ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2025

Since our last report, the three final volumes of Sir John Baker's edition of *Reports from the Notebooks of Edward Coke* (volumes 141 for 2024, 142 for 2024 and 143 for 2025) have been distributed to members. These volumes complete the landmark eight-volume edition of these reports from Coke's manuscripts.

2025 saw the sixth Selden Society and the Inns of Court Annual Lecture. On 11 November, Lord Sumption spoke at the Middle Temple with a lecture entitled 'The Judge as Historian'. It was also given as the Lord Judge Memorial Lecture in Legal History, in memory of a former president of the Society. In the lecture, Lord Sumption discussed the nature of sovereignty and international law in the Middle Ages. It can now be viewed online via the Society's website.

At the meeting on 30th June 2025, the following were elected as members of the Council:

(a) Presidency:

HH Donald Cryan was elected for a year.

(b) Vacancies in the fifteen elected members:

Dr Brand	Dr Crook
Professor Jones	Mr Jones
Mr Le Poidevin	Professor Probert
Mr Justice Smith	Professor Taylor
Professor Watkin	

c) Members resident overseas:

Professor McGlynn

Rules of the Society: The Council has recently considered the need to revise the Society's Rules to bring them up to date. The current Rules were adopted in 1961 and minor modifications were made to them in 1982 and 1994. At its meeting in May 2025, the Council appointed a subcommittee consisting of the President, Lord Burnett, Mr Philip Jones KC, Professor Probert, the Literary Director and the Secretary to look into the Society's rules and recommend any revisions as they considered necessary. At its next meeting in January 2026, Mr Jones presented a report which set out the existing legal nature of the Society as an unincorporated association which is also a charity subject to the Charities Act 2011. Mr Jones's report also discussed the possibility of the Society changing its status by registering with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Association and transferring its

assets to this new legal entity. The committee and the Council have taken the view that there are not at present sufficient advantages in changing the Society's status to justify the expenditure which would be required, but that it may be desirable to do so in future. Based on Mr Jones's analysis and proposals, the committee recommended a revision of the rules to bring them up to date.

At its meeting in January 2026, the Council asked the Constitution Committee to draft a new set of Rules, based on Mr Jones's report, for approval at the next meeting of the Council and for subsequent presentation to the next Annual General Meeting. A new set of Rules was drawn up and presented at the May Council meeting, where it was unanimously agreed to by the members present at the meeting, who represented a clear majority of the Council.

The revised Rules as agreed by the Council increase the number of elected members of the Council to 25 and remove the distinction between Council members resident in the U.K. and overseas. Provision is made for the Council to appoint two early career members, who have been engaged in teaching or research for up to eight years since completing their doctorate. A new category of Honorary Council Member is created, to recognise those who have given long service to the Society but who do not wish to continue as active trustees. The revised Rules are also updated in a number of other ways. Express provision is made for all communications and notices to be given electronically and for meetings to be held online. A general power of delegation is given to the Council and new provisions are introduced on proxy voting. A copy of the new Rules is appended to this Report.

Publications: This annual report affords the Society another opportunity to acknowledge Professor Neil Jones's enormous contribution as Literary Director. He left our prospective publications in very good fettle.

The Society should also express its gratitude to Mr Barrie Fairhead, who at the age of 80 has decided that it is time to retire. He has been typesetting the Society's typographically complicated volumes for many years, and we are deeply indebted to him.

Despite general pessimism about the prospects of finding anyone with the skills necessary to replace him, the Society is very fortunate that Dr John Waś agreed to try his hand: he has already typeset Professor Brand's volume, mentioned below.

In the summer of 2025 the sixth, seventh, and eighth volumes of Sir John Baker's edition of *Reports from the Notebooks of Sir Edward Coke* – vols 141 for 2024, 142 also for 2024, and 143 for 2025 - were published and distributed to members. This completes a monumental scholarly achievement. For as long as English legal history is studied, these volumes will be used.

Mr Le Poidevin's edition of the fifteenth-century reports of John Bryt has now been typeset and can be sent to printers. This will be volume 144 for 2026; it is hoped that it will be distributed to members by the end of the year. Professor Brand's fifth volume of Early English Law Reports has now been typeset and will soon be sent out to printers; it will be volume 145

for 2027. Dr Williams' edition of Star Chamber reports for 1625-1628 has been typeset and is currently being indexed and cross referenced. It will be volume 146 for 2028. The volumes on litigation in manorial courts in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, edited by Professor Schofield and Dr Briggs, and on Sir Dudley Ryder's notes, edited by Professor Gallanis, are now in contention to be volume 147 for 2029. Other editions at an advanced stage of preparation are Dr Ramsay's of High Court of Chivalry cases (probably a two-volume edition, and therefore likely to make two annual volumes), Dr Turner's of Sir George Treby's reports, Professor Doe's of cases in Doctors' Commons 1771-1777, and a further volume of Professor Bonfield's edition of the reports of Sir Peter King, covering the period 1692-1702.

For the Supplementary Series, the first volume of Sir John Baker's catalogue of manuscript English law reports, covering the period 1250-1500, has now been typeset and indexed. This will soon be sent to printers. It will be volume 20 and should be published by the end of the year. Mr Fairhead has nobly undertaken to complete the second volume of this catalogue, now at an advanced stage of preparation. It will be the last volume he typesets for us. Professor Hoffman's edition of records of the Northern Circuit 1763-1802 is now almost complete. Dr Haywood's edition of Edmund Plowden's treatise on the king's two bodies is on course to be completed by the end of 2026. Professor Stebbings' edition of select cases on assessed taxes 1757-1870 is in progress. S.F.C. Milsom's 1948 fellowship dissertation on writs of error is being edited by Professor Hudson and the Literary Director.

Polished texts of Selden Lectures by Professor Stebbings (2019), Dr Macnair (2020), Professor Ernst (2021), Dr Williams (2022), and Professor McGlynn (2023) are now in the hands of the Literary Director. It is hoped that some or all of these can be printed and circulated to members along with Mr Le Poidevin's volume.

The Literary Director is always pleased to receive proposals for volumes in the Annual and Supplementary Series.

Finance: The accounts are printed as usual at the end of this report. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the performance of the Society's investments.

Membership: Membership at 31 December 2025 stood at 1125. The details, with the previous year's bracketed, are:

United Kingdom Individuals	440	(460)
United Kingdom Institutions	70	(70)
Australia	108	(130)
Canada	36	(31)
New Zealand	10	(13)
Other Commonwealth	5	(2)

USA Individuals	302	(341)
USA Institutions	87	(119)
Other Overseas	75	(77)
	1133	(1243)

The Council extend a warm welcome to the new members. Their names appear in the Appendix.

Annual General Meeting 2026: Members will have received notice of the meeting on Monday 29th June 2026, which will take place in the Large Pension Room at Gray's Inn in London. At the end of the meeting there will be a lecture by Professor David Seipp.

The Selden Society in Australia:

The Selden Society continued to host a series of lectures at the Library of the Supreme Court of Queensland in Brisbane. In 2025, the following lectures were given:

Robyn Blewer
8 May 2025: *Recasting the law on a more merciful basis: juvenile justice then and now*

The Honourable Mary Finn
26 June 2025: *50 years of the Family Law Act*

The Honourable Justice John Logan RFD.
16 October 2025: *The origins of contemporary judicial power in Papua New Guinea*

The lectures are available as podcasts or video recordings on the Australian chapter's website: https://www.sclqld.org.au/collections/explore-the-law/past-lectures.

Thanks: Thanks are due to the overseas Treasurers and Secretaries for their ready and efficient help with the administration of their section of the membership; to the Honorary Correspondents for their representation; to our independent examiner, Mr Jason Foxwell; to the Literary Director; and to the Treasurer and Secretary and their assistants.

Donald Cryan
President

THE RULES OF THE SELDEN SOCIETY

Name

1. The Society shall be called the Selden Society.

Object

2. The object of the Society shall be to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the history of English Law, especially by the publication of original documents and the reprinting or editing of works of sufficient rarity or importance.

Membership

3. Membership is open to individuals or organisations.

4. Membership of the Society shall be constituted by payment of the annual subscription. No further life memberships shall be offered. Members (other than personal members who have previously effected life compositions) and libraries, societies and corporate bodies shall cease to be members if their subscriptions are not paid for two successive years: provided that a member including a library, society, or corporate body, may be reinstated on payment of all arrears.

5. The rates of annual subscription shall be fixed and may be varied from time to time at any General Meeting of the Society.

6. Apart from failing to pay subscriptions for two successive years, membership is also terminated if

   (1) the member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;

   (2) the member resigns by giving notice to the Secretary;

   (3) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the Council that it is in the best interests of the Society that their membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:

      (a) the member has been given at least twenty one days' notice of the meeting of the Council at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;

(b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the Society) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

(4) If a person is removed from membership such person shall not subsequently be eligible for membership unless the Council otherwise determines.

Management

7. The management of the affairs and funds of the Society shall be vested in a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Council consisting of twenty five elected members, in addition to the ex-officio members and members nominated by the Council.

8. The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Literary Director or Directors, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Trustees shall be ex-officio members.

9. Unless the context otherwise requires, references to members of the Council in these Rules shall be a reference to all such persons referred to in the above two rules.

10. Seven shall form a quorum.

11. A member of the Council is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the Society or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses or costs properly incurred by them when acting on behalf of the Society.

12. No travel or accommodation expenses shall be paid unless authorised in advance by the Treasurer and one other of the ex-officio members of the Council in accordance with a policy approved by the Council.

13. The Council shall have power to purchase trustee indemnity insurance cover for some or all of the members of the Council

14. Delegation:

(1) The Council may delegate any of their powers or functions to one or more members of the Council, including the ex-officio members.

(2) The Council may impose such conditions as they consider appropriate.

(3) The Council may revoke or alter any such delegation.

15. There shall be two Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be resident in the United Kingdom and one of whom shall be resident outside the United Kingdom.

16. The President, Vice-Presidents, and the twenty five elected Members of the Council shall be elected for three years. The terms shall run from immediately after the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which such persons are elected to the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the third year thereafter.

17. There shall be no limit on the number of terms such persons can serve, with the exception of the President, who shall serve only one three-year term, but with power for the Council or Members, in accordance with the procedure set out in rule 18, to nominate such person for a further consecutive one-year term. The maximum number of further consecutive one-year terms that can be served is three.

18. Any vacancies in the number of elected members of the Council at the time of the Annual General Meeting shall be filled up at the Annual General Meeting in the following manner

(1) Any two Members of the Society may nominate for election any other member by the nominators and the nominated member giving notice to the Secretary of such nomination, and sent to the Secretary on or before February 14.

(2) Not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting the Council shall nominate for election such number of members of the Society as equal the number of vacancies. In doing so the Council should seek to ensure in so far as it is possible that the membership of the Council is geographically representative of the membership of the Society that exists in different parts of the world.

(3) No person shall be eligible for election on the Council unless nominated under this Rule.

(4) Any candidate may withdraw.

(5) The names of the persons nominated shall be set out in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.

(6) If the persons nominated, and whose nomination shall not have been withdrawn, are not more than the total number of vacancies, they shall at the Annual General Meeting be declared to have been elected.

(7) If the persons nominated and whose nomination shall not have been withdrawn, are more than the total number of vacancies, an election shall take place by ballot in such manner as may have previously been determined by the Council and set out in the notice of the Annual General Meeting, with each member being entitled to vote for as

many members as equal the number of vacancies The candidates who shall have ~~a~~ most number of votes shall be declared elected.

(8) Members shall be entitled to vote by proxy in such manner as may be previously determined by the Council.

19 The vacancy in the office of President or Vice-President shall be filled in the same manner (mutatis mutandis).

20. The Council may fill casual vacancies in the Council or in the offices of President and Vice-President. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting immediately following their appointment.

21. The Council may nominate to serve for three years on the Council the President or Vice-President on their retirement from office, a representative from each of the Inns of Court and the Law Society~~,~~ and two representatives of the British Academy. It shall be for the Council to determine who shall be the representatives of such institutions and it shall be entitled to nominate a representative even if another person is or is not put forward by the institution.

22. Persons not domiciled in the United Kingdom who were appointed to the Council pursuant to rule 8 in the previous rules shall continue as members of the Council until the conclusion of their three-year terms. Nothing shall prevent such persons from being nominated at any time for election pursuant to rule 18.

23 The Council may appoint to the Council two members engaged in teaching or research within eight years of completing a doctorate. They shall serve a term of three years, which may be renewed for one further term only. This shall not prevent such a person from being nominated at any time for election pursuant to rule 18.

24. The Council shall have power to appoint any members as Honorary Council Members. Such members shall receive the same communications that members of the Council receive and shall be entitled to attend and speak at meetings of Council. They shall not have power to vote at such meetings and shall bear no responsibility for the management of the Society.

25. The Council shall have power to appoint Honorary Members of the Society.

Disqualification and removal of members of the Council

26. A member shall cease to be a member of the Council if they:

(1) are disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 178 and 179 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of those provisions);

(2) cease to be a member of the Society;

(3) in the written opinion, given to the Society, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, have become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a trustee and may remain so for more than three months;

(4) resign as a member of the Council by notice given to the Secretary;

(5) are removed from membership of the Council by a resolution of the Council that it is in the best interests of the Society that their membership is terminated. The member shall not be entitled to vote on such a resolution. A resolution to remove a member from membership of the Council may only be passed if:

(a) the member has been given at least twenty one days' notice of the meeting of the Council at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;

(b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the Society) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

(6) If a person is removed from membership of the Council, such person shall not subsequently be eligible for membership of the Council unless the Council otherwise determines.

Meetings of the Council

27. The Council shall meet at least twice a year, and not less than seven days' notice of any meeting shall be communicated to every member of the Council.

28. The Secretary must call a meeting of the Council if requested to do so by any two officers or members of the Council.

29. The chair of the meetings shall be the President, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based in the United Kingdom, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based outside the United Kingdom, or, in their absence, such person as may be determined by a majority of those attending the meeting. Unless it is determined that the meeting shall be held exclusively by

means of electronic facility or facilities, as provided in rule 48, the person who is the chair of the meeting must be physically present at the meeting.

30. Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes of those attending and voting on the question.

31. In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

32. The President may send a resolution to the members of the Council to be passed without any meeting being held.

(1) If, within seven days, any member requests that a meeting should be held, a meeting must be held to consider the resolution.

(2) In the absence of any such request, the resolution will be passed if, within 14 days from the date the President sent the resolution, a majority of the members of the Council communicate to the Secretary their agreement to the resolution.

Officers of the Society

33. The Council may appoint a Literary Director or Directors, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as they shall from time to time think fit, to hold office during the pleasure of the Council; and may from time to time prescribe their respective duties, and may make any arrangements for the remuneration of any officer which they may from time to time think reasonable.

34 It shall be the duty of the Literary Director or Directors (but always subject to the control of the Council) to supervise the editing of the publications of the Society, to suggest suitable editors, and generally to advise the Council with respect to carrying the objects of the Society into effect.

The entitlement of members

35 Each member shall be entitled to one copy of every work published by the Society in the Annual Volume Series as for any year of their membership. No person other than an Honorary Member shall receive any such work until their subscription for the year as for which the same shall be published shall have been paid. Provided that any member may be supplied with any other publications on such terms as the Council may from time to time determine.

The funds of the Society

36. The funds of the Society, including the vouchers or securities for any investments, shall be kept at a Bank or other appropriate institution, to be selected by the Council, in the name of the Society or by such other designation as the Council may determine. Such funds or investments shall only be dealt with by a cheque or other authority signed or given by such person or persons as the Council may from time to time determine in circumstances as the Council shall provide.

37 The Council has power to invest such funds or to delegate the management of such funds in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

Accounts

38. The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Society up to December 31 in each year shall be examined by an Independent Examiner, to be appointed by the Society, and the report of the Independent Examiner, with an abstract of the accounts, shall be circulated together with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting. The remuneration of the Independent Examiner shall be fixed.

General Meetings of the Society

39. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time between 1 June and 31 December as the Council may decide, provided that an Annual General Meeting is held at least once in each calendar year. The Council may upon their own resolution, and shall upon notice given by not less than ten members, call a Special General Meeting. Seven days' notice at least, specifying the object of the meeting and the manner in which it is to be held, shall be ~~sent~~ given to every member. No member shall vote at any General Meeting whose subscription is in arrear.

Minutes

40. The Secretary shall keep a Minute Book wherein shall be entered a record of the transactions, as well at Meetings of the Council as at General Meetings of the Society.

Amendments to the Rules

41. The Society may amend the rules only in accordance with sections 280A and 280B of the Charities Act 2011 (as subsequently amended).

42. The Council may, if they are satisfied that it is expedient in the interests of the Society, resolve that the Rules should be amended in such manner as is specified in the resolution.

43. This power is not exercisable in any way which would result in the Society ceasing to be a charity.

44. Such a resolution is only effective if

(1) If it is passed by a majority of the members of the Council, and

(2) it is approved by a further resolution which is passed –

(a) at a general meeting, by not less than 75% of the members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting who vote on the resolution,

(b) at a general meeting, by a decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the meeting, or

(c) otherwise than at a general meeting, by the agreement of all the members entitled to attend and vote at a general meeting.

45. The amendments set out in section 280A of the Charities Act 2011 (as amended) require the consent of the Charity Commission and are ineffective if such consent is not obtained.

The Trustees

46. The Trustees of the Society shall hold any copyright owned by the Society in its publications and such other property of the Society as the Council may from time to time decide. Trustees may be appointed or discharged by a resolution of the Members of the Society in General Meeting and a Memorandum declaring a trustee to have been so appointed or discharged shall be signed either at the Meeting by the person presiding or in some other manner directed by the Meeting and shall be attested by two persons present at the Meeting.

Notices

47. (1) Any notice or communication required by these rules to be given to or by any person must be

(a) in writing; or

(b) by email.

(2) The Society may give any notice or communication to a member either:

(a) personally; or

(b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at their address; or

(c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or

(d) by giving it using email to the member's email address.

(3) A notice or communication shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of email, 48 hours after it was sent.

(4) Each member must ensure that they provide an address and an email address to the Society at the Society's address or email address set out on its website.

Meetings

48 Save as may be expressly set out elsewhere in the rules:

(1) In advance of any notice given of a meeting the President, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based in the UK, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based outside the UK, may determine that persons entitled to attend and participate in the meeting may participate by means of electronic facility or facilities and may determine that participation in the said meeting shall be exclusively by means of electronic facility or facilities.

(2) In the absence of any determination by such person to the contrary, members may attend and participate in a general meeting held at a physical location whether by attending in person or by means of electronic facility or facilities to be notified in advance.

(3) Those present by means of an electronic facility or facilities (as so determined) shall be counted in the quorum for, and be entitled to participate in, the meeting in question.

(4) The chair of the meeting shall be the President, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based in the United Kingdom, or, in their absence, the Vice-President based outside the United Kingdom, or, in their absence, such person as may be determined by a majority of those attending the meeting. Unless it is determined that the meeting shall be held exclusively by means of electronic facility or facilities, as provided in rules 48(1) and (2), the person who is to chair the meeting must be physically present at the meeting.

(5) The chair of the meeting shall determine the manner in which votes are to take place and may at their discretion adjourn meetings.

(6) Where participation is wholly or partly by electronic facility or facilities, the meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chair is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the meeting to ensure that members attending the meeting by all means (including the means of an electronic facility or facilities) are able to:

(a) participate in the business for which the meeting has been convened;

(b) hear all persons who speak at the meeting; and

(c) be heard by all other persons attending and participating in the meeting.

(7) The proceedings at a meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the Society.

(8) Members at a General Meeting shall be entitled to vote by proxy in such manner as may be previously determined by the Council.

On 7 May 2026 the Council resolved to amend the then existing rules by adopting the above new rules.

On 29 June 2026, at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the Members resolved to approve the Council's resolution to adopt the above new rules.

SELDEN SOCIETY

Registered Charity 211536

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

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Selden Society

Reference and Administrative Details
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees

The Trustees of the society during the year and currently are:

Mr D AINGER
The Hon M ARNOLD
Professor Sir John BAKER
Rt Hon Lord I BURNETT of Maldon KG
Professor P BRAND
Dr S BRAND
Dr D CROOK
Dr S CUNNINGHAM
HH D CRYAN (chair)
Professor C N DOE, KC
Professor CHARLES DONAHUE Jr
Professor G GARNETT
Professor J GETZLER
Dr E GOLDRING
Professor R HELMHOLZ
Professor J HUDSON
Professor D IBBETSON
Professor N JONES
Mr P JONES, KC
Mr N LE POIDEVIN, KC
The Rev. Professor A LEWIS
Professor M LOBBAN
Professor J LOENGARD (resigned 12 May 2025)
Professor C MACMILLAN
Dr M MACNAIR
Professor W PREST
Professor R PROBERT
Dr S ROBERTS
Professor G SEABOURNE
Sir M SMITH
Professor C STEBBINGS
Professor J TATE
Professor A TAYLOR
The Rev. Professor TG WATKIN
Dr I WILLIAMS

Principal Office: School of Law Building,
Queen Mary University of London,
337 Mile End Road,
London
E1 4NS

Principal Bankers: Coutts & Co
449 Strand,
London
WC2R 0QS

Independent Examiner: Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
12 Hillbourne Road,
Poole
BH17 7JB

Selden Society

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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).

Structure, governance and management

The Selden Society is an unincorporated association constituted as a trust. The internal organisation of the Society is subject to a set of Rules, a copy of which is sent to every member. The Society is a registered charity (211536).

The management of the affairs of the Society are vested in a President, Vice-Presidents, and the Council, who are elected at the annual general meeting for a term of three years. The officers of the Society are the Treasurer, Literary Director and Secretary, who are ex officio members of the Council. Two Trustees, also ex officio members of the Council, hold the copyrights and property (in the works which are published) of the Society. The Inns of Court and Law Society are each entitled to nominate one representative on the Council; and the British Academy may nominate two members.

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the Society are to encourage the study and to advance the knowledge of the history of English law, especially by the publication of original documents, the reprinting or editing of works of rarity or importance, and the compiling of information as a tool for further research.

Achievements and Performance

During 2025, the Society continued its work of editing legal manuscripts for publication and hosted a number of meetings in the United Kingdom and overseas to promote the study of English legal history. It also supported scholarship by the provision of a PhD studentship.

In the year under report the Society maintained its programme of preparing editions of unpublished manuscripts for publication. It intends to continue in the present year with the publication of volumes for the annual series, and with the preparation of occasional publications such as its Supplementary Series and lectures, and with its other customary activities.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are listed on page 22. There were no changes to the trustees during the year, save for the resignation of Professor Janet Loengard on 12 May 2025.

Appointment of Trustees

All Council members are Trustees and are elected or appointed in accordance with the constitution of the Society.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance of the operation of the Public Benefit requirement and are satisfied that the activities of the charity undertaken during the year meet the Public Benefit test.

Risks

The Council have reviewed the risks applicable to the Society and consider that they are adequately provided for.

Investment policy

The Council have unrestricted discretion in all matters concerning the investment of the Society's monies. Their policy is to maintain a reasonable balance between capital and income.

Reserves policy

The policy of the Council is to maintain substantial reserves to meet the cost of production, storage and dispatch of volumes, administration costs and new initiatives. The Council is continuing to assess the possible impact of the cost of living crisis on the Society's financial outlook. However, the Council is confident that its assets are sufficient to meet their likely expenses for a minimum of 12 months from the sign off. The reserves at the year end were £2,502,025 (2024: £2,258,381) including designated funds of £9,190 (2024: £9,190) and no restricted funds. The purpose of the designated and restricted funds is set out in note 9 to the financial statements.

Financial Review

During the financial year ending 31 December 2025, the Selden Society received unrestricted income of £111,359 (2023: £111,834), and £7,500 in restricted grants (£2024: £5,000). Expenditure for the year totalled £132,653, £7,500 of which was restricted (2024: 76,761, £5,000 restricted). The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 26.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Professor M Lobban
Secretary

Date: 7 May 2026

Selden Society

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Selden Society for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Selden Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis for report

As the charity's trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net
12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB

Date: 18 May 2026

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income					
Income from:					
- Voluntary income		**307**	**7,500**	**7,807**	**5,341**
- Investment income	2	**62,982**	**-**	**62,982**	**65,722**
- Charitable activities	3	**48,070**	**-**	**48,070**	**45,771**
Total income		**111,359**	**7,500**	**118,859**	**116,834**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	125,153	7,500	132,653	76,761
Total expenditure		**125,153**	**7,500**	**132,653**	**76,761**
Net income (expenditure)		(13,794)	-	(13,794)	**40,073**
Unrealised gains on investment assets		257,438	-	257,438	107,187
Net movement in funds		**243,644**		**243,644**	**147,260**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward (1 January)		2,258,381		2,258,381	2,111,121
Total funds carried forward (31 December)	9	**2,502,025**		**2,502,025**	**2,258,381**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these accounts.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

Charity number 211536	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		2,211,755		1,966,355
Current assets					
Debtors	7	62,158		61,604	
Cash at bank		292,112		293,829	
		354,270		355,433	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(64,000)		(63,407)	
Net current assets			290,270		292,026
NET ASSETS			**£2,502,025**		**£2,258,381**
Funds of the charity	9				
Restricted funds:			-		-
Unrestricted income funds			2,502,025		2,258,381
Total funds			**£2,502,025**		**£2,258,381**

These accounts were approved by the trustees, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

C. MacMillan
Treasurer
Date: 7 May 2026

The notes on pages 28 to 32 form an integral part of these accounts.

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of the accounts

Selden Society is a registered charity (Charity Number: 211536) and is an unincorporated association constituted as a trust, incorporated in England and Wales and domiciled in England. The registered office is Queen Mary University of London, 327 Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

The presentational and functional currency of these financial statements is GBP. Values are rounded to the nearest pound.

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) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are on a going concern basis. The Trustees confirm that at the time of approving the financial statements in May 2026 that there are no material uncertainties regarding the charity’s ability to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

As a grant making charity with few overheads and ongoing commitments, and having taken into consideration the impact of the cost of living crisis on its anticipated future financial performance, the trustees consider that they can sustain a comparable level of activity for at least the next 12 months from the approval of the financial statements. On the date of approval of the financial statements the Society has sufficient liquid cash funds available and further substantial investment funds. For these reasons the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

UK and overseas subscription income is recognised when receivable and applied over the relevant period.

US subscriptions are recognised when receivable in the US. Subscriptions received in the United States of America are shown as subscription debtors until the money is transferred to the UK, until then these are held in separate US bank accounts.

Royalties are recognised on a received basis.

Voluntary donations are accounted for when received.

Gift aid is recognised when received.

Dividends from listed investments are accounted for when receivable. Interest on deposits is taken into account on an accruals basis. All investment income is stated inclusive of related taxation recoverable.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The cost of publications is recognised in the year to which the publication relates. No value has been placed in the financial statements on publications stock.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with Governance of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Investments

Investments are stated at 'bid' prices at the balance sheet date. Any gains or losses on revaluation are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.6 Funds of the Charity

The charity's funds are segregated between:

(a) Designated funds - represent monies, which have been designated for a specific purpose by the Council.

(b) General fund - represents undesignated monies retained, which provide the working capital to enable the Council to carry out its charitable activities.

(c) Restricted funds – represent funds given to the Society for a specific purpose by the donor or which arise from a specific appeal for funds. The specific trusts may be declared by the donor when making the gift or may result from the terms of an appeal for funds.

2 Investment income

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Dividends from listed investments	**59,657**	62,922
Interest on bank and other deposits	**3,325**	2,800
	£62,982	**£65,722**

3 Income from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions from members (UK and overseas)	42,516	39,629
Sale of publications	1,328	1,516
Royalties	4,226	4,626
Total	**48,070**	**45,771**

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable Expenditure:		
Investment management costs	10,226	10,877
Studentships	12,824	28,467
Sponsorships	-	1,833
Cost of production, binding and dispatch	85,669	13,798
Contribution for services provided by Queen Mary College	13,562	1,836
General expenses	170	270
Total	**122,451**	**57,081**
Support costs:		
Honorarium costs	-	8,000
Secretary's disbursements	1,467	1,315
Annual Report	4,359	2,342
Bank Fees	688	681
PayPal Fees	589	551
AGM costs	1,274	1,357
Accountancy costs	-	2,284
Independent examination costs	1,825	3,150
	10,202	**19,680**
Total expenditure	**£132,653**	**£76,761**

Of the above expenditure, £7,500 was restricted (2024: £5,000 restricted).

Details of Trustee Remuneration are given in note 10.

5 Taxation

The Society is a charity registered in England under the Charities Acts 1960 and 1993, and as a result is entitled to tax exemptions on income and gains, properly applied for its charitable purposes.

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6 Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at 1 January 2025	1,966,355	1,876,074
Additions	268,691	203,624
Disposals	(294,351)	(191,778)
(Decrease)/increase in cash	13,622	(28,752)
Realised and unrealised gains/ (losses)	257,438	107,187
	£2,211,755	**£1,966,355**

All investments are held within the United Kingdom and comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed interest securities	129,975	127,172
Other listed investments	2,023,405	1,792,210
Cash deposit	58,375	46,973
	2,211,755	1,966,355

Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
M&G Securities Limited Charifund shares	£335,730	£292,267

7 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Unremitted subscriptions due	62,158	61,604

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors		7,407
Accrued Expenses (see note 10)	64,000	56,000
	£64,000	£63,407

9 Funds

	Balance as at 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Balance as at 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund:	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Designated fund:	9,190	-	(-)	-	9,190
General fund:	2,249,191	111,359	(125,153)	257,438	2,492,835
	£2,258,381	£118,859	(£132,653)	£257,438	£2,502,025

The restricted fund above is the Stenton Fund Committee which is monies donated towards the costs of Sir John Baker's third volume of the edition of Sir Edward Coke's notebooks.

The designated fund is the David Yale Prize Fund. This awards a prize for original research by young scholars.

10 Related party Transactions

Trustee C MacMillan has accrued £4,000 (2024 - £4,000) for treasurer services during the year. £24,000 was outstanding at the year end (2024 - £20,000), including services for 2020-2025.

Trustee M Lobban has accrued £4,000 (2024 - £4,000) for secretarial services during the year. At 31 December 2024, the amount of £40,000 was owing (2024- £36,000), including services for 2016-2025.