

The Incorporated
SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018

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COUNCIL, OFFICERS, STAFF AND ADVISERS as at 30th September 2018

President: Prof. C. A. Roe, BSc, MSc, PhD, AFBPsS

Vice-Presidents

Miss M. R. Barrington, MA
Dr R. S. Broughton, BA, PhD
Prof B. J. Carr, MA, PhD
Prof. D. L. Delanoy, BA, PhD

Dr A. O. Gauld, MA, PhD, DLitt
Prof. J. C. Poynton, MSc, PhD
Prof. D. J. West, MD, LittD, FRCPsych

Elected Members of Council

Mrs M. E. Barton
Dr R. S. Broughton, BA, PhD
Prof. B. J. Carr, MA, PhD
Dr B. G. Colvin, BSc, PhD
Prof. D. L. Delanoy, BA, PhD
Mr C. J. Farrell, BSc, GRSC
Mr J. Fraser, BA

Dr G. T. B. Kidd, MBBS,
MRCPsych
Mr R. G. McLuhan, BA, BLitt
Mr A. D. Murdie, LLB
Prof. A. D. Parker, MA, PhD
Prof. J. C. Poynton, MSc, PhD
Prof. C. A. Roe, BSc, MSc, PhD,
AFBPsS

Dr D. N. Rousseau, BSc, PhD
Mrs J. A. Rousseau, BSc
Dr T. H. Ruffles, BSc, BA, MA,
PhD, ARPS
Mr A. P. Ryan
Dr M. J. Willin, BMus, MMus, PhD,
LRAM

(for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 the elected members of Council are directors)

Co-opted Members of Council

Dr C. E. Cooper, BSc, MRes, PhD, CPsychol., FHEA
Dr D. L. Erickson, MBA, PhD
Mr S T Parsons

Dr L Ruickbie, BA, MA, PhD (Lond), Assoc. of
King's College
Dr D. J. Vernon, BSc, PhD
Dr Z. Weaver, BA, PhD

Council Appointments

Hon. Secretary – Prof. Poynton
Hon. Treasurer – Dr Broughton

Hon. Editor, Journal & Proceedings – Dr Vernon
Editorial Assistant – Dr Tammy Dempster

Data Protection Officer – Mr Farrell
Hon. Archives Liaison Officer – Dr Willin
Hon. Book Review Editor, JSPR – Mr Nemo Mörck
Hon. Communications Officer – Dr Ruffles

Hon. Editor, The Paranormal Review – Dr Ruickbie
Hon. Statistical Adviser – Miss B. M. Markwick
Hon. Website Manager – Dr Erickson
Website Content Manager – Mr Nemo Mörck

Council Committees

Committee	Chairman	Members
Education & Publicity	Prof. Carr	Dr Erickson, Mr McLuhan, Mr Nemo Mörck, Prof. Roe, Dr Ruickbie, Dr Ruffles.
Research Grants	Prof. Delanoy	Dr Broughton, Prof. Carr, Dr Gauld, Mr Ryan
Buckmaster Oversight	Dr Broughton	Miss Barrington, Prof. Carr, Mr Fraser, Mr Murdie, Prof. Poynton, Mr Ryan, Dr Weaver
Library	Dr Ruffles	Mr McLuhan, Dr John Newton, Mrs Patel, Prof. Poynton, Dr Willin
Spontaneous Cases	Mr Murdie	Miss Barrington, Dr Colvin, Dr Cooper, Mr Paul Cropper, Mr Farrell, Mr Fraser, Dr Kidd, Mrs Rita Leek, Dr John Newton, Mr Parsons, Mr James Tacchi, Dr Weaver
Survival Research	Mrs Barton	Mr Dennis Bury, Dr Matthew Colborn, Dr Cooper, Dr Gauld, Dr Rousseau, Dr David Saunders
Editorial Board	Prof. Roe	Dr Carlos Alvarado, Prof. Stephen Braude, Dr Broughton, Prof. Carr, Prof. Delanoy, Dr Gauld, Prof. Parker, Prof. Poynton, Mr Ryan, Dr Stefan Schmidt, Dr Paul Stevens, Prof. Caroline Watt.
Conference Programme	Prof. Parker	Prof. Carr, Dr Gauld, Mr Murdie, Prof. Roe, Dr Ruffles

Secretary Mr P. M. Johnson

Librarian Mrs K. Patel

Professional Advisers

Auditors & Accountants
Investment Manager

PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants
Newton Investment Management Ltd.

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the President - Professor Chris Roe

It is my pleasure to introduce the Society for Psychical Research's annual report for the period to 30 September 2018. The summaries that follow show the Society to be in a healthy state both organisationally and financially, thanks largely to the hard work of our officers. In our efforts to provide an increasing range of services to members we have operating costs that exceed our income from subscriptions and event registration fees, leaving us reliant on the performance of our investments to balance the books. Of course, this is not a long-term strategy, and we continue to seek ways in which efficiency gains might be made without affecting the quality of service we can offer. I must thank our Honorary Treasurer, Dr Richard Broughton and his team for the prudent and conscientious way in which they have managed the Society's finances. I must also thank Past President Prof. John Poynton for his kind support and advice that has helped us to manage my succession as the Society's President without too many mishaps.

The SPR provides valuable services to members, including educating members (and the public) about recent developments in psychical research and allied academic disciplines. This is reflected in a varied programme of lectures, study days and discussion evenings that take place at Vernon Mews, as well as a packed programme of presentations at our annual conference, which this year was held in Newcastle. Thanks are due to our Secretary, Peter Johnson, for his work in securing such conducive venues within such a tight budget and to Prof. Adrian Parker and his programme team for curating a set of presentations that showcase the variety, ingenuity and rigour of contemporary psychical research. We recognise that some members are unable to attend these events in person and we are striving to make more material available via the internet, for example in the form of videos hosted on our YouTube channel or through links from our website. The SPR's webpages are an important platform through which we can provide up to date, balanced evidence-based information, and I must thank Dr Deborah Erickson, Dr Tom Ruffles, Dr Zofia Weaver and Nemo Mörck for their hard work. The jewel in the crown must be our *Psi Encyclopedia*, which continues to grow in content and provides masterful and authoritative essays on a range of psychical phenomena that could help stem the wave of sceptical ignorance regarding our subject matter. Robert McLuhan has performed a great service to us in commissioning and editing these entries.

The SPR's legacy consists of its publications that document ongoing research into psychical phenomena.

Editorship of our *Journal* has passed to Dr David Vernon and his Editorial Assistant, Dr Tammy Dempster and they are making great strides to achieve professional standards for reviewing, arranging and publishing academic material in the 21st Century. This will facilitate our aim of having the Society's *Journal* recognised for its quality more widely among the scientific community, a key indicator of which is to be listed on the Web of Science database. Dr Leo Ruickbie continues to do a remarkable job in maintaining extremely high production values in his role as Editor of the *Paranormal Review*. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to get these publications into circulation and I am grateful for their efforts. Additionally, we report that this year the SPR has commissioned Steve Parsons, an expert on field investigations, to produce *Guidance Notes for the Investigation of Spontaneous Cases*. This should be seen as evidence of our continued commitment to spontaneous cases and field research as important methods by which we can better understand psychical phenomena. Steve is now a member of council, increasing the number of members for whom spontaneous case investigation is their primary research interest.

The Society also has an obligation to foster new research into psychical phenomena and provide a forum for research findings to be disseminated. Reports from the Research Grants Committee and Survival Research Committee list five projects that would not have been possible without the Society's support (other worthwhile applications had to be declined for lack of funds, and members are invited to consider whether they might be able to contribute towards the costs of future research). Prof. Delanoy continues to serve as Chair of the RGC and her contribution as an internationally recognised expert in parapsychology is much appreciated. I also thank Marian Barton, who continues to serve as Chair of the Survival Research Committee. The *Psi Open Data* repository continues to grow under the guidance of Adrian Ryan, ensuring that conclusions drawn from research material are available for scrutiny by others.

With sadness, I must also note the passing of longstanding researcher and SPR council member, Guy Lyon Playfair.

I commend this report to Society members and other interested parties.

RESEARCH

Report of the Research Grants Committee

Chairman: *Professor Deborah Delanoy*

Firstly, I must extend my gratitude and thanks to the RGC members who selflessly gave their time and expertise to evaluate the research grant funding applications submitted this year. In addition to myself, the RGC committee members are Dr Richard Broughton, Professor Bernard Carr, Mr Adrian Ryan and Dr Alan Gauld

Our limited funds restricted us to only being able to support three research projects this year. Unless more funds for the RGC materialise during the coming year, we will continue to be able to support only a few of the worthy research projects which are submitted to the RGC each year.

To help advance our knowledge of this critically important area, please make donations and/or bequests specifically to the SPR Research Fund. By this means the RGC would be able to increase the number of research projects it can support each year. Your support would help achieve the ultimate and

far-reaching goal of extending our understanding of psychical phenomena.

The RGC appreciate the effort that went into the seven research proposals that we received this year. The proposals represented broad-ranging questions from a distinguished, as well as ‘up and coming’, group of international researchers. Our commiserations are extended to those who we were unable to support. To the following, successful applicants we send our congratulations and wish them every success with their research:

Chris Roe, Chetak Nangare & Johnny Ryan:

‘Confirming previous findings involving individual differences and dream ESP’

Michelle Carr:

‘Exploring precognition in dreaming and memory performance’

Pascal Michael:

‘Exploring DMT theory of NDEs’

Report of the Buckmaster Oversight Committee (BOC)

Chairman: *Dr Richard S. Broughton*

The role of the Buckmaster Oversight Committee is to oversee the projects approved by Council that are funded by a legacy from Mr Nigel Buckmaster. The Committee continues to monitor three projects.

The SPR’s online *Psi Encyclopedia*, flagship project of the Buckmaster fund that launched in 2015, continues to grow in scope and usage. As the main component to implement Mr Buckmaster’s wishes that the SPR would be the source of the best evidence for psychical research the *Psi Encyclopedia* has now grown to nearly 300 articles from contributors around the globe. Project director Robert McLuhan is continuing to solicit quality material from psychical research professionals as the online project moves toward completion.

The SPR *Psi Open Data* Project has completed its first year of operation. This project, directed by Adrian Ryan, is an online repository of parapsychological research data that has been made available by researchers. It is the SPR’s contribution to growing expectation across psychology and other disciplines to make research data available for transparency and further scientific enquiry. Since its launch the repository had acquired 14 datasets from researchers in five different countries and already has

been accessed hundreds of times with the main interest continuing to come from the USA, Russia, The Netherlands and the UK. The *Psi Open Data* repository is one of over 2,000 registered with re3data.org, the global registry of research data repositories and an article introducing the project was recently published in the *Journal of Parapsychology*.

The Systems Methodology for Exploratory Science project under Dr David Rousseau is progressing more slowly than expected due to an extraordinary press of publishing and presentation commitments related to his more general work in Systems Methodology that is attracting substantial international interest. A revised work schedule agreed with the BOC will see the papers specific to the aims of the Buckmaster project completed in 2019.

As the Buckmaster project passes the four-year mark the BOC is pleased to report that the projects are proceeding satisfactorily and that benefits of Mr Buckmaster’s generosity are being realised by our scientific colleagues as well as by our members and the general public.

Report of the Spontaneous Cases Committee

Chairman: Alan Murdie

The Spontaneous Cases Committee lost a long-standing member with the death of Guy Lyon Playfair in April 2018. Before his death Guy Lyon Playfair instructed that his original tape recordings from the Enfield poltergeist case (1977-79) were delivered to the Society's Offices and the care of the Honorary Archivist. This was duly accomplished, and this material has been digitised.

Further to a pledge in 2016 arising from papers delivered at successive SPR conferences and the support of the Council, the SCC reviewed and updated the Society's guidance for the investigation of Spontaneous Cases. A new guide book *Guidance Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases* - new edition by Steven T. Parsons was issued in autumn 2018. The Guide provides an overview of the investigation of alleged hauntings in accordance with recognised scientific techniques and methodology. As has been widely recognised, perceptual and environmental characteristics of locations may trigger cultural associations with haunted places, sometimes creating expectations or impressions of a haunting. Environmental properties of locations, and physical features including geomagnetic or electromagnetic fields may produce cold spots, strange sounds or electrical disturbances. Many factors need to be assessed, and internationally recognised standards exist in respect of the scientific measurement of temperature, air pressure and sound. The new guide seeks to encourage a methodologically sound approach to research into alleged haunted sites. In accordance with the goal of promoting understanding and education in respect of spontaneous phenomena, it is hoped that the guide will encourage the adoption of appropriate standards by field researchers.

Report of the Survival Research Committee

Chairman: Marian Barton

The Gwen Tate Lectures are organised by the SRC and they are always on aspects of survival. We held one lecture this year and it was given by Professor Erlendur Haraldsson on Children's Experiences of Reincarnation. This was based on his recently published book entitled *I Saw a Light and I Came Here* with James Matlock. Prof. Haraldsson is an excellent lecturer on this subject, and he gave us many examples of the reincarnation experiences of children.

Regarding historic cases, the SCC received a number of enquiries concerning the alleged haunting of Borley Rectory in Essex, in conjunction of a partly-animated film *Borley Rectory* released by Carrion Films. In February 2018, Ann Winsper, Steve Parsons and Alan Murdie participated in a broadcast to the United States by the Bristol-based company Kuria in conjunction with the launch of the film. Subsequently, in 2019 another new fictionalised film inspired by the case *The Haunting of Borley Rectory* (2019) is being released and the SCC is preparing to contribute to wider public discussion on this perennial and enduring story and the involvement of the Society and its members over many years.

John Fraser on behalf of the SCC has continued enquiries concerning the properties the Cage at St Osyth, Essex and recent reports of activity at the former council house at the centre of the 'Black Monk of Pontefract' poltergeist case from 1966-68. James Tacchi has undertaken further investigation into recordings of anomalous raps obtained in investigations of spontaneous cases.

The SCC has responded to letters, e-mails and telephone queries from members of the Society and from the public and the media at large. Most relate to claims of low-level paranormal incidents, minor poltergeist incidents, 'jotts', apparitional experiences, reports on performances by mediums and unusual photographs.

Contact with the individuals concerned often suggests an ordinary explanation for experiences; a number of these cases are of interest from psychological, historical and cultural perspectives.

As usual a note about the Survival Research Fund was placed in the January edition of the JSPR. This year it appears not to have produced the usual number of requests for funding by the SRC. Other means of advertising our fund are in the process of being prepared. However, not all applicants are successful as their projects were outside the remit of the fund. We decided to keep our funding at the same level as in previous years with the top figure being £5,000, however, we do occasionally award more than this depending on the aims and relevance of the project.

The following is the award for this year: **£1,916.88 awarded to Professor Chris Roe**, University of Northampton: *Extending our test of mediumship at the Arthur Findlay research laboratory*. This project is also being supported by the University of Northampton and the Friends of Stansted Hall and by Professor Chris Roe as Perrott-Warrick Researcher.

Dr Willin, the SPR's Hon. Archives Liaison Officer, is in possession of the Guy Lyon Playfair tape collection which contains 108 tapes devoted to Enfield and 38 tapes devoted to conversations with/about Uri Geller. These required digitising and the American researcher Mr Jason Engwer has offered part payment for this work of £2,200. The SRC has agreed to match this amount for the work to go ahead.

The SRC also awards an annual grant to cover some of the other work on the SPR's archives and a small percentage of the SRC's Fund will go to the SPR's General Fund to help support the work of the Office and Library in relation to survival.

Report of the Library Committee

Chairman: Dr Tom Ruffles

With the library firmly established as an attraction on the top floor at Vernon Mews, we have experienced a significant increase in usage, not least by those attending evening lectures and study days. Our librarian, Karen Patel, and our Secretary, Peter Johnson, have worked hard to create a pleasant environment in which to read publications. We have also seen an increase in volumes being borrowed: during the current reporting period the library made 217 loans, compared to 148 the previous year.

The Committee was greatly saddened by the loss of Guy Lyon Playfair, who had given huge service to it over the years and who had been my immediate predecessor as chair. The Committee currently consists of Robert McLuhan, Karen Patel (librarian and Committee secretary), John Newton, John Poynton, Tom Ruffles (chair) and Melvyn Willin. During the year we met twice and maintained regular

Hon. Archives Liaison Officer's Report

Dr Melvyn Willin

I have had the usual busy year with the conservation of manuscripts and copying of audio material and the task of digitising the collection has been completed up to 2017. The cataloguing of the contents of the thousands of hours of recordings of lectures, Study Days and Conferences continues and has also now been key-worded, after around 400 hours work. I

We worked with the Secretary regarding the process of handling grant applications in order to comply with the new Privacy and Data Protection Policy.

We have assisted in helping those referred to us under the General Enquiries link on the SPR website, forwarded by the Hon. Communications Officer. These enquiries come from members and non-members alike.

Sadly, one of our Committee died in April and that was Mr Guy Lyon Playfair. We will greatly miss his help, support and expertise. We welcome two new members to the Committee: Dr Matthew Colborn and Dr David Saunders.

I would like to thank the Survival Research Committee members, Mr Dennis Bury, Dr Callum Cooper, Dr Alan Gauld, Dr David Rousseau as well as our newer members, Dr Matthew Colborn and Dr David Saunders, for all their help and support.

email contact. We agreed the purchase of seventeen books at a cost of £348.05, and a further 22 books were donated. As ever, we are grateful to donors for their generosity.

A complete stock-check was undertaken during April 2018. The collection of *JSPR* has now been bound, up to Volume 81, 2017, and some worn volumes have been re-bound. A decision was taken by the editor of the *Journal* to discontinue the paper index which used to accompany the publication, but which has not been issued for some years.

For members unable to visit the library in person, a postal loan service is available. This is free apart from payment of postage; details are available from the librarian. The Society's secretary issues letters of authorisation to those members who wish to use our archive at Cambridge University Library.

have been in communication with numerous scholars concerning the archives and have attempted to answer their diverse queries and provide support. I continue to liaise with the Librarian concerning the joint queries that we receive, and we have paid the odd visit to members to pick up donations of books to the Society. I continue to have a good working

relationship with Sian Collins, the Archivist at Cambridge University Library (CUL). Visits there this year have included the deposit of further correspondence and reports from Alan Gauld, Zofia Weaver and cases from the Spontaneous Cases Committee. I have been very involved at Donald West's request with the proposed publication of the Soal Report. I advised on an exhibition by the Wellcome Foundation which will be featuring SPR material in London next year. I have spent many

Education and Publicity Committee

Chairman: Professor Bernard Carr

The Education and Publicity Committee (EPC) coordinates the SPR's educational activities and develops strategies for publicising these. The promotion of our events is now primarily via the internet and our website. In 2017 we therefore merged with the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), with Robert McLuhan – as former ECC chair - and Deborah Erickson – as Honorary Website Manager - becoming members of the EPC. Deborah's activities are summarised in her individual report and so are not described here.

Last year Nemo Mörck was appointed Website Content Manager and joined the EPC in this capacity. He looks after the news items and books section, inviting new reviews and making earlier ones accessible. Adrian Ryan has left the Committee, so that he can focus on the *Psi Open Data* repository, which is discussed in the report of the Buckmaster Oversight Committee.

With financial support from the SPR and the backing of both the EPC and SCC, Steve Parsons has completed his *Guidance Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases*. This is aimed at the general ghost-investigating community – not just SPR members – in order to promote best practice within that group. By publishing this guide, the SPR should once again become recognised as the foremost organisation in this area. Tom Ruffles has promoted the book on our media outlets, and we will host a launch event in 2019. Meanwhile Steve himself is giving talks and presentations about it.

The *Psi Encyclopedia* ably managed by Robert McLuhan, continues to flourish, with nearly 300 detailed articles now, totaling 1.2 million words. It is hoped that this resource will increasingly be used as a reference aid by both serious students and internet users new to parapsychology. There are still some major topics to address, but the emphasis is increasingly on providing biographical information about scientists and researchers. A recent addition summarises the activities and interests of around 120 individuals, and this will be followed by a similar list of present-day researchers. There are also separate entries for a growing number of key people in the

weeks digitising and transcribing both the Maurice Grosse and the Guy Lyon Playfair 'Enfield' tapes.

I finish with my usual request repeated from previous years and made at the several lectures I have given about the archives. Members should please send me copies of their dissertations and articles for inclusion in the archives when they are of relevance to psychical research. We need more contemporary material to add to the enormous amount of research deposited in the past.

research community. Members are invited to contact Mr McLuhan if they would like to offer comments or suggestions at: robertmcluhan@gmail.com

Our educational role includes overseeing study days in collaboration with Mary Rose Barrington. In November 2017 we held a study day entitled 'Psi in Nature: ESP and PK in the Realm of Biology', chaired by Bernard Carr and with talks by Charmaine Sonnex, John Poynton, Rupert Sheldrake and Callum Cooper. The study day in April 2018 was on 'Psi and Lucid Dreaming'. It was chaired by Bernard Carr and featured talks by Annekatrin Puhle, David Saunders, Michael Schredl, Keith Hearne and Adrian Parker.

The EPC assists the Secretary in selecting speakers for and publicising the London evening lectures. These are held at the SPR premises in Vernon Mews and this will eventually allow us to broadcast events as webinars, with many people attending remotely. We have also continued to hold discussion evenings at our premises, with the theme being some topic in the current *Journal* or *Paranormal Review*. The themes for this year's discussions were 'The early SPR philosophers: Their message for today' (December); 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and Psi' (April); 'Reincarnation, overshadowing or fraud: the Wiczorek case' (August).

The Committee plays a part in organising the annual conference, with Bernard Carr and Tom Ruffles serving on the Programme Committee under the chairmanship of Adrian Parker. This year's conference was held at the Jury's Inn in Newcastle and a full account can be found in Adrian's report and a forthcoming issue of the *Paranormal Review*.

Tom Ruffles continues to respond to enquiries via the website and social media. Frequent references to the SPR, both in print and online, can be followed on our Facebook page and Twitter feed, both of which are overseen by Tom. At the end of the reporting year the SPR's Facebook page had 13,389 'likes' and Twitter had 4,388 followers. These sites not only publicise SPR events but also carry news

about the field in general. Posts are circulated by readers and thereby reach a very large audience. Significant information relating to the SPR appears on our website as news items, which are now managed by Nemo.

We continue to build bridges with other organisations since this allows news of our activities to reach a wider audience. For example, lecture dates are regularly carried in ASSAP's e-newsletter and we are happy to supply SPR leaflets to members for distribution at events arranged by other groups. Leo Ruickbie reproduces his *Paranormal Review*

Report of the Hon. Website Manager

Dr Deborah Erickson

The SPR website has had no technical issues this fiscal year, and content has been updated promptly. The Who's Who pages were updated with several Council and Committee personnel changes throughout the year, and the addition of Nemo Mörck as Content Manager in April was a welcome addition to content maintenance tasks. Additional issues addressed this year are listed below:

- The library integration project was placed on hold due to potential costs and resource availability.

editorials and contents lists on the *Supernatural* magazine website and on his own blog. Carlos Alvarado's parapsychology blog regularly features the SPR and its publications. We also try to arrange joint meetings with other organisations, both in the UK and abroad.

We receive regular media requests through the website and thanks are due to John Poynton for help in dealing with these and giving interviews where appropriate. SPR members frequently make media appearances and these are mostly reported on our website.

- David Vernon initiated several important updates for the *SPR Journal* pages, with expanded content on the home page, more detailed submission guidelines, a new publication ethics page, and updated editorial board affiliations.
- New SPR email accounts were configured for the Content Manager and Data Protection Officer.
- Nemo Mörck updated a variety of broken links and minor edits. He also published thirteen new book reviews and has fifteen website reviews 'in the pipeline.'

The Journal of the Society for Psychical Research

Editor: **Dr David Vernon**

During the period October 2017 to September 2018, we have produced and published four issues of the *Journal*: those for October 2017, January 2018, April 2018 and July 2018. The aim, as always, is to have these issues distributed to subscribers in their designated month of publication but this is in part dependent on the amount of sufficiently high-quality material ready for publication and on ensuring its production to the highest quality. Additionally, in order to keep distribution costs down, mailings are sometimes delayed so as to include other materials being prepared for members. Taken together, the four *Journal* issues under review included 12 refereed articles and research notes, 19 book reviews, and various correspondence and Society notices. The published material continues to reflect the breadth of interest within psychical research, ranging from experimental research (both quantitative and qualitative), field investigations, case studies, theoretical contributions, reviews and historical perspectives. I trust that this diversity assures members that the Editorial Board will consider any empirical approach or topic of relevance to psychical research so long as it is original, provides a significant contribution to the field and is underpinned by a highly rigorous methodology.

To help potential authors and bring the *Journal* into line with general American Psychological Association (APA) standards, the *SPR Journal* webpage has been updated to provide clear instructions and guidance regarding the submission of research articles, notes and letters.

Prospective contributors are reminded that the email address for submissions is journal@spr.ac.uk and we encourage electronic submissions as Word files.

In addition to this the submission and review processes have been explicitly clarified and guidance provided regarding ethical practice. In an attempt to foster transparency and achieve the highest methodological standards of research practice, the *Journal* is also actively encouraging the use of appropriate pre-registration (e.g., Koestler Parapsychology Unit) and data repository sites (*Psi Open Data*). These developments have all been undertaken with a view to getting the *Journal* listed on the Web of Science (WoS), which is something we are working hard to achieve for JSPR. Having the *Journal* listed and indexed on WoS would be an important step forward in making the *Journal* visible to the academic world as well as obtaining important citation indexing information.

Editing and producing the JSPR is a time consuming and very demanding task and not one carried out alone. Hence, I would like to thank my Editorial Assistant, Dr Tammy Dempster, for her excellent work in screening and managing the many submissions we receive – including many that are reviewed but are deemed unsuitable for publication by our referees. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our typesetters, Sally and Suzy, at Hope Services, for their prompt and scrupulous attention to detail. I am grateful to members of the

The Paranormal Review

Editor: Dr Leo Ruickbie

Four issues of the *Paranormal Review* were published during the accounting period as scheduled: ‘The Art of the Impossible’ (issue 84, Autumn 2017), ‘Back to the “Lilly” Pond’ (issue 85, Winter 2018), ‘[No Title]’ (issue 86, Spring 2018) and ‘Guy Lyon Playfair’ (issue 87, Summer 2018). Issue 84 was devoted to announcing the results of the 1st *Paranormal Review* photography competition. Issue 85 saw the first contribution from the *Paranormal Review*’s new Events Reporter, Ashley Knibb, on the ‘Psi in Nature’ Study Day. Issue 86 carried a report on the SPR’s Annual International Conference by the editor, as well as an announcement of the 2nd *Paranormal Review* photography competition, once

Annual Conference

Programme Chairman: Professor Adrian Parker, Conference Organiser: Peter Johnson

The conference was held at Jurys Inn, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne 21-23 September. with around seventy participants attending.

The theme (relating primarily to invited speakers and the panel discussion) was Consciousness and Psi. There were three invited speakers: David Luke, Bernardo Kastrup, and Rupert Sheldrake. As well as the invited addresses, there were 23 presentations including one unexpected one from China - the latter being enabled by the language skills of Simon Duan. In addition to China and the UK, there were presentations from Iceland, Holland, Sweden, and Germany. The presentations were arranged around the common topics of Consciousness, NDEs, Spontaneous psychic experiences, cross cultural and historical studies, experimental studies, mediumship, and altered states. There was one no-show and Marios Kittenis very kindly agreed to step in here and present his poster session (arranged with Adrian Burgess). Caroline Watt was unable to attend because of family reasons and she thoughtfully arranged for Deborah Delanoy to present her paper.

The conference was recorded on video. A panel discussion on the topic ‘What is Consciousness?’ included a presentation from Bernard Carr as well as

Editorial Board, as well as the many anonymous referees, for behind the scenes work in reviewing submissions and making recommendations for improvement. I would also like to express my gratitude to the two Hon. Book Review Editors in post during this year, for managing the review process with meticulous professionalism. Tom Ruffles resigned from the role in January 2018 after nine years of service, and Nemo Mörck was appointed in April. Finally, I should like to thank Deborah Erickson for all her help and guidance on updating the *JSPR* web pages.

again generously supported by Olympus UK. Issue 87 was dedicated to the life and work of Guy Lyon Playfair.

Press releases for each issue were posted to Facebook and Twitter and redistributed by Dr Tom Ruffles across the SPR channels. The contents and editorial pages were also syndicated by www.supernaturalmagazine.com run by SPR member Norie Miles. This additional promotional activity continued to maintain the visibility of the magazine and hence contributed to raising awareness of the SPR in general.

the three invited speakers. This discussion between well-known representatives for physics, biology, parapsychology, psychology, and philosophy reached a remarkable consensus, and the video recording of the discussion is now available on the SPR’s new *YouTube* channel.

The choice of venue was this year determined by the prospects for the attendance of students from the four universities located in the Northumberland and Durham area and, at the time of planning, support from a staff member from Northumbria University. With these prospects in mind the conference was also placed at a time later than usual at the end of the first week of term. Although subsidised student rates were offered, and considerable effort was made to distribute posters advertising the conference (by Claire Morgan and the programme chair), and by the use of social media (by Claire Murphy-Morgan and by Callum Cooper), this proved to have little effect. It remains unclear why this was so but may be the case that student interest is today highly determined by career prospects and student attendance is then more likely when conferences are placed at universities where parapsychological research is fully integrated into the degree programmes. A form

of competitive student sponsoring from these universities may generate interest.

Conference costs and fees were considerably reduced this year by dispensing with the banquet and President's reception. No complaints reached me and, on the contrary, my impression was that participants were satisfied with the accommodation

Secretary's Report

Peter Johnson

In the membership numbers below, you will be able to see that we have slightly increased our membership this year, which is hopefully an indication that the downward trend of recent years is coming to an end.

Activities in the office over the past year have very much been focused on consolidating our own systems for recording our operations and members'

and the fees charged for it and that they much enjoyed the conference.

A positive spin-off from the conference is that the participant from China, Zhengbing Wu, invited Glenn Hitchman, Annkatrin Puhle, David Luke, and Adrian Parker to Hong Kong in November to take part in the first international parapsychology conference held there.

records. The implementation of GDPR has been a large part of this drive, along with automating the membership renewals procedures. In addition, we have successfully introduced a new online bookkeeping system that enables us to track income and expenditure more efficiently; a change that members should hopefully not notice but is intended to enable us to provide you with an improved level of service.

	Members & Associates		Student Associates		Totals	
	30 Sept 18	30 Sept 17	30 Sept 18	30 Sept 17	30 Sept 18	30 Sept 17
UK	483	446	26	24	509	470
USA	117	125	6	6	123	131
Other Countries	133	148	12	10	145	158
TOTALS	733	719	44	40	777	759

Other than the Gwen Tate Memorial Lecture (see the report of the Survival Research Committee), we held six lectures during the year:

- Dr Edwin May – ‘Stargate Archives’
- Dr Simon Duan – ‘Breaking the Code of Psi’
- Dr Serena Roney-Dougal – ‘The Magic of Psi’
- Dr Alejandro Parra – ‘Paranormal Events in a Hospital Setting’
- Dr Terence Palmer – ‘Telepathic Hypnosis: A Neglected Research Field’
- Dr Krister Dylan-Knapp – ‘William James: Psychical Research and the Challenge of Modernity’

Audio recordings of all our events are available for loan (members only) and purchase. Huge thanks to Melvyn Willin for maintaining our catalogue of recordings. Please note that, in addition to borrowing physical recordings, members may now listen to or download talks directly from our website. I express my thanks to Mick O'Neill for his work as technical assistant at all our meetings and also to Karen Patel

and Bryan Jones for their help with running all of our events.

Significant changes to the management and pricing levels of our Annual Conference this year (to be continued into 2019) made for a very productive event that was enjoyed by all those who were able to attend.

Data Protection Officer's Report

Ciaran Farrell

In August 2017 the UK Government signed the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into British Law to come into force in the UK from 25 May 2018.

It was agreed at the SPR Council meeting in November 2017 that the SPR Council appoint a Data

Protection Officer in order to comply with the requirements of GDPR. The SPR was not required by the statutory provisions of either the GDPR or the earlier British Data Protection Act 1998 to appoint a Data Protection Officer at Board level but chose to do so on a voluntary basis in order that the SPR could be made compliant with the new statutory

requirements of GDPR. It was agreed that the DPO would assist the work of the Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer to ensure that the SPR would be able to meet the requirements of this legislation, and a small GDPR Implementation Team would be formed within the SPR to carry out this vital work. I was appointed to fill this role and I completed three short training courses in preparation.

The Information Commissioners Office, ICO, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of GDPR and is the UK GDPR monitoring body. GDPR came into force as planned on 25 May 2018. Due to the complexities of implementing GDPR and the short time scale for compliance with GDPR requirements in the UK the ICO have decided to take a more flexible view of the of the GDPR deadline by which full compliance should be achieved.

It is one of the requirements of GDPR that corporate responsibility needs be taken by the governing bodies of Charitable Companies like the SPR for the establishment and maintenance of GDPR compliance. This means that the SPR Council is therefore required to put in place the necessary policies, procedures and working practices to achieve these ends.

The SPR GDPR Implementation Team met eight times during the reporting period and carried out a review of the SPR's entire operation in relation to the requirements of GDPR, and the DPO has made regular reports to Council on the progress of this work. In addition, the GDPR Implementation Team has carried out a great deal of work directly or by correspondence with each other and with other relevant parties outside the SPR.

Through the hard work of the GDPR Implementation Team the SPR has achieved the SPR's goal of being substantially compliant with GDPR in all front-facing aspects of the SPR's work and nearly all back-office activities on time and within budget. When this work is fully completed the SPR will have a fully coherent data policy framework and set of procedures to accompany it which will embody good GDPR data privacy, security and handling practices which will be achieved through enhanced GDPR compliance. This will enable the SPR to attain 'Good practice' status within the charity and voluntary sector.

In order to meet the requirements of GDPR, the GDPR Implementation Team has had to review and revise the processes and procedures used by all the SPR's committees. The Research Grants Committee as well as the Survival Research Grants Committee in particular are now fully GDPR compliant, as are the SPR's Conference committees. Certain aspects of this work have not yet been fully resolved and the GDPR Implementation Team is currently working on these aspects as a matter of priority.

In addition, we also had to review and revise the content and functionality of the SPR's website and email mailing list. We had to completely overhaul the way in which the mailing list worked and to send out an email to everyone on the list to ask them to continue to be on a new GDPR compliant mailing list before the GDPR compliance deadline of the 25th of May. This took a great deal of preparation as well as time and effort since it required a number of software updates and upgrades to be able to equip the office computer systems with the necessary GDPR software extensions in order to carry out this work.

The GDPR Implementation Team regret the necessity of having to ask members and everyone else on the SPR's mailing list to consent to continue to receive emails from the SPR which was onerous to all concerned, but there have been certain advantages for the SPR in doing so.

The old SPR mailing list had become very large and unwieldy over the course of time and needed to be rationalised. However, this was not seen as a priority in the SPR's day to day work due to other more pressing priorities. The GDPR requirement to overhaul the system has meant that we now have a much more efficient and effective mailing list comprising people who really want to receive SPR email communications rather than one that had become cluttered with out of date names and email addresses or spam email addresses.

The GDPR Implementation Team has undertaken a major piece of work in carrying out a comprehensive 'Shop Floor to Board and back to Shop Floor' review of the SPR's entire operation regarding the requirements of GDPR which encompassed a full risk assessment.

The risk assessment entailed the various risks of a breach of data security occurring and of the SPR not achieving full GDPR compliance. This work had been summarised in a GDPR Compliance Table and was overseen by Council.

The GDPR Implementation Team can report that the Team have reviewed the contents of the GDPR Compliance Table and that, as a result, the Team have concluded that this work is substantially complete. The risk assessment elements now show either that we are GDPR compliant, and the work on the specific tasks is now at zero or minimal risk level. Many items contained within the Table will be monitored to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness by undertaking a process of Continuous Quality Improvement monitoring.

The Data Protection Officer would like to thank the other members of the GDPR Implementation Team for all their hard work. They are Mr Johnson (SPR Secretary), Dr Broughton (Honorary Treasurer) and Mr Ryan.

The Financial Position

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Richard Broughton

I am pleased to report that the Society continues in generally good financial health and is continuing to deliver its full range of services to education, science, and the public on a very tight budget. Overall our financial reserves are up on last year, but this is due largely to favourable market conditions for our investments. Although we are continuing to reduce our operational costs as reflected in the unrestricted funds, it remains a concern that these costs are still far higher than our income. Council remains committed to making our services as widely available as possible, which is why membership dues remain modest and have been unchanged for many years, and we are trying to make our conferences as affordable as possible, particularly for students, by absorbing some of the conference costs.

This year saw two principle changes in the financial operations of the Society that are facilitating substantial staff efficiencies while reducing expenses. We are now processing *all* membership and subscriptions through our online Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that allows members to renew memberships and maintain their details online. It permits closer accounting and automated collection of Gift Aid on qualifying donations, and, importantly, it keeps our record-keeping compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We have also migrated our bookkeeping from a spreadsheet-based system to an online system that will result in direct

cost savings, dramatically improves reporting, and automates tax filings.

While Council feels we must do what it takes to keep our services affordable, we are equally mindful of our operating deficit. For this reason, it remains vitally important to the Society that we attract donations to the General Fund that can provide the additional income required to provide these services. The principle vehicle for this has been our New Home Campaign, aimed at replenishing the investment reserves that were used to purchase our new premises, but in the coming year we will be expanding our online opportunities for donations. I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members to consider the importance of maintaining the SPR's services for future generations when they are reviewing their charitable giving plans. Remember that your Will can be an important way to support the work of the SPR and we would be happy to discuss this and other ways of making substantial contributions.

The accounts have once again been subject to a full audit and I am pleased to report that the Auditor has submitted a positive report. Please note that in the Auditor's Report, included with the Accounts, references to "members" is a technical usage referring to the members of the Board, i.e., the Directors of the Society.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

A company limited by guarantee and without a share capital

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES	The members of Council
COMPANY SECRETARY	P M Johnson
COMPANY NUMBER	00044861 (England and Wales)
CHARITY NUMBER	207325
REGISTERED OFFICE	1 Vernon Mews London W14 0RL
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ NatWest Bank plc 55 Kensington High Street London W8 5ZG
INVESTMENT MANAGERS	BNY Mellon Fund Managers Ltd PO Box 366 Darlington, DL1 9RF
AUDITORS	PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 1 Parkshot, Richmond Surrey TW9 2RD

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES
Year ended 30 September 2018

The directors and trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2018.

Objects of the charity, principal activities and organisation of work for the public benefit

The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research (the Society) was incorporated in 1895 and is governed by a memorandum and articles of association, being both a company limited by guarantee without a share capital and a registered charity.

The Society is controlled by a Council whose elected members are directors of the Society, and all of whose members, elected and co-opted, are trustees of the Society. The names of members of Council and subsidiary committees are listed in the Annual Report of Council preceding these accounts. The day to day administration of the Society is managed by a full-time administrator supported by a part time librarian.

The object and principal activity of the Society during the year continued to be the investigation of psychic and other paranormal phenomena, including awarding grants, and other services to further such investigation, the publication of research findings and related matters in its journal and magazine, the maintenance of a library and archives, the maintenance of an information website and an online library of the Society's publications, the holding of public lectures, symposia and an international conference, and the reception of and due response to enquiries and requests for information from the Society's members and the general public.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and settling the grant making policy for the year. Specific details of how these objectives have been achieved and maintained during the year can be found in the preceding individual reports of the various Committees and Officers.

Development, activities and achievements this year and future developments

These matters are addressed in the attached Annual Report of Council preceding these accounts.

Transactions and financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities (page 19) shows a net deficit before gains on investments of £118,902 (2017: £153,063 deficit). The gains on investments increased from £64,430 in 2017 to £208,651 in the current year. This was due to the state of the markets during the year. The net increase in funds for the year was £89,749 (2017: £88,633 decrease). This net increase in funds arises from several factors, including stronger performance of investments compared with previous years, the programmatic spending down of the restricted Buckmaster Fund, and an operating deficit that the Trustees are working to address.

The closing balance on reserves, representing the net assets of the Society, increased by this amount from £3,594,332 to £3,684,081 (see Balance Sheet on page 20).

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Society

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 11 to the accounts (page 26).

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES
Year ended 30 September 2018

Reserves available

The planned use of the SPR Reserves is as follows. The use of the General Fund (GF) is unrestricted, and it is invested in a medium-risk portfolio to provide income for the payment of the SPR's operational expenses, and such expenditure is reported in the Accounts under "Charitable Activities Costs" (Note 6). The SPR Research Fund (RF) is restricted for use towards research, as described in Note 15 of the Accounts. This fund is invested in a medium-risk portfolio, and the dividend earnings from this investment are made available for grants to be awarded by the Research Grants Committee. Such awards are reported in the Accounts (Note 15) and in the annual report of the Chairman of the Research Grants Committee. The Survival Research Fund (SRF) is restricted for promoting activities that might lead to a scientific theory of life after death. This fund is invested in a medium-risk portfolio, and the annual increase in portfolio value is made available for grants to be awarded by the SPR Council on recommendations from the Survival Research Committee. Such awards are reported in the Accounts (Note 15) and in the annual report of the Chairman of the Survival Research Committee.

The Buckmaster Fund is restricted in accordance with the Will of the donor, Nigel Buckmaster, for collating and presenting the best evidence for anomalous phenomena relevant to Psychical Research and related work, and allowing a portion to be used for securing a freehold premises for housing the SPR headquarters and library, as described in Note 15 of the Accounts. In 2014, the SPR Council approved that £250,000 of the legacy be reserved for use in purchasing new premises, and the remainder be reserved for project use. In 2015, the capital of the Buckmaster Building Fund was applied to the purchase of a long leasehold on the 1 Vernon Mews property for the Society's offices resulting in a zero balance and the Buckmaster Building Fund was wound up. The Buckmaster Projects Fund is invested in medium risk portfolios. The capital and earnings of the Buckmaster Projects Fund is available for spending on appropriate projects approved by the SPR Council, and these projects are managed by the Buckmaster Oversight Committee. Such expenditure is reported in the Accounts (Note 15) and the report of the Chairman of the Buckmaster Oversight Committee. The earnings on the investment of the Buckmaster Funds will be transferred for use to the SPR Research Fund and Survival Research Fund at the beginning of each fiscal year in equal parts.

All three restricted funds are assessed a small administration charge to defray the costs of administering the funds, and this transfer to the general fund is shown in note 15.

Plans for the future

With well over a century's experience in providing reliable information on psychical research to the public and high quality professional research reports to the scientific community, as well as financially supporting new research, the Society plans to continue its work as described in the accompanying Annual Report of its activities. Near term plans including continuing the Society's policy of keeping costs low for membership, conferences, and other educational activities in order to encourage greater participation by students and academics from around the world. Recognising that this places a considerable burden on the general fund of the Society efforts are ongoing to attract benefactors and develop new sources of funding that can provide additional support to the General Fund following the acquisition of the Society's new headquarters.

Investment policy and returns

Council is empowered to direct the investment of surplus funds of the General Fund and the capital of the restricted funds in whichever way it sees fit, subject to the investment guidelines of the Charity Commission. The Society's portfolios of listed investments is now managed by its investment managers, BNY Mellon Fund Managers, the parent company of its former investment managers Newton Investment Management Limited. The investment performance is monitored on a regular basis by the Hon. Treasurer.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES Year ended 30 September 2018 (continued)

Directors and trustees

All of the elected members of Council are directors of the company and trustees of the charity and there are a further three co-opted members who are also trustees. All the members listed in the attached Annual Report of Council served throughout the year, except Mr Steven T. Parsons and Dr Zofia Weaver who were appointed by Council on 2 August 2018. No remuneration is paid to the Society's officers in their capacity as trustees or directors.

The Society's Articles of Association stipulate that 18 trustees are elected by the voting members of the Society. Co-opted trustees are appointed by the Council and are recruited primarily through coming to the attention of existing trustees through their interest in the goals and work of the Society. Co-opted trustees are sought who can bring to the Society particular talents, expertise and experience not only in science but also in other professions such as can enhance and facilitate its operations and future direction.

Risk management

The trustees review as part of their regular Council meetings all potential areas of risk which may affect the Society. Procedures are in place to identify and mitigate risk.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the company for that year. In preparing the 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;
- make judgments 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Society will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving this report, there is no relevant information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the trustees, individually, have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by Council representing the board of directors and trustees on 31st January 2019 and signed on its behalf:

C. A. Roe - President



THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research for the year ended 30 September 2018 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 30 September 2018, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further describe in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the members have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorized for issue.

Other information

The members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- The Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' report.

Responsibilities of members

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibility statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charities ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matter related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charity's members. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

 Date 29/03/2019

Kishorial Shah (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of PK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

1 Parkshot
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 2RD

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 30 September 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	2	19,320	-	19,320	5,076
Membership and journal subscriptions		15,663	-	15,663	32,303
Investment income		19,665	43,070	62,735	71,542
Charitable activities income	3	14,858	42	14,900	28,721
Other income	4	1,817	207	2,024	2,127
TOTAL INCOME		71,323	43,319	114,642	139,769
RESOURCES EXPENDED:					
Cost of generating funds:					
Activities for generating funds	5	11,025	-	11,025	16,908
Charitable activities costs	6	101,631	92,501	194,132	246,175
Governance costs	7	28,007	380	28,387	29,749
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		140,663	92,881	233,544	292,832
Net (outgoing) resources before gains on investments		(69,340)	(49,562)	(118,902)	(153,063)
Transfers between funds		24,922	(24,922)	-	-
Net gains on investments	8	75,177	133,474	208,651	64,430
Net movement in funds for the year		30,759	58,990	89,749	(88,633)
Funds brought forward 1 October 2017		1,994,616	1,599,716	3,594,332	3,682,965
Funds carried forward 30 September 2018		2,025,375	1,658,706	3,684,081	3,594,332

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 September 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible assets	11	5,661	-	5,661	7,177
Leasehold property	11	1,264,610	-	1,264,610	1,264,610
Investments	12	749,142	1,672,268	2,421,410	2,282,823
		<u>2,019,413</u>	<u>1,672,268</u>	<u>3,691,681</u>	<u>3,554,610</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Stocks	13	3,071	-	3,071	2,645
Debtors	14	29,292	-	29,292	105,927
Cash at bank and in hand		6,081	3,773	9,854	11,106
		<u>38,444</u>	<u>3,773</u>	<u>42,217</u>	<u>119,678</u>
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(32,482)	(17,335)	(49,817)	(79,956)
NET CURRENT ASSETS /(LIABILITIES)		<u>5,962</u>	<u>(13,562)</u>	<u>(7,602)</u>	<u>39,722</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,025,375</u>	<u>1,658,706</u>	<u>3,684,081</u>	<u>3,594,332</u>
ACCUMULATED GENERAL RESERVE		2,025,375	-	2,025,375	1,994,616
RESTRICTED FUNDS	16	-	1,658,706	1,658,706	1,599,716
		<u>2,025,375</u>	<u>1,658,706</u>	<u>3,684,081</u>	<u>3,594,332</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

This report was approved by Council representing the board of directors and trustees on 31st January 2019 and signed on its behalf:



C. A. Roe - President



R. S. Broughton - Honorary Treasurer

Registered number: 00044861

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The company is a private company, limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The accounts are prepared in sterling and monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS ON A GOING CONCERN BASIS

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 INCOMING RESOURCES

Legacies are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Income from membership and journal subscriptions, conferences and sales of publications and other items is accounted for in each case as the amount due for the year. Provision is made against a proportion of outstanding subscriptions on the basis of non-recoveries experienced in previous years.

Other income is accounted for when received.

1.4 RESOURCES EXPENDED

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure includes expenditure associated with the delivery of activities meeting charitable objects and comprises direct costs relating to these activities.

Governance costs include those costs associated with the governance of the charitable company and include audit fees and costs limited to the strategic management of the charitable company.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity comprise costs that can be allocated directly to such activities to support them.

The company makes grants for research which furthers the charity's objects and as agreed by the Trustees.

1.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets as follows:

Furniture and equipment	15% p.a. on written down value.
Computer equipment	25% p.a. on cost.

Amortisation is not provided on leasehold property where the lease is for a period of more than 100 years.

1.6 STOCKS

Stocks of publications and other items for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, due allowance being made for slow-moving and obsolete items.

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. The Trust does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.8 FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at total net income.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

1.9 LIBRARY

The Society owns a library of books which have been acquired over a considerable period of time since the Society was founded. Since there is no reliable cost information, and any conventional valuation would either lack sufficient reliability, or the costs involved in valuing the library would be onerous compared with the additional benefit to the users of the financial statements in assessing the directors' and trustees' stewardship, no valuation has been carried out and the library is excluded from the balance sheet.

1.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity has only financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognized at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Gifts and donations	19,320	-	19,320	5,063
Bequests and legacies	-	-	-	13
	19,320	-	19,320	5,076
	19,320	-	19,320	5,076

3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Conferences	12,233	-	12,233	26,737
Lectures	215	42	257	7
Study days	2,410	-	2,410	1,977
	14,858	42	14,900	28,721
	14,858	42	14,900	28,721

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Publication and other sales	1,109	207	1,316	472
Royalties	472	-	472	952
Other sales	236	-	236	703
Interest	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,817</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>2,024</u>	<u>2,127</u>

5 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Publication costs	10,683	-	10,683	16,908
Publicity cost	342	-	342	-
	<u>11,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,025</u>	<u>16,908</u>

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Grants for research and education	-	70,430	70,430	107,417
Conferences	10,696	-	10,696	23,297
Lectures	1,240	447	1,687	1,964
Study days	1,492	-	1,492	1,954
Library and archive	7,353	3,000	10,353	5,245
Staff costs	71,731	-	71,731	62,445
Premises	9,832	-	9,832	21,109
Postage and stationery	8,396	-	8,396	5,204
Telecommunications	452	-	452	486
Website and internet expenses	2,798	1	2,798	11,868
Software	1,125	-	1,125	-
General expenses	3,624	-	3,624	4,142
Loss on stock value	-	-	-	(784)
Depreciation	1,516	-	1,516	1,808
Relocation expenses	-	-	-	20
Administration fee	(18,624)	18,624	-	-
	<u>101,631</u>	<u>92,501</u>	<u>194,132</u>	<u>246,175</u>

No member of staff was paid over £60,000. Apart from the payments set out in note 9, six members of staff were employed during the year. Staff costs includes £4,586 social security costs.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

7 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Legal and professional fees	17,877	-	17,877	17,110
Council meetings	793	-	793	1,441
Audit fee	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Bank and credit card charges	1,837	380	2,217	3,698
	<u>28,007</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>28,387</u>	<u>29,749</u>

8 NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Unrealised gain on investments	61,714	137,979	199,693	64,430
Realised gain on investments	<u>13,463</u>	<u>(4,505)</u>	<u>8,958</u>	<u>-</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>75,177</u>	<u>133,474</u>	<u>208,651</u>	<u>64,430</u>

9 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or member of Council received remuneration during the year in their capacity as trustees or directors. Travel and other expenses amounting to £3,129 (2017 - £2,627) were reimbursed to Council members.

The following Council members received honoraria in recognition of specialised services rendered to the Society and in accordance with the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association:

Prof. B. Carr: £114 (2017 - £44) for study day expenses.

Mr A Ryan: £nil (2017 - £500) as a grant from the Buckmaster Fund.

Mr A Parker: £831 (2017 - £979) for travel expenses.

Dr C. Cooper: £390 (2017 - £2,944) for travel expenses (2017 research grant).

Mr J. Fraser: £170 (2017 - £nil) for committee expenses.

Mr Robert McLuhan £15,575 (2017 - £24,593) as a grant for work as Editor of the encyclopedia being developed as part of the Buckmaster Project and for articles contributing to the encyclopedia.

Prof. J. Poynton: £234 (2017 - £82) for Lecture expenses (2017: Buckmaster project encyclopedia).

Prof. C. A. Roe: £507 (2017 - £3,040) for his editorial work regarding the SPR's Journal and £6,149 (2017 £7,595) as a grant, £308 for travel (2017 - £180).

Dr T. H. Ruffles: £5,125 (2017 £5,525) as Hon Communications Officer (2017 also as Hon Book Review Editor); £140 (2017 - £133) travel expenses for Council meetings.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Dr M. J. Willin: £4,604 (2017 - £4,800) for his work on the archives and (2017 also for contributions to the Buckmaster Project encyclopedia); £5,000 (2017 £nil) fee paid from the General Fund and £4,400 (2017 £nil) as a grant from the Survival Research Fund, both for transferring tapes to digital format; £nil as a grant from the Research Fund (2017 £4,000); £385 expenses (2017 £177).

Mr A Murdie £nil (2017 £200 for book sales and Council travel expenses).

Dr L Ruickbie £2,400 (2017 £3,773) as Editor of the Paranormal Review, £900 typesetting costs, £601 conference expenses.

Dr Z Weaver £nil (2017 £185 for travel costs); £410 (2017 £nil) for contribution to Psi Encyclopedia.

Mr S T Parsons £500 (2017 £nil) for a grant to author a new version of a publication.

Dr D J Vernon £1,827 (2017 £nil) for his editorial work on the SPR Journal; £4,582 for a grant (2017 £nil) and £126 (2017 £nil) for travel and Journal expenses.

Other than these payments no trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

10 TAXATION

As a charity, the Society is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 256 of the taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No such tax charges have arisen in the charity.

11 FIXED ASSETS – Tangible assets

	Leasehold Property £	Furniture & equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1 October 2017	1,264,610	25,593	12,531	1,302,734
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 30 September 2018	1,264,610	25,593	12,531	1,302,734
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 October 2017	-	19,564	11,383	30,947
Charge for the year	-	904	612	1,516
At 30 September 2018	-	20,468	11,995	32,463
NET BOOK VALUE –				
30 September 2018	1,264,610	5,125	536	1,270,271
NET BOOK VALUE –				
30 September 2017	1,264,610	6,029	1,148	1,271,787

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

12a FIXED ASSETS – Investments

Investments are shown in the balance sheet at market value. The movement in market values during the year is as follows:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2018 £	2017 £
Market value at 1 October 2017	732,428	1,550,395	2,282,823	2,411,072
Net additional funds invested/ (funds withdrawn)	(45,000)	(16,106)	(61,106)	(192,679)
Increase in market value during the year	61,714	137,979	199,693	64,430
Market value at 30 September 2018	749,142	1,672,268	2,421,410	2,282,823
UK listed investments	749,142	1,672,268	2,421,410	2,282,823
Cash balances on deposit and awaiting investment	-	-	-	-
Historical cost of listed investments on 30 September 2018	322,107	1,018,889	1,340,995	1,497,495

Investments at 30 September 2018 comprise 1,340,995 (2017 1,802,467) units held in Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities.

12b FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

**Unlisted
Investment
£1**

At 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2018

The Society has a 20% beneficial interest in Vernon Mews Management Company Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, under the company number 01791332. The company is dormant and holds the freehold of 30 to 36 (even) North End Road and 1 Vernon Mews, London, W14 0RL.

13 STOCKS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Stock of publications etc.	3,071	-	3,071	2,645

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

14 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-	-	3,300
Other debtors	28,077	-	28,077	77,288
Inter fund balances	-	-	-	24,298
Prepayments	1,215	-	1,215	1,041
	<u>29,292</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,292</u>	<u>105,927</u>

15 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income – Memberships and subscriptions	13,291	-	13,291	-
Social security	3,639	-	3,639	-
Inter fund balances	-	-	-	24,298
Other creditors and accruals	15,552	17,337	32,889	55,658
Other creditors and accruals	<u>32,482</u>	<u>17,337</u>	<u>49,819</u>	<u>79,956</u>

Other creditors and accruals – £17,337 (restricted) are all grants payable (2017 £34,706).

16 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Society's restricted funds include:

SPR Research Fund

Under the terms of its Trust Deed the fund's assets are to be applied solely for investigations, experiments and other research activities appropriate to the purposes of the Society.

Survival Research Fund

The funds of the Survival Research Fund are to be applied for the pursuance of such activities as may lead to the establishment of a theory of survival after death. An annual contribution is made to this Fund by the H B Tate Will Trust on the condition that two lectures are held annually on the subject of "the continuous existence of consciousness".

Buckmaster Fund

The Buckmaster Fund was donated by Mr. Nigel Buckmaster for the purpose of collating and presenting the best evidence for each class of anomalous phenomena relevant to Psychological Research, and related work.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Movements in the restricted funds during the year were:

	<i>SPR Research Fund</i>	<i>Survival Research Fund</i>	<i>Buckmaster Projects Fund</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 October 2017	585,446	663,891	350,379	1,599,716
Investment income	15,553	16,969	10,548	43,070
Allocation of 2017 investment income	8,343	8,343	(16,686)	-
Other income	-	249	-	249
Grants awarded	(23,973)	(1,917)	(44,540)	(70,430)
Lecture expenses	-	(447)	-	(447)
Library costs	-	(3,000)	-	(3000)
Website and internet	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	(20)	(360)	(380)
Net Movement in investments	49,968	54,502	29,004	133,474
Transfers between funds	(10,586)	3,000	(17,336)	(24,922)
Administration fees	(5,854)	(6,638)	(6,132)	(18,624)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 30 September 2018	618,897	734,932	304,877	1,658,706
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

17 RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEMES

Defined contribution schemes

	2018	2017
	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>873</u>	<u>182</u>

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

18 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research is a private company limited by guarantee and accordingly, does not have a share capital. In accordance with the Articles of Association, each member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up.

19 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The charitable company's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2017 are available in full on the Charity Commission's website.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 28TH APRIL 2018

AT 1 VERNON MEWS, LONDON, W14 0RL

Prof. John Poynton (President of the Society) opened the meeting at 5.15 p.m., welcoming 22 voting members to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Item 1 – To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th April 2017

Mrs Barton proposed the approval of the published minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting and this was seconded by Miss Barrington. Mr Ellis proposed that Item 3 of the minutes should be amended to record his assertion that the other six candidates nominated for election were all more worthy of election, including Mr Farrell who lived in London, supported all the SPR events, had extensive committee experience and moreover was at least 20 years younger than himself and he had therefore decided not to contest the election. After some discussion of procedural matters, it was agreed to consider the proposed amendment. With 3 votes in favour, 12 against and 6 abstentions, the amendment was not passed. It was noted that the record of Item 3 should show that Miss Barrington's invitation to reconsider Mr Ellis' decision was merely implied by a statement of her objection to it. Miss Barrington, however, expressed her opinion that it was not essential for the minutes to record this. Reverting to Mrs Barton's proposal to approve the minutes, this was passed with 11 in favour, 1 against and 11 abstentions.

The minutes were approved as a fair record.

Item 2 – To receive the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts made up to 30th September 2017

Mr Ellis reported that in the Auditors' Note 9 in the Accounts, the net earnings from his work for the Society should be recorded as £100, not £nil. The Secretary would inform the Auditors.

Prof. Poynton proposed that the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts should be received. This was approved nem. con. with two abstentions.

Item 3 – To elect six members to the Council

Six members of the Council were due to retire from office and all six offered themselves for re-election. No further nominations having been received, all six were declared to be re-elected: Mrs M E Barton, Dr B G Colvin, Mrs J A Rousseau, Prof. D J Delanoy, Mr A D Murdie & Dr M J Willin.

Item 4 – To re-appoint PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants as Reporting Accountants for the period prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

Dr Broughton proposed the re-appointment of PK Audit LLP as the Society's Accountants. This was seconded by Mr Fraser and was unanimously approved.

Item 5 – To authorise the Council to determine the remuneration of the Reporting Accountants

Dr Broughton proposed that the Council should be authorised to determine the remuneration of the Accountants. Seconded by Dr Vernon, this was carried unanimously. Dr Broughton noted that steps were being taken to reduce the professional fees incurred for accounting. He confirmed that all efforts were being made to reduce overall running expenses and he also invited the membership to contact him regarding any possible contributions to the Society's Building Fund.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Hon. Treasurer, the Secretary and to the President, in his outgoing year, for all their work. Appreciation was expressed in the traditional manner.

Prof. Poynton thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 6.04 p.m.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
NOTES ON CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL 2019

RICHARD S. BROUGHTON, BA, PhD

Richard became a member of the Society in 1975 while working on his PhD at the University of Edinburgh under the supervision of John Beloff. Following appointments at the University of Utrecht and the State University of New York, Richard joined the Institute for Parapsychology (successor to the famous Duke University Parapsychology Lab) in Durham, North Carolina, where he eventually served as Director for five years. In 2000 he left to establish Intuition Laboratories, Inc., but later returned to the UK and to academia, joining the Psychology Division of the University of Northampton in 2004. He pursued research into anomalous intuition and the emotional underpinnings of psi phenomena in the University's Centre for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Phenomena until his retirement in 2012.

Richard is the author of numerous scientific papers and a critically acclaimed popular book on parapsychology, and he frequently serves as a commentator on television programmes on parapsychology and intuition issues. He is a twice-past-President and former long-time Board member of the Parapsychological Association. He has been on the SPR Council since 2004, serving as President from 2011 until 2015 and currently as Honorary Treasurer. During 2015 he oversaw the acquisition of and move to the SPR's new headquarters.

BERNARD J. CARR, MA, PhD

Bernard Carr joined the Society in 1972, was co-opted to Council in 1975, and became an elected Member of Council in 1977. He was the SPR Education Officer from 1985 to 2000 and Chairman of the Research Activities Committee from 1994 until 2008. He is currently Chairman of the Education and Publicity Committee and serves on the International Conference Programme Committee. He also co-organizes Study Days and serves on the Research Grants Committee and the Editorial Board. Formerly a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, he is now Emeritus Professor in Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary University of London. He was President of the Society from 2000 to 2004 and is now a Vice-President.

GRAHAM KIDD, MBBS, MRCPsych.

Dr Kidd has been a member of the SPR since 1969, on the Spontaneous Cases Committee since 2009, and a member of the Council since 2014. He also joined the Library Committee in January 2019. Trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, he was medical officer to 10th Gurkha Rifles, subsequently training in psychiatry at St Thomas's Hospital. He was a Consultant in Old Age and General Psychiatry in Surrey, and on retiring from the NHS, worked in private practice at the Priory and the Cardinal Clinics, before retiring to do purely psychotherapy, specialising in psychological trauma using Ego state and EMDR techniques. He teaches occasionally at St George's Hospital. He has studied dissociation and was a member of the ISSTD for many years. He has contributed to SPR study days, to the *JSPR* and the *Paranormal Review*.

ADRIAN PARKER, M.A., Dip. Clinical Psych., Ph.D

After qualifying in clinical psychology at the Tavistock Clinic, Adrian Parker was the recipient of the Perrott-Warrick Studentship in psychical research, Trinity College, Cambridge. and became the first to gain a UK doctorate with a thesis on altered states and ESP from the University of Edinburgh. His doctoral work co-innovated the technique, known as the psi-ganzfeld, of reproducing psychic-like experiences in the laboratory. He is the author of the book *States of Mind* and has over a hundred publications on altered states of consciousness and psychic experiences. Parker has also worked in child psychiatry and studied medical sciences before accepting a position at Gothenburg University, when a major award from the Swedish Bank Jubilee Fond (Riksbanken) enabled the development of the "Real Time Digital Ganzfeld" which is now a benchmark procedure for studying high-quality psi (psychic) events in the laboratory.

Prof. Parker is Emeritus Professor at Gothenburg University, where he is currently carrying out research into lucid dream states and exceptional experiences amongst twins and teaches an international course on “Consciousness Studies and Psychical Research.”

A member of the Society since 1965, Prof. Parker is currently the chairman of the Conference Programme Committee.

DAVID ROUSSEAU, BEng, PhD, FRSA

David Rousseau joined the SPR in 1994, was co-opted to Council in 1997, and became an elected Member of Council in 2003. He has served as secretary to the Finance Committee (2004–2006) and to the Image and Publicity Committee (1995–1999) and was a member of the IPPC until 2007. He was Chairman of the Research Activities Committee (2007–2014, a member since 1997), Honorary Treasurer (2010–2015) and a member of the e-Communications Committee (2008–2015). He was a member of the Research Grants Committee (2006–2017) and serves on the Survival Research Committee (since 2003). He co-founded the online Library of Exploratory Science and is currently Director of the Centre for Systems Philosophy. He has conducted academic research into the mind–body relationship and into the nature of spiritual experiences, presented at SPR Conferences and Study Days, and published numerous scientific and philosophical papers. He is currently developing systems-science-based methodologies for exploratory science, with support from the SPR, the Centre for Systems Studies (University of Hull) and the Bertalanffy Centre for the Study of Systems Science (University of Vienna).

TOM RUFFLES, BSc, BA, MA, PhD, ARPS

Dr Ruffles joined the Society in 1987 and Council in 1990. He was a member of the Publicity sub-committee (later the Image and Publicity Committee) from 1988–1994 – during which time he co-designed the SPR logo – and was Hon. Appeals Secretary 1989–90. In 1991 He served on Professor Robert Morris’s working party which led to the setting up of the now-defunct Research Activities Committee and was Hon. Testing Officer 1992–2007. In 2005 he joined the Image, Publicity and Publications Committee and when it split into the Education and Publicity and e-Communications Committees he joined both. He is still a member of the former and was of the latter until it disbanded in May 2017. While on the e-CC he was involved in developing the Society’s website.

He has refereed papers for *JSPR* and was its book reviews editor from January 2009 to January 2018. Having joined the Library Committee in 2010, he became its chair in August 2016. Since 2011 he has served on the Conference Programme Committee. Also in 2011 he became the SPR’s Communications Officer. In that capacity he responds to general emails received through the website, as well as looking after the SPR’s Facebook page (from February 2010) and Twitter account (from July 2013). He added content to the website until the appointment of a dedicated content manager in March 2018. He has been instrumental in obtaining several collections of material for the SPR’s archives and was involved, with Prof. David Fontana, in lobbying for the reissue of the 1999 *Scole Report* as a mass circulation paperback in 2011.

For some years he was a coordinator of the Anglia Paranormal Research Group and investigated a number of spontaneous cases. He has contributed to *JSPR* and *Paranormal Review* (and its predecessors) as well as *Fortean Times* and online publications; blogs at <http://tomruffles.blogspot.co.uk/>; and is the author of *Ghost Images: Cinema of the Afterlife*. He is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, and an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society. He holds two PhDs, one on *Life After Death in the Cinema*, from the University of East Anglia; the other on *George Albert Smith (1864–1959): From Stage to Screen*, from Anglia Ruskin University, about a significant figure in the early history of the SPR

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
1 Vernon Mews, London, W14 0RL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research** will be held at 1 Vernon Mews, London, W14 0RL

on Saturday, **27th April 2019** at 5.15 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1) To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th April 2018.
- 2) To receive the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts made up to 30th September 2018.
- 3) To elect six members to the Council. The following six Council members are due to retire in rotation and offer themselves for re-election:
Dr R. S. Broughton, BA, PhD; Prof. B. J. Carr, MA, PhD; Dr G. T. B. Kidd, MBBS, MRCPsych; Dr D. N. Rousseau, BSc, PhD; Dr T. H. Ruffles, BSc, BA, MA, PhD, ARPS; Prof. A. D. Parker, MA, PhD

[This item will not require a vote at the meeting, since there are six candidates for six places on the Council. No other nominations having been received by 31st January, all six will be declared as elected without contest.]

Notes on the candidates precede this Agenda.

- 4) To re-appoint PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants as Reporting Accountants for the period prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.
- 5) To authorise the Council to determine the remuneration of the Reporting Accountants.

6) *[Note: Both of the resolutions presented in this item are intended to bring the governing documents up to date in line with modern day practices, to take account of changes since the documents were originally written.*

The amendments in 6.a) will allow for remote participation at meetings of the Council, which is common practice in the modern world. Including a reference to remote participation will clarify the right of Council to hold meetings in this manner and Council will set down the necessary procedures before implementing any change in the current practice.

The amendments in 6.b) are necessary because the original wording has the effect of subjecting the accounts of the Society to a full audit each year, although the governing bodies - Companies House and the Charity Commission - may not always require it. In most cases today, an Independent Examination by an Accountant is sufficient, dependent on the income and asset levels of the charity during the financial year.]

To consider the following Resolutions as Special Business pursuant to Article 45 of the Articles of Association:

- a) That pursuant to the recommendation of the Council made at the meeting held on 14th March 2019, Article 34 should be amended to read:

“Article 34. The Council shall meet monthly unless otherwise determined. In these articles the expression Council 'meeting' includes, except where inconsistent with any legal obligation, a physical meeting; a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous video and audio participation; and telephone conferencing. These arrangements shall also apply to meetings of committees of the Council. An attendance book shall be kept and signed by each member of the Council present. Any Council member participating remotely shall have his or her attendance entered into the attendance book on their behalf by the Secretary or Committee Chairman. At all meetings of the Council four physically present in the room shall be a quorum. All questions shall be decided by vote, and a decision of the majority shall, except where otherwise provided by these Articles, be the decision of the meeting. The President of the Society shall be Chairman of the meetings of the Council. In his absence a Vice-President, who is also a subscribing Member of the Society, shall act as Chairman; and if no such Vice-President is present the meeting shall elect a Chairman from among the members of the Council. The Chairman of any meeting shall have, in addition to his own, a casting vote.”

- b) That pursuant to the recommendation of the Council made at the meeting held on 14th March 2019, the Society's governing documents (Memorandum and Articles of Association) should be amended throughout as follows:
- i) Every instance of the word **Auditor** should be replaced with **Accountant**
 - ii) Every instance of the word **auditor** should be replaced with **accountant**
 - iii) Every instance of the word **Auditors** should be replaced with **Accountants**
 - iv) Every instance of the word **auditors** should be replaced with **accountants**

No other business will be transacted at this meeting.



Peter Johnson *Secretary to the Society*

