Charity Registration No. 313051

Company Registration No. 01002955 (England and Wales)

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COUNCIL'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their report and the financial statements for Alpine Club Library (the Company) for the year end 31 December 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report for Companies Act purposes.

The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Our purposes and general activities

The Alpine Club Library charity's purpose and principal activity is to care for and manage the collections of mountaineering books, tracts, archives, artefacts, photographs and paintings owned, in the main, by the Alpine Club, and to make them available to the public. Based in the Alpine Club's London premises, the Alpine Club Library manages one of the most significant collections of mountain material world-wide which provides an important source of reference.

To achieve these purposes, the Library gains funds by: the sale of duplicate books; the sale of reproduction rights for photographs; commissions from painting sales; contributions from members of the public and organisations who use the Library; occasional support from grant making bodies and occasional appeals primarily - though not exclusively - to the Club membership. The Library actively seeks donations in kind of archives, photographs, paintings and books. We consider all items for addition to our collections and we also retain duplicates (and triplicates or quadruples) as needed. We publish a regular list of surplus books for sale; recycling books back into circulation for interested readers. The acquisition and disposal of rare and important book volumes is only carried out in consultation with the Club; a restricted Acquisitions & Restoration Fund exists for the purposes of acquiring specialist books. There has been no change in these policies during the year.

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the activities, the Members of Council have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running A Charity (PB2)'.

Financial review and reserves policy

The results for the year show a surplus of £123,575 (2024: £9,715), after accounting for total gains on investments of £143,911 (2024: £110,328). Realised gains for the year totalled £7,248 (2024: £6,666). Unrealised gains which are not cash items and solely reflect the movement of the investments with regard to the value of the portfolio at the year end totalled £136,663 (2024: £103,662).

Total funds carried forward were £1,590,659 (2024: £1,467,084) of which £1,457,781 (2024: £1,317,458) were unrestricted funds, £4,311 (2024: £12,880) were designated and £128,567 were restricted funds (2024: £136,746).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure, which is between £20,500 and £41,000 at current levels. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. In the event of reserves not meeting the required amount to fund the expenditure of the charity, the trustees have discussed realising some of the charity's investments to meet the shortfall. The charity had free reserves of £1,457,781 at the year end (2024: £1,317,458).

With the authority of the Charity Commissioners, the Library's investments were managed on a discretionary basis by Quilter Cheviot Asset Management. These investments provide a vital source of income to support the salary for our professional Librarian and the costs of our premises. Investment income for the year was £36,904 (2024: £39,748). The value of listed investments increased from £1,413,440 to £1,553,110 at 31 December 2025.

Notes 13 and 14 set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds and a description of the funds held. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

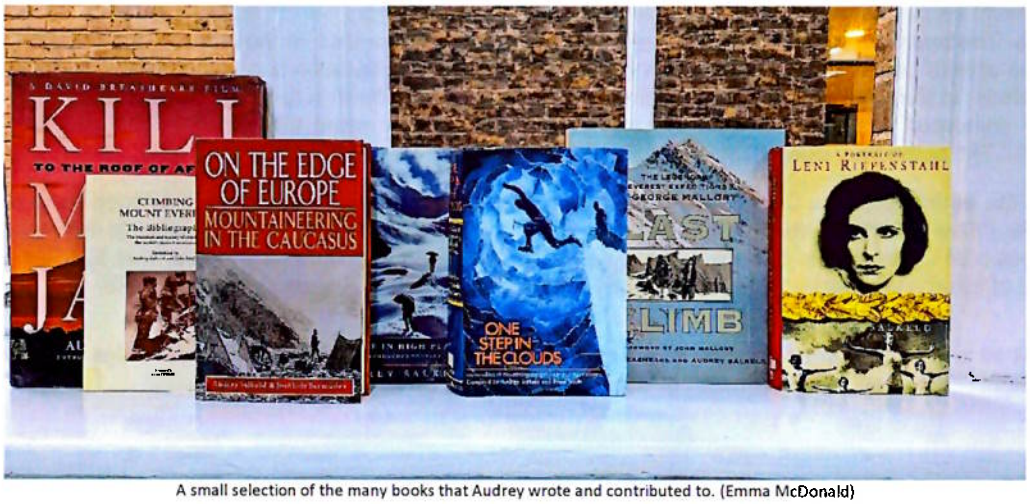
People and Events

The number of physical visitors to the Library and the Collections in 2025 was similar to that during the past couple of years, but low by historical standards. This follows the continuing trend for both Members and the general public to conduct their research by accessing material online; a trend which has likely been enhanced following the launch of the new AC website during 2025 with upgraded content and easier access. As well as the usual business of hosting visitors and answering online enquiries, Emma, our Librarian, also hosted a number of formal visits, tours and open days during the year. Members of CILIP (the UK professional library and information association) visited in March and were given a tour covering the history of the Club and the Heritage Collections, with opportunities to view some of the rare books and other items from the collections. Later, in June, a virtual tour was arranged for the Cambridge Librarians Group; run as an online session with a presentation about the history of the collections followed by a video tour. Following the success of the Heritage Open Days in 2024, two more tours were run in 2025. Both were fully booked and involved showing groups of the public around the Charlotte Road building while explaining the history of the Club and its collections.

We remain grateful, as always, for donations and contributions from members, private individuals and charitable bodies. Funds received during 2025 have been used to support conservation and restoration of the collections, alongside investment in a new collections management system (detailed later in this report). We were delighted to receive a further grant award of $10,000 from the Chalten Fund of the Marin Community Foundation, which is Patagonia's non-profit shareholder, recommended by the Holdfast Collective. This is the third year in a row in which we have received an award from the Chalten Fund.

One of the most significant events of the year was the establishment of the Alpine Club Heritage Board (ACHB). This came about following detailed discussion of the Club's heritage collections at the Leading Through strategy weekend held at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre in November 2024. The Club holds world-class collections of literature, photographs, artefacts and art, and recognises the need to spread awareness of this amazing resource more widely, both to the membership and to the public at large. The AC Committee therefore established the ACHB to ensure that the challenges associated with storage, custodianship and dissemination of the collections are responded to proactively in the future. Membership of the Board comprises the Keepers of Pictures, Photographs, Artefacts and Monuments, together with the Honorary Librarian, the Honorary Archivist, the Honorary Secretary, the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Library Council. The full terms of reference of the ACHB are listed in the new 2025 edition of the Alpine Club Handbook, and the Board held its first meeting in February 2025.

The first major initiative of the ACHB was the recommendation to establish a bursary to provide researchers, writers, artists, videographers and filmmakers with an opportunity to visit and conduct research using the AC library, archives and heritage collections. Following discussions with and enthusiastic support from her sons, it was agreed to name the bursary in memory of the renowned mountain writer and AC member Audrey Salkeld. The Audrey Salkeld Bursary aims to facilitate new research into alpinism and mountaineering in general and to raise awareness of the AC's library, archive and heritage collections amongst members, climbers, mountaineers and the wider public. The bursary proposal was enthusiastically supported by the AC Committee, and it was agreed that the 2025 donation from the Holdfast Collective could be used to fund it for three years in the first instance. Lina Arthur kindly agreed to lead the initiative and put together a selection panel comprising herself as chair, Adèle Long, Nick Simons, Terry Gifford and Philip Meredith (representing the ACHB). The bursary was widely advertised, and by the closing date of 31 December 15 high-quality applications had been received. The selection panel will meet in early 2026 with the aim of notifying successful applicants by early February.



A small selection of the many books that Audrey wrote and contributed to. (Emma McDonald)

In another initiative, and thanks to Emma's efforts, the AC collections now have a presence on Bloomberg Connects. This is a free global app that allows organisations to upload material from their collections to complement exhibitions and events. Our pages showcase items from the collections relating to Everest and the Art Collection as well as additional audio and video material from exhibitions past and present. The content can be extended and enhanced at any time if we want to add further information or images. Bloomberg Connects is available in the App and Google Play Stores.

During September, preliminary discussions were held with Salto Ulbeek about collaborating on the production and sale of limited-edition prints of select historic photographs held in the AC Photo Library collections. Salto Ulbeek (www.salto-ulbeek.com) is a Belgian photographic publisher and printing company specialising in the platinum-palladium printing process. For over a decade they have been collaborating with the Royal Geographical Society and the Scott Polar Research Institute in scanning negatives of iconic photographs from the Scott, Shackleton and early Everest expeditions and producing limited-edition platinum-palladium prints from those scans. We are now discussing the possibility of a similar arrangement with the AC. The three principals of the company visited Charlotte Road for two days during December, when they were able to look through a wide range of historic black and white negatives. Our aim is to establish an agreement that will allow Salto Ulbeek to scan selected images in ultra-high resolution early in 2026 with a view to both preservation of the images and commercial sale of limited-edition platinum-palladium prints, providing an income stream to support improvements in the conservation and curation of the AC's heritage collections.

For several years now Trustees/Directors of the Alpine Club Library charitable company have been appointed for a fixed term of three years. For consistency, it was agreed at the 2025 AGM that this term should also apply to Members. The three-year term of office of Robin Ashcroft, our RGS nominated Trustee/Director, expired at the 2025 AGM, but I am pleased to report that the Director of the RGS, Professor Joe Smith, has renominated Robin for a further three-year term. Even more pleasing is that Robin has accepted.



Glyn Hughes (left) arranging for the loan of AC items to the Musée Alpin in Chamonix in 2015.

It is with sadness that I report that Glyn Hughes has stepped down as AC Honorary Archivist for health reasons, after performing that role diligently for many years. To say that Glyn has been a stalwart of the Club is a severe understatement. What hasn't he done? Honorary secretary, vice-president, barman (with the rather grandiose title of Chair of the Wine Committee) and, latterly, Honorary Archivist for longer than anyone can remember. Glyn had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Club, its history and its collections. More importantly, he was always happy to share that knowledge. I can hardly find the words to thank him sufficiently for all his hard work and dedication over the years. In lieu of sufficient words, I was therefore exceptionally pleased to see his dedication and commitment rewarded with the granting of Honorary Membership at the 2025 AGM. Glyn's witty acceptance noted that he was delighted equally by the honour and by the fact that he no longer has to pay his annual subscription!

Glyn's departure presents us with a significant challenge in finding someone to fill his rather large shoes. We are therefore very grateful to Gordon Turner, our Honorary Librarian, for stepping up to the plate on a temporary basis and committing a day every week to keeping the archives in good order. I have noted in previous reports that we are always looking for volunteers to help with custodianship of the collections, but it is now a priority to appoint a new Honorary Archivist. If anyone is interested in taking on that role, either someone with archive experience or someone prepared to learn the required skills with Club support, then please contact myself (chair.acl@alpineclub.org) or the Honorary Secretary (honsec@alpineclub.org) to discuss it. Not only can the work itself be very rewarding, but it also opens the door to a truly wondrous world of mountaineering heritage.

Collections

I have noted previously that collections never get smaller but invariably increase in size over time. This puts continual pressure on the work required to organise, catalogue and manage the holdings, but primarily it puts pressure on space. That pressure came to a head during 2025, when the Club was offered two major donations; the photographic archive of John Cleare and the document archive of Audrey Salkeld. There being no possibility of storing this extensive material in the basement of Charlotte Road, the Club was left with the stark choice of either refusing the donations or finding an alternative storage facility. Because rents in London are very high, a site outside the city was sought. In the end, a commercial unit on the Bowood Estate in north Wiltshire was leased and the Cleare and Salkeld collections were moved there in November and December. The unit comprises a secure space measuring approximately 55m2 which can be utilised as both a storage and study facility, and which has internal access to a shared kitchenette and toilet/bathroom.



The new storage facility at Bowood

It has become clear over the past several years that the Club's Koha library management system is no longer fit for purpose. The platform is unstable, and this has led to multiple crashes and the Library Catalogue being frequently unavailable. It also fails to meet current data standards, which means that AC records are not compatible with other libraries, archives and heritage collections. After discussion of this issue, our conclusion was that the Club should invest in a new, flexible Collections Management System (CMS) that would be hosted externally and supported by a service provider. The new system should be able to catalogue details from the different parts of the Club's collections, should be web-based and should allow multiple concurrent users to access the catalogue from external locations. During the summer of 2025, 12 different CMSs were considered, demonstrations arranged and attributes examined. After this process, it was recommended that the Club should purchase the Axiell CMS as the most adaptable, reliable and cost-effective solution. This was accepted by the AC Committee and we expect to place the order in January 2026. It is then likely to take a significant part of 2026 to migrate all the catalogue data to the new system.

Collections

The year has been very busy, with regular donations from current members and the family and loved ones of deceased members. These kind and very generous donations enable the AC Library to fill gaps on its shelves, to replace worn and damaged copies, or to sell duplicate books to members, with the money being reinvested in the upkeep and preservation of the Library's books.

Book donations have been received from or on behalf of the following: Peter Berg (past AC Honorary Archivist); John Cleare; Marcel Fischli; Dudley Green; Barbara Grigor-Taylor (past AC Honorary Librarian); John Harding (past AC Vice-President); Glyn Hughes (AC Honorary Archivist); Nigel Osmaston; Bill Ruthven (past-Secretary of the Mount Everest Foundation); and G R Speaker (FRCC).

In addition to the book donations to the Library, there has been an ongoing programme of conservation and preservation work, with some unique and delicate volumes carefully restored by Cyril Titus who continues to deliver high-quality conservation work for us.

Every donation is welcome, whether it is one volume or a whole library. The Library is hugely grateful to all those Club members, family members and members of the public who have donated books during the year. Thank you!

Archives

The most significant event of the year was the donation of Audrey Salkeld's archive by her sons, Adam and Ed. Since Audrey was such a prolific author, it will come as no surprise to members that this comprises an immense amount of material and even a Transit van was not large enough to transport it in a single journey. Nevertheless, the complete archive now resides in the new Bowood storage facility. Whilst it is a treasure trove of information, it is likely to take considerable time and effort to adequately sort and catalogue.

Photographs

During the year the Alpine Club Photo Library (ACPL) was pleased to receive donations of slides from Richard Armstrong and Raymond Percy Bicknell, together with Christine Bainbridge's images from her research into Norman Collie, and Barbie Kempe's donation of two albums of photos from her late husband, John Kempe, of the Kulu and Yalung valleys taken during the initial reconnaissance for the 1955 Kangchenjunga expedition.

In addition, the photographic collection of the noted mountain photographer John Cleare was donated by his daughter Joselyn. This is an extensive collection and is currently being stored at Bowood until we have the resource to curate it properly. However, the collection is very well documented, so it should prove to be relatively straightforward for researchers to use and to access specific images.

As ever, the ACPL supplied photographs for a number of mountaineering books, including the *Alpine Journal*, and for the 70th anniversary Kangchenjunga exhibition held at Charlotte Road and the John Porter film *Kangchenjunga – The Five Treasures of the Snows*. In a related event, Matt Sharman and Dom Bush visited Charlotte Road to view and film Vittorio Sella's famous Himalayan panorama, which includes the first ever photographic record of the distant Mount Everest. The panorama was taken during Douglas Freshfield's 1899 circumnavigation of Kangchenjunga. Matt and Dom subsequently went in search of, and found, the exact location from which Sella took the photograph. This is recorded in their film *A Thousand Words*, co-sponsored by the Alpine Club and presented at the Kendal Mountain Festival.



Vittorio Sella's Everest panorama, now the subject of a documentary film by Matt Sharman and Dom Bush.

The Club again held a photographic competition during 2025 to seek outstanding mountain photography from among its members in three competition categories: AC Gatherings, Alpine Climbing/Mountaineering and Mountain Landscape. The winning entries and other outstanding photographs were exhibited in the lecture room at Charlotte Road; detailed later in this report.

The ongoing activity of digitally scanning photos and slides continued, with scanning of the photographs of all past AC Presidents now completed.

Pictures

During the year we embraced a new picture collection database by Art Logic and Janet Johnson, Assistant Keeper of Pictures, has made great progress in migrating across the existing 740 images from the old Filemaker Pro database crafted by John Fairley when he was Keeper of Pictures. The next step is to upload, catalogue and check a further 700+ images that were scanned by The Watercolour World project for their website. This is an ongoing process that has thrown up a number of wonderful paintings that have languished in the archives for many years. One fine example is a watercolour panorama of the Himalaya; 'Kumuon Panorama – Nanda Devi and Nanda Kot' by Thomas Stuart Kennedy, 1883. The delicate marks and clarity of execution are remarkable.



'Pizzo Badile and Pizzo Cengalo viewed from the North' by John Colton (Photo by Janet Johnson)

After stepping down from his role as Honorary Archivist, Glyn Hughes kindly donated a collection of framed paintings and prints that he had acquired from exhibitions held at Charlotte Road and private galleries. Notable amongst these works was a vigorous pastel by John Colton; 'Pizzo Badile and Pizzo Cengalo viewed from the North'.

Continuing with the work over the last few years to improve the condition of all the important paintings on display at Charlotte Road, the final two have now been conserved. The large watercolour that hung in the Committee Room, 'Himalayas from Almora' by A W Williams (1824 - 1905) had a large water stain due to the use of inappropriate backing material, while the canvas of the large oil painting 'Seracs' by E T Coleman (1823 - 1892) presented to Thomas Hinchcliffe, first Honorary Secretary of the AC, that hung in one of the front alcoves in the lecture room, was badly sagged due to compression of its frame. Both cleaned and restored paintings have now been returned to the Clubhouse and will be re-hung in different but appropriate locations.

Artefacts

We are both delighted and very grateful that ice axe expert Denis Pivot has produced a detailed guide to the Club's ice axe collection; with thanks for proofreading to Jeff and Fiona Ford. The guide is available to download from the Artefacts page on the AC website. It provides individual details of each ice axe, including size and manufacturer as well as ownership and biographical information. Each entry has photographs of the different parts of the axe, and many include images of the sources used to trace their history, such as advertisements, catalogues and guidebooks. Overall, this is a useful and comprehensive resource for anyone interested in the historical and technical development of mountaineering. It represents a great deal of effort and that effort will be put to good use during 2026 when we will be mounting an exhibition of historic ice tools in the lecture room.



Joe Brown's Super Conta ice axe by Charlet-Moser (complete with covers for the head). One of many axes detailed in Denis Pivot's new guide to the Club's collection of ice tools.

A set of first-generation *Friends*, together with their associated paperwork, has been donated by Adam Roberts. Adam bought these 'new-fangled devices' shortly after constructing the eclectic Beveridge Block to protect climbing the external wall of the LSE (see the 2024 Annual Report for details), noting that they would have been ideal for the climb and would have saved him a great deal of work. The donated Friends will join our existing collection of 'old school' protection, which includes Moacs and Hexcentrics.

Exhibitions

The Exhibitions programme for 2025, largely based in Charlotte Road, continued to be varied and interesting, with a mixture of mountain-linked Fine Art displayed, key anniversaries marked and the Club's heritage collection celebrated.

What would Lucy Say?

The year started with the last few weeks of the *What Would Lucy Say?* exhibition, which had opened in November 2024, marking the anniversaries of the vote by the AC to admit women members and the subsequent merger of the Ladies' Alpine Club with the Alpine Club. Before the exhibition closed, a video tour was filmed which is now available on the Club's website, as well as on YouTube. It is hoped to develop this aspect of exhibitions further, where appropriate, to make them more accessible to members who cannot get to London in person.

In March Lucy went on tour and was displayed as part of a Special 50th Anniversary Winter Meet in the Scottish Highlands, based at the Corran bunkhouse, which celebrated the women of the Alpine Club, past and present.



Lucy on tour at the Corran bunkhouse for the 50th Anniversary Meet (Adèle Long)

Mountain Paintings from the New English Art Club

Lucy was followed in February and March by a showing of recent works from the New English Art Club (NEAC), curated by Patrick Cullen (the current President), and reviving a sadly lapsed tradition of their work being exhibited regularly at the Alpine Club. The NEAC is a society for contemporary artists, formed in 1886 as an alternative to the Royal Academy, and shares a strong mountain art heritage with the AC, with travelling and *plein air* painting forming a major part of its activities. Some of the NEAC's founding members looked across the Channel at the French Impressionists and were heavily influenced by their new emphasis on working outdoors, direct from nature, while others looked back a few decades earlier and found inspiration in the travels of their compatriot J M W Turner, and especially his pioneering work in the Alps. Founder member John Singer Sargent was inspired to travel in Turner's footsteps and painted in Switzerland, while other well-known NEAC members, including Duncan Grant, Winifred Nicolson, Paul Nash, Hercules Brabazon Brabazon, Stanley Spencer, Edward Bawden and Fred Cumin also painted mountain scenery,. More recently, AC and NEAC member Neil Pittaway has made a number of trips to the Himalaya and Atlas mountains, and Patrick Cullen completed the Annapurna circuit, both painting and sketching as they went. Several works inspired by these peregrinations featured in the exhibition, alongside paintings from Peter Brown, Toby Ward, Jane Corsellis, Ben Hope, Mary Jackson, Julie Jackson, Alex Fowler, Peter Kuhfield, Julie Held and Tom Coates. Works by the renowned mountain artist and AC Associate Member James Hart Dyke were also exhibited in his capacity as an honoured guest of the NEAC.



One of the works featured in the NEAC exhibition: 'Above and Below. Annapurna 3 Nepal'

by Patrick Cullen, Oil, 33x42cm.

Kangchenjunga – The Five Treasures of the Snows

2025 saw the 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Kangchenjunga, celebrated by an exhibition and the showing of John Porter's commemorative film *Kangchenjunga - The Five Treasures of the Snows*. The Kangchenjunga Expedition was led by Charles Evans, with members Norman Hardie, George Band, Joe Brown, John Clegg, John Jackson, Tom McKinnon, Neil Mather, Tony Streather, Dawa Tensing and a large Sherpa team. On 25 May 1955, George Band and Joe Brown climbed to just short of the top of the third highest mountain in the world, in accordance with a promise given to the local community, that the summit of the mountain would remain inviolate. On 26 May, Hardie and Streather repeated the climb. An exhibition of expedition memorabilia was displayed at Charlotte Road, including John Kempe's album of photographs of the Yalung Valley from the first Kangchenjunga Reconnaissance Expedition in 1953. As noted earlier, this was a recent donation to the AC by his widow and was on display for the first time.

Elijah Walton and Theodore Howard Somervell

Summer saw exhibitions of paintings by two key members of the Club, who were important artists in their own right. June's exhibition was of the Club's collection of Elijah Walton's work. Elijah Walton (1832-1880), elected an AC member in 1863, was born in Bromsgrove, where he died aged 47. Two AC presidents, William Mathews and the Rev. T G Bonney, encouraged Walton to travel with them in the Alps and to undertake his artistic studies there. All three of them, largely, followed Ruskin's ideals, with their love of nature and its depiction, combined with spiritual and scientific development and exploration. Painting in oils and watercolours, Walton exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy, the British Institution and the Suffolk Street Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists as well as, of course, the Alpine Club. His Alpine paintings put him on the Victorian map and lavish praise followed his many exhibitions.



'Rainstorm over Kyetrak Peak (1924)' by T H Somervell, Watercolour, 22x26cm.

(© TH Somervell Estate, image courtesy Graham Hoyland)

The Walton exhibition was followed by a major showing of Howard Somervell's work. Dr Theodore Howard Somervell (1890-1975), was elected an AC member in 1921, then appointed vice-president for 1954-56 and president for 1962-65. He was a member of both the 1922 and 1924 Everest expeditions. On the former occasion he reached 27,000 feet and, on the latter, passed 28,000 feet. Somervell had qualified as a surgeon at the outbreak of the First World War and in July 1915 was posted to the Somme. He was asked to join the 1922 Everest expedition as a physiologist, and was heavily involved in the testing and use of oxygen equipment. During the walk into base camp, he treated many patients on the way and studied Chinese and Tibetan art in the monasteries and palaces along the route. He also painted several pastels and watercolours that are now in the AC collection. As well as being a most distinctive artist, he was also a gifted musician. Professionally, he gave up an outstanding opportunity on the surgical staff at University College Hospital to devote most of his life after Everest to a medical mission in southern India. After being shown at Charlotte Road, this exhibition of his work transferred to the Heaton Cooper Gallery in Grasmere in the English Lake District.

Recent Donations and Discoveries

In September and October, recent donations to the AC were displayed for the first time, alongside paintings rediscovered from the archive. The AC is honoured to receive legacy donations from members and their families, who see the Club as custodians of our Alpine heritage. The exhibition included items from the estates of Frank Smythe and Wilfred Noyce, which were actually donated during the Covid pandemic but had no previous opportunity to be displayed, together with more recent donations from Glyn Hughes. A particularly lovely watercolour donated by Glyn is of a sailing yacht in what we assume is a fjord, surrounded by mountains shrouded in mist, by the English painter Henry Richard Beadon Donne (1860-1949). This painting now hangs above the bar in the lecture room as a tribute to Glyn. Also shown for the first time were three framed watercolours by Eric Walter Powell (1886-1933), donated by Francis Gladstone. As well as being a watercolourist, Powell was an alpinist (AC member from 1925) and rowed for Great Britain in the 1908 Olympic Games. He was art master at Eton and was a close friend of Charles Gladstone, Francis Gladstone's father, who taught French, German and Russian. He died in the Alps in 1933. There are two unidentified lake scenes in these pictures and exhibition visitors were asked if they could identify them. No luck so far!



The unidentified lake scenes by E W Powell

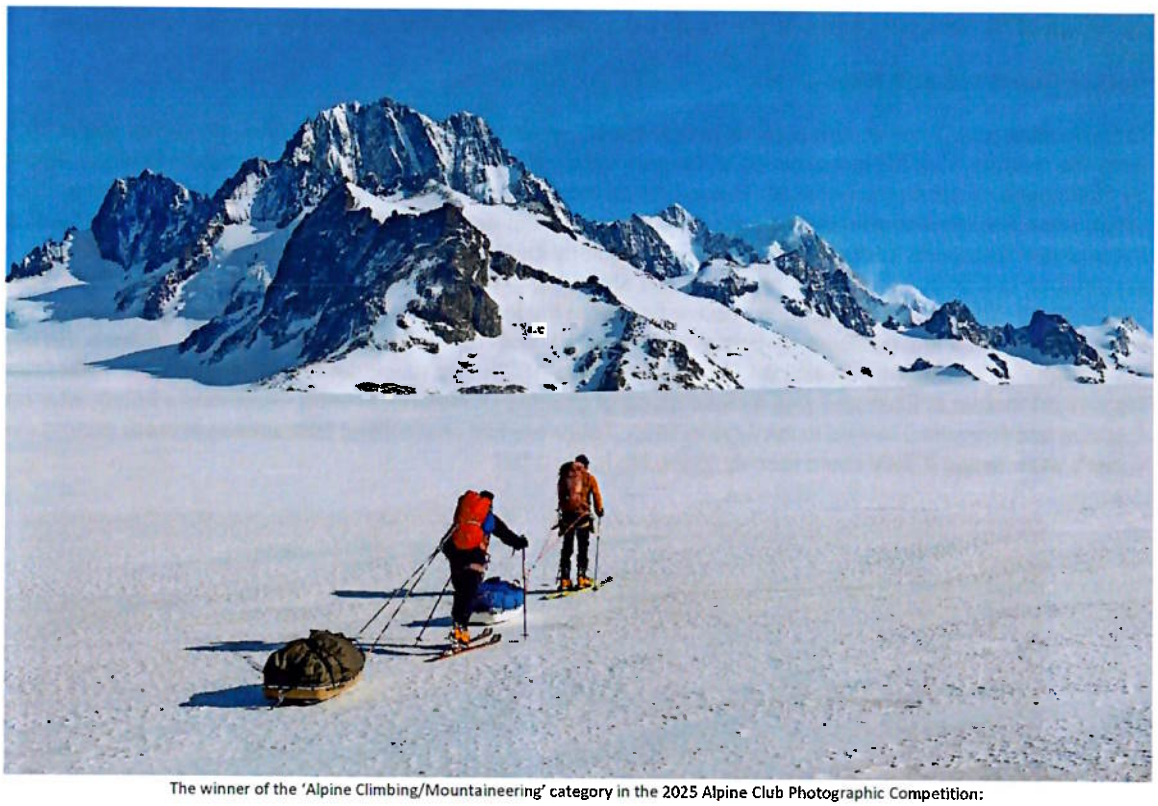
ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Alpine Club Photographic Competition

The year ended with an exhibition of entries from the Club's Photographic Competition. This was run in three categories: Alpine Climbing/Mountaineering, Mountain Landscape and AC Gatherings, with the winning entries being chosen by Ben Tibbetts from amongst 81 submissions. Category winners and commended entries were displayed as large, high quality photographic prints. The three winners were, respectively: Iain Young for *Mount Macklin approach, Salomon Glacier, South Georgia*; Fi Bunn for *Le Cervin 4478*; and Michael de Csilléry *for Tom de Csilléry teetering on the airy crest of Pointe Young on the Rochefort-Grandes Jorasses traverse, July 2024*. The exhibition celebrated not only the incredible and wide-ranging activities of our members, but also the vast wealth of photographic talent within the Club. The displayed photographs were subsequently used to produce the 2026 AC Calendar; linking into a point made earlier of trying to widen the audience able to enjoy the exhibitions programme, regardless of where they are based geographically.



The winner of the 'Alpine Climbing/Mountaineering' category in the 2025 Alpine Club Photographic Competition:

Mount Macklin Approach, Salomon Glacier, South Georgia by Iain Young.

The Exhibitions Sub-Committee always welcomes suggestions for future exhibitions, together with offers of help to curate them.

End Note

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who gave their time so generously and ungrudgingly throughout the year to research, conservation and dissemination activities related to the Club's collections. Many thanks also to all those who provided the details of activities needed to compile this report; Nigel Buckley, Bernie Ingrams, Janet Johnson, Emma MacDonald, Suzanne Strawther and Gordon Turner.

Philip Meredith

Chair of the Council of Trustees of the Alpine Club Library

June 2026

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	313051
Company number:	01002955
Registered office:	55 Charlotte Road, London, EC2A 3QF
Company secretary:	Professor Philip Meredith

Our advisers

Independent Examiners and Auditors	TC Group The Courtyard Shoreham Road Upper Beeding Steyning BN44 3TN
Bankers	NatWest Group 250 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4AA
Investment advisors	Quilter Cheviot Limited Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4AB
Honorary solicitor	David Unwin

Members of Council

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law.

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:
Professor Philip Meredith (Chairman)
Kimball Morrison
Robin Ashcroft
Trevor Campbell Davis
Alan Henderson
Gordon Turner
John Porter

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Structure, governance and management

Alpine Club Library is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 February 1971. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The Library is managed by a Council of Trustees, comprising five members nominated by the Alpine Club, one by the Royal Geographical Society and one by the British Mountaineering Council. Day to day book library operations are in the care of a salaried professional librarian who works closely with the Honorary Librarian. Other collections are managed by our volunteer Honorary Keepers and Honorary Archivist.

None of the Members of Council has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Members of Council are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £5 in the event of a winding up. The Members of Council are fully aware of their responsibilities as Trustees of the charity.

Risk

The Board of Trustees holds overall responsibility for Risk Management for the organisation and has conducted a review of the major risks to which the organisation is exposed. Consequently and where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks that the Charity faces.

Appreciation

Finally, I cannot end this report without expressing gratitude to everyone in the Library Team and to all the Volunteers who gave their time so ungrudgingly throughout the year. Without your efforts the ACL could not function. Thank you!

We are open to the public 46 weeks of the year

The Library opens to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (except during August and the Christmas – New Year week), but please email to check, particularly if travelling from afar. Appointments are possible on other days by prior arrangement with the Librarian. Some of our historic items are only available by appointment. The catalogues of Books and Archives, and the Himalayan Index (which lists all summits and climbs in the Himalayas) can also be accessed via the Alpine Club website. We always look forward to welcoming visitors.

Statement of the Members of Council's responsibilities

The directors, who constitute the Executive Committee, are responsible for preparing the 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 Executive Committee to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Executive Committee is required to:

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

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

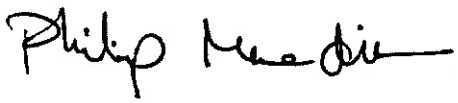
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COUNCIL'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Executive Committee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board of Members of Council



Professor Philip Meredith (Chairman)
Dated: 26.09.2026

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charitable Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

TC Group

Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
Independent Examiner
for and on behalf of
TC Group
The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

Dated: 28/9/26

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies		**11,726**	**144**	**-**	**11,870**	23,925
Other trading activities		**17,490**	**408**	**-**	**17,898**	18,101
Investment income	**5**	**36,904**	**-**	**-**	**36,904**	39,748
Total income		**66,120**	**552**	**-**	**66,672**	81,774
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		**9,996**	**-**	**-**	**9,996**	9,307
Charitable activities:						
Library operation		**59,712**	**9,121**	**8,179**	**77,012**	73,080
Total expenditure	**6**	**69,708**	**9,121**	**8,179**	**87,008**	82,387
Other losses	**13**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	(100,000)
Net gains on investments	**10**	**143,911**	**-**	**-**	**143,911**	110,328
Net movement in funds		**140,323**	**(8,569)**	**(8,179)**	**123,575**	9,715
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		**1,317,458**	**12,880**	**136,746**	**1,467,084**	1,457,369
Total funds carried forward	**15**	**1,457,781**	**4,311**	**128,567**	**1,590,659**	1,467,084

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

All income and gains for the period are recognised above. All of the activities are classified as continuing.

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		-		338
Investments	10		1,553,110		1,413,440
			1,553,110		1,413,778
Current assets					
Debtors	11	11,666		5,950	
Cash at bank and in hand		51,119		79,487	
		62,785		85,437	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(25,236)		(32,131)	
Net current assets			37,549		53,306
Total assets less current liabilities			1,590,659		1,467,084
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	13		128,567		136,746
Unrestricted general funds	15		1,457,781		1,317,458
Unrestricted designated funds	14		4,311		12,880
			1,590,659		1,467,084

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its result for each year in accordance with the requirements of section 396 of the Act and which otherwise comply with its requirements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

For the year ending 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 26/09/2026



Professor Philip Meredith (Chairman)
Council

Company Registration No. 01002955

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 **Legal status of charitable company**

Alpine Club Library is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office can be found in the Council's report.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £5 per member of the charity.

2 **Accounting policies**

2.1 **Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Alpine Club Library 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 note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Alpine Club Library's ability to continue as a going concern.

The functional currency of the charity is pounds sterling. Items are rounded to the nearest pound.

2.2 **Income**

Income is derived from the promotion, support and maintenance of a mountaineering library.

Primary income generating activities being the sale of duplicate books, the sale of reproduction rights for photographs, commissions from painting sales alongside donations. Income from these activities is recognised when the proceeds are realised.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Investment income is accounted for when receivable.

2.3 **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Charitable activity costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. These are shown within support costs.

2.4 **Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

Restricted funds – these are funds subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Members of Council.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Fund accounting (continued)

Unrestricted designated funds – these are unrestricted funds that have been ring fenced by the Trustees for projects and causes.
The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets in use at rates to calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Over 4 years

No depreciation has been provided on the paintings, as the directors consider that the nature of these assets can only appreciate in value. In the current period these have been disposed of to bring the treatment in line with heritage assets held off balance sheet.

2.6 Investments

Investments are included at fair value at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Debtors

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

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits where possible to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

2.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2.10 Cash Flow Statement

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) the charity is claiming exemption from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement on account of it being a small charity.

2.11 Foreign currency

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Day to day transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing on the dates of the transactions. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

2.12 Estimates and judgements

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed by trustees on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3 Taxation

The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

4 Comparative funds – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	23,925	-	-	23,925
Other trading activities	15,373	2,728	-	18,101
Investment income	39,748	-	-	39,748
Total income	**79,046**	**2,728**	**-**	**81,774**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	9,307	-	-	9,307
Charitable activities				
Library operation	61,750	4,230	7,100	73,080
Total expenditure	**71,057**	**4,230**	**7,100**	**82,387**
Other losses	-	-	(100,000)	(100,000)
Net gains on investments	110,328	-	-	110,328
Transfer between funds	(100,000)	-	100,000	-
Net movement in funds	**18,317**	**(1,502)**	**(7,100)**	**9,715**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1,299,141	14,382	143,846	1,457,369
Total funds carried forward	**1,317,458**	**12,880**	**136,746**	**1,467,084**

5 Investment income

	2025 £	2024 £
Income from listed investments	**36,904**	39,748
	36,904	39,748

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Other costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	-	9,996	**9,996**	9,307
Charitable activities				
Library operation:				
Activities undertaken directly	40,894	31,918	**72,812**	68,080
Support costs	-	4,200	**4,200**	5,000
Total charitable activities	40,894	36,118	**77,012**	73,080
Total expenditure	**40,894**	**46,114**	**87,008**	82,387

Support costs include governance costs which comprise payments to the Independent examiner of £4,200 for Independent Examination Fees (2024: Independent Auditor fees of £5,000). Other costs include depreciation of £338 (2024: £405).
During the year TC Group provided payroll services totalling £480 (2024: £160) which are included within other costs.

7 Members Of Council

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. During the year four trustees were reimbursed expenditure totalling £830 (2024: two trustees were reimbursed expenditure totalling £1,506).

8 Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Administration staff	**1**	1

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	**39,990**	34,603
Pension costs	**904**	852
	40,894	35,455

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more in 2025 or 2024. The trustees are the key management and were not remunerated during the current or previous year.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	**4,626**	**4,626**
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2025	4,288	4,288
Charge for the year	338	338
At 31 December 2025	**4,626**	**4,626**
Net book value		
At 31 December 2025	**-**	**-**
At 31 December 2024	338	338

10 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments
	£
Fair value at 1 January 2025	1,413,440
Disposals at opening book value	(213,286)
Acquisitions at cost	216,293
Change in value in the year	136,663
Fair value at 31 December 2025	**1,553,110**
The investment assets are held:	
In the UK	1,217,891
Outside the UK	335,219
	1,553,110
Historical cost:	
At 31 December 2025	**1,047,191**
At 31 December 2024	1,028,062

10 Fixed asset investments **(continued)**

Gain on investment assets totalling £143,911 (2024: gain £110,328) are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities comprising a gain on disposal of investments of £7,248 (2024: gain £6,666), unrealised gain on investments of £136,663 (2024: gain of £103,662).

11 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**11,666**	5,950
	11,666	5,950

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**21,036**	27,131
Accruals	**4,200**	5,000
	25,236	32,131

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Himalayan Index Fund	4,278	-	-	-	**4,278**
Acquisition Fund	10,335	-	-	-	**10,335**
Librarian Fund	22,133	-	(8,179)	-	**13,954**
Pictures & Preservation Fund	100,000	-	-	-	**100,000**
	136,746	**-**	**(8,179)**	**-**	**128,567**

13 Restricted funds **(continued)**

The Himalayan Index Fund is used to maintain the charity's database which stores data on ascents of, and attempts on, mountains over 6,000 metres.

The Acquisition Fund is used to facilitate the purchase, at short notice, any special item which comes on the market.

The Librarian Fund is used to fund one day a week of the staff costs of the permanent librarian.

The Pictures and Preservation Fund relates to 3 specific Ruskin paintings donated by Dr Charles Warren. These assets were taken off the balance sheet to be consistent with the accounting treatment of other heritage assets. However, the trustees have maintained the value of this fund through a transfer from unrestricted funds.

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include designated funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Keeper's Fund	12,880	552	(9,121)	-	4,311
	12,880	**552**	**(9,121)**	**-**	**4,311**

The Keeper's Fund is used to ring-fence funds to directly support the activities of our keepers. Incoming resources represent income generated by keepers throughout the year.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:				
Investments	**1,553,110**	**-**	**-**	**1,553,110**
Current assets	**(70,093)**	**4,311**	**128,567**	**62,785**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(25,236)**	**-**	**-**	**(25,236)**
	1,457,781	**4,311**	**128,567**	**1,590,659**

15 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	338	-	-	338
Investments	1,413,440	-	-	1,413,440
Current assets	(64,189)	12,880	136,746	85,437
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(32,131)	-	-	(32,131)
	1,317,458	12,880	136,746	1,467,084

16 Related parties

The Alpine Club is a related party to the charity as it has the power to appoint 5 members of the council of the Alpine Club Library.

During the year the charity paid rent & services of £17,500 to the Alpine Club (2024: £17,500). The Alpine Club made donations to the charity during the year of £17,500 (2024: £17,500). At the balance sheet date the Alpine Club Library owed £21,036 (2024: £26,269) to the Alpine Club.

17 Control

The charity is under the control of the board of trustees. No one member has overall control.