



THE BURGON SOCIETY

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Registered Charity Number 1137522

Contents

1 Report of the Trustees	3
1.1 Objectives of the Society	3
1.2 Public Benefit	3
1.3 Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025	3
1.3.1 Studies	3
1.3.2 Publications	4
1.3.3 Collection and Archive	5
1.3.4 Conferences and Seminars	6
1.3.5 Membership	8
1.3.6 Research Advisory Group	8
1.3.7 Online Presence	8
2 Governance and Management	10
2.1 Trustees' responsibilities in the preparation of financial statements	10
2.2 Risk Management	10
2.3 Grant Making Policy	11
2.4 Reserves	11
2.5 Going Concern	11
2.6 Independent Examiner	11
2.7 Statement of disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner	11
3 Independent Examiner's Report	12
4 Financial Statements	13
4.1 Statement of Financial Activities	13
4.2 Cash Flow Statement	13
4.3 Balance Sheet	14
4.4 Notes to the financial statements	15

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number	1137522
	Registered Office: 54 Gatehill Gardens Luton Beds. LU3 4EZ
Trustees	Terry Barcock (Treasurer) Jonathan Cooper Philip Goff Valentina Grub Timothy Hallett – from 26 th April 2025 Andrew Hogg (Chairman) John Horton Alice Hynes (Secretary) Nicholas Jackson – resignation accepted 22 nd March 2025 Andrew Plant Chris Williams - term ended 26 th April 2025 Stephen Wolgast
Bankers	HSBC 102 Brompton Road London SW3 1JJ KS Bank 1010 Westloop Place Manhattan KS 66502 USA
Independent Examiner	Sue Kowszun BA FCA DChA Harlequin Accounting and Financial Services Limited Bancroft Mill Road West Chiltington West Sussex RH20 2PZ

1 Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of the Burgon Society (“the Society”) present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. These comply with the governing documents of the Charity, the relevant Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Burgon Society was founded in 2000 in response to a growing interest in the subject of academical dress and celebrated its 25th Anniversary year beginning August 2025. The Society was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales in 2009 as Charity No. 1137522.

1.1 Objectives of the Society

The objects of the Society are the furtherance of education in particular through the study of academical dress in all its aspects and the publication and dissemination of research concerning academical dress. It does this through:

- coordinating the study of academical dress in all its aspects of design, history and practice, leading to the Society’s Fellowship (FBS)
- preserving details of the past and present practices of institutions regarding academical dress
- acting in an advisory capacity to those who wish to ensure correctness in the usage of academical dress in any capacity.

1.2 Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance when exercising their powers and duties to which that guidance is relevant. The following section describes how they have done this.

In 2025 the Society was honoured to receive an unexpected but warmly appreciated charitable grant from the Worshipful Company of Drapers, a City of London livery company. Beyond the material benefit, the recognition from so distinguished an organisation carries symbolic weight, acknowledging the seriousness and value of the Society’s work in this anniversary year.

Two Burgon Society Founding Fellows were awarded University Fellowships *honoris causa (h.c.)*: Prof Bruce Christianson of the University of Hertfordshire in September 2025 and The Revd Philip Goff of the University of London in November. Both have made wide-ranging contributions to academic dress in general but also had pivotal role in establishing the Burgon Society as a learned body. To have them honoured so was a moment of great pride for the Society.

1.3 Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The Society’s activities and operations focus on various aspects of its charitable obligations, in particular the advancement of scholarly study of various aspects of academical dress and related matters; holding conferences to present such research; publishing contemporary research and edited collections of historical documents related to the subject and acquiring, cataloguing, and curating a collection of academical dress and related historical documents. The Trustees (Executive Committee) met regularly, six times in 2025. The activities for the year are summarised in the following sections.

1.3.1 Studies

Two new fellows were admitted in 2025 (five in 2024) after successfully completing the Society’s examination:

- Michael P. Kolcun II – Lost in time: a resurgence of the University of the South’s academic dress
- Edward Teather – The history of undergraduate academical dress in Britain’s modern universities since 1880, with a discussion of its recent and current use (published work).

1.3.2 Publications

Volume 24 of *Transactions of the Burgon Society* published five scholarly articles in 128 pages, the fewest pages since Volume 18 (published in 2019) which also contained five articles. Members received their copies through the post. The Society printed 425 copies, the same number as Volume 23.

Downloads from the website saw a marked increase in 2025. Articles were downloaded 44,161 times, a jump of 187 per cent over 2024, and an increase of 127 per cent over the year that previously held the record for the most downloads, 2023. There is no clear explanation for the rise but may be related to the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI). If so, AI tools would be reviewing the publication far more than recommending them: only 27 downloads came from referrals from ChatGPT. No other AI interface appears in the top 11 rankings (see Table 2, below.) Private businesses, and the Birmingham City Council (number six of the top ten institutions), outranked Universities as the sources of the greatest number of downloads in 2025.

Articles from the *Transactions* are posted online by New Prairie Press (NPP), a service provided by the library of Kansas State University to host scholarly journals. In line with our charitable objectives, back editions of *Transactions* are available on open access at the NPP to members on publication and the wider public one year later. The University notified the Editor that it will switch from NPP to Janeway in 2026 and expects minimal change. Janeway is a free, open-source platform developed by the Centre for Technology and Publishing at Birkbeck, University of London, to support the Open Library of Humanities, an open access academic publisher.

Table 1: Downloads of *Transactions of the Burgon Society* by country.

Country	Downloads	% change from 2024
United States	9,664	+126%
Brazil	6,188	(new entry to top 10)
United Kingdom	3,531	-0.01%
Vietnam	2,377	(new entry to top 10)
Singapore	2,241	+336%
China	2,181	+256%
Indonesia	1,874	+679%
Thailand	1,296	-16%
Philippines	938	(new entry to top 10)
Canada	901	+74%
Top ten total	31,191	

Table 2: Downloads of *Transactions of the Burgon Society* by institution.

Institution	Downloads	Notes
BytePlus Pte. Ltd.	477	Singapore
Arthur Anderson & Co.	300	Now Anderson S.C., Switzerland
University of Cambridge	138	-26%
Oracle Corp.	91	+225%, Enterprise software, Austin TX
University of Oxford	61	+7%
CCCS	58	Poss. Intelligent Solutions, USA
Birmingham City Council	50	+35%
Octopus Web Solution Inc.	37	Software design, Spokane WA
Yale University	34	Worcester MA
University of St. Andrews	32	+23%

Burgon Notes continued to be published quarterly in 2025 and is one of the primary sources of academic dress news for members, fellows, and the wider community. It contains summaries of Society activities

and short articles related to academical dress. In 2025 several new semi-regular columns were added to Burgon Notes, namely 'AD in Unexpected Places', 'AD and Literature', and 'Under the Hood'. Past editions are publicly available on the Society's website at <https://burgon.org.uk/about-us/notes>

1.3.3 Collection and Archive

1.3.3.1 Wardrobe Archive

During 2025, the Society's Wardrobe Archive continued to develop as a significant repository of academic dress, while also entering an important phase of consolidation and review. A balance was sought between carefully selected acquisitions and ensuring the Archive's long-term sustainability, accessibility, and preservation. The following items were added in the year, reinforcing the historical breadth and international scope of the Archive:

- St Andrews MA hood and white tie; bequeathed by Alan Robertson.
- London MD gown and hood, formerly the property of Prof Edward Cooper MD DPhil DSc, of the department of cancer research, University of Leeds; donated by his daughter, Jane Chapman.
- DD hood, King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, formerly the property of the Ven. Arthur Edward Lampay Caulfield (1906-2000); donated by Colin Fleming.
- Columbia University, NY, PhD robe, formerly the property of Penelope Roach; donated by Columbia University.
- EdD robe, Tulane, New Orleans, Louisiana; procured and donated by Dr Andrew Hogg.
- Items donated by Timothy Hallett, FBS (all bought or given to assist with an article in Burgon Notes): Nottingham Trent (old scheme, pre-2024), BA hood; Nottingham Trent (new scheme, 2024), Bachelor hood; Aston, MPhil hood; York St John (current scheme, 2023) Bachelor hood; Northampton (current scheme, 2020) BA hood.
- A selection of hoods formerly belonging to Robin Rees; donated by his widow, Helen.
- Robe of the Deputy Chancellor of RMIT, Australia (in transit on 31 Dec 2025); donated by Stephen Duckett.

Alongside these acquisitions, 2025 saw a shift in archival policy. Following deliberations by the Archive Oversight Group, it was agreed that the primary focus should be on consolidation rather than expansion. Space constraints and preservation needs require that future acquisitions be selective. As a result, several offers were respectfully declined, and a structured programme, erring on caution, of deaccessioning duplicate or items of indifferent provenance was initiated.

A detailed assessment of the gown collection, prepared in September 2025 by the previous Archivist, Chris Williams, highlighted both the diversity and rarity of the holdings, which total 284 gowns. Drawing on this analysis, eight black gowns were deaccessioned during the year. These were either transferred to the Worshipful Company of Educators to support new Freemen, sold to members, or placed in appropriate custodial care, ensuring continued use and appreciation of the garments.

Engagement with the Archive improved. A member of the public identified a previously obscure hood from the East Midlands Ministry Training Course, adding valuable contextual information to the collection. Senior members of the Society also contributed expertise to the correction and refinement of catalogue entries and captions.

Overall, 2025 was a year of thoughtful stewardship for the Wardrobe Archive, marked by selective growth, strategic curation, and collaborative scholarship, reinforcing the Archive's role as a vital resource for the study of academic dress.

1.3.3.2 Paper Archive

A highlight for the Society's Paper Archive in 2025 was completion of the cataloguing of the correspondence and papers of Dr Nicholas Groves FBS (1956-2023), a founding Fellow of the Burgon Society and a world expert on academical dress. The project to produce an item-listed catalogue (handnotes) of the Groves collection was completed on time and within the agreed budget. The work was undertaken by Dr Daniel Reed, an archiving professional who has previously worked with the Society to catalogue and produce handnotes for the Alan Birt, Robin Rees, George Shaw and Maurice Ward papers. Dr Reed presented an overview of the collection at the Society's Spring Conference in April 2025.

The initiative launched in 2024 to digitise the Society's Paper Archive continued in 2025. The project aims to make the material more readily available for research purposes. The objectives are to:

- scan and upload Archive documents as yet undigitised
- re-organise and rehouse the items according to conservation principles
- identify portions of the collection to be hosted on a digital image repository using a tiered system to select those most appropriate to appear online
- create a structured digital document repository to house the digitised papers and other items from the document archive already existing in digital format.

The digitised items reside initially, with controlled access, on the Society's Flickr account at www.flickr.com/people/burgonsociety/.

1.3.4 Conferences and Seminars

The Society held a number of events in the UK in 2025 which were equally open to members and interested members of the public. These occasions were designed to exemplify and celebrate the Society's maturity in its Silver Jubilee year and the esteem in which its work as a learned society is now held. Photographs from events over the years can be found on the Society's Flickr account www.flickr.com/people/burgonsociety/.

Spring Conference & AGM, Deloitte LLP, London, EC4A 3TR, 20 April 2025

The 2025 Burgon Society Spring Conference and AGM were attended by 43 members and guests. Following a welcome from the Chairman, the Conference opened with a diverse and intellectually stimulating programme. Philip Goff presented an analysis of the courtly origins and contemporary cultural significance of Thai academic dress. Daniel Reed then outlined his work on the Nicholas Groves papers, reflecting a sustained scholarly engagement with the subject. Prof. Amanda Briggs-Goode and Georgia Stevenson discussed the recent redesign of the academic dress of Nottingham School of Art & Design, situating their work within themes of institutional identity, creativity, and sustainability. A panel discussion examined current practices in robe making across differing professional and business models. The Conference concluded with updates to the Burgon research resources and website, and a celebration of Kenneth Crawford's fifty years of professional practice. The detailed programme included:

- Philip Goff, FBS – *A Rough Guide to Thai academic dress*.
- Daniel Reed (Oxford Brookes University Research Affiliate) – *A lifelong passion for academic dress - the Nicholas Groves papers*.
- Prof. Amanda Briggs-Goode (Head of Department for Fashion, Textiles and Knitwear Design, Nottingham Trent University) and Georgia Stevenson (Garment Technologist) – *Redesigning Academic Dress: Connecting brand, creativity and sustainable values*.
- Panel discussion – Jayne Ball (Jayne Ball Designs), Kenneth Crawford FBS (Robes of Distinction), Martin Lewis FBS (CEO, Evess Group) - *Custom & Costume: Today's Robemaker*.
- Andrew Plant FBS & Andrew Hogg FBS – *Burgon Website: New research resources*.

3rd North American Conference, Yale University, 1 August 2025

The Yale Colloquium brought together an intensive programme of scholarly engagement with academic dress, organised in collaboration with Yale colleagues and staff. Hosted at the Yale Center for British Art and the Beinecke Rare Books Library, the day combined formal presentations, workshops, and hands-on archival study. Papers addressed the revival of the University of the South's academic dress and the creation of visual histories using archival images of Yale's robes. The 14 participants examined a wide range of rare artworks, books, portraits, and archival materials relating to British and American academic dress, underscoring transatlantic scholarly connections.

- Michael P. Kolcun FBS - *Lost in Time: A Resurgence of The University of the South's Academic Dress.*
- Ashley Cale - *What's Public is Prologue: Creating Visual History Collages with Yale Academic Dress.*

Congregation, The Charterhouse, London, 11th October 2025

The Society inaugurated its 25th anniversary year with a formal Congregation held in the historic Great Chamber of the Charterhouse, London, the scene of many of the Society's early meetings following foundation. The meeting was hosted by the Master of Charterhouse, Peter Aiers OBE, and presided over by the Society's President, Professor Graham Zellick KC. Forty-seven members and guests gathered, including four Founder Fellows.

The event was an extraordinary reminder of the vision, energy, and intellectual curiosity that set the Society on its path a quarter-century ago. Following the ceremonial procession and opening addresses, two new Fellows were presented in recognition of original research and published scholarship. In addition, Mr Robin Richardson was conferred with a Fellowship *h.c.* in recognition of his long career in service of academic dress culminating as Chairman of Wippell's robemakers of Exeter until March 2024 and for his unfailing support to our Membership as a source of information on academic costume. The Society also welcomed Dr James P S Thomson DM back as a Patron. The admissions were followed by the President's annual address.

The afternoon programme comprised a moderated dramatic presentation, scholarly papers on medieval academic livery and Oxford ceremonial dress, and a report on the *Transactions of the Burgon Society*, highlighting its international reach. The day concluded with a champagne reception. The Congregation was both academically rich and ceremonially significant, providing a fitting commencement to the anniversary year. The detailed programme included:

- Philip Goff FBS, Bruce Christianson FBS, Stephen Rhodes – *'So Sporting to Accuse the Dead': Franklyn and Stringer on Haycraft.*
- Timothy Hallett FBS – *Smart scholars and scruffy students; the rules and realities of medieval livery in Oxford and Cambridge.*
- Stephen Wolgast FBS – *Report from the Publications Editor.*
- Alex Kerr FBS – *The Dress of the Oxford University Bedels.*

Virtual events

A series of three online seminars entitled *Getting into Academic Dress* were presented in early 2025 by Dr Alex Kerr FBS. These tutorials were especially targeted at newer members and novices interested in academic dress, in line with the Society's charitable educational objectives aimed at the general public and beginners. The programme presented the fundamentals of academic dress covering gowns, hoods, caps, worldwide traditions of academic dress, and key research resources. Dr Kerr brought extensive scholarly and editorial experience to the programme, and the tutorials provided an authoritative and accessible overview of the principal elements of academic costume. Attended by some 35 people the presentations were recorded and subsequently made available for member access online and the general public on request.

1.3.5 Membership

In the course of 2025, 29 people joined (or rejoined) the Society, including one new Corporate member and other individuals involved in robe making. The subscriber category of Digital Membership continued to attract both international and UK-based members. A large majority of those joining the Society had found us via social media or other Internet searches.

This year the Secretary reviewed the membership lists and identified a number of members who were substantially overdue with their subscriptions but had been kept on the list in the hope that they would pay their arrears. They have now been removed. Two Corporate members and thirty-nine individuals did not renew, those leaving often indicated financial reasons and some ill health preventing worthwhile involvement. Very sadly we also lost two long-standing Members, Malcolm Aicken and Gary Humphreys, who died in December 2024 and May 2025 respectively.

Summary membership details may be found in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Membership by category at 31 December 2025

Category	UK	Non-UK	Total	2024
Subscribing Fellows	55	19	74	79
Other individual members (subscribing)	132	62	194	211
Total subscribing individual membership	187	81	268	290
Corporate members	12	1	13	13
Non-subscribing Fellows	21	8	29	23

1.3.6 Research Advisory Group

As part of its charitable objectives the Society continues to develop opportunities to engage with members and the wider public. A core group of five experts, including three Trustees with Philip Goff, a former Chairman of the Society acting as Convenor, remains available to respond to questions and queries regarding academic costume received via email and the Society's website www.burgon.org.uk. In 2025 the Group continued to field enquiries and worked on creating a timeline of academic dress, academic tailors and robe making companies and has invited contributions from other experts in the field. The Society's online bibliography is continually updated by Dr Alex Kerr FBS, especially following successful FBS submissions and publication of the Transactions of the Burgon Society. The Group also mentors and steers authors toward successful completion of their publications on academic dress. In addition, a wider pool of experts, both from the UK and around the world, can be drawn upon when questions arise outside of the Group's area of expertise.

1.3.7 Online Presence

The Society maintains active social media accounts on Facebook, Bluesky and Flickr. The Society's Facebook communications saw strong momentum in reach, engagement, and audience growth, thanks to the more active management of the page by Jayne Ball from the latter part of 2025. Over the period (13 October 2025 – 10 January 2026), there were 101,502 total views, a 426% increase compared with the previous period. The content reached 25,952 unique viewers further highlighting expanded exposure. Engagement rose significantly, increasing 379% over the prior period. Reels proved to be the most effective format, generating 42.3% of total engagement, in particular the videos recorded at the Society's 25th Anniversary Congregation. Audience growth remained consistent, with total followers increasing to 1,401, representing a 13% rise over the previous 90 days. Posts featuring members, whether wearing their academic dress or being honoured at a ceremony, puts forward the human side of the Society and engages followers. 'Guess the hood' posts proved popular, creating discussion which then prompts the algorithm to show the post to non-members.

The Society's website <https://www.burgon.org.uk> is used for news and updates, provides a channel for new

members to join the Society and is a major resource for public information on all aspects of academic dress, including a bibliography, classification scheme and photographic archive. Publication of the Hood of the Month feature continued successfully: over fifty are now available for reference.

There were 7,657 visitors to the Society’s website in 2025, with generally steady traffic through the year. Most were from UK and USA, and while countries with traditions of western academic dress are featured, the appearance of visitors from China and Singapore in the top 10 countries is noteworthy, mirroring the trends in *Transactions* readership. By far the most significant destination is the Archive, recording over 65,368 hits overall, suggesting that most visitors already have some idea of what they are seeking before they find us. The academic dress Classification pages had 5,477 visitors while the Hood of the Month Archive had 2,771 views. The Society’s Home page scored 11,276 hits in 2025 while the Member’s area was opened 7,287 times, indicating increased comfort with online transactions such as event booking, online shop and subscriptions payments.

Table 4: Active users of the *Burgon Website* (www.burgon.org.uk) by country*

Country	Active users
United Kingdom	3,941
United States	1,881
China	287
Germany	271
Singapore	198
Canada	158
Australia	157
New Zealand	153
Ireland	141
Netherlands	74

*Data from Google Analytics 1 January - 31 December 2025.

In 2025 the website saw a substantial amount of development work with the aid of external technical expertise. Enhancements have allowed easier access by the public and membership to the Society's growing archives and data, as well as adding functionality to the benefit of members.

The main technical advances in 2025 encompassed both resource and access improvements including:

- Addition of a Glossary of academic dress
- Handlists of the Paper Archive added
- Site design updated to improve navigation, and simplify home page layout
- Society history page updated
- “What’s New” page added to indicate site updates
- Trustee details added for members to access,

and administrative items including:

- Code improvements to maintain performance and web standards compliance (W3C)
- Glossary management tools added
- Archive administration area released
- Member repository area updates
- Membership administration area updates.

Ongoing projects include the creation of an online archive and automation of further membership administration tasks.

2 Governance and Management

The Society is governed by a Constitution drawn up in consultation with the Charity Commission of England and Wales and approved by the Society in October 2009.

The Executive Committee, all of whose members act also as Trustees of the Society, met six times in 2025. As required by the Charity's Constitution, the Trustees are re-elected annually by the Subscribing Fellows.

No staff are employed by the Society, which is entirely reliant upon volunteers. During 2025, it paid for external technical consultancy and support for the Society's website, and for the organisation and digitisation of the Society's Paper Archive.

The Secretary attended the Governology "Associations Conference" held in London on 1 October 2025. The programme explored governance, structural, advocacy, and leadership challenges facing the sector today.

2.1 Trustees' responsibilities in the preparation of financial statements

The Trustees (who are also the Executive Committee of the Society) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (if applicable);
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the Charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

2.2 Risk Management

The major risks to which the Trustees believe the Society is exposed are discussed and reviewed on a regular basis at Trustee meetings. The Trustees believe that, as far as is practical, these risks are managed in an appropriate manner. The Society's governing documents and policies, including the Society's Risk Register are reviewed regularly to ensure that they keep pace with developments in best practice. The following policies approved by the Executive Committee are held in a repository in the Members' area online.

- Acquisition, Accession and Disposal Policy
- Internal Financial Controls Policy including Financial Reserves and Investment Policy, and Trustee Expenses Policy
- Officer Roles and Role Descriptions
- Risk Management Policy and Risk Register
- Safeguarding Policy

- Serious Incident Reporting Policy
- Trustee Conflicts of Interest Policy.

2.3 Grant Making Policy

At present, the Society only awards grants in support of projects with which it is engaged, and no grants were made during 2025. (2024: Nil)

2.4 Reserves

The Trustees' policy regarding reserves is to make suitable expenditure on the ongoing activities of the Society, whilst maintaining adequate funds to deal with current and medium-term needs and having the necessary provision to deal with unforeseen circumstances. As at 31 December 2025, the Charity's free reserves were £23,581 (2024 £19,811).

2.5 Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2.6 Independent Examiner

In view of the scale of the Society's activities and net assets, neither an independent audit nor an independent examination of the Financial Statements is required. However, the Trustees have resolved to have an independent examination, and this has been carried out by Sue Kowszun BA FCA DChA.

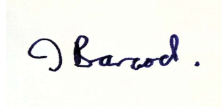
2.7 Statement of disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner

The Trustees at the date of approval of this their Annual Report confirm that, so far as each of them is aware, there is no relevant examinable information of which the Society's independent examiner is unaware, and the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant matter.

Approved by the Trustees on 25 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Hogg, FBS, *Chairman*



Terry Barcock, FBS, *Treasurer*

3 Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Burgon Society for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 13 to 20.

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").

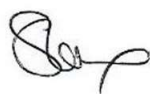
Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited for this year under section 144 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination at the request of the Trustees, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 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 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 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.



Sue Kowszun BA FCA DChA
Harlequin Accounting and Financial Services Ltd
Bancroft, Mill Road
West Chiltington
RH20 2PZ

Date : 25th March 2026

4 Financial Statements

4.1 Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME			
Donations and legacies	2	14,439	19,215
Income from charitable activities	3	6,146	2,810
Investment Income		345	126
Other income – surplus on sale of heritage assets		-	612
Total income		<u>20,930</u>	<u>22,763</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Fund raising costs		311	206
Expenditure on charitable activities	4	16,569	15,836
Other expenditure – loss on sale of heritage assets		1,328	-
Total expenditure		<u>18,208</u>	<u>16,042</u>
Net income for the year before gains and losses		<u>2,722</u>	<u>6,721</u>
Loss on revaluation of heritage assets		-	-
Net income for the year after gains and losses		<u>2,722</u>	<u>6,721</u>
Total funds brought forward		144,527	137,806
Total funds carried forward		<u>147,249</u>	<u>144,527</u>

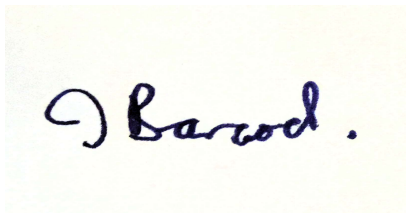
4.2 Cash Flow Statement

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash (outflows)/inflows from operating activities	7	4,552	(1,490)
Purchase of heritage assets		-	(385)
Sale of heritage assets		492	120
Interest received		345	126
Change in cash in the year		<u>5,389</u>	<u>(1,629)</u>
Cash balance 1 January		17,152	18,781
Cash balance 31 December		<u>22,541</u>	<u>17,152</u>

4.3 Balance Sheet

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Fixed assets	8	753	941
Heritage assets	9	122,915	123,775
Current Assets			
Stock		480	560
Debtors	10	421	3,301
Prepayments		489	76
Cash at bank		22,541	17,152
		<u>23,931</u>	<u>21,089</u>
Creditors: amounts due within one year	11	350	1,278
Net current assets		<u>23,581</u>	<u>19,811</u>
Total net assets		<u>147,249</u>	<u>144,527</u>
Total general funds	13	23,581	19,811
Total designated funds	13	123,668	124,716
Total funds (unrestricted)		<u>147,249</u>	<u>144,527</u>

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements. These financial statements and notes on pages 15–20 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 25 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Barcock." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light yellow rectangular background.

Terry Barcock FBS
Treasurer

4.4 Notes to the financial statements

Note 1: Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and they comply with the Charities Act 2011. These unaudited financial statements have been subjected to independent examination. See report on page 12.

The principal accounting policies of the Society have remained unchanged from the previous year and are set out below.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Income

Incoming resources are included gross, without netting off any related expenditure.

Incoming resources, including legacies, are generally recognised when the Society receives them:

- Donations are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) gross of any related tax claim received.
- Income relating specifically to a future accounting period is deferred.
- Interest on funds on deposit is included when receivable.

Gift Aid is included based on the amount recoverable at the accounting date.

Expenditure

Expenditure is included by the Society on an accruals basis and is allocated between:

- Expenditure incurred directly in the furtherance of the Society's objectives.
- Expenditure incurred directly in the management and administration of the Society.
- Expenditure incurred directly on activities necessary for the Society to comply with its statutory obligations.

Fixed Assets and depreciation

Expenditure on fixed assets is capitalised where material. Where capitalised, assets are stated at cost less subsequent depreciation unless otherwise stated. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life as follows:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 20% reducing balance.

Heritage Assets and depreciation

Heritage assets which are tangible fixed assets of historical and artistic importance that are held to advance the preservation and conservation objectives of the Society are not depreciated. The very long expected lives of heritage assets, due to their nature, value and need to be protected and preserved means that depreciation is not material and is therefore not provided.

Stock

Stock of merchandise is held at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

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.

Foreign Currency

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the average rate of exchange prevailing during that month. Foreign currency balances are translated into sterling at the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date. Any resulting gains or loss on exchange are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Note 2: Donations and Legacies

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Subscriptions	9,324	7,898
Gift aid	1,960	1,211
Donations	2,195	2,096
Gift of Heritage Assets	960	8,010
	<hr/> 14,439	<hr/> 19,215

Note 3: Income from Charitable Activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Sale of publications & merchandise	738	1,084
Events:		
Study fees	100	125
Other events	5,308	1,601
	<hr/> 6,146	<hr/> 2,810

Note 4: Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Printing & reproduction	5,377	5,348
Digitalisation	900	2,700
Merchandise costs	80	1,013
Events: Conference	5,842	2,783
Storage & archive costs	1,191	1,062
Promotional activities & website	960	991
Depreciation	188	236
Postage	10	66
Activities undertaken directly	14,548	14,199
Support costs - (see note 5)	1,871	1,487
Governance costs - (see note 6)	150	150
Total charitable activities	16,569	15,836

Note 5: Support Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy	200	200
Software support costs	192	320
Bank charges	41	66
Exchange difference	282	(79)
Administration costs	52	-
Insurance	1,104	980
	1,871	1,487

Note 6: Governance Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examination	150	150

Note 7: Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	2,722	6,721
Adjustments for:		
Donated assets	(960)	(8,010)
Depreciation charges	188	236
(Profit)/ Loss on disposal of heritage assets	1,328	-
Interest received	(345)	(126)
Decrease in stocks	80	80
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	2,467	(1,312)
Increase/ (Decrease) in creditors	(928)	921
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	4,552	(1,490)

Note 8: Tangible fixed assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		
Cost or Valuation		
Balance at 1 January	1,641	1,641
Additions	-	-
Balance at 31 December	1641	1641
Depreciation		
Balance at 1 January	700	464
Additions	188	236
Balance at 31 December	888	700
Net Book Value at 31 December	753	941

Note 9: Heritage Assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cost or Valuation		
Balance at 1 January	123,775	115,500
Additions – gifts	960	8,395
Disposal	(1,820)	(120)
Balance at 31 December	122,915	123,775

Depreciation		
Balance at 1 January	-	-
Additions	-	-
Balance at 31 December	-	-
Net Book Value at 31 December	122,915	123,775

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance 1 January	69,120	75,060	77,655	115,500	123,775
Additions	5,940	7,865	37,845	8,395	960
Disposals	-	-	(67)	(120)	(1,820)
Revaluation	-	(5,270)	67	-	-
Closing Balance 31 December	75,060	77,655	115,500	123,775	122,915

The Society holds a substantial archive as heritage assets. The archive is split into two sections the 'Wardrobe Archive' and the 'Paper Archive'. The Society has capitalised its Wardrobe Archive.

The Paper Archive has not been capitalised as its value cannot be reliably determined and the cost of doing so would not be commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and Society. They consist of a variety of ephemera relating to the design, practice, and development of academic dress as well as items relating to the history of the Society.

Wardrobe Archive valuation

The following items are unique and warrant a specific valuation based on the provenance, age, the quality of fabric used, and the condition.

- The robe and hood belonging to Sir Harold Bellman - £400
- The robe, hood and bonnet awarded to HRH Princess Mary - £800
- The Cambridge MA gown made by John Parfitt - £400
- The Master of Surgery gown and hood belonging to Harold Edwards - £320
- The MusD robe and hood belonging to Lionel Dakers - £600
- The gown and hood awarded to Queen Mary - £700
- The Lambeth DMus set belonging to E H Turpin, comprising of robe, gown, hood, bonnet, Royal seal and Tin - £1,500
- The London PhD robe and hood belonging to Miss Soar - £300
- The London Vice-Chancellor square cap belonging to Lord Flowers - £100
- The London Chancellors square cap belonging to HM The Queen Mother - £200
- The Sorbonne set belonging to Bruno Neveu (WBN-008, WBN-009, WBS-513 and WBS-514)
- £1,280

All other items have been assigned a generic estimate of fair value for each group as follows:

- Bonnet - £25
- Square cap - £20
- Gown (usually made of black stuff) - £40
- Gown (made of silk or other redeeming feature) - £80
- Convocation Habit - £100
- Hood (all types) - £60
- Robe (usually made of wool and silk) - £150

The total value of the whole collection as at 31 December 2025 is therefore as follows:

Specified items using fair value - £6,600

Generic items using fair value - £116,315

Total value - £122,915

Note 10: Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift Aid claims receivable	171	3,211
Accrued income	-	90
Debtors	250	-
	<u>421</u>	<u>3,301</u>

Note 11: Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	350	1,263
Deferred income	-	15
	<u>350</u>	<u>1,278</u>

Note 12: Trustees' Remuneration

The Society had no employees during the year (2024: nil) and no Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2024: nil). No Trustees or other persons related to the Society had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Society during the year (2024: nil).

Note 13: Analysis of net assets between funds

	Designated Funds	General Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank	-	22,541	22,541	17,152
Other net assets	-	1,040	1,040	2,659
Fixed assets	753	-	753	941
Heritage assets	122,915	-	122,915	123,775
Net assets	<u>123,668</u>	<u>23,581</u>	<u>147,249</u>	<u>144,527</u>