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THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 273809

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the period 1 January 2025 to 26 April 2025

being the final accounts of the charity prior to the transfer of its undertaking
to The Tolkien Society, a charitable incorporated organisation,
registered charity number 1211591

Prepared by Standen Accounting Solutions, Chichester

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Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their final report and financial statements for the period from 1 January 2025 to 26 April 2025, being the date on which the charity's assets, liabilities and undertaking were transferred to The Tolkien Society, a charitable incorporated organisation. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	The Tolkien Society
Charity number	273809
Legal form	Unincorporated association
Registered address	c/o Muckle LLP, Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF
President	The late Professor J.R.R. Tolkien CBE
Legal advisers	Muckle LLP, Newcastle upon Tyne
Independent examiner	P Underwood FCCA, Morris Crocker Chartered Accountants, Lake House, 2 Port Way, Port Solent, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 4TY
Bankers	CAF Bank
Payment service providers	Stripe; PayPal; Equals Money
Investment manager	Schroder Unit Trusts Limited

Trustees

Role	Trustee
Chair	S Gunner
Secretary	H McDonald
Treasurer	P A Haward
Membership Secretary	N-E Riordain
Education Secretary	W Sherwood
Officers without portfolio	N S Anderson
	J S Edmonds
	D P Helen
	S R Westvik (resigned 26 April 2025)

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity was to advance education and promote research, the useful results of which would be published, into the life and works of Professor J.R.R. Tolkien CBE. The charity pursued this by facilitating the exchange of ideas between scholars and others, publishing its journals Amon Hen and Mallorn, holding conferences and seminars including Oxonmoot and Westmoot, supporting scholars through the Tolkien Bursary, distributing books to schools, and maintaining an archive of Tolkien-related material.

During the period the charity published the Proceedings of the Tolkien 2019 Conference, continued publication of its bimonthly bulletin Amon Hen, and held its Annual General Meeting and Springmoot in Cardiff on 26 April 2025. In February 2025 the entire board of trustees convened for a business planning and strategy weekend, the first such face-to-face meeting in six years. In setting its programme the trustees had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

Incorporation

During the period the trustees completed the incorporation of the charity. A successor charity was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation on 7 January 2025 under charity number 1211591, and on 26 April 2025 the assets, liabilities and undertaking of the charity were transferred to it at book value. The objects, beneficiary class and trustee body were not significantly changed. Net assets of £457,477 were transferred.

Costs of £6,073 incurred in connection with the formation of the successor charity, comprising legal and professional fees of £3,679 and costs of £2,394 relating to the appointment of a chief executive, were incurred for the benefit of the successor charity and have accordingly been carried forward as deferred costs at the date of transfer rather than recognised as expenditure of this charity. Costs of £2,037 relating to Oxonmoot, held after the date of transfer, have been carried forward on the same basis.

The charity remains on the register of charities. An application for its removal will be made once these financial statements and those of the successor charity have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

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Disposal of investments

In preparation for the change of legal form, the trustees contacted all organisations with which the charity had a business relationship to confirm whether its assets, liabilities and contracts could be transferred to the successor charity. All confirmed that they could, with the exception of Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, with whom the charity had invested in order to hedge against the impact of inflation. Schroders required the charity to disinvest.

In April 2025 markets were affected by global instability arising from concerns over the implementation of tariff barriers on international trade by the United States government. This reduced the value of the investments at the same time as the charity was required to dispose of them. The holdings were sold on 25 April 2025 for £173,385 against a carrying value of £184,825 at 31 December 2024, crystallising a loss of £11,440.

Financial review

Income for the period was £81,941 and expenditure £51,864, giving net income before investment losses of £30,077. After the loss crystallised on the disposal of investments of £11,440, the net movement in funds was £18,637. Net assets at 26 April 2025, all of which were transferred to the successor charity, were £457,477.

Expenditure for the period includes £4,674 arising on the write-off of stock and sundry debtors brought forward at 31 December 2024 for which no supporting records are available, and £10,410 arising on the correction of payments in advance at the date of transfer; see notes 7 and 11.

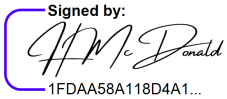
Funds

The charity held no restricted funds. Balances presented as restricted in earlier financial statements, such as those for Tolkien and the World and the Peter Roe Fund, are designated rather than restricted, their earlier presentation having arisen from a misunderstanding of the distinction between the two terms. The Finance Committee confirmed on 22 October 2026 that no funds were received that are restricted and that all funds should be recorded on that basis. It further confirmed that the legacy of £10,000 received from Philip Roe was a general donation and that the will imposed no restriction upon it. The comparative figures have been restated accordingly, as set out in note 10.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the charity, and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The undertaking was transferred as a going concern to the successor charity on 26 April 2025.

Approved by the trustees on 30 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Hannah McDonald, Chair 

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Tolkien Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Tolkien Society for the period ended 26 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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: accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

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 by:
Paul Underwood
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P Underwood, ACA

Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants

Lake House, 2 Port Way, Port Solent, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 4TY

Date: 30 October 2026

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Statement of financial activities

for the period 1 January 2025 to 26 April 2025

	Note	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £ (restated)
Income and endowments from:			
Membership subscriptions	2	45,179	128,798
Donations and legacies	2	12,080	11,452
Charitable activities	3	22,246	116,141
Other trading activities	4	479	8,579
Investments	5	1,957	8,698
Total income		**81,941**	**273,668**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	6	592	2,922
Charitable activities	7	50,357	209,091
Cost of goods sold		915	4,241
Total expenditure		**51,864**	**216,254**
Net income before gains and losses		**30,077**	**57,414**
Net (losses)/gains on investments	9	(11,440)	7,277
Net movement in funds		**18,637**	**64,691**
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		438,840	374,149
Total funds carried forward		**457,477**	**438,840**

All income and expenditure relates to unrestricted funds following the restatement described in note 10. All activities were continuing until the date of transfer. The financial statements are presented in whole pounds and small rounding differences may arise.

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Balance sheet

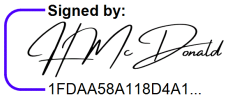
as at 26 April 2025

	Note	26 Apr 2025 £	31 Dec 2024 £ (restated)
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	8	22,320	22,320
Tangible assets	8	2,312	2,905
Heritage assets	8	8,685	8,685
Investments	9	-	184,825
Total fixed assets		**33,317**	**218,735**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	1,122
Debtors	11	7,252	13,216
Prepayments and deferred costs	11	36,397	-
Cash at bank and in hand	12	624,603	346,455
Total current assets		**668,252**	**360,793**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(244,092)	(140,688)
Net current assets		**424,160**	**220,105**
Total net assets		**457,477**	**438,840**
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	10	457,477	438,840
Total funds		**457,477**	**438,840**

The whole of the net assets shown above was transferred to The Tolkien Society (charitable incorporated organisation, registered charity 1211591) on 26 April 2025.

Approved by the trustees on 30 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Hannah McDonald, Chair



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Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation: The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011. The charity met the definition of a public benefit entity. The accounting policies adopted are those applied in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 and have been applied consistently, save for the restatement of funds described in note 10 and the change in the treatment of stock described below.

Transfer of the undertaking: These are the final financial statements of the charity. On 26 April 2025 its assets, liabilities and undertaking were transferred to a charitable incorporated organisation at book value. No adjustment to the carrying value of assets or liabilities was required, as the undertaking was transferred as a going concern and the successor charity has accounted for the reconstruction as a merger.

Income: Income is recognised when the charity is entitled to it, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Membership subscriptions are recognised over the period to which they relate, with amounts relating to later periods deferred. Event income is recognised when the event takes place. Investment income is recognised when receivable.

Expenditure: Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a legal or constructive obligation exists. Costs incurred for the benefit of a future period, or for the benefit of the successor charity, are carried forward as deferred costs.

Investments: Investments were carried at fair value, with gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Intangible assets: The charity held the copyright in a collection of photographic negatives of Professor J.R.R. Tolkien taken by the photographer Pamela Chandler, acquired at auction in 2021.

Tangible fixed assets: Stated at cost less depreciation, provided at rates calculated to write off cost less estimated residual value over expected useful lives, being five years for event equipment.

Heritage assets: Carried at cost and not depreciated.

Stocks: The charity does not hold a significant inventory of goods for resale. Items purchased for sale are expensed as incurred and no amount is carried on the balance sheet.

Funds: Unrestricted funds were available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the charity's objects. Designated funds were unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

2. Income from membership, donations and legacies

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Membership subscriptions	45,179	128,798
Legacies	10,188	200
Donations and gifts	1,892	5,776
Gift Aid	-	5,476
Total	**57,259**	**140,250**

Gift Aid claimed in respect of the period was received by the successor charity and is recognised in its financial statements; see note 11.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Events and other charitable activities	2,018	115,776
Income received by payment service providers not previously recorded	18,581	-
Income from academic journals	1,647	365
Total	**22,246**	**116,141**

Receipts of £129,415 for Oxonmoot and Westmoot received during the period relate to events taking place after 26 April 2025 and are carried forward as deferred income; see note 13.

Income from charitable activities includes £18,581 held by the charity's payment service providers at 26 April 2025 which had not been recorded in the charity's accounting records. Income collected through those providers had been recognised when funds were paid over to the charity's bank account rather than when received by the provider. The correction recognises the income in the period in which it was received; see note 12.

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4. Income from other trading activities

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Sales of merchandise, postcards and back issues	405	8,579
Postage recharged	74	-
Total	**479**	**8,579**

5. Income from investments

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Dividend income from listed investments	1,774	8,065
Bank interest	183	633
Total	**1,957**	**8,698**

Dividend income was received on 28 February 2025, before the portfolio was realised.

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	592	2,922
Total	**592**	**2,922**

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Period to 26 Apr 2025 £	Year to 31 Dec 2024 £
Newsletter and annual journal	17,543	67,132
Storage	2,926	6,501
AGM	2,406	3,723
Membership services	2,197	-
Correction of payments in advance (note 11)	10,410	-
Write-off of sundry debtors (note 11)	3,759	-
Seminar	469	-
Westmoot	240	-
Events and other	-	96,769
Other expenses	10,407	34,966
Total	**50,357**	**209,091**

Other expenses include business planning of £5,365, internet and software of £3,109, payment processing charges of £1,439, bank charges of £23, European VAT of £114 and sundry items.

Costs of £6,073 relating to the formation of the successor charity and £2,037 relating to Oxonmoot, held after the date of transfer, have been carried forward as deferred costs and are not included above; see note 11.

8. Fixed assets

	Intangible £	Tangible £	Heritage £
Cost at 1 January 2025	22,320	10,280	8,685
Additions	-	-	-
Cost at 26 April 2025	**22,320**	**10,280**	**8,685**
Depreciation at 1 January 2025	-	7,375	-
Charge for the period	-	593	-
Depreciation at 26 April 2025	**-**	**7,968**	**-**
Net book value at 26 April 2025	**22,320**	**2,312**	**8,685**
Net book value at 31 December 2024	22,320	2,905	8,685

The intangible asset is the copyright in the Pamela Chandler photographic negatives, acquired at auction in 2021. No amortisation was charged by this charity; the successor charity has introduced amortisation over the remaining life of the copyright.

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The heritage assets comprise items purchased at auction: letters from Professor J.R.R. Tolkien and Mrs Edith Tolkien to the photographer Pamela Chandler acquired in 2021, a further letter in 2022, and silver coins and a bottle of single malt whisky in a box made from Professor Tolkien's favourite pine tree in 2023. The charity's archive of books, fanzines, newspaper clippings, costumes and other memorabilia is not valued and no amount is included for it, as it would not be practical to value material most of which is of no monetary value. The archive is held in secure conditions at the Surrey Heritage Centre under a written acquisitions and disposals policy.

9. Investments

	Listed investments £
Carrying (fair) value at 1 January 2025	184,825
Disposal proceeds received 25 April 2025	(173,385)
Loss crystallised on disposal	(11,440)
Carrying value at 26 April 2025	**-**

The circumstances giving rise to the loss are described in the trustees' annual report. The charity held no other investments.

10. Funds and restatement of comparatives

The charity previously presented five funds as restricted income funds, totalling £166,834 at 31 December 2024. The trustees have reviewed the origin of each fund and have concluded that the charity has never held restricted funds. None of the balances arose from income given for a specific purpose by a donor, and no trustee minute or other document created a restriction. They represent the charity's general income and transfers made at the trustees' own discretion, and are properly classified within unrestricted funds, as designated or undesignated funds.

The comparative figures have been restated accordingly. The reclassification has no effect on total funds. The comparatives have also been restated to include £4,569 of cash held in United States dollar accounts which was omitted from the cash figure in the 2024 financial statements; see note 12.

	As previously stated £	Restatement £	As restated £
Unrestricted funds	267,437		
Reclassification of funds previously presented as restricted		166,834	
Restatement of cash at bank		4,569	
Total funds at 31 December 2024			**438,840**

The basis of this conclusion was recorded in a minute of the Finance Committee on 22 October 2026. The trustees had not designated any part of the charity's unrestricted funds for a specific purpose at the date of transfer.

11. Debtors, prepayments and deferred costs

	26 Apr 2025 £	31 Dec 2024 £
Gift Aid recoverable	6,694	10,784
Westmoot venue deposit	558	558
Sundry debtors and payments in advance	-	1,874
Payments in advance	28,287	-
Deferred costs carried forward	8,110	-
Total	**43,649**	**13,216**

Payments in advance comprise deposits of £11,438 paid to St Anne's College, Oxford in respect of Oxonmoot, held in September 2025; £16,104, being US$20,647.50, paid to the National WWI Museum and Memorial in respect of Westmoot, held from 9 to 11 May 2025; six months of archive storage of £689; and two months of accounting software of £56.

Payments in advance at the date of transfer were originally recorded as £38,697. On review, that figure included an error of £8,408 in the translation of the Westmoot venue payment from United States dollars, a duplication of £578 in respect of the Westmoot venue deposit, £1,250 of travel costs which were expenditure of the period rather than a payment in advance, and a residual difference of £175. The total correction of £10,410 has been charged to expenditure; see note 7.

Deferred costs comprise £6,073 incurred in connection with the formation of the successor charity and £2,037 relating to Oxonmoot, which was held after the date of transfer. Both were incurred for the benefit of the successor charity and were transferred to it on 26 April 2025.

Sundry debtors and payments in advance brought forward at 31 December 2024, amounting to £3,759, together with stock of £915, have been written off during the period. No supporting records are available and the amounts are not material. Gift Aid recoverable at 26 April 2025 was settled by HMRC on 30 June 2025 and is recognised in the successor charity's financial statements.

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12. Cash at bank and in hand

	26 Apr 2025 £	31 Dec 2024 £
CAF Bank	584,961	327,260
PayPal – sterling	10,780	5,584
Stripe – sterling	8,059	5,013
Equals Money – sterling	10,464	2,687
Accounts denominated in US dollars	10,339	5,911
Total	**624,603**	**346,455**

Balances denominated in United States dollars comprise PayPal US$8,103.26, Stripe US$4,446.14 and Equals Money US$1,214.77, translated at the closing rate of US$1.3313 to £1. The balances with the charity's payment service providers at 26 April 2025 had not previously been recorded in full; see note 3. The CAF Bank balance includes the proceeds of the investment disposal of £173,385 received on 25 April 2025. The 2024 comparative is the total of the individual account balances recorded at that date. The 2024 financial statements showed cash of £341,886; the difference of £4,569 relates to accounts denominated in United States dollars which were omitted from that figure, and the comparative has been restated accordingly; see note 10.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	26 Apr 2025 £	31 Dec 2024 £
Membership subscriptions received in advance	114,628	102,163
Oxonmoot advance receipts	80,593	37,490
Westmoot advance receipts	48,822	-
Trade creditors	49	1,035
Total	**244,092**	**140,688**

Membership subscriptions may be paid at any point in the year and last for twelve months, with the months relating to the following year deferred. The amount deferred is calculated from the charity's membership database, which apportions subscriptions over the period to which they relate. Event registrations are deferred until the event takes place. Westmoot 2025 was held from 9 to 11 May 2025 and Oxonmoot in September 2025, both after the date of transfer, so the related receipts passed to the successor charity as deferred income.

14. Transfer of the undertaking

On 26 April 2025 the whole of the charity's assets, liabilities and activities, amounting to net assets of £457,477, were transferred to The Tolkien Society, a charitable incorporated organisation registered on 7 January 2025 under charity number 1211591. The transfer was made at book value. The objects, beneficiary class and trustee body were not significantly changed, and the transfer has accordingly been treated as a reconstruction rather than a disposal. The successor charity has accounted for the reconstruction as a merger under the Charities SORP, presenting the results of both bodies for the whole of the year ended 31 December 2025.

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received remuneration during the period and the charity had no employees. Expenses totalling £3,591 were reimbursed to nine trustees during the period, in respect of travel, accommodation and related costs incurred in attending the charity's events and meetings, including the board's business planning weekend in February 2025.

16. Related party transactions

Other than the transfer of the undertaking described in note 14 and the position disclosed in note 15, there were no related party transactions.