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Registered number: 00078001
Charity number: 237771

ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Bishop Fleming

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees	Professor Gail Taylor (appointed 4 June 2025)[1] Professor Iain Simon Donnison, Treasurer (appointed 4 June 2025) Professor Philip Mark Gilmartin Professor Roderick Hunt (resigned 4 June 2025) Professor Hugh Gordon Dickinson (resigned 4 June 2025)[1] [1] Principle
Company registered number	00078001
Charity registered number	237771
Registered office	Lord Milford Building Plas Gogerddan Aberystwyth Ceredigion Wales SY23 3EE
Company secretary	Professor Roderick Hunt (resigned 4 June 2025)
Chief executive officer	The Company Secretary and Treasurer is delegated by the Trustees to conduct most of the day to day affairs of the Company.
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming Audit Limited Chartered Accountants Brook House Winslade Park Manor Drive Clyst St Mary Exeter EX5 1GD
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc Exeter Business Centre Vantage Point Pynes Hill Exeter EX2 5FD Santander UK plc 250 Stanley Road Bootle L20 3PQ
Solicitors	Ashfords LLP Ashfords House Grenadier Road Exeter EX1 3LH

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the audited financial statements of the Annals of Botany Company for 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Policies and objectives

The Annals of Botany Company aims to deliver public benefit by supporting the publication of original plant science in the serial publications *Annals of Botany*, *AoB PLANTS* and *in silico Plants*, and in the weblog *BotanyOne* and the newsletter *The Week in Botany*. Scientific research papers are at the heart of science itself. They are the principal method of communication of results and ideas, both among scientists and to the world more generally. The contents of the Company's journals cover all areas of plant science, include those applying molecular, analytical, mathematical, and statistical techniques to examine topical questions at any level of biological organization ranging from cell to community, from tissue culture to crop production, and from microclimate to ecosystem. The journals' scope extends to all flowering and nonflowering taxa, and to taxonomic and evolutionary questions particularly when these are addressed using molecular tools.

The Company pays close regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when interpreting its aims and objectives and in planning future activities which will contribute to them.

Publication in the *Annals of Botany* is available in hard copy and online, both free of charge, to any author submitting what is in the judgement of the Editors an original and substantial manuscript of general interest. Published papers are personally accessible free of charge to any reader worldwide after a maximum of two years from publication and are accessible immediately to all paying subscribers and users of public libraries.

Publication in *AoB PLANTS* is available in online format only to any author submitting what is in the judgement of the Editors an original and substantial manuscript of at least specialist interest. All published papers in *AoB PLANTS* are 'open access', that is, they are immediately accessible online and free of charge to any reader worldwide. The journal is sustained by article processing charges which are levied upon its authors. A scheme exists to waive or reduce these charges in certain cases of hardship.

Publication in *in silico Plants* is available in online format only to any author submitting what is in the judgement of the Editors an original and substantial manuscript of general interest within the field of computational plant science. All published papers in *in silico Plants* are 'open access', that is, they are immediately accessible online and free of charge to any reader worldwide. The journal is sustained by article processing charges which are levied upon its authors. A scheme exists to waive or reduce these charges in certain cases of hardship.

Publication and commenting within the medium of *BotanyOne* is moderated by an Academic Editor and freelance specialists appointed by the Company. Acceptable posts are immediately accessible online and free of charge to any reader worldwide. Items appearing within the free newsletter *The Week in Botany* are selected by an Editor from material culled mechanically from the world's plant science literature.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

(1) To produce about 2,688 pages of articles reporting peer reviewed, edited, original and substantial plant science within twelve monthly issues of the journal *Annals of Botany*, averaging 192 pages each, plus at least two additional special issues of similar length.
(2) To produce a body of articles reporting peer reviewed, edited and original plant science within the online journals *AoB PLANTS* and *in silico Plants*, limited in number only by the quality and quantity of submissions received from paying authors.
(3) To produce an online body of articles and commentaries reporting topics of general news interest to plant scientists within the free weblog *BotanyOne* and the free newsletter *The Week in Botany*.

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Members of the Annals of Botany Company, up to a maximum of ten, sustain and monitor the performance of an organization designed expressly to achieve its main objectives. This organization comprises a threeperson Company Executive, four Chief or Academic Editors, three Managing Editors, one or more Editorial Assistants, ten specialist or advisory Editors, more than forty Subject Editors and (over any sixmonth period) more than five hundred International Review Board members. Both the Company and its journals maintain informative web pages with the addresses annalsofbotanycompany.com, academic.oup.com/aob, academic.oup.com/aobpla, academic.oup.com/insilicoplants, and aobblog.com. The three members of the Company's Executive (the Charitable Trustees) manage the Company's affairs without remuneration in the intervals between the Company's full meetings. The Chief Editors oversee their respective Editorial Offices and control all editorial affairs. The Managing Editor and the Assistant Managing Editor serving in the Annals of Botany Editorial Office were employed by University College London (UCL) from 1st September 2025, and until then at the University of Oxford, using funds supplied by the Company. The current Chief Editors of Annals of Botany, AoB PLANTS and in silico Plants, and the Managing Editor of In silico Plants, are based in Canada, Spain and UK, respectively. The Editor of the weblog BotanyOne is employed by UCL (from 1st September 2025 and before that by the University of Oxford) using funds supplied by the Company. Four Sectional Editors, a Social Media Editor, and an Outreach editor provide specialist services to Annals of Botany. They each receive a flatrate honorarium from the Company. Sectional Editors within in silico Plants also receive a small flat-rate honorarium. Subject Editors, across Annals of Botany, AoB PLANTS and in silico Plants, recommend decisions on submitted manuscripts to their Chief Editors after arranging for peer review. Certain of these Editors receive a small honorarium per manuscript handled. More than five hundred International Review Board members (in each six month period) conduct peer reviews of the submitted manuscripts. They work without payment.

d. Grant-making policies

The Trustees are empowered by Company's Memorandum of Association to make grants and donations to botanical scientists and organisations with a view to forwarding botanical science, to assist in relevant research or allow suitable individuals to attend relevant conferences, particularly when they also either present a paper to the journal or will present one as a result of their attendance. However, support for freely distributed products such as BotanyOne and The Week in Botany are now seen as offering greater and more general benefit to plant science than the awarding of single grants for small projects, which are now generally being reduced in number and value.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

a. Key performance indicators

The Trustees pay special regard to seven KPIs.

(1) Level of revenue.
(2) Level of expenditure.
(3) Number of articles published.
(4) Reach of titles.
(5) Impact of titles.
(6) Level of Grants Fund.
(7) Level of freely distributed benefit.

b. Review of activities

In the calendar year 2025 the journal Annals of Botany appeared for the 139th year in unbroken succession. Seven issues within Volume 135 and seven within Volume 136 were published. The total number of edited pages in 2025 was 3,147 (2,346 in 2024). Two 'Special Issues' appeared in 2025 (two in 2024), dealing with 'Plant Reproduction in a Changing Global Environment' and 'Stress Physiology of Root Systems'. In 2025, a total of 42 'Review' articles appeared (19 in 2024); nine 'Research in Context' articles (two in 2024); no 'Viewpoint' was published (one in 2024) but 6 Perspective articles were published including from the Editor. Twenty examples of 'Commentary' articles discussing selected recent articles from the journal appeared in 2025 (11 in 2024). As usual, original research articles comprised the bulk of the journal, with 272 being published in 2025 (137 in 2024). The practice of including a different fullcolour illustration on the outside cover each month was continued. Publication of the journal remained in the hands of Oxford University Press. Total revenue in 2025 was £820,534 (£699,429 in 2024).

AoB PLANTS, also published with Oxford University Press, maintained its high quality of production and level of service to authors. The journal published six issues within Volume 17. There was one Special Issue in 2025 'Floral Ecology, Genetics, and Evolution in an Unprecedentedly Fast-Changing World' and a further 'Emerging Voices in Botany'. There were 80 articles published across 991 pages (60 and 715, respectively in 2024) and the journal continued to levy Article Processing Charges, with 18 exemptions being awarded (18 in 2024). Total revenue in 2025 was £46,464 (£39,540 in 2024).

The Company's latest openaccess, onlineonly journal, in silico Plants, appeared for its sixth complete year in 2025. It deals with all aspects of computational plant science and Oxford University Press is again the publisher. Volume 7 appeared 2025, over two issues, and contained 22 articles over 303 edited pages (15 and 256 in 2023). Six APC waivers were granted (three in 2024). Total revenue in 2025 was £31,822 (£21,214 in 2024).

The weblog BotanyOne continued to grow in variety and prestige. The electronic newsletter, The Week in Botany continues to be sent out weekly to plant scientists on a free subscription basis. The Company's own web presence at annalsofbotanycompany.co.uk has been maintained and continues to develop further.

Some grants and donations were distributed in support of individual activities within botanical science, but the Company's view is now that its support for freelydistributed products such as BotanyOne and The Week in Botany offers greater and more general benefit to plant science than does the awarding of single grants. These two free titles together, a continuation of AOB Blog activity, directly consumed £53k of expenditure in 2025 (£63k in 2024). The grants and donations now made are awarded only to activities that are directly helpful to the Company's own titles. These awards are itemised in a Note to the Accounts, which shows that the total value awarded in 2025 was £5k (£11k in 2024).

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

c. Investment policy and performance

A portion of The Annals of Botany Company's designated Grants Fund is invested with Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management who are instructed to seek a reasonable return, and some capital growth, on a broadly ethical portfolio of UK and Worldwide equities and other stocks. At end2025 the value of the portfolio (after direct management charges of £31k and third party and fund management charges of £23k) totalled £2,606k, (from a valuation of £2,429k at end 2024).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Going concern

After making appropriate assessments, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies

b. Reserves policy

A formal Financial Policy governs the reserves of the Annals of Botany Company. The Policy was established by the Company on 17 July 1998 and has been updated three times since. The Policy governs all the financial activities of the Company in such a way as to achieve prudent and permanent delivery of the Company's objectives. In outline, after the operating expenses of the Company have been met, all remaining reserves, which totalled £4,297k in 2025 (£4,059k in 2024), are divided into two Designated Funds in addition to the general fund. The first designated fund is a Production Reserve, held on secure deposit and designed as a bridge to support the continued production of the journals in the event of greatest foreseeable financial emergency, namely to finance one year's production of the journals on premium terms should the Company's usual sources of income and of production both fail completely. The Company invests its Production Reserve in bank deposits and bonds. The value of this reserve in 2025 was £611k (£560k in 2024). The second Designated Fund is a Promotions Fund for Botanical Science, which totalled £3,266k in 2025 (£3,104k in 2024). Approximately half of the long-term annual gains from this fund are applied annually to the benefit of plant science.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Company maintains a detailed Risk Register which is reviewed and updated annually. There is also a section headed 'Risk Management' in this Report. Risks are classified within the categories of Governance and Management, Operational, Financial, External, and Compliance. Likelihood of occurrence and severity of impact are estimated for each topic within these categories and appropriate control processes are identified. The only topics for which retained risks are currently rated 'medium' rather than 'low' are loss of customer satisfaction, loss of business to competition, compromise or failure of IT, dependency (by statute) on limited income sources.

d. Principal funding

The Annals of Botany Company obtains income from four main sources: (i) A share of the three journals' annual net profit as accounted under contract by the publisher, (ii) interest gained on cash deposits, (iii) gains made on the equities portfolio, (iv) recoverable input VAT. All income is dealt with according to the principles of the Company's Financial Policy.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Constitution

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 13 July 1903. The company is constituted under a Memorandum of Association dated 13 July 1903 and is a registered charity number 237771. The principal object of the company is 'To promote the science of botany … [by means of] the publication known as the *Annals of Botany* [and other publications], … to make grants for the prosecution of botanical research and botanical travel; and … to employ such other means as [are] … conducive to the promotion of botanical science.' (From Memorandum of Association 1903, paragraph 3A amended 1948).

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the company is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum of Association. Trustees are recruited exclusively from among the (maximum ten) members of The Annals of Botany Company. Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually by the members of the Company at the AGM.

c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Induction and training is provided by the outgoing or surviving Trustees.

d. Organisational structure and decision making

The three Trustees are Directors of The Annals of Botany Company and comprise the Company's Executive. They receive no remuneration for their services either as Trustees or as Directors and are charged by the Company to manage all its affairs in the intervals between AGMs. The Company engages part time Chief or Academic Editors and honorary Editorial Boards to edit the Company's three principal products, the journals known as *Annals of Botany*, *AoB PLANTS* and *in silico Plants*, together with the weblog *BotanyOne* (an interactive online commentary for plant scientists) and the newsletter *The Week in Botany*. The Chief Editors are assisted by full time, part time, and certain casual or freelance staff as required. A commercial publisher publishes the three primary journals on behalf of the Company and the Company retains ownership of all titles.

The Company's Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit

e. Risk management

A formal Risk Management Register is maintained by The Annals of Botany Company and is reviewed annually at the AGM. The one distant but very major risk, that the publishers become in some way unable to produce the journals and that the annual income derived from the current publisher is no longer available, is safeguarded by the Company's Financial Policy (*q.v.*).

In that eventuality, the Company would use its Production Reserve to support the costs of one year's production by a replacement publisher who would likely have to be engaged in an emergency on premium terms. The Company maintains Public Liability and Trustee Indemnity insurances.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Annals of Botany Company plans to achieve similar or greater attainments annually over an indefinite period, in particular, to sustain and develop the future of its three primary titles and to continue the delivery of public benefit in support of botanical science more generally.

Information on fundraising practices

The Charity does not undertake any fundraising activities.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

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AUDITORS

The auditors, Bishop Fleming Audit Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:
Iain Donnison
2FF618DFC95F40D...

Professor Iain Simon Donnison
(Treasurer)
Date: 11 June 2026

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Annals of Botany Company (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the 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) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, 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.

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 Trustees' Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees' 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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OPINION 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' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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; or
- 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' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

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

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

In assessing the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and the charitable Company's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustees, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable Company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries and identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries; and
- in common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We identified and obtained an understanding of the laws and regulations that are of significance to the charitable Company by discussions with Trustees and by updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable Company operated. Laws and regulations that are of direct significance to the charitable Company and of which non-compliance could result in material misstatements are the Charities Act, Companies Act, Charities SORP and tax legislation. In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable Company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- reading minutes of Trustee meetings.

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We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

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 charitable 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 anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:
Alison Oliver
39938FF4625C4AA...

Alison Oliver FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Brook House
Winslade Park
Manor Drive
Clyst St Mary
Exeter
EX5 1GD

Date: 11/6/2026

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	As restated Total funds 2024 £
INCOME FROM:				
Charitable activities	4	**563,644**	**563,644**	501,427
Investments	5	**85,684**	**85,684**	76,789
TOTAL INCOME		**649,328**	**649,328**	578,216
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investment management costs	6	**30,552**	**30,552**	30,507
Charitable activities	8	**539,832**	**539,832**	554,784
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**570,384**	**570,384**	585,291
NET INCOME BEFORE NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		**78,944**	**78,944**	(7,075)
Net gains on investments		**37,089**	**37,089**	2,157
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/ (LOSSES)		**116,033**	**116,033**	(4,918)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/ (LOSSES):				
Gains on revaluation of fixed asset investments	12	**121,855**	**121,855**	168,569
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**237,888**	**237,888**	163,651
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward		**4,058,648**	**4,058,648**	3,894,997
Net movement in funds		**237,888**	**237,888**	163,651
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	15	**4,296,536**	**4,296,536**	4,058,648

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

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ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:00078001

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note		2025 £		As restated 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	12		**2,605,781**		2,428,977
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**585,522**		523,332	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,247,027**		1,223,728	
		1,832,549		1,747,060	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	**(141,794)**		(117,389)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,690,755**		1,629,671
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**4,296,536**		4,058,648
TOTAL NET ASSETS			**4,296,536**		4,058,648
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	15	**3,877,093**		3,663,875	
General funds	15	**419,443**		394,773	
Total unrestricted funds	15		**4,296,536**		4,058,648
TOTAL FUNDS			**4,296,536**		4,058,648

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:
Iain Donnison
2FF618DFC95F40D...

Professor Iain Simon Donnison
Trustee
Date: 11 June 2026

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Docusign Envelope ID: CECF9DAE-336A-8A74-82FF-F6EA22E61E8E

ANNALS OF BOTANY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FLOWS USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	**(7,436)**	(45,273)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investment income received		**45,306**	35,270
Proceeds from sale of investments		**352,568**	152,464
Purchase of investments		**(407,517)**	(154,938)
Interest received		**40,378**	41,519
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		**30,735**	**74,315**
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		**23,299**	**29,042**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**1,223,728**	1,194,686
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	19	**1,247,027**	1,223,728

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these financial statements

Docusign Envelope ID: CECF9DAE-336A-8A74-82FF-F6EA22E61E8E

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Annals of Botany Company is a charitable Company (company number: 00078001), limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The Company is also a registered charity (charity number: 23771). The charitable Company was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 13 July 1903. The registered office is Lord Milford Building, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales, SY23 3EE.

The principal activity of Annals of Botany Company is the publication of learned journals.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Annals of Botany Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

2.3 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.4 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.6 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 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.

2.8 LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Balance Sheet date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The Trustees do not consider there to be estimates or assumptions that pose a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next year.

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
AoB Journal	535,818	**535,818**	478,366
AoB Plants Journal	14,500	**14,500**	14,384
in silico Plants Journal	13,326	**13,326**	8,677
TOTAL 2025	563,644	**563,644**	501,427
TOTAL 2024	501,427	501,427	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Dividend income	45,306	**45,306**	35,270
Bank and other interest	40,378	**40,378**	41,519
	85,684	**85,684**	76,789
TOTAL 2024	76,789	76,789	

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6. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Portfolio management fee	30,552	**30,552**	30,507
TOTAL 2024	30,507	30,507	

7. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS

	Grants to Individuals 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants, AoB journal	7,308	**7,308**	24,009
TOTAL 2024	24,009	24,009	

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Grant funding of activities 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
AoB journal	250,982	7,308	25,961	**284,251**	261,321
AoB PLANTS journal	40,695	-	21,932	**62,627**	73,803
AoB Blog	52,665	-	34,719	**87,384**	107,005
ISP journal	75,101	-	6,972	**82,073**	84,442
Goverance costs	-	-	23,497	**23,497**	28,213
	419,443	7,308	113,081	**539,832**	554,784
TOTAL 2024	394,773	24,009	136,002	554,784	

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8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	AoB journal 2025 £	AoB PLANTS journal 2025 £	AoB Blog 2025 £	ISP journal 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Chief Editor Fees	16,213	493	49,831	-	**66,537**	86,556
Editorial Office fees & Salaries	171,341	-	-	60,088	**231,429**	193,094
Editorial Office	-	-	184	-	**184**	-
Editorial Board fees	59,390	40,202	2,650	15,013	**117,255**	95,114
Manuscript handling	2,489	-	-	-	**2,489**	14,973
Editorial services	1,549	-	-	-	**1,549**	4,944
Payroll fees	-	-	-	-	**-**	92
	250,982	40,695	52,665	75,101	**419,443**	394,773
TOTAL 2024	215,542	39,011	62,720	77,500	394,773	

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8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	AoB journal 2025 £	AoB PLANTS journal 2025 £	AoB Blog 2025 £	ISP journal 2025 £
External travel and meeting costs	-	18,163	-	-
Company office costs	25,961	3,769	12,708	6,972
Internal travel and meeting costs	-	-	22,011	-
Accountancy and other finance related costs	-	-	-	-
	25,961	21,932	34,719	6,972
TOTAL 2024	21,770	34,792	44,285	6,942

	Goverance costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
External travel and meeting costs	-	**18,163**	31,297
Company office costs	-	**49,410**	67,027
Internal travel and meeting costs	-	**22,011**	16,456
Accountancy and other finance related costs	23,497	**23,497**	21,222
	23,497	**113,081**	136,002
TOTAL 2024	28,213	136,002	

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9. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	**12,000**	8,000
Fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect of:		
All non-audit services not included above	**4,720**	9,000

10. STAFF COSTS

No persons were employed by the Company in either year.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key management personnel comprise of the Trustees who received no remuneration benefits during the year. Trustee expenses have been disclosed in note 11.

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION , FEES AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2025, expenses (for travel and purchases on behalf of the Company) totalling £3,245 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2024 - £5,393 to 3 Trustees).

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12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £	Cash dealing account £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2025 (as previously stated)	**2,043,335**	**48,541**	**2,091,876**
Prior year adjustment	**337,101**	**-**	**337,101**
At 1 January 2025 (as restated)	**2,380,436**	**48,541**	**2,428,977**
Additions	**407,517**	**12,305**	**419,822**
Disposals	**(364,873)**	**-**	**(364,873)**
Revaluations	**121,855**	**-**	**121,855**
At 31 December 2025	**2,544,935**	**60,846**	**2,605,781**
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2025	**2,544,935**	**60,846**	**2,605,781**
AT 31 DECEMBER 2024 (AS RESTATED)	2,380,436	48,541	2,428,977

HISTORICAL COST

The historic cost of investments reflected in the Balance Sheet valuation as above was £1,550,697 (2024: £1,511,463).

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the prior year adjustment as disclosed in note 23.

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13. DEBTORS

	2025	As restated 2024
	£	£
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
VAT debtor	**11,487**	14,323
Prepayments and accrued income	**574,035**	509,009
	585,522	523,332

Balances have been reclassified from trade debtors to accrued income to better reflect the timing of entitlement to income, as amounts are invoiced post year-end. Comparative figures have been restated accordingly, with no impact on net assets.

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**1,278**	10,265
Accruals and deferred income	**140,516**	107,124
	141,794	117,389

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15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
Production Reserve	**560,000**	**-**	**-**	**51,000**	**-**	**611,000**
Promotions Fund for Botanical Science	**3,103,875**	**-**	**-**	**3,274**	**158,944**	**3,266,093**
	3,663,875	**-**	**-**	**54,274**	**158,944**	**3,877,093**
GENERAL FUNDS						
General Funds	**394,773**	**649,328**	**(570,384)**	**(54,274)**	**-**	**419,443**
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**4,058,648**	**649,328**	**(570,384)**	**-**	**158,944**	**4,296,536**

Production Reserve
Production reserve is a designated fund which has been earmarked by the Trustees to provide finance for one year's production of the journal on premium terms in the event of an emergency.

Promotions Fund for Botanical Science
The Promotions Fund for Botanical Science is to generate income for the purpose of supporting botanical science more generally by means of grants, donations and promotional activity on behalf of the Company's publications.

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15. Statement of funds (continued)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	As restated Gains/ (Losses) £	As restated Balance at 31 December 2024 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
Production Reserve	479,000	-	-	81,000	-	560,000
Promotions Fund for Botanical Science	3,082,728	-	-	(149,579)	170,726	3,103,875
	3,561,728	-	-	(68,579)	170,726	3,663,875
GENERAL FUNDS						
General Funds	333,269	578,216	(585,291)	68,579	-	394,773
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	3,894,997	578,216	(585,291)	-	170,726	4,058,648

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the prior year adjustment as disclosed in note 23.

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16. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Designated funds	**3,663,875**	**-**	**-**	**54,274**	**158,944**	**3,877,093**
General funds	**394,773**	**649,328**	**(570,384)**	**(54,274)**	**-**	**419,443**
	4,058,648	**649,328**	**(570,384)**	**-**	**158,944**	**4,296,536**

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	As restated Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	3,561,728	-	-	(68,579)	170,726	3,663,875
General funds	333,269	578,216	(585,291)	68,579	-	394,773
	3,894,997	578,216	(585,291)	-	170,726	4,058,648

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the prior year adjustment as disclosed in note 23.

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Fixed asset investments	2,605,781	**2,605,781**
Current assets	1,832,549	**1,832,549**
Creditors due within one year	(141,794)	**(141,794)**
TOTAL	4,296,536	**4,296,536**

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17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	2,428,977	2,428,977
Current assets	1,747,060	1,747,060
Creditors due within one year	(117,389)	(117,389)
TOTAL	4,058,648	4,058,648

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the prior year adjustment as disclosed in note 23.

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**116,033**	(4,918)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Investment income	**(85,684)**	(76,789)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**(62,190)**	27,489
Increase in creditors	**24,405**	8,945
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**(7,436)**	(45,273)

19. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	**1,247,027**	1,223,728

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20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DEBT

	At 1 January 2025 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,223,728**	**23,299**	**1,247,027**

21. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2025 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	**5,753**	34,248
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**-**	2,854
	5,753	37,102

22. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company paid Aberstwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Limited, a company which I Donnison is a director of, £3,162 (2024: £Nil) during the year for rental of their offices. No amounts (2024: £Nil) were payable at the reporting date.

Details of transactions with the Trustees are detailed in note 11.

23. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

During the current year, a misstatement in the prior year's financial statements was identified relating to the valuation of investments. An unrealised gain of £168,569 was incorrectly recognised as a loss of £168,532.

The misstatement has been corrected by restating the prior year comparatives for the year ended 31 December 2024. The adjustment increased the value of investments and total funds carried forward by £337,101 in the Statement of Financial Position.

In addition, balances have been reclassified from trade debtors to accrued income to better reflect the timing of entitlement to income, as amounts are invoiced post year-end. Comparative figures have been restated accordingly, with no impact on net assets.