which will celebrate its twentieth anniversary in 2026. A new partnership was formed with the Totally Thames festival, which takes place annually in September. (The Society participated in an event with the festival, then called the Thames Festival, in 2013). Iain Sinclair, Victor Rees and Jack Catling promoted the book *Gifts Returned by the River* with talks and readings at Southwark Cathedral. Iain Sinclair and Stephen McNeilly also appeared on the Totally Thames festival's radio show on Resonance FM. Another new partnership emerged with the Polish Cultural Institute, with a combined publicity campaign for the *Dormitorium* exhibition in March and April. The Society meanwhile continued to work with the Blake Society discussing plans to mark the

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bicentenary of Blake's death in 2027. The Society has many good relationships with universities and educational bodies.

PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS

—Hereafter book launch & event with Maxwell Sterling
The launch of the latest publication in the Swedenborg Archive Series, *Hereafter*, edited by Simon Moretti, took place on 16 October 2025 with a live musical performance by Maxwell Sterling in Swedenborg Hall. The *Hereafter* book features newly commissioned works from award-winning writers Chloe Aridjis, Andrew Durbin, Jennifer Higgie and Deborah Levy, as well as selections of poetry and prose by Charles Baudelaire, William Blake, Ithell Colquhoun, John Donne, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Derek Jarman, Stéphane Mallarmé, Edgar Allan Poe, Rainer Maria Rilke, Wallace Stevens and Tristan Tzara.

—F W Murnau's Faust: Eine Deutsche Volkssage. With Simon Moretti And Maxwell Sterling
[Organized as part of the programme of events to accompany the *Hereafter* exhibition]
A screening of F W Murnau's 1926 silent film *Faust*, a ccompanied b y a l ive, improvisational long-form musical composition by double bassist and composer Maxwell Sterling took place in Swedenborg Hall on 12 February 2025.

—Imaginal Objects
Following two popular archive engagement workshops involving object handling at Swedenborg House in November 2024, staged with artist Diane Eagles as part of her MA in Contemporary Art and Archaeology at the University of the Highlands and Islands, a display in the Gardiner Room was open to the public between 3-14 February 2025. The display featured some of the objects from the original sessions along with some of the creative responses from the workshops' participants. Diane Eagles invigilated the display on 7 and 14 February allowing attendees additional opportunities to engage with handling archival objects.

—Uli Will Go To Heaven | Grace Browne
[Organized as part of the Influxus programme]
Artist Grace Browne led an earth pigment painting workshop on 25 February 2025 supported by a display of her own artworks which explored the body and wall art traditions of her foremothers, and which had been created after time spent at the former Swedenborgian church on Woodlands Road, Glasgow.

—House of Mysterious Objects: Workshop with Artist Sally Kindberg
Artist Sally Kindberg returned with a new iteration of her popular drawing workshops for all ages on 16 April 2025. *House of Mysterious Objects* helped celebrate the approaching centenary of Swedenborg House and participants were invited to cut out and fold specially designed templates to create their own 'Swedenborg House', which they could then fill with drawings of favourite items, memories or things that they would like to see in the collections.

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—The Hysterical Chorus Live | Sharon Young & Trinity Laban Performers
[Organized as part of the Influxus programme]
A live performance from Sharon Young & Trinity Laban performers took place in the Wynter Room at Swedenborg House on 29 April 2025, as an extension of Sharon Young's art practice and Ph.D. research looking at Freud's case studies and other examples from literature, and opening an invitation to all who relate to the feeling of 'hysteria' as a mode of communication and an expression of freedom.

—Twofold Vision: Newton's Dark and Goethe's Light
[Organized as part of the Influxus programme]
Louis Stevenson-Philips from *Bound & Infinity* (a M anchester-based b ookshop centred around investigations between the arts, science and philosophy) and Philip Franses (author and former senior lecturer in Holistic Science at Schumacher College, Devon) led a day of discussion and workshops looking into the theories of colour and experiments with light of Goethe and Newton.

—Musical Dark Fairy Tales with Viktor Wynd & The Blackshore Collective
Viktor Wynd gave a live performative reading from his new collection *Dark Fairy Tales* (Prestel, 2025), accompanied by live folk music from The Blackshore Collective in Swedenborg Hall on 30 October 2025. Viktor Wynd is the proprietor of the Museum of Curiosities in Hackney, and a number of pieces from his collections (including works by Leonora Carrington) were featured concurrently with this performance as part of the *Elective Affinities* exhibition.

—Swedenborg Writers' Group
From 23 September until 16 December 2025, Swedenborg House Bookshop hosted a fortnightly writers' group led by Adam Skipper, forming an opportunity for writers from the wider Swedenborg Society community to share their work with like-minded creatives, in comforting surroundings and with refreshments available. Writers of all disciplines and genres were welcome. Around 30 people participated at different times with a strong group of regulars who attended every session. The writers' group will continue in 2026 with a chance for newcomers to join.

COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

—Three Impostors Launch: Haunting the Ghost
In collaboration with Three Impostors Press a book launch for Victor Rees's *Haunting the Ghost* was held in Swedenborg Hall, with Victor in conversation with fellow authors Timothy J Jarvis and Iain Sinclair. Haunting the Ghost is part of Three Impostors' London Adventures series and features reports of the author's visits to Swedenborg House as part of an exploration of London.

—Alchemy X Swedenborg
An evening of site-specific live music and spoken poetry inspired by the vision and writings of Emanuel Swedenborg was staged by Alchemy in Swedenborg Hall on 12 July 2025. Alchemy is a creative music and youth work mentoring programme based at Goldsmiths University. After learning about Swedenborg House and its activities,

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publications and collections, via Alchemy's director, Mikey Kirkpatrick (a long-time friend and visitor of the Swedenborg Society), members from the Alchemy programme came to visit Swedenborg House for a tour ahead of working up what they had experienced and learned about Swedenborg and Swedenborg House into a multi-disciplinary live performance.

—Close Readings Live: Fiction and the Fantastic
As the culmination to the latest series of the popular *Close Readings* podcast, *London Review of Books*, in collaboration with the Swedenborg Society, held a live discussion between authors Marina Warner, Adam Thirlwell and Edwin Frank on 17 October 2025. The series focused on mythographer Marina Warner's investigations of the many traditions of the fantastic in literature. This live discussion was recorded and released as the final 13th episode of the series on 18 December 2025, titled 'Fiction and the Fantastic: A Taxonomy'.

—London Month of the Dead: Dead Hamlets
In collaboration with London Month of the Dead, an annual festival of death and the arts, the launch of a new fiftieth anniversary edition of Iain Sinclair's *Lud Heat* (Swedenborg House Press, 2025) was held in Swedenborg Hall on 22 October 2025. The evening featured Iain in conversation with fellow writer Tom Bolton and saw a large volume of sales in the bookshop and has led to discussions over further events in 2026.

THE SWEDENBORG FILM FESTIVAL

Having been staged for the first time outside of Swedenborg House in December 2024 at the Whitechapel Gallery, 2025 saw the annual Swedenborg Film Festival move to an even bigger venue at the 250-seat main auditorium at the Curzon Soho for a screening of the shortlisted films on 6 December 2025. The guest judges for the festival were Iain Sinclair and Chris Petit and there were invited screenings of *Street of Crocodiles* by The Quay Brothers, *Hope Holds Her Head Up and Hopes* by Andrew Kötting, *This River Only Brings Poison* by Anonymous Bosch and *Pariah Genius* by Emma Matthews, Chris Petit, Iain Sinclair and Susan Stenger. The shortlisted films, selected by the Festival Director, Stephen McNeilly, were: Hiroshi Atobe, *On the shortness of life*; Jenna Collins, *The King of the Stool Pigeons*; Parlour Collective, *Other Songs the Winds Have Sung Me*; Karen Russo, *Sinkholes*; Hiroya Sakurai, *The Stream XIV*; and Josh Weissbach, *Frank Stares at Celestials*—all of whom were announced as joint winners and Stephen McNeilly received an award for event curation. The screening was quickly booked out and all in attendance were gifted free copies of the brand new issue of the *Swedenborg Review*. In a new first for the festival, the shortlist screening was followed up by a marathon 12-hour continuous screening of the long list in Swedenborg Hall on Monday 8 December. 73 films were shown in hour-long blocks between 10.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. providing a welcome platform for many filmmakers who were able to attend and bring newcomers to Swedenborg House. Over 400 people attended during the course of the day.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

MUSEUM

Throughout 2025, the Swedenborg House Gallery consolidated and extended upon the previous year's gains in outreach and publicity, spotlighting items from the museum's collection and attaining national and international coverage. Notably, the exhibition programme achieved its most prominent critical plaudits and media attention thus far, with enhanced opportunities for audience outreach and diversification. Over the course of the year three major exhibitions were staged, occasioning collaborations with partners, institutions, other galleries and private lenders. A more detailed summary of the year's programme is given below. As previously, notice of the Society's exhibition programme was coordinated with the international art bulletin e-flux, as well as distributed via its regular media channels and to press contacts.

EXHIBITIONS

—Hereafter by Simon Moretti.
16 January to 30 June (extended by a month due to demand)
Featuring two original works in neon by the convening artist/curator Simon Moretti, as well as an assembly of sculptures, collage, paintings and drawings by renowned artists Eileen Agar, Paul Becker, Ithell Colquhoun, Haris Epaminonda, Paul Heber-Percy, Donna Huddleston, Derek Jarman, Linder, Goshka Macuga, David Noonan, Ben Rivers, Daniel Silver, Michael E. Smith, Pelle Swedlund, Joëlle Tuerlinckx and George Frederic Watts. These contemporary artworks were anchored by a high presence of material from the Society's archive, library and museum holdings, drawing public and critical attention to multiple rare first editions of Swedenborg's writings, prints by William Blake and manuscripts and drawings by D T Suzuki and J J G Wilkinson. *Hereafter* constituted the Society's most sophisticated lending operation thus far at the time of commencement, with loans agreed with Modern Art, Mattias Vendelmans, Sylvia Kouvali Gallery, Frith Street Gallery, Large Glass and Amanda Wilkinson Gallery

"[My cultural pick] is an exhibition which is on at the moment in Bloomsbury at the Swedenborg Society, called Hereafter, which I loved and I can't wait to go back actually, it's one of those ones you want to see more than once if you can..."— Octavia Bright on BBC's *Front Row*

as well as individual artists and private lenders. Public events included an at-capacity Private View; a fully-booked Swedenborg Birthday Talk by the writer Brian Dillon; a fully-booked screening of F W Murnau's *Faust* (1926) with live musical accompaniment by musician and composer Maxwell Sterling; a screening of Ben Rivers's film *The Sky Trembles and the Earth Is Afraid and Two Eyes Are Not Brothers* (2015); and a book launch with live musical accompaniment by Maxwell Sterling. Product outcomes from the exhibition included an attractive, illustrated new publication in the

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Swedenborg Archive Series (including commissioned contributions from Chloe Aridjis, Andrew Durbin, Jennifer Higgie and Deborah Levy, as well as historical examples of Swedenborg's influence on literature) as well as postcards sold as merchandise in the Bookshop. The critical acclaim achieved by *Hereafter* indicates the regard the Gallery's programming presently enjoys: art critic Pierre d'Alancaisez awarded the exhibition five stars as one of *Artforum*'s 'Critics' Picks', whilst the exhibition was featured on BBC's *Front Row* (average weekly listeners to BBC Radio 4: 9.2 million) as a 'Cultural Pick' from regular contributor Octavia Bright, who praised Swedenborg as 'fascinating' and a 'polymath'. The exhibition received hundreds of positive endorsements in our visitor comments book and over 10,000 visitors.

—*Dormitorium: The Quay Brothers*
18 March to 4 April
An exhibition by internationally regarded filmmakers the Quay Brothers, featuring twenty-three hand-crafted stop-motion animation film-sets on loan from the filmmakers' personal archive, and an installed showreel of select realized film projects on loop. Staged as a limited-time exhibition across two weeks and organized as part of Kinoteka, the 23rd Polish Film Festival, and in association with the Polish Cultural Institute London. The transit and installation of delicate, heavy and large works was managed successfully by the Gallery team and allowed the Society to develop a regular courier relationship with John Harper Delivers, a trusted art courier, improving the Society's general infrastructure and readiness around exhibition preparations. Associated events encompassed an at-capacity Private View; two Quay Brothers short film anthology screenings (one with a Q&A) at the nearby Garden Cinema; a screening of the Quay Brothers' film *Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass* and a Q&A at the BFI IMAX; and other more general film-related events and screenings as part of the Kinoteka programme. Other festival partners included the ICA, Barbican, BFI IMAX, BFI Southbank, the Garden Cinema and Ciné Lumière. Highlights of the press response included the exhibition being a featured pick within 'The week in art', written by art critic Jonathan Jones in *The Guardian*; a featured pick in the *Euronews* article, 'Culture Agenda: The best things to do, hear, see or watch in Europe this week'; and a BFI interview with the Quay Brothers which heavily focused on the exhibition, including photography of 'highlights from the exhibition'. Our Bookshop 'round table' exhibit featured special merchandise related to the exhibition, including a bespoke stand of exhibition-specific bookmarks, two DVDs from the BFI, and two books. The exhibition was exceptionally popular despite its very short run of two weeks: we estimate over 7000 visitors attended the exhibition, and it gained many effusive encomiums in the visitor comments book.

> "Fantastic to see these sets. They will stay on my retina for weeks..."
> — Maggie, visitor comments book

—*Elective Affinities: Curated by Stephen McNeilly*
18 September 2025-27 February 2026
Elective Affinities represented our most ambitious exhibition in scale to date, extending through all four floors of Swedenborg House and celebrating the centenary of the Society's occupation of its historic premises. All members of staff were invited to

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nominate objects from the Society's museum holdings, with contemporary artworks associatively paired with each object to evoke Swedenborg's theory of correspondences. Exhibited items from the holdings of the Swedenborg House collection, archive and library included holograph letters by Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Helen Keller; manuscripts and drawings by D T Suzuki and J J G Wilkinson; and a newly-acquired first edition copy of André Breton's *Surrealist Manifesto* (1924) inscribed by the writer to an important art dealer friend, with the Manifesto itself mentioning Swedenborg. The exhibition involved over forty contributing writers and artists, with contributions from Alice Albinia, Chloe Aridjis, Homero Aridjis, the Quay Brothers, Colin Buttimer, Leonora Carrington, Jacob Cartwright, Peter Cartwright, Brian Catling, Shezad Dawood, Tessa Farmer, Margarita Gluzberg, Xiaolu Guo, Marcelle Hanselaar, Asger Jorn, Dean Kenning, Eden and Andrew Kötting, Kate MccGwire, David McKee, Stephen McNeilly, Simon Moretti, Paul O'Kane, Mark Riley, Iain Sinclair, Oda Iselin Sønderland, Natalia Zagórska-Thomas, Vernon Watkins, Ben Wickey and Viktor Wynd. The extensive events programme for the exhibition included an at-capacity Private View; the *Hereafter* book launch with live musical accompaniment by Maxwell Sterling; a sold-out *Lud Heat* 50th anniversary event with Iain Sinclair, Tom Bolton and Stephen Coates, organized in collaboration with London Month of the Dead; sold-out 'Musical Dark Fairy Tales' by Viktor Wynd with music by The Blackshore Collective; and a finissage event involving live performances by the artists Margarita Gluzberg, Paul O'Kane and Natalia Zagórska-Thomas. The exhibition was additionally incorporated into the Bloomsbury Festival, with special Gallery tours for the Open House Festival. It garnered press in places such as Artlyst, Art Daily and the International Times, with curator interviews undertaken on Resonance FM and Bloomsbury Radio. Over 6,000 people attended and many student cohorts were brought to the site by their tutors, including groups from the Royal Academy, Royal College of Art, Goldsmiths University of London and the Royal Drawing School.

> "London's most extraordinary exhibition in many years. I am enthralled" —Barbara Taylor, visitor comments book



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THE SWEDENBORG RESIDENCY

During 2025 the Swedenborg Residency was remodelled in accordance with proposals submitted to the trustees as part of its Enhancement Plan. In appreciation of Swedenborg's polymathic spirit, the remit for the Residency now includes a broader range of disciplines and activities. Details of the new format will be forthcoming in 2026.

IN PLANNING

—The Everyworld Redux: *Eden and Andrew Kötting*
Preparations are underway to exhibit collaborative artworks by neurodivergent artist Eden Kötting and her father, the filmmaker Andrew Kötting, from mid-April. The exhibition will predominantly feature a VR installation called *The Everyworld*, in which the viewer is guided through the 'memory hovel or vessel' of the Köttings' family home in the French Pyrenees, with Eden introducing the viewer to her creative visions, dreams and memories.

—After Fragments: Hannah Hughes
Discussions are also underway with the artist Hannah Hughes, regarding the display of a selection of her collages and ceramics in the Gallery for a short period in July. This multimedia exhibition would be in support of Hughes's practice-based research Ph.D. at the University of Gloucestershire, effectively constituting a viva exhibition. Drawing on Swedenborg's theory of correspondences, Hughes suggests After Fragments will consider 'realities beyond the everyday function of things, where new resonances are encountered between knowledge and form', with the chosen works reflecting 'the duality of the relationship between parts and wholes, the entanglements of things with place and time, and the symbolic potency of fragments intentionally broken or incomplete'.



—Large Ghost: *an exhibition of egg tempera paintings by Brian Catling*
Curated by Jack Catling, and in collaboration with Matt's Gallery, conversations are also underway towards a proposed exhibition of egg tempera paintings with Swedenborgian themes by the late artist, writer and Swedenborg House collaborator Brian Catling.

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LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

ACCREDITATION

The year focused heavily on data collection, research and preparatory work for writing and revising policy in line with accreditation standards. This culminated in the creation of a comprehensive Scope of Collections document which outlines key foundational information regarding the archive collections. This symbolizes the first formal attempt to define the archive in this way, representing a major milestone in preparation for accreditation as well as the first step in bringing the archives up to industry standards. Following this development, work is now well advanced on a Collections Development Policy and other policy documentation will follow throughout 2026.

VISITORS

In March, Birkbeck students studying Collections Management visited the archive and gallery. The Executive Director and the Archivist delivered a tour, talk and Q&A. The Society's collections continue to attract attention from Birkbeck's Humanities and Social Sciences department, with another visit already requested for 2026. In what has become something of an annual tradition, students from Florida State University's London study abroad programme also came to visit the Swedenborg Society and received a tour, talk and Q&A from the Archivist and the Editor. As usual the Society has also seen a number of researchers throughout the year. Topics investigated have included: Hindi translations of Swedenborg's works; Japanese translations of Swedenborg; historical collaboration between religious groups in Ipswich; and founding member of the Swedenborg Society, Charles Augustus Tulk. The academic conference held in late 2025 also generated a substantial number of follow-up archival requests.

ARCHIVAL SUPPORT FOR EXHIBITIONS

In February, archival items were featured in a small two-day follow-up exhibition to Diane Eagles's *Imaginal Objects* events from late 2024. A number of rarely displayed items from both the Swedenborg Society and General Conference collections were utilized. These included several items associated with historic New Church buildings/ congregations, such as ceremonial keys, mallets and trowels. Also included were brooches commemorating the 1910 Swedenborg Congress and one of the magic lanterns in the Society's possession. Eagles was present throughout to discuss her work; the Archivist also contributed to the proceedings.

From January to June 2025, the *Hereafter* exhibition also featured a significant number of items from the archives, including drawings by James John Garth Wilkinson, first printed editions of Swedenborg's works, and diagrams from a manuscript book from the General Conference collection.

The current *Elective Affinities* exhibition (September 2025-February 2026) has also drawn extensively on the Society's archival collections, featuring a large number

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of 'high-profile' items including: Swedenborg's ear bones; the Great East Cheap Minute Book; several drawings by James John Garth Wilkinson; the letters of Josephine Butler; the Society's copy of Bernhard Siegfried Albini's Tabulae Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani and many other items.

CATALOGUING AND COLLECTIONS WORK

A substantial portion of the cataloguing backlog was cleared during 2025 which has also fed into the general ongoing work of decluttering and rationalizing collection storage areas for both the library and archive. This work will continue in 2026.

ACQUISITIONS

The most prominent acquisition this year is a first edition (1924) presentation copy of André Breton's *Manifeste du Surréalisme: Poisson Soluble* signed by the author to Leoncé Rosenberg. The Swedenborg Society has also acquired the records of the Bournemouth Society of the New Church to add to the General Conference collection, following the Bournemouth Society's dissolution in 2025.



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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

—Academic Conference—Retracing Swedenborg: Texts, Contexts and Changing Perspectives

From 6-8 November 2025, the Swedenborg Society hosted the first of a biennial series of international academic conferences. Organized by the Society's Executive Director Stephen McNeilly, and skillfully managed by the in-house team of Rebekka Cartwright, Denise Prentice and Anya Reeve, the conference took place across 3 days with 24 speakers from around the world. Papers were given on a broad range of subjects including Swedenborg's connections to William Blake; Enlightenment and Romantic-era philosophies; and eighteenth and nineteenth-century reform movements, as well as the role of Swedenborgian thought in early Modernist and Surrealist contexts. The conference featured a unique reception dinner for the delegates in the Wynter Room on the opening day; an evening of book launches (on the Friday); and a special Presidential Address from Iain Sinclair (on the Saturday). Chaired and introduced by Stephen McNeilly, the full list of speakers included James Barszcz, Piotr De Boncza Bukowski, Avery Curran, David Dunér, Sibylle Erle, Rebecca K Esterson, Ariel Hessayon, Alastair Lockhart, Anna Maddison, Brad McKinnon, Alex Murray, Michael Newman, Saori Osuga, Victor Rees, Robert Rix, Dell Rose, William Rowlandson, Vincent Roy-Di Piazza, Nicholas Shrimpton, Iain Sinclair, Friedemann Stengel, CJ Swenson and Devin Zuber.

THE SWEDENBORG DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

—Bradley McKinnon

Bradley McKinnon completed his Ph.D. in History at the University of Aberdeen with his thesis 'The Epiphanies of Helen Keller: Swedenborgianism, Socialism, and the Representation of Disability in Twentieth-Century America' and is Professor of History & Managing Editor of HCU Press at Heritage Christian University, in Florence, Alabama, where he has been employed since 2008. Brad is in the process of turning his Ph.D. thesis into a monograph and in 2025 gave a paper at the Swedenborg Society's academic conference *Retracing Swedenborg: Texts, Contexts and Changing Perspectives* in November.

—Dell J Rose

Dell Rose's Ph.D. dissertation, at the History of Hermetic Philosophy Centre, University of Amsterdam is on 'Charles Augustus Tulk and the role of Swedenborgianism in the reforming societies of nineteenth-century Britain'. In addition to his Ph.D. work, Dell is currently researching the medical theory and physicalism of Franz von Baader (1765-1841). In 2025 Dell published work on 'The Politics of Beauty and the "City of the Holocaust": Gabriele D'Annunzio, Esotericism, and the Intellectual Origins of La Regenza Italiana del Carnero' (in *Politica Hermetica*); 'The Secrets of Heaven Radicalized: Blake's Illustrations to the Book of Job' (in *The Messenger*); and 'Gender

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and the Southcottian Tradition' (in *Conspiciere*)—the latter being in a new online Swedenborgian journal, which Dell has founded and edits. Dell also gave a paper at the Swedenborg Society's academic conference Retracing Swedenborg: Texts, Contexts and Changing Perspectives in November 2025.

—Alex Murray

Alex Murray completed the second year of his part-time Ph.D. in History at King's College London. The working title of Alex's thesis is 'Notions of Social Progress and Reform in English Swedenborgianism: *c*. 1780-1830'. Alex's research takes into account Swedenborg's early followers and their engagement with and influence on ideas of social progress and reform during the period in question. It explores, geographically, the two separate movements that started in both the north and south of England during the late eighteenth century and seeks to bring their activities into relief against the backdrop of the wider 'Mystical Enlightenment' that was taking place throughout Europe. Alex gave a paper on 'Pre-Sectarian Swedenborgianism and Conceptions of Social Progress: Re-Examining Benedict Chastanier's Universal Society' at the Swedenborg Society's academic conference *Retracing Swedenborg: Texts, Contexts and Changing Perspectives* in November 2025.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The Society is always pleased to meet requests from educational bodies for guided tours of Swedenborg House and/or talks on Swedenborg and the work of the Swedenborg Society. Tours of the *Hereafter* exhibition were given to two groups from Ben Jones Art Tours; and a cohort of MA students from City and Guilds of London Art School on 5 February 2025. Stephen McNeilly and Simon Moretti showed students from the RCA around the exhibition on 13 March. On 13 February Alex Murray and James Wilson gave a tour of Swedenborg House and introductory talk about Swedenborg and the Swedenborg Society to a group of students from Florida State University. James showed a group from the Alchemy youth-support programme around Swedenborg House on 11 June. Stephen talked to several groups from London universities with regard to the exhibition *Elective Affinities* including cohorts from the Royal Academy, the Royal College of Art, Goldsmiths University, the City and Guilds of London Art School; the Royal Drawing School, Chelsea School of Art, Birkbeck University and University College, London; Jacob Cartwright showed a visiting tour group from the Lyceum Club in Paris around *Elective Affinities* on 2 December.

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THE BUILDING

Swedenborg House is central to the work and mission of the Swedenborg Society. The Grade II-listed building is home to a large neoclassical lecture hall, library, archive, bookshop, gallery, office space and storage area. It also provides office space to tenants over four floors. 2025 has seen the following work and upgrades to the building.

UPGRADES

During 2025 a number of projects have been undertaken to upgrade and enhance the building alongside some significant infrastructural repairs. The work to underpin and stabilize one of the exterior coal holes was successfully completed. As was the rebuilding of the engaged brickwork column of the steps outside of Swedenborg Hall. Electrical upgrades to historic wiring continue to take place discreetly alongside the everyday running of the building. Major upgrades to the toilets/washrooms on the tenanted side of the building were made and the coffee shop has been plumbed into the mains water feed. At the end of 2025 work commenced on a full upgrade and decoration of the second-floor offices, which are currently occupied by the Embassy of Haiti. This included new carpets and flooring and the installation of a bespoke kitchenette. Also completed in 2025 was the fabrication of a door between the gallery/museum space and Swedenborg Hall. When open it offers an elegant conduit between the spaces, and when closed it is discreet and almost hidden.

FIRE PREVENTION & SECURITY

During 2025 the number of visitors to Swedenborg House increased exponentially. Its growing popularity as a venue has placed more demands on the infrastructure of the building and the systems that are in place to protect and maintain it. Alongside the regular scheduled fire and security system checks and risk assessments, which are all up to date, an upgrade to the security systems is being reviewed. Specialist advice that was provided by the Metropolitan Police following a break-in on the tenanted side of the building has been taken on board. Additional measures will be put in place that ensure that the safety and security of the building, staff, tenants and visitors is fully in line with our public profile. These measures will take the form of high-security bar locks on all entry doors, an updated fob access system and security cameras. Refresher First Aid training for Swedenborg Society staff and contractors has been arranged for 2026 and there are plans to install a defibrillator in the building as a necessary addition to the Society's health and safety responsibilities. The search is underway to appoint a new independent Fire Safety Assessor for 2026 onwards following the retirement of former assessor, Peter Pinney.

ACCESS

Swedenborg House provides assisted wheelchair access via ramps through the shop entrance and from the shop to the ground floor. This facilitates access to the shop and to events in the hall and gallery. An accessible toilet is in place on the ground floor.

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MAINTENANCE

Swedenborg House is a Grade II-listed Georgian building and requires continuous maintenance. To fulfil these responsibilities, the Society employs a Building Manager and a team of specialist contractors across a range of trades including plumbing, decorating and electrical works, as well as regular checks and upgrades to the fire alarm and security systems. This allows a swift response to any urgent maintenance needs and sustains the best possible relationships with our tenants. The general maintenance of Swedenborg House depends upon a series of essential checks that take place every week to determine the condition of the building and to identify any tasks, housekeeping, repairs or improvements that are required. These may be straightforward to resolve or may need additional planning and materials. Most jobs of this nature can be completed in-house on the day or during the working week, however others require the research and commissioning of specialist outside contractors.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Following our Environment Enhancement Policy, Swedenborg House continues to use environmentally friendly materials and solutions whenever possible and seeks to continually improve its environmental impact. The Society is a member of the Camden Climate Alliance. Swedenborg House, and its coffee shop partners Arcana Coffee, pre-sort waste to maximize recycling rates and no waste goes to landfill. All energy used at Swedenborg House is attributable to renewable sources. The paper stock used to print the Society's books is FSC certified to ensure that it is sourced from sustainable and well managed forests. Whenever possible renovation and building works make use of existing materials through repurposing fixtures and fittings or reusing wood that would otherwise be scrapped. Any building waste is collected and responsibly disposed of by Enviro Waste Management. All staff travel to work by public transport or bicycles, or work remotely. In 2025 a survey from the water provider (Thames Water) was requested to investigate where water usage could be saved. The most effective measures will be achieved through improved plumbing, which has already commenced. Outstanding faults in the boiler plant room have been resolved after the appointment of a very reliable plumber, making the boiler and pumps work more effectively, which in turn will reduce waste and emissions.

GREENING PLAN

The light well garden and exterior plants are now well established. The conditions are fundamentally challenging to work with, lacking any direct sunlight or airflow. Further additions will be made in the spring, both to the light well and balcony boxes. The roof garden railings have been fabricated and, once installed, will allow work to move on to the planting phase and the long-awaited establishment of a roof garden. The choice of plants for the roof garden will require careful consideration of how best to work with the exposed nature of the space—one that is open to all the seasonal elements. A challenge, but a welcome one.

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DIGITAL MEDIA

WEBSITE

The Swedenborg Society's website continues to act as the heart of the Society's online activities. A valued host to the Society's online bookshop; library and archive catalogue; room hire booking system; events calendar; membership applications; and donation platform, the site is also crucial in providing information and content related to Swedenborg and the Society.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Society's social media platforms continued via Instagram and Facebook, along with a new social media presence on Bluesky. During 2025, the social media accounts gained an additional 2,895 Instagram followers and 254 Facebook followers, bringing the total Instagram and Facebook followers to 6,266 and 2,695, respectively. Additionally, the new account on Bluesky has established 406 followers. Social media strategy during 2025 included a consistent schedule of posts with varied content and themes, in addition to initial event announcement posts being sponsored on Facebook and Instagram. The popular 'On This Day' content continues to provide some of the top performing posts across all platforms. Rebekka Cartwright works closely with James Wilson and Alex Murray to produce engaging and informative narratives of Swedenborg and Swedenborgian-related content. Sponsored posts featured events such as the Swedenborg Film Festival 2025; and our exhibitions *Hereafter*, *Dormitorium | The Film Décors of the Quay Brothers* and *Elective Affinities*. The Instagram post captioned 'Please join us at Swedenborg House Thursday 18 September...' was the most successful this year, gaining 282,727 views in September. The most successful Facebook post in 2025, captioned '#OnThisDay 28 November 1757: Birth of the poet and artist William Blake (1757-1827)' received 3,119 views in November. The exhibition *Dormitorium|The Film Décors of the Quay Brothers* in March and April provided an excellent opportunity to form a strong partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute. From the first exhibition announcement on social media on 15 February, to the end of the run on 4 April, 837 new followers on Instagram and 81 new followers on Facebook were gained. Many exhibition attendees shared content from their visits on Instagram. With 78 filmmakers involved in the extended programme of the Swedenborg Film Festival 2025, there has been increased exposure with filmmakers cross-posting. In 2026 curated story highlights ('Publications', 'Exhibitions' & 'Events') will be introduced. This will act as an accessible archive of ongoing activities at Swedenborg House, maximizing awareness of past, present, and future projects.

YOUTUBE & LIVE STREAMING

The Society's YouTube channel is still proving to be a highly effective interface with the public and continues to grow in popularity, gaining a further 360 subscribers

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throughout the year, bringing the total subscriber count to 2,016. *Heaven, Hell and Other Places*, a documentary about Emanuel Swedenborg performed extremely well all year with a total of 11,455 views on YouTube in 2025.

SWEDENBORG RADIO

The Society is working on an ambitious long-term plan to produce podcasts, round-table discussions, interviews, audio artworks, readings, audio books and musical events for 'Swedenborg Radio'. Discussions are currently underway with Resonance FM regarding collaborative ventures and in 2025 Iain Sinclair and Stephen McNeilly featured on the two-part, four-hour-long *River Of Sound 4 Live* show as part of Resonance FM's teaming up with the annual Totally Thames festival. The show was broadcast on 28 September 2025 and remains available to listen to via Mixcloud.



Reinstated doorway between Swedenborg Hall and the Swedenborg House Gallery. Photo © Stephen McNeilly

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes and comply with the Society's Governing Document. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (SORP 2nd Edition, effective 1 January 2019). The financial and budgetary controls in place have allowed the Society to concentrate its efforts on its core activities of publishing and events, whilst ensuring the effective stewardship of the Society's assets. The Society's activities are funded primarily through income generated by its investment portfolio and property, with additional income generated through membership subscriptions and book sales. The Society is also extremely fortunate to benefit from generous donations from its members and associated organizations. Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £664,493 (2024: £496,646) and total resources expended for the year was £779,362 (2024: £708,939) resulting in a net deficit before investments and revaluations of £114,869 (2024: deficit of £212,293)

The Society's investment portfolio continues to generate a substantial part of our income each year, and at the year end the valuation of the portfolio had increased by £675,083 (2024: £543,571). The Society has a very long investment horizon and changes in the portfolio value from year to year do not impact the Society's operations. The net movement in funds for the year is £560,214 (2024: £331,278). Total funds at 31 December 2025 were £18,921,215 (2024: £18,929,946)

RISKS & UNCERTAINTIES

The Society is exposed to various risks in the pursuance of its charitable objectives. The Society's activities are diverse, and the Council monitors the risks facing the Society periodically. The principal risks are:

—Loss and damage of the building
Swedenborg House is critical to the Society's success both as the location of its head office and as a key source of income through event hire and rent received. The Society has mitigated this risk through a comprehensive assessment of fire and health and safety issues at the building, and through holding appropriate insurance.

—Membership changes
The Society is a membership organization and needs to attract new members in order to grow and for the membership to prosper. The Society considers that the introduction of a new Friend of Swedenborg House scheme is a positive way in which this risk is mitigated as it will introduce a new generation of visitors to engage with the activities and aims of the Society. The Society is increasing its presence on social media as a way of connecting with an audience that has historically not engaged with the Society.

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—Credit risk
The Society is exposed to credit risk in respect of its sales subject to credit arrangements. The largest elements of this relate to rental income from its tenants and income from customers who hire the Hall. The Society manages this risk by assessing the credit worthiness of prospective tenants before agreeing a new lease and by holding a deposit.

—Economic risk
The majority of the Society's income is derived from its investment portfolio and its property, which are sensitive to wider economic conditions impacting on dividend policies of public companies and desirability of commercial office space. The Society is a long-term investor and has scope to reduce its running costs in response to short term disruption. The Society reviews the investment mandate periodically.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The trustees have delegated day-to-day management of the Society's investment portfolio to Quilter Cheviot. The Society's investments are the primary means of funding its activities and are held to produce a reasonable level of income whilst allowing the potential for capital growth.

RESERVES POLICY

At 31 December 2025 total unrestricted funds amounted to £18,822,146 (2024: £18,271,889). The majority of these funds are represented by the Society's premises, which houses the Society's library, archiving and administrative facilities, and by its investment portfolio, which is held to provide income over the long-term. These could not be disposed of without seriously impairing the Society's ability to continue its charitable activities over the long-term. The amount of free reserves—defined as unrestricted funds less fixed assets and investments—at 31 December 2025 was £210,452 (2024: £303,759). This level of free reserves represents 99 days of operating costs (2024: 156 days). The Council considers that this level of free reserves is a reasonable buffer to absorb temporary reductions in income whilst allowing the Society's work to continue. Much of the Society's work is long-term in character, with the work of translation, revision and publication taking place over a number of years. The council have designated a reserve of 70% of the Society's investment portfolio as a Capital Investment Reserve to provide for continuity of these long-term operations. The balance of the Capital Investment Reserve at 31 December 2025 was £5,691,469 (2024: £5,237,081).

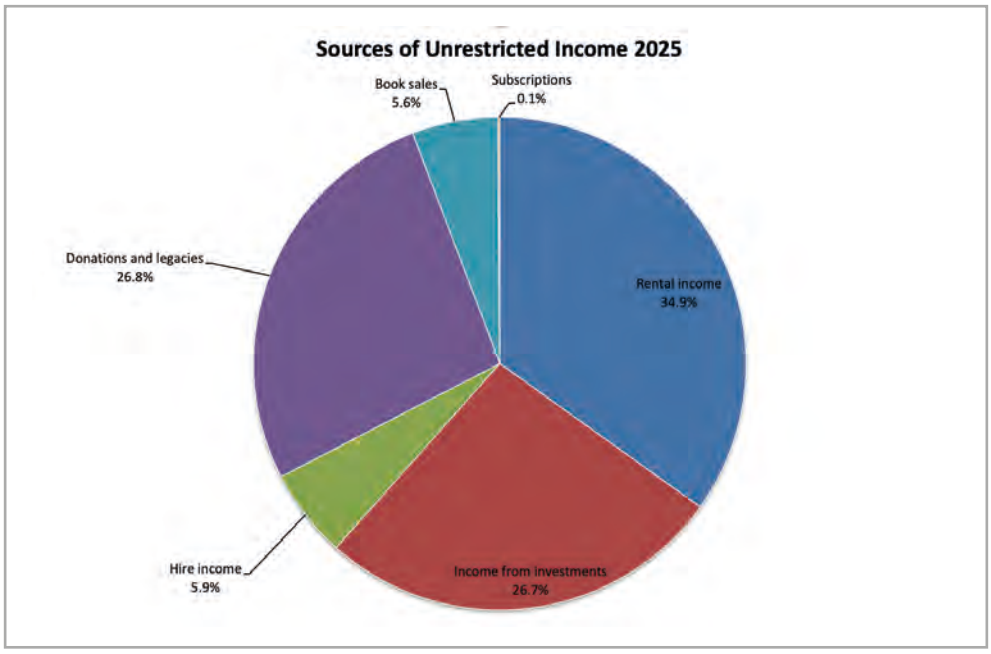
DONATIONS & LEGACIES

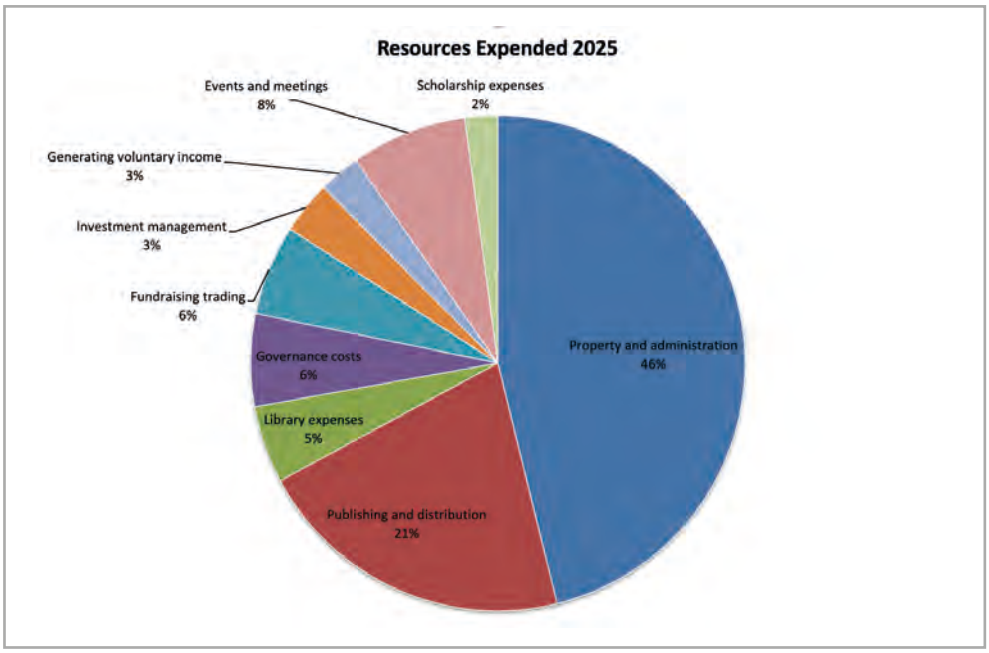
Donations and legacies are a vital source of income for the Society. During 2025 the Society received £11,838 in charitable donations and the following legacies:

Arlette Petersen £165,000

The Society did not engage in material fundraising from the public in the year to 31 December 2025.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0





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GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

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GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and a charity registered in England and Wales. It is governed by its newly drafted Articles of Association dated 2018. The Society is run by a board of trustees called the Council. The Council delegates the day-to-day running of the Society to its Executive Director and takes advice from a number of subcommittees. All paid-up members of the Society are eligible for election to the Council, which is the Society's decision-making body, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Articles of Association. The Council has the power to fill casual vacancies by co-option. New members of the Council are given copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and are advised by the Chairperson and Executive Director of their duties as company directors and charity trustees. Council decisions are taken by majority vote. Members of the subcommittees are elected by the Council. New candidates for the Council, following an interview with the Chairperson and Executive Director, are given an induction pack which includes a copy of the Society's Annual Report, the Minutes of three previous Council meetings and a copy of the Charity Commission's The Essential Trustee. The Trustee Handbook—which includes comprehensive guidelines for trustee inductions; trustee training; trustee decision making; trustee meeting protocols; and other such items as given as best practice from the Charity Commission—was last updated in 2025.

AGM & 2025 COUNCIL ELECTION

The Society's 215th Annual General Meeting was held at Swedenborg House and broadcast via Zoom on 11 December 2025. In addition to the business of the AGM, short presentations were given by the Chair, Rufus Moore, the Vice Chair, Alec Morley and the Executive Director, Stephen McNeilly.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2025

Chair: Rufus Moore, MA (retired on 11/12/2025); Hon. Treasurer: Erica Wyncoll (retired on 11/12/2025); Colin Buttimer (appointed on 20/08/2025); Revd Alan Cowley, MDiv; Clare Cumberlidge; David Duner (appointed on 11/12/2025) Erika Heilman; Dr Kristin King (retired on 11/12/2025; Alexander Morley, MA; Dr Mark Riley (appointed on 11/12/2025) Nigel Sutton. Members of the Council are also directors of the company.

THE ADVISORY & REVISION BOARD

David Lister, FRCS (Chairperson); James Wilson, BA (Secretary); Revd Göran Appelgren; Josephine Appelgren, MA; Revd John Elliott, BA, BD; Revd F C Elphick, MDiv; Revd

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Robert Gill; Alan Lewin; Stephen McNeilly, MA; Alex Murray, MA; Kenneth Ryder, MA. The board welcomed two new members, Anya Reeve and Adam Skipper.

STAFF

The Society continues to draw upon a small but dedicated team of staff who provide the specialist skills needed to operate as a leading world-centre for Swedenborg-related activities and studies. The day-to-day direction of activities and programming is delegated to Stephen McNeilly, who continued in his role as Executive Director and Museum Director; James Wilson continued in his role as an Editor and Secretary of the Advisory and Revision Board; Alex Murray continued in his post as Librarian and Archivist; Jacob Cartwright continued in his role as Building Manager; Denise Prentice continued in her role as Administrator and Office Manager; Anthony Finnigan continued in the role of Financial Controller; Rebekka Cartwright continued in her role as Social Media Co-ordinator and was given a new title of Operations Manager; Anya Reeve continued in her role as Gallery, Publishing and Events Assistant; Lolita Sobolyova continued in her part-time role as a Concierge and Bookshop Attendant; and Adam Skipper was appointed to the role of Bookshop Manager. The pay structure at Swedenborg House is decided by the Board of Trustees and follows recommendations of Ashworth Black, market review specialists, and is in line with charitable sector wages for the South-East and London area.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers provide a vital support for the continuation of the Society's charitable activities and an important framework for social networking and people investment. The volunteering programme in relation to exhibitions, events and the bookshop in particular helps its participants to learn more about our charitable aims and also to develop communication, hospitality and information management skills, as well as being an entry point into bookselling. During 2025 our dedicated team of volunteers were: Roda Abdulle, Pedro Bacon, Aeliya Bilgrami, Xavier Borja Bucar, Tala Briones, Rosa Bucher, Claire Doherty, Viveka Goyanes, Richard Hand, Sophia Miller, Bella Millett, Anthony Osborne, Sarah Resic, Eva Ressel, Molly Roberts, Shaun Roopra, Alyssa Sukbir, Audrey Tsou, Simon Williams and Kiri Zullo. The work of all our volunteers is greatly appreciated and vital for the continued work of the Society.

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

The general provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 are such that it is incumbent upon the Council of the Society to exercise a duty of care to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of their employees at work by maintaining safe plant; safe systems of work; safe premises; ensuring safe access to and egress from the premises and maintaining a safe working environment without risks and with adequate facilities and arrangements for staff welfare; also ensuring adequate instruction, training and supervision. The Swedenborg Society is also bound by the Act to ensure the safety, while on its premises, of all persons, employees, contractors and visitors (either working or otherwise) using the facilities there. The Council have

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determined to review its Fire, Health and Safety policies annually. Jacob Cartwright, Stephen McNeilly and James Wilson were the designated first aiders and fire officers.

COMPANY MATTERS

This report represents a Directors' Report as required by section 417 of the Companies Act 2006. In its preparation the Council has taken advantage of the exemption available to small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Society periodically reviews its activities in relation to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Society's charitable aims relate to the furtherance of education, culture and philosophy, and the Society seeks to ensure that its activities in this regard are accessible to all as far as possible. The vast majority of events held by the Society are free to attend, and the Society grants its books to libraries free of charge. The Council considers that through the Society's programme of publishing, exhibitions, events, translating, research support, grant giving and publicity the Society is acting for the public benefit in the pursuance of its objects.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the charity's Council (whose members are also directors of the Swedenborg Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Council's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other

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irregularities. Insofar as the Council is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Council has taken all steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

By Order of the Council

Alec Morley (Chairperson)



Date:

27th July 2026

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Swedenborg Society ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement 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 FRS 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

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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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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 there is 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' annual report and from preparing a strategic report.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page [x], the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
92DF1542ABBC496...

Jonathan Aikens
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

6th Floor
9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

DATE: 7/8/2026

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income	1								
Donations and legacies	6	179,008	-	-	179,008	31,479	-	-	31,479
Charitable activities:									
Book sales		37,540	-	-	37,540	27,154	-	-	27,154
Other trading activities - hire income		38,880	-	-	38,880	40,404	-	-	40,404
Investments	7	408,511	-	554	409,065	397,055	-	554	397,609
Total		**663,939**	**-**	**554**	**664,493**	**496,092**	**-**	**554**	**496,646**
Expenditure	1								
Raising funds:									
Cost of generating voluntary income		21,170	-	-	21,170	18,653	-	-	18,653
Fundraising trading and other costs	8	46,059	-	-	46,059	42,555	-	-	42,555
Investment management costs	9	30,446	-	32	30,478	33,826	-	35	33,861
Charitable activities	10	681,655	-	-	681,655	613,870	-	-	613,870
Total		**779,330**	**-**	**32**	**779,362**	**708,904**	**-**	**35**	**708,939**
Net gains/(losses) on investments									
Realized gains/ (losses) on investments		58,749	-	-	58,749	16,495	-	-	16,495
Unrealized gains/ (losses) on investment assets	14	616,378	-	(44)	616,334	527,560	-	(484)	527,076
		675,127	-	(44)	675,083	544,055	-	(484)	543,571
Net income/ (expenditure) before transfers		559,736	-	478	560,214	331,243	-	35	331,278
Transfers between funds		522	-	(522)	-	519	-	(519)	-
Net movement in funds		**560,258**	**-**	**(44)**	**560,214**	**331,762**	**-**	**(484)**	**331,278**
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		18,271,889	88,000	9,843	18,369,732	17,940,127	88,000	10,327	18,038,454
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		**18,832,147**	**88,000**	**9,799**	**18,929,946**	**18,271,889**	**88,000**	**9,843**	**18,369,732**

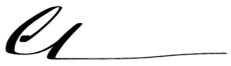
The notes numbered 1 to 25 form part of these financial statement

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	1, 12		5,696,643		5,709,177
Heritage assets	12		350,650		342,410
Investment property	13		4,435,000		4,435,000
Investments	14		8,139,402		7,481,543
			18,621,695		17,968,130
Current Assets					
Stocks	15	21,243		21,801	
Debtors	16	105,305		162,204	
Cash at bank and in hand		303,080		329,518	
		429,628		513,523	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(121,378)		(107,754)	
Net Current Assets			308,250		405,769
Creditors falling due after one year	18		-		(4,167)
Net Assets			**18,929,945**		**18,369,732**
The funds of the charity					
Endowment funds	19		9,799		9,843
Unrestricted income funds					
General fund	20		2,787,006		2,664,337
Capital investment reserve	21		5,691,469		5,237,081
Scholarship reserve	21		40,772		57,572
Freehold property revaluation reserve	22		10,070,499		10,070,499
Heritage asset revaluation reserve	22		242,400		242,400
Restricted funds					
Scholarship fund	23		-		-
Heritage asset fund	23		88,000		88,000
Total Funds	24		**18,929,945**		**18,369,732**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Council on 27 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by
Alec Morley Chair of the Council



The notes numbered 1 to 25 form part of these financial statement
Charity Registration No: 209172
Company Registration No: 00209822

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	**(419,035)**	**(592,658)**
Cash fl ws from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	409,065	397,609
Purchase of fi ed assets	(15,451)	(8,145)
Acquisition cost of investments	(1,054,104)	(259,459)
Disposal proceeds of investments	1,063,087	161,617
Net cash provided by investing activities	**402,597**	**291,622**
Cash infl w/(outfl w) from borrowings	(10,000)	(10,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	**(10,000)**	**(10,000)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(26,438)	(311,036)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	329,518	640,554
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	**303,080**	**329,518**
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	560,214	331,278
Depreciation charges and profit or loss on disposal	27,985	26,175
Realized and unrealized losses/(gains) on investments	(675,083)	(543,571)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(409,065)	(397,609)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	558	4,548
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	56,899	47,053
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	19,457	(60,532)
Net cash provided by /(used in) operating activities	**(419,035)**	**(592,658)**
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	303,080	329,518
Total cash and cash equivalents	**303,080**	**329,518**

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(26,438)	(311,036)
Cash (outfl w)/inflow from (dec ease)/increase in debt	10,000	10,000
Change in net funds for the year	(16,438)	(301,036)
Net funds at 1 January	315,351	616,387
Net funds at 31 December	**298,913**	**315,351**

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 January 2025	Cash fl ws	Non-cash changes	At 31 December 2025
Cash in hand and at bank	329,518	(26,438)	-	303,080
Debt due within 1 year	(10,000)	5,833	-	(4,167)
Debt due after 1 year	(4,167)	4,167	-	-
Total	**315,351**	**(16,438)**	**-**	**298,913**

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements a e as follows:

a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (2nd edition effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 March 2018) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Swedenborg Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. These financial statements are presented in Sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the Society. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that the Society will be able to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

c) **Income**

Income is recognized when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Investment income, comprising income from rent, service charges, dividends and interest, is accounted for on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalized and notification has been made by the executors to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of room hire or provision of other specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Goods and services that are donated to the charity are included at their value to the charity where this can be reliably measured. Donations that meet the recognition criteria for heritage assets are recognized as an addition at a value determined by an external valuer as detailed in note 12. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

d) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Endowment funds are historical donations given to the charity to be held as capital, where the trustees have discretionary power to use the funds as income.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

f) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**
Expenditure is recognized once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the ollowing activity headings:

—costs of raising funds comprise a proportion of the property costs and their associated support costs.
—expenditure on charitable activities includes property, shop and publication costs with associated support costs.
—investment management costs comprise investment management fees and professional fees.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) **Allocation of support costs**
Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, financ , personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs, with the exception of payroll costs, have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on estimated floor space as ollows:

Charitable activities 80.7%
Trading costs 19.3%

Payroll costs have been allocated based on the estimated time spent by support staff as follows:

Costs of generating voluntary income 25%
Charitable activities 75%

h) **Fixed assets**
Individual fi ed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalized at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment 25% - straight lin .

The freehold land and property is held at a valuation prepared by an independent valuer, as detailed in note 12. This valuation is considered by the trustees on an annual basis to determine whether there has been any impairment in the value of the property. No depreciation is charged in relation to the property as the trustees consider that any depreciation charge would be immaterial after taking into account the estimated residual value of the property.

i) **Heritage assets**
The Society holds an extensive library and archive relating to the life and works of Emanuel Swedenborg, held primarily for the purposes of transferring knowledge and promoting culture. This collection is considered to be a heritage asset and is stated in the balance sheet at an attributed value based on a valuation performed by Bernard Quaritch Limited. The asset is not depreciated as it is considered to have an indefinite life. Material additions, through purchase or donation, to the library are capitalized at their fair value.

j) **Investment property**
The proportion by floor area of the freehold property, Swedenborg House, that is rented out to tenants is classified as investment property. The investment property is held at a valuation, determined by an independent valuer, at open market value.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

k) **Investments**
Investments are held at market value.

l) **Stock**
Stocks of books, printed sheets and papers are included in the accounts at the lower of cost or net realizable value. A provision is made for slow moving or obsolete stock.

m) **Debtors**
Trade and other debtors are recognized at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) **Cash at bank and in hand**
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) **Creditors and provisions**
Creditors and provisions are recognized where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognized at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) **Financial instruments**
The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognized at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

q) **Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty**
The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year. The nature of estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that could have an impact on the financial statements relate to:

—the valuation of the freehold property, as included in fixed assets and investment property. Note 13 describes the factors considered in the valuation of the property and the allocation between freehold property and investment property.

—the valuation of the heritage assets. Note 12 gives details of the external valuation of the heritage assets.

—the recognition and valuation of legacies that are notified to the Society but the final value is not yet known. Note 16 describes the method of valuation of legacies receivable, and amounts recognized through the Statement of Financial Activities for the year.

2. LEGAL STATUS OF THE SOCIETY

The Swedenborg Society is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

3. CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all of its income is charitable and is applied to its charitable objects.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

4. NET SURPLUS OF THE PERIOD

	2025	2024
The net movement in funds for the period is stated after charging:	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	11,688	14,100

5. EMPLOYEES

	2025	2024
Staff costs:	£	£
Wages and salaries	307,776	285,975
Social security costs	26,382	21,019
Pension contributions	29,696	25,740
	363,854	332,734

The average number of employees during the period was 10 (2024: 10). The number of employees earning in excess of £60,000 is as follows:

	2025	2024
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

The key management personnel of the Society comprise the Council and the Executive Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Society were £89,283 (2024: £86,060).

6. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	11,838	13,261
Subscriptions	790	1,015
Legacies	166,380	17,203
	179,008	31,479

The Society benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our *Annual Report*. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic benefit contribution of general volunteers is not recognized in the financial statements.

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rental income	192,773	175,480
Service charges receivable	39,034	40,940
Interest and dividends receivable	177,258	181,189
	409,065	397,609

8. FUNDRAISING, TRADING AND OTHER COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	11,946	11,079
Property costs	25,860	23,513
Administration	2,852	2,911
Depreciation	5,401	5,052
	46,059	42,555

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

9. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Portfolio management	26,776	26,249
Property professional fees	3,702	7,612
	30,478	33,861

10. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Lectures and meetings	6,357	2,465
Education and outreach	724	600
Publishing and distribution:		
Printing and binding	78,931	81,568
Books purchased for resale	7,293	12,354
Revision and translation	77,279	77,614
Property, shop and stock room expenses	355,913	320,381
Events	52,071	34,988
Library and catalogue expenses	39,365	35,652
Scholarship expenses	16,800	22,353
Governance costs	46,922	43,023
	681,655	630,998

As outlined in the accounting policies, relevant expenses are apportioned between charitable activities and other costs based on utilization of floor spac .

Included in governance costs is £11,688 (2024: £14,100) in respect of audit fees.

Included in total expenditure is £69,490 (2024: £54,750) relating to the ongoing refurbishment of Swedenborg House.

11. SUPPORT COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Premises		
Repairs and maintenance	22,833	21,227
Building works	69,490	54,750
Office operating costs	97,253	98,456
Support staff salaries	49,072	46,057
Office salaries	84,681	74,353
Audit fees	11,688	14,100
Accountancy services	998	958
	336,015	309,901

	2025	2024
Allocation of support costs:		
Costs of generating voluntary income	21,170	18,588
Fundraising, trading and other costs	46,059	42,555
Expenditure on charitable activities	268,786	248,758
	336,015	309,901

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

11. SUPPORT COSTS (CONTINUED)

Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities.

Costs that cannot be allocated directly, with the exception of payroll, have been apportioned between charitable activities and fundraising costs based on estimated floor space as outlined in the accounting policies. Payroll costs relating to support staff have been apportioned equally between costs of generating voluntary income and expenditure on charitable activities.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
Cost / valuation	**£**	**£**	**£**
At 1 January 2025	5,665,000	190,302	5,855,302
Additions	-	15,451	15,451
Revaluation	-	-	-
Disposals		(13,002)	(13,002)
At 31 December 2025	5,665,000	192,751	5,857,751
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	-	146,125	146,125
Charge for the year	-	27,985	27,985
On disposals	-	(13,002)	(13,002)
At 31 December 2025	-	161,108	161,108
Net book value			
At 31 December 2025	5,665,000	31,643	5,696,643
At 31 December 2024	5,665,000	44,177	5,709,177

All assets are held for the benefit of the charity.

The freehold property was revalued by Jake Toddington MRICS, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2023. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area.

The comparable amount under the historical cost basis for land and buildings is immaterial due to the age of the asset and its small original cost.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - HERITAGE ASSETS

	Heritage Assets
Cost	**£**
At 1 January 2025	342,410
Additions	8,240
At 31 December 2025	350,650
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	350,650
At 31 December 2024	342,410

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Heritage assets additions

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Heritage assets donated	0	0	0	0	0
Heritage assets purchased	8,240	0	0	0	0
	8,240	0	0	0	0

The heritage assets relate to the library and archives. They are included in the financial statements at a valuation based on insurance value. The historic cost was £100. The library was valued in 2015 by Bernard Quaritch Ltd, an independent antiquarian valuation expert who valued these assets at £242,500 for insurance purposes. The valuation is reviewed on a regular basis by the Society - the trustees consider that the current valuation is appropriate as at 31 December 2025. Additions are valued at purchase cost or, where the additions are donated, they are periodically valued by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation of additions was performed by Bernard Quaritch Ltd as at 31 December 2017. The library was established in 1824 and provides an important resource for those researching Swedenborg. It has five main sections: The Swedenborg Collection; the Archives; Collateral titles; Periodicals; and the General Conference Collection. The library is a research library and is open to the public. Further details are provided in the Report of the Council.

Full information is available on the Society's website www.swedenborg.org.uk/library.

13. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Valuation	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 January	4,435,000	4,435,000
Revaluation	-	-
At 31 December	4,435,000	4,435,000

The investment property was revalued by Jake Toddington MRICS, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2023. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area.

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	7,481,543	6,840,130
Disposals at opening market value	(1,012,579)	(145,122)
Acquisitions at cost	1,054,104	259,459
	7,523,068	6,954,467
Unrealized gains	616,334	527,076
Market value at 31 December	8,139,402	7,481,543
Historical cost at 31 December	4,587,888	4,119,325

The following investments comprised more than 5% of the investment fund at valuation at 31 December 2025:

Findlay Park LLP American Fund	£714,781
SPDR S&P500 ETF Trust	£963,460

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14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Analysis of investments held	2025	2024
	£	£
Fixed interest - UK	740,600	541,876
Fixed interest - Non UK	75,361	73,398
Equities - UK	1,985,259	2,263,907
Equities - Non UK	4,967,977	4,332,161
Absolute return funds	292,229	270,201
Money market funds	77,976	-
	8,139,402	7,481,543

Fixed asset investments represent financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure.

15. STOCK

	2025	2024
	£	£
Books for resale	21,243	21,801

16. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	16,164	44,719
Other debtors	13,054	-
Prepayments and accrued income	76,087	117,485
	105,305	162,204

Included in prepayments and accrued income is an amount of £4,000 (2024: £8,000) due after more than one year.

Prepayments include an amount relating to legacies notified to the Society but not yet received in full. The final value of a legacy is uncertain as it is contingent on the sale of assets and completion of the probate process by the executor. Based on information received from the executor, the trustees consider that legacies receivable are an asset with a carrying value of £nil (2024: £40,000). During the year, distributions totalling £41,330 (2024: £nil) were received in respect of these legacies.

17. CREDITORS DUE IN LESS THAN 1 YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bounce back loan	4,167	10,000
Trade creditors	23,061	10,171
Other creditors	59,764	57,601
Accruals and deferred income	34,386	29,982
	121,378	107,754

Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income as at 1 January	15,320	10,750
Released during the year	(15,320)	(10,750)
Deferred during the year	12,422	15,320
Deferred income as at 31 December	12,422	15,320

Deferred income comprises advance bookings for the hire of rooms at Swedenborg House.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

18. CREDITORS DUE IN GREATER THAN 1 YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bounce back loan	-	4,167

The bounce back loan is repayable as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	4,167	10,000
Between one and two years	-	4,167
	4,167	14,167

The Bounce back loan is unsecured and has a fi ed interest rate of 2.5% per year. Interest paid in the year was £648 (2024: £648).

The United Kingdom government has paid the interest cost for the first year as part of its Coronavirus support measures. The loan is repayable in 60 equal instalments beginning in June 2021.

19. ENDOWMENTS

	Balances 1.1.25	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	9,843	522	(566)	9,799

	Balances 1.1.24	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	10,327	519	(1,003)	9,843

The endowment fund comprises the Coulson Bequest Fund, the income from which is unrestricted.

20. GENERAL FUND

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at 1 January	2,664,337	2,759,212
Net incoming resources per SOFA	559,736	331,242
Resources expended charged to designated funds	16,800	22,353
Transfer from/(to) capital investment reserve	(454,389)	(448,989)
Transfer from/(to) scholarship reserve	-	-
Transfer from endowment fund	522	519
Balance at 31 December	2,787,006	2,664,337

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

21. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.25	Net resources expended	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£
Capital investment reserve	5,237,080	-	454,389	5,691,469
Scholarship reserve	57,572	(16,800)	-	40,772

	Balances 1.1.24	Net resources expended	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Capital investment reserve	4,788,091	-	448,989	5,237,080
Scholarship reserve	79,925	(22,353)	-	57,572

The capital investment reserve was designated by the trustees and is equivalent to 70% of the Society's investment portfolio. Much of the Charity's work is long-term in character, including a commitment to maintain the library and archives, and therefore justifies this designated reserve to ensure the continuity of operations.

The scholarship reserve was set up by the trustees in 2017 to fund the provision of scholarships.

22. REVALUATION RESERVES

Freehold property revaluation reserve	2025	2024
	£	£
As at 1 January & 31 December	10,070,499	10,070,499
Analysis of reserve		
Land and buildings	5,650,154	5,650,154
Investment property	4,420,345	4,420,345
	10,070,499	10,070,499

Heritage asset revaluation reserve	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 January & 31 December	242,400	242,400

The heritage assets as a whole were revalued in 2015. Subsequent material additions are valued when they are received.

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23. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.25	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£
Heritage asset	88,000	-	-	88,000

	Balances 1.1.24	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Heritage asset	88,000	-	-	88,000

The heritage asset restricted fund represents an archive donated to the Society. The conditions of the donation are such that the heritage asset will revert to the donor in the event that the Society ceases to operate or otherwise opts to no longer hold the archive.

24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Endowment Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fi ed assets	5,959,293	88,000	-	6,047,293
Investment property	4,435,000	-	-	4,435,000
Investments	8,129,603	-	9,799	8,139,402
Current assets	429,628	-	-	429,628
Current liabilities	(121,378)	-	-	(121,378)
Long-term liabilities	0	-	-	0
Total net assets	18,832,146	88,000	9,799	18,929,945
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fi ed assets	10,312,899	-	-	10,312,899
On investment assets (see note below)	3,551,531	-	(17)	3,551,514

Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets

Unrealized gains at 1 January 2025	3,362,192	-	26	3,362,218
Net gains/(losses) arising on revaluations	616,378	-	(44)	616,334
(Gains)/losses realized on disposals	(427,038)	-	-	(427,038)
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2025	3,551,531	-	(17)	3,551,514

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Endowment Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fi ed assets	5,963,587	88,000	-	6,051,587
Investment property	4,435,000	-	-	4,435,000
Investments	7,471,700	-	9,843	7,481,543
Current assets	513,523	-	-	513,523
Current liabilities	(107,754)	-	-	(107,754)
Long-term liabilities	(4,167)	-	-	(4,167)
Total net assets	18,271,889	88,000	9,843	18,369,732
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fi ed assets	10,312,899	-	-	10,312,899
On investment assets (see note below)	3,362,192	-	26	3,362,218

Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets

Unrealized gains at 1 January 2024	2,839,482	-	511	2,839,993
Net gains/(losses) arising on revaluations	539,204	-	(484)	538,720
(Gains)/losses realized realized on disposals	(16,495)	-	-	(16,495)
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2024	3,362,192	-	26	3,362,218

25. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No Trustee was remunerated during the year. 1 Trustee received reimbursement of travel expenses amounting to £281 during the year (2024: £448 to 2 members). Nothing was owed (2024: £nil) to a Trustee at the year end.

There are no related party transactions in this year or the prior year that require disclosure.

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0



OBJECTS & MISSION STATEMENT

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

THE OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY

The primary charitable objects of the Swedenborg Society are as follows:

— *To provide for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and influence on later generations.*
— *To print, publish, purchase, sell and distribute as grants the literary remains of Emanuel Swedenborg, biographies of Swedenborg and literature in agreement with his writings.*
— *To organize meetings, lectures, conferences and other events as a means of directing attention to, and promoting interest in, the works of Swedenborg.*
— *To encourage study of the works of Swedenborg.*

The Society undertakes a number of activities to further these objectives:

— *We grant books to public and university libraries.*
— *We organize events, lectures, seminars and exhibitions at Swedenborg House.*
— *We develop links with academic institutions to assist the research and study of Swedenborg's writings and their impact on later philosophical thought.*
— *We operate a bookshop to make the writings of Swedenborg and later books based on his ideas available to the public.*
— *We care for a library, archive and permanent collection of artefacts.*
— *We foster a community to all who share an interest or a curiosity in the ideas and works of Swedenborg.*

For a full list of the Society's OBJECTS and POWERS please visit our website where the Governing Document is available for download.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Swedenborg Society provides for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg, the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and the influence of his works on later generations. We hold that Swedenborg's work and legacy will always remain of importance and we support work that is evidence of its continued relevance. As an institution in the service of society, and open to the public, we give home to a permanent collection of artefacts, a library, a book room, an exhibition space and meeting rooms. The Society offers a community to all who share these interests and, within its means, assistance for those who seriously wish to further those interests in research or interpretation. The Society is a fully inclusive organization and is committed to maintaining an ethos in which every person feels welcomed, valued and respected regardless of their age, religious beliefs, ethnicity, political affiliations, sexual orientation or gender.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Swedenborg Society was established in 1810 (incorporated 1925) for the purpose of translating and publishing the works of Emanuel Swedenborg. Annual Membership

Docusign Envelope ID: C7922DFE-2D4A-8A1F-825C-2DEDF4D151C0

subscriptions £20 or upwards (£15 for those aged 65 or over, students and the unwaged). Life Membership, £200 (£150 for those aged 65 or over). For a married couple: one-and-a-half times the individual subscription (applying to both annual and life membership). Application for membership must be in writing and approved by the Council. Subscriptions and donations may be sent to the Administrator or the Society's Collectors.

DONATIONS & LEGACIES

Donations and legacies play a vital part in the Society's ability to undertake its charitable activities. Would-be donors are reminded that there are tax advantages to the Society if donations are made under Gift Aid. As the Society is a registered charity, legacies are free of inheritance tax. Please contact our Administrator for more information.

LIST OF COLLECTORS

UK: The Administrator, The Swedenborg Society, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH.
USA: Mr Christopher Bowyer, PO Box 487, Bryn Athyn, PA, 19009, USA.
Australia: Mr Murray Heldon, 35 O'Brien's Road, Hurstville, New South Wales 2220; Mr Ian Brock, 11 Chester Street, Lockleys, South Australia 5032; Mrs Val Hart, 28 Kincardine Close, Floreat Park, Western Australia 6014.

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