ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JUNE 2025 TO 31 MAY 2026

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 May 2026.

Reference and administrative details

Registered name: The St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society

Registered charity number: 226912

Principal address:
79 The Park
St Albans
AL1 4RX

Trustees:
John Morewood (President up to 31st May 2026)
Mark Freeman (President from 1st June 2026)
Bryan Hanlon (Secretary up to 23rd September 2025)
Delbert Sandiford (Secretary from 23rd September 2025)
Tony Dolphin (Treasurer)
Peter Burley
Christine McDermott (up to 16th June 2026)
Patricia Broad (from 16th June 2026)

Independent examiner:
Cathy Phillips FCCA
22 Clarence Road
St Albans
AL1 4NE

Structure, governance and management

The Society is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution, which was adopted by members at the Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2016.

The Society has five Trustees: the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and two others. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually by the Annual General Meeting. The President and the other two Trustees are appointed by the Council from among its members. The Council is also elected annually by the Annual General Meeting.

At its meeting on 21 April 2026, the Council agreed to appoint Mark Freeman as President from 1 June 2026, replacing John Morewood, who had indicated his desire to resign from the position. At its meeting on 16 June 2026, the Council agreed to appoint Patricia Broad as a Trustee, replacing Christine McDermott, who had resigned her position.

The Council is responsible for the general management of the affairs of the Society and for organising its various activities.

Objectives and activities

The St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society ("the Society") is established for the following purposes:

1. to promote public interest in, and improve public knowledge of, the architecture, archaeology and history of St Albans and Hertfordshire;
2. to work to secure the protection of monuments, structures or other features of architectural, historical or archaeological interest;
3. to maintain its own library; and
4. to encourage the preservation, and the deposit in suitable collections, of written documents, in any format, and material of historical interest.

In the year ending 31 May 2026, the Society organised a series of 25 lectures. Some were held in person only at Dagnall Street Baptist Church; some were held over Zoom only; and some were held both in person and over Zoom. The lectures covered a wide range of architectural, archaeological and historical topics, with a mix of local, national and international themes. With the exception of the lecture that follows the Annual General Meeting, all lectures are open to members and, for a small attendance fee, to other members of the public.

The Society circulated to its members and posted on its website a quarterly newsletter containing information about the Society and articles about local architecture, archaeology and history. It arranged a number of excursions; and it maintained a library and a website for members and non-members who are interested in local history, architecture and archaeology. The Society is also jointly responsible for the management and opening to the public of the St Albans Clock Tower.

The Society led and participated in campaigns to preserve sites and items of historical and architectural interest in St Albans, including the Venus & Adonis mural in the Pots of Art building on Holywell Hill. It was also actively involved in other efforts to increase local awareness of the heritage of St Albans.

The Trustees believe all these activities are in accordance with the Society's objectives and that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Trustees believe the Society is doing very well. Membership has risen to above 750. Lectures are well attended; and excursions are fully booked. Members report finding the newsletter interesting and informative. The library and website are recognised as important sources of information.

Campaigning to ensure the preservation of local heritage, and to raise awareness of it, can be very frustrating at times. But the Society continues to lobby the local council, publish articles in local newspapers and to work with other interested parties, in particular to highlight local sites of historical and architectural interest that are at risk due to neglect. In particular, the Society is leading efforts to ensure that the Venus & Adonis mural is restored and preserved for future generations and it used some of its funds to pay for an assessment of the mural's condition and the work that needs to be done to conserve it.

Financial review

The Society's income increased from £27,797 to £36,635 in the year ending 31 May 2026. This was due to a large donation towards our heritage work, increased subscription fees thanks to rising membership numbers and the publication of two new books in our Concise Histories series.

The Society's main source of income is membership subscriptions. Membership fees have been unchanged for several years, but the number of paying members continues to rise, so income from this source increased to £13,612. Gift Aid of £2,720 was received this year. The Society plays a role in the management of the St Albans Clock Tower and receives a share of the income it generates, which in 2025/26 amounted to £4,500. Other income included £3,349 for excursions, which was partly offset by costs of £2,697.

The Society's expenditure increased from £23,801 to £33,853 in the year ending 31 May 2026. This was largely the result of increased spending on local heritage projects, in particular the assessment of the Venus & Adonis mural and on publication costs.

The total cost of our extensive programme of lectures, including lecturers' fees and expenses, hall hire and technical support was £4,996. The cost of publishing our newsletter was little changed at £3,380. The cost of our library, including specialist software, book purchases and equipment was £3,878. Other costs that are essential for the running of the Society include payments to IT providers, insurance payments and postage costs.

On 31 May 2026, the Society held £56,859 in unrestricted funds, of which £25,315 was designated for particular purposes. The Trustees have reviewed the Society's reserves policy and continue to believe that undesignated funds should not fall below expected annual expenditure. Reserves are currently above this level.

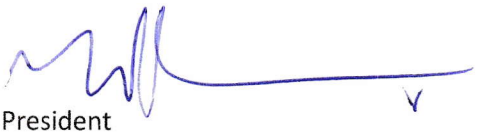
Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The Society is responsible for the Mayor's History Fund, which can only be used to assist researchers with the costs of research into the history of the St Albans District. St Albans and District Council have passed management of this Fund onto the Society, judging it better placed to assess the merit of applications for funding. The History Fund is ring-fenced within the Society's accounts and an appropriate proportion of interest income is allocated to it. On 31 May 2026, the Society held £3,075 for future awards.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees.
Signature:



Mark Freeman – President
Date: 22/9/26.

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted 2026 £	Restricted 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
FIXED ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments	2	3,509		3,509	2,311
Debtors	3	111		111	237
Cash at bank					
Lloyds Bank current account		1,982		1,982	2,275
CAF Bank current account		614		614	194
PayPal		441		441	244
CAF Bank Gold account		50,862	3,075	53,937	52,406
		57,518	3,075	60,594	57,668
Liabilites					
Subscriptions received in advance	4	(634)		(634)	(515)
Payments due	5	(25)		(25)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		56,859	3,075	59,934	57,153
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**56,859**	**3,075**	**59,934**	**57,153**
FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY					
Undesignated funds		31,544		31,544	26,589
Designated funds	6	25,315		25,315	27,295
Restricted funds	7		3,075	3,075	3,269
TOTAL FUNDS		**56,859**	**3,075**	**59,934**	**57,153**

Notes:
1. Totals may differ from the sum of components due to rounding.
2. Prepayments include payments for subscriptions, insurance policies and library systems that extend beyond 31 May 2026.
3. Payments outstanding from Eventbrite for lecture fees and from SADC for books purchased.
4. Annual subscriptions to the Society that are received before the start of the relevant year are recorded as liabilities.
5. Reimbursement due for purchase of stamps for overseas mailing of May newsletter.
6. The Trustees have designated funds to be used for heritage projects in the St Albans District, and separately for the publication of a book on nonconformity in the area.
7. The Society is responsible for managing the Mayor's History Fund. The use of these funds is restricted and they can only be used for research into local history.

Approved by the Trustees of the Society and signed on their behalf.

Date: 12 September 2026

Signed : A. Mi Dolfi

Tony Dolphin
Hon Treasurer

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2026

	Unrestricted 2026 £	Restricted 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Subscriptions	13,612		13,612	12,661
Gift Aid	2,720		2,720	2,684
Donations: Clock Tower	4,500		4,500	4,500
Donations: Other	5,957		5,957	1,308
Charitable activities				
Lectures	392		392	579
Excursions	3,349		3,349	1,976
Publications	3,484		3,484	692
Library	250		250	647
Events	766		766	970
HA&H Sales	15		15	100
Sundry income	558		558	345
Investments				
Interest received	976	57	1,032	1,336
Total Incoming Resources	36,578	57	36,635	27,797
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Lectures	4,996		4,996	5,339
Excursions	2,697		2,697	1,512
Publications	2,880		2,880	46
Library	3,878		3,878	3,285
Newsletters	3,380		3,380	3,632
Website	467		467	451
Events	1,168		1,168	803
Research groups	58		58	154
St Albans heritage projects	8,172		8,172	1,881
Donations	100		100	679
Subscriptions	333		333	315
Insurance	632		632	575
IT providers	1,069		1,069	1,291
New equipment	260		260	310
Postage, printing & stationery	2,824		2,824	2,758
Bank charges	680		680	669
Sundry costs	8		8	100
Mayor's History Fund		250	250	0
Total Resources Expended	33,603	250	33,853	23,801
NET INCOME RESOURCES	2,975	(193)	2,782	3,996
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	53,885	3,268	57,153	53,157
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	56,859	3,075	59,934	57,153

Notes:
1. Totals may differ from the sum of components due to rounding.

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Charity number 226912)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the Charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society (charity number 226912) for the year ended 31 May 2026, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet.

Respective responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 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 2011 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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning form and content of 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.

Signed: Date: 22/9/2026



C Phillips FCCA
22 Clarence Road, St Albans, AL1 4NE