



St Albans Civic Society

Charity Number 200330

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st March 2026

ST ALBANS CIVIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Reference and administration details

St Albans Civic Society is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 200330. Its reference address is 67 Albert Street, St Albans AL1 1RT. The charity trustees who served during the year are:

Mary Conneely	(Chairman)
Roger Morton	(Treasurer)
Robert Osborne	(Secretary)
Janet Cropper	(Membership Secretary)
Freda Chaloner CBE	
Fiona Couper	(Elected October 2025)
Edmund Jankowski	(Elected October 2025)
Peter Newby	
Anne Paton	
Robert Pankhurst	

Structure, governance and management

The Society is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution. The charity trustees are its officers and its committee of management. They are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The trustees annually review the composition of the committee and new trustees are invited to join where it is felt they would strengthen the expertise of the committee. They are then inducted into the workings of the committee and their role as trustee. The Society has no employees and is run entirely by volunteers.

Objectives, activities and public benefit

The objectives of the Society are set out in its constitution and are in summary:

- To stimulate public interest in the heritage, culture and conservation of our city and its surroundings.
- To support conservation of the character of the area.
- To champion good new design and sustainability in the built environment.
- To lead informed debate about the future of the city including its physical, social and cultural needs.
- To campaign for best practice in retaining our rich heritage alongside new developments.
- To pursue these ends by meetings, exhibitions, publications, schemes and co-operation with other interested parties.

The main means of communication with members are regular email updates, together with frequent postings on Instagram & Facebook and a website which is regularly updated.

The Society has no political or religious activities and is non-profit making. Membership is open, without restriction, to anyone who shares the objectives of the Society. The trustees therefore believe that they have fulfilled the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

Some of the main activities in 2025/26 have been:

Planning and development: The Society continues to make significant contributions to the planning processes of the district, including commenting on draft Local Plans and local government reorganisation. The Society's planning advisory group regularly scrutinise the many incoming applications to the Council and alert the committee to those of special significance to the city. Where appropriate we object to applications which we consider would have a negative impact on our city and support those which would protect and enhance our heritage.

We continue to monitor applications to fell or reduce trees.

Communication: The Society has a website, extensively updated during the year, under the immediate control of the Committee. Topical articles are written each month for the St Albans Times e-paper. The society acts as a source of comment and informed opinion for the local press on breaking planning news. The Society communicates by email to members with topical comments and we are active users of social media which enable us to communicate more widely with both members and non-members.

Awards: We decided to run our Awards events on a two-yearly basis. We held a very successful Awards Evening in May 2024 and will hold another in the autumn of 2026.

Representation: The Society has been represented on many local committees, including the Clock Tower Committee, the Verulamium Park Forum, Conservation 50 and Blue Plaques St Albans. We are also a member of the national Civic Voice.

Clock Tower: The Clock Tower is open during summer weekends and is staffed by volunteers from the Civic Society and St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society.

Members meetings: We held several members talks and meetings during the year.

ST ALBANS CIVIC SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

I report on the accounts of St Albans Civic Society (Charity no 200330) for the year ended 31 March 2026, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirement of the 2011 Act;

have not been met; or

To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Zoe Tabraham

St Albans

September 2026

St Albans Civic Society Accounts for year to 31st March 2026				
Income and Expenditure			2026	2025
Income				
Membership subscriptions			£2,856.00	£2,905.90
Share of Clock Tower			£4,500.00	£4,500.00
Donations received			£663.51	£119.00
Gift Aid			£544.88	£932.10
Visits			£0.00	£0.00
Interest received			£143.52	£0.00
Total Income			£8,707.91	£8,457.00
Outgoings				
Newsletter			£0.00	£235.00
Member Meetings & Events			£467.73	£2,715.38
Subscriptions and donations			£503.40	£861.00
Insurance			£196.30	£157.60
Tree sponsorship			£0.00	£454.68
Website			£726.00	£392.00
Visits			£0.00	£0.00
Consultancy			£3,200.00	£1,600.00
Advertising			£2,272.99	£0.00
Bank charges			£38.01	£70.81
Committee expenses			£0.00	£302.40
Depreciation (not a cash item)			£0.00	£48.00
AGM			£199.10	£253.19
Other expenditure			£48.26	£207.52
Total Expenditure			£7,651.79	£7,297.58
Surplus or (shortfall) for the year			£1,056.12	£1,159.42
Funds of the Society				
Funds brought forward			£24,064.55	£22,905.13
Plus surplus / less (shortfall) for the year.			£1,056.12	£1,159.42
Funds carried forward			£25,120.67	£24,064.55

St Albans Civic Society Accounts for year to 31st March 2026				
Assets & Liabilities as at 31st March			2026	2025
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets			£0.00	£0.00
Total Fixed Assets			£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets				
Debtors			£544.88	932.10
Cash at bank & in hand			£24,575.79	23,172.45
Total Current Assets			£25,120.67	24,104.55
Creditors - falling due within one year			£0.00	40.00
Net Current Assets			£25,120.67	24,064.55
Total Net Assets			£25,120.67	24,064.55
Funds of the Society (unrestricted funds)			£25,120.67	24,064.55

ST ALBANS CIVIC SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026****1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****1.1 Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the basis, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and with Accounting Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have considered possible events of conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements. In particular, the trustees have considered the charity forecasts and projections and have taken into account pressures on charitable income. After making enquiries, the trustees have concluded that there is 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.

1.2 Recognition of incoming resources

- a) Subscription income is accounted for on receipt.
- b) Donation income is accounted for on receipt
- c) Investment income is accounted for when receivable.
- d) Incoming resources from tax reclaims (eg Gift Aid) are included in the accounts at the same time as the income to which they relate.

1.3 Incoming resource with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with some subscriptions and fundraising income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the accounts.

1.4 Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

1.5 Depreciation

- a) Capital expenditure on items costing less than £1,000 is written off at the time of purchase.
- b) Capital expenditure on items costing more than £1,000 is depreciated on a straight line basis over three years or over the expected life of the asset, whichever is the shorter.

1.6 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense costs that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities.

- a) Governance costs include the specific costs directly involved with the constitutional issues of the Society as opposed to generating voluntary income, fund raising or undertaking charitable work to meet its objects.
- b) Trustees are not remunerated but are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred in the furtherance of their duties. No expenses were paid to trustees in the year (2024-25 - Nil).
- c) No charge was incurred for the independent examination of the accounts (2024-25 - Nil)

1.7	Financial instruments						
	The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.						
1.8	Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement						
	In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.						
2.	Tangible fixed assets						
		Computer	Screens	Total			
	Cost						
	Balance at 1 April 2025	£ 1,248.00	£ 1,245.00	£ 2,493.00			
	Balance at 31 March 2026	£ 1,248.00	£ 1,245.00	£ 2,493.00			
	Depreciation						
	Balance at 1 April 2025	£ 1,248.00	£ 1,245.00	£ 2,493.00			
	Depreciation charge for the year	£ -	£ -	£ -			
	Depreciation at 31 March 2026	£ 1,248.00	£ 1,245.00	£ 2,493.00			
	Net book value at 31 March 2026	£ -	£ -	£ -			
	Net book value at 1st April 2025	£ -	£ -	£ -			
	a) There were no new purchases of assets to be depreciated during the year.						
3.	Debtors	2026		2025			
	Prepayments and accrued income	£ -		£ -			
	Gift Aid and GASDS	£ 544.88		£ 932.10			
		<u>£ 544.88</u>		<u>£ 932.10</u>			
4.	Creditors	2026		2025			
	Deferred income	£ -		£ 40.00			
	Accruals and other creditors	£ -		£ -			
		<u>£ -</u>		<u>£ -</u>			
	Deferred income is the subscriptions paid in advance for the following year.						
5.	Restricted funds						
	The Society is not responsible for any restricted funds so all funds are unrestricted.						
6	Related Party Transactions						
	There were no related party transactions during the year (2024-25 - Nil).						