

Registered charity number: 271590

The LONDON
TOPOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY *Est.1880*

London Topographical Society

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

London Topographical Society

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London Topographical Society

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr Penelope Hunting (Chair) Bridget Cherry Roger Cline Simon Morris Mike Wicksteed
Secretary/ Treasurer	Mike Wicksteed
Charity number	271590
Registered office	103 Harestone Valley Road Caterham Surrey CR3 6HR
Independent examiner	David Wheeler FCCA Cheeld Wheeler & Co Chartered Certified Accountants Redhill Chambers 2d High Street Redhill Surrey RH1 1RJ
Bankers	Santander Bank plc

125th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report together with the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The London Topographical Society (the Society) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The charity number, principal addresses and details of professional advisors are included in the administrative information on page 1.

Constitution, objectives and activities

The charity was founded in 1880 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 2 July 1976.

The charity's objects are to educate the members and the public in the history, growth and topography of London, by making available its collection of historic maps, plans and views of London. It also publishes books and monographs containing original research.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the year. The trustees consider that the Society's activities are for the benefit of the public generally.

Organisational structure

The charity is managed by the Society's Council, members of which are elected at each AGM. The Council meets regularly three times a year. The board of trustees, selected on the basis of the particular skills that the potential trustees can offer meets as required during the year.

The trustees receive an induction pack containing the charity's key documents and attend at least one meeting a year. Throughout the year, trustees receive regular updates on the activities of the charity.

Achievements and performance

In July 2024, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester kindly agreed to be the Society's Patron. He succeeds the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was our Patron for sixty-nine years having consented to take up the position in 1952 on the death of our former Patron, King George VI. King George V consented to be our first Patron in 1909 while he was Prince of Wales.

This year's publication was *The Southwark Fire Court* by Jay Tidmarsh, edited by Sheila O'Connell. Once again, the Society is grateful for the contributions of Linda Fisher and Steve Hartley at Scorpion Creative.

The Society's 123rd AGM was held on 3rd July 2024 in St Lawrence Jewry in Gresham Street. It was attended by about 160 members and guests. The meeting was preceded with an hour-long organ recital by James McVinnie. Talks were given by Jay Tidmarsh, on his book, and by Council Member Geoffrey Tyack who spoke about Sir Christopher Wren's design of the church and Cecil Brown's post-war restoration.

The Society's total income for 2024 was £38,108 while expenditure came to £38,642. Income was mainly derived from subscriptions and publication sales. We would like to thank the Scouloudi Foundation for their generous grant of £2,000 towards the production of our annual publication. The Society made a grant of £2,500 to I G Doolittle to help with the cost of typing up the last of the Fire Court decrees.

125th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

During the year 45 new members joined the Society which had 1228 paid-up members as of 31 December 2024. There were two honorary members

Two new members were elected to the Council, India Wright and Colin Thom. Bridget Cherry OBE stood down after editing the *Newsletter* for sixteen years and was appointed a Vice President: India Wright took over the editorship. Mike Wicksteed was elected as a trustee, joining Penny Hunting, Roger Cline, Simon Morris and Bridget Cherry.

Council meetings were held in February, April and October to discuss the Society's publications programme, membership, finances and general administration.

The Society's *Newsletter* was published and circulated to Members in May (No.98) and November (No.99) with articles ranging widely over London past and present. Both are also available to read on the Society's website at <https://londontopsoc.org/newsletters/>.

The Ann Saunders Essay Prize in honour of Dr Ann Saunders (1930-2019) was awarded for the second time. £1000 was paid to Martin Rose for his essay titled *The Close on Tower Wharf* which will be published in Volume 33 of *The Record* in 2025.

Planned Publications

2025. *The Record*, Vol 33

2026. *A-Z of Georgian London*.

2027. *Private Banking Houses in Georgian London*.

Financial review

Total income for the year amounted to £38,108 (2023 - £41,905). Expenditure amounted to £38,642 (2023 - £55,440). This results in a deficit for the year of £534 (2022 – deficit of £13,535). As at the year end the charity had reserves of £227,893 (2023 – £228,427).

Reserves policy

The Society uses unrestricted reserves for its main charitable activity, namely producing publications. The main cost of this are the production costs of the publications. Restricted reserves can only be used for purpose specified by the provider of those specific funds.

The trustees' policy is to generate a level of reserves which will provide a stable base for its continuing activities while at the same time ensuring that funds are not accumulated.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity and its finances. The trustees believe that by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

125th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

The following trustees have held office during the year:

Dr P Hunting
B Cherry
R Cline
S Morris
M Wicksted

Financial review

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S Morris
M Wicksted

125th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Account Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable organisation 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 in the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting and Reporting by Charities – the Charities SORP);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Approved by the trustees on 24th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

M Wicksteed

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

London Topographical Society

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of London Topographical Society ("the Society") for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 6 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

David Wheeler FCCA

Date:

Independent examiner

Cheeld Wheeler & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants
Redhill Chambers
2d High Street
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 1RJ

London Topographical Society

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income				
Donations and legacies		2,167	2,167	7,109
Charitable activities		29,610	29,610	31,896
Investment income		5,391	5,391	1,708
Other		940	940	1,192
Total income	2	38,108	38,108	41,905
 Expenditure on charitable activities				
Grants to institutions	3	2,500	2,500	7,715
Direct costs	3	31,815	31,815	45,835
Support costs	3	4,327	4,327	1,890
Total expenditure		38,642	38,642	55,440
 Net (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(534)	(534)	(13,535)
 Brought forward 1 January 2024		228,427	228,427	241,962
 Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		227,893	227,893	228,427

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those passing through the statement of financial activities, which has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

London Topographical Society
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Current assets					
Stock		8,372		11,163	
Debtors	4	3,995		-	
Cash at bank		<u>221,846</u>		<u>220,045</u>	
Total current assets		234,213		231,208	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>6,320</u>		<u>2,781</u>	
Net current assets			<u>227,893</u>		<u>228,427</u>
Net assets			<u>£227,893</u>		<u>£228,427</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			227,893		228,427
Restricted funds			-		-
TOTAL CHARITABLE FUNDS			<u>£227,893</u>		<u>£228,427</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees for issue on

and signed on their behalf by:

.....
S Morris
Trustee

.....
M Wicksteed
Trustee

Charity registration number: 271590

London Topographical Society
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2024.

These financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- Estimating the liability for accruals

1.3 Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.4 Income

Grants and donations receivable are accounted for as soon as their amount and receipt are reasonably certain. In the case of unsolicited donations, they are usually only accounted for when received.

All other income is recognised in the statement of financial activities, once the Society has become entitled to those funds, and it is probable that it will be received and the amount can be measured accurately.

London Topographical Society
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category.

Costs of generating funds expenditure is detailed at note 3, and comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and any fundraising events.

Charitable expenditure is detailed in note 3, and comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

1.6 Stock

Stock is represented by the publications produced which are valued at cost less any provision to write down to realisable value.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition.

1.8 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions 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. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

1.9 Charity funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the Society's objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Society. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. The Society currently has no designated or restricted funds.

1.10 Taxation

The Society is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

2. Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	167	109
Legacies	-	5,000
Grants	2,000	2,000
Membership subscriptions	24,508	24,967
Publication sales	5,102	6,758
Royalty income	300	171
Interest receivable	5,391	1,708
Other	640	1,192
	<u>38,108</u>	<u>41,905</u>

London Topographical Society

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Total expenditure

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable activities	34,315	4,327	£38,642	£55,440

	2024 £	2023 £
Charitable activities		
Direct costs		
Grants paid	2,500	7,715
Prizes	1,000	1,000
Production and distribution costs	22,166	37,493
Newsletter printing & despatch costs	8,649	7,342
	£34,315	£53,550

	2024	2023
Support costs		
Membership administration	572	403
Website expenses	807	44
AGM costs	1,988	543
Examiner's fee	960	900
	£4,327	£1,890

4 Debtors

Accrued interest	£3,995	-
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5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
Subscriptions in advance	4,067	1,643
Creditors and accruals	2,253	1,138
	£6,320	£2,781

6. Employees

The charity did not employ any staff during the year.

London Topographical Society

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The trustees give their time freely and are unpaid. Mr Cline claimed administration expenses of £1,293 (2023 - £237) during the year. None of the other trustees claimed any expenses.

8. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.