

The Incorporated
SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019

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COUNCIL, OFFICERS, STAFF AND ADVISERS as at 30th September 2019

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, Assoc. of King's
College
Dr D. J. Vernon, BSc, PhD
Dr Z. Weaver, BA, PhD

Council Appointments

Officers:

Hon. Secretary – Dr Kidd

Hon. Treasurer – Dr Broughton

Other appointments:

Hon. Editor, Journal & Proceedings – Dr Vernon

Editorial Assistant – Dr Tammy Dempster

Hon. Editor, Paranormal Review – Dr Ruickbie

Hon. Communications Officer – Dr Ruffles

Hon. Archives Liaison Officer – Dr Willin

Hon. Website Manager – Dr Erickson

Website Content Manager – Mr Nemo Mörck

Data Protection Officer – Mr Farrell

Hon. Book Review Editor, JSPR – Mr Nemo Mörck

Secretary: Mr Peter Johnson

Librarian: Mrs Karen Patel

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, Dr Kidd, Mr Ryan, Dr Weaver
Library	Dr Ruffles	Dr Kidd, Mr McLuhan, Mr Mörck, 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, Mr Ashley Knibb, Mrs Rita Leek, Dr John Newton, Mr Parsons, Dr Ruickbie, 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 Mörck, Mr Murdie, Prof. Roe, Dr Ruffles

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 2019. The summaries that follow show the Society to be in robust health due to the continued hard work of our officers. We are constantly looking to expand and enrich the services we provide to members, but this is an expensive endeavour and our operating costs exceed our income from subscriptions and event registration fees. To balance the books, we are reliant on the performance of our investments and on kind donations from our members — please do think of the important work that we do when you are considering charitable donations in your will and elsewhere. We are fortunate to have such an able team, led by our Honorary Treasurer, Dr Richard Broughton, to manage the Society's finances so prudently.

Research and education are central to our mission, and this is reflected in a varied programme of lectures, study days and discussion evenings that take place at Vernon Mews. Among many highlights I should perhaps give particular mention to the launch event we hosted for Steven T. Parsons' *Guidance Notes for the Investigation of Spontaneous Cases*; published by the SPR, this is part of our effort to reach out to the many paranormal investigation groups that now exist. Members of these groups have an enthusiasm and commitment to the study of survival phenomena that should be harnessed by organisations such as ours, while at the same time we might benefit them by introducing them to the rich history of research methods and findings that provides a valuable model for their own investigations. Our next step is to organise training events that showcase good practice.

The SPR's annual conference was held this year in Leicester. Thanks are due to our Secretary, Peter Johnson, for his work in securing such a conducive venue within the tight budget imposed on him by council in order to ensure the event was relatively affordable. I should like to also thank Adrian Parker and his programme team for bringing together a set of presentations that showcase the variety, ingenuity and rigour of contemporary psychical research. The event was well attended, and the programme of invited talks and presentations was again a highlight of the year. Of course, we are mindful that many members are unable to attend London-based events or to attend the conference. We are actively working on resolving technical issues so that we can make more material from

these events 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 Nemo Mörck and Deborah Erickson for their continued hard work.

The last year has seen an impressive expansion of material included in *Psi Encyclopedia*, a splendid repository of over 300 thoroughly researched and erudite articles on a range of psychical phenomena, whose costs are underwritten as part of the Buckmaster project. The encyclopedia not only serves as an antidote to the kind of misinformation and misunderstanding concerning our subject matter that seems to be rife online, but also acts as an authoritative source for researchers. I have received many extremely positive comments from members of the international research community that attest to the high esteem in which the encyclopedia is held.

Members may have noticed small but important changes to the SPR journal, which are all part of efforts to meet ever-more rigorous professional standards in terms of managing the review process and creating the public documents. We are indebted to our Editor, Dr David Vernon, and his Editorial Assistant, Dr Tammy Dempster, for their efforts to improve the perception of our journal among our academic peers. Leo Ruickbie has continued to do a remarkable job as Editor of the *Paranormal Review*, producing a series of issues that combine engaging content with extremely high production values that would not be out of place on a newsagent's shelves. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to get these publications into circulation and I am grateful for all their efforts.

The Society strives to foster new research into psychical phenomena. Reports from the Research Grants Committee and Survival Committee list four and six projects respectively that would not have been possible without the Society's support. I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of this work at future SPR events. The Open Data Repository continues to grow under the guidance of Adrian Ryan, helping us to meet contemporary expectations for transparency; I urge researchers to support this important initiative.

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

RESEARCH

Report of the Research Grants Committee

Chairman: **Professor Deborah Delanoy**

Once again, 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 Richard Broughton, Bernard Carr, Adrian Ryan and Alan Gauld.

Our limited funds restricted us to being able to support four research projects this year. Unless more funds for the RGC materialise, 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:

Lance Storm & Patrizio Tressoldi:

‘Meta-analysis of free-response studies, 2009 – 2018’

Chris Roe:

‘Producing an on-line searchable database containing the Priestley ‘Man and Time’ spontaneous cases letters in order to facilitate independent research on this material’

Peter Bancel:

‘Psi research: a concise review article for scientists’

Liam Griffin:

‘Exploring consciousness actions on quantum systems’

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. During the past year the committee has continued 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 360 from contributors around the globe. While the pace of adding new articles to the online encyclopedia has slowed, Project Director Robert McLuhan is developing some of the remaining items that Mr Buckmaster had envisioned, including possible publications.

The SPR’s *Psi Open Data* Project is now in its third year of operation. This project, directed by Dr 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 scrutiny. The repository is currently hosting 17 datasets from researchers in five different countries and is routinely accessed by scientists around the world. The *Psi Open Data* repository is one of over 2,000 registered with re3data.org, the global registry of research data repositories. In the past year a private benefactor has undertaken the ongoing support of this project, for which the SPR is very grateful, and in the coming year it will be released from the BOC portfolio.

The Systems Methodology for Exploratory Science project under Dr David Rousseau is progressing more slowly than expected and has fallen behind the agreed schedule this year. In the coming year the BOC will be working with Dr Rousseau to determine the best way to complete the remaining component of the project.

As the Buckmaster project passes the five-year mark the BOC is pleased to report that most of 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 last year 2019 has seen the SCC promoting the new guidebook *Guidance Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases* authored by Steven T. Parsons, which was issued in autumn 2018.

This has been well received, leading onto the development of two successful full-day events, as part of an ongoing programme to be rolled out in 2020. The first of these was organised on 23 March 2019 with joint support from The Ghost Club and was sold out very quickly.

A further successful event conducted as a study day entitled 'A New Approach to Ghost Hunting' was held on 29th April 2019, which was also very well-attended with presentations on different aspects of Spontaneous cases provided by Ann Winsper, Steve Parsons, James Tacchi and Alan Murdie. The training day aims to provide a holistic approach to spontaneous cases investigation.

It is now planned to hold similar events in 2020 at different venues away from London. These are to be planned in co-ordination with University departments with established parapsychology courses, as well for the wider membership and interested members of the public. Among the aims of this outreach programme is to provide 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 at reputedly haunted places, sometimes creating expectations or impressions of a haunting. The effective elimination of these, so far as possible, through the proper implementation of measuring techniques applying internationally recognised standards in respect of the scientific measurement of temperature, air pressure and sound is being encouraged. By the implementation of these, the credibility of claims concerning anomalous phenomena and readings may be enhanced to reach an acceptable scientific standard. To this end the SCC is also investing in obtaining a collection of equipment, owned by the SPR, for use and loan by researchers as an encouragement towards standardisation in measurement and in experimental efforts during field investigations.

More widely, a welcome number of papers on aspects of spontaneous cases were submitted to the SPR International Conference in Leicester in October 2019 and interesting reports have also been

received from SPR members.

In this regard, the SCC received a particularly interesting report of an apparition apparently resembling a soldier from the First World War seen by the witness in 2018. This was collected by SPR member Ken Smith from a credible witness in Newcastle with subsequent research indicating that the premises concerned saw use as a hospital during World War I. Another interesting referral has been received from SPR member Roger Guttridge of Dorset involving an extensive case collection of mediumistic communications and meaningful coincidences obtained over nearly 40 years and which are to be the subject of a forthcoming book. Also received have been a series of reports involving on-going poltergeist-like incidents being recorded by an SPR member at premises in central London.

The Spontaneous Cases Committee has also dealt with a range of enquiries and reports submitted by the public and members over the year and together a number of media enquiries. Following some reports of activity in the UK, SCC members have also met with the individuals concerned, including a case of alleged case of mysterious wall-writing at a family home, for which a solution was found by Steve Parsons. Assessing reports received there was a welcome decline in examples of anomalous photographs and video footage being submitted to the Society in 2019 than in previous years, hopefully indicating an increased awareness of how artefacts generated on digital cameras, CCTV systems and mobile telephones have a normal rather than paranormal explanation. Whilst the SCC continues to be interested in receiving evidence of anomalous images, what also must not be lost is an awareness of the importance of individual eye-witness testimony concerning actual sightings rather than post-image interpretations. Other reports have mostly related to apparitional sightings and claims of low-level paranormal incidents such as minor poltergeist incidents and 'jotts'. With regard to the literature concerning the latter, a welcome contribution of analysis of 74 cases (including a number collected through the SCC in previous years) has been undertaken and published at the end of 2018 as *JOTT. When Things Disappear... and Come Back or Relocate – and Why It Really Happens* and also placed in a wider perspective in her book *Talking About Psychical Research: Thoughts on Life, Death and the Nature of Reality* (2019) by veteran researcher and long-standing SCC member Mary Rose Barrington.

Report of the Survival Research Committee

Chairman: **Marian Barton**

We held two Gwen Tate Memorial Lectures this year; the first was by Dr Callum Cooper entitled 'Dead Ringers or Mistaken Mechanisms?'. This was on telephone anomalies and their contribution to survival research. He said that the focus of discussion and media surrounding these anomalies has been on phone calls from the dead. However, reports of telephone anomalies involve a variety of phenomena perceived as psi and he discussed to what extent these phenomena have contributed to the survival debate.

The second lecture was by Dr David Saunders on 'The Carington Case: the Dreams of Eileen J Garrett'. Thirteen years after the death of the well-known psychical researcher Walter Whately Carington, the famous medium Eileen J Garrett presented a series of systematically documented experiences of dreamed communications with Carington. The lecture gave a detailed account of the circumstances around the events and considered the strength of the evidence as support for the notion of the survival of human personality beyond bodily death.

We have received a number of requests for funding, not all successful and the following are the awards during this year:

£1,000 to Dr Annekatrin Puhle for expenses to carry out a study in Italy on Dr Axel Munthe
£1,200 to Dr Melvyn Willin for his work on the Guy Lyon Playfair collection of documents and recordings
£1,500 to Dr Callum Cooper for his research on D. Scott Rogo

Report of the Library Committee

Chairman: **Dr Tom Ruffles**

The Library Committee members are: Graham Kidd, Rob McLuhan, Nemo Mörk, John Newton, Karen Patel (librarian and committee secretary), John Poynton, Tom Ruffles (chair) and Melvyn Willin. Two meetings were held during the reporting year, plus regular discussions via email.

Twenty books were purchased at a cost of £308.18, and a further 52 were donated (a number from the collections of Tony Cornell and Guy Lyon Playfair). We are grateful to donors for their generosity. Surplus volumes have been offered for sale to members by the librarian during conferences and study days for some years, but there is now a table with books for sale in the library itself.

€1,000 contribution to the Paris conference arranged by the *Institut Métapsychique International*

£7,429.68 to Professor Chris Roe for the first year of a 2-year project entitled 'Investigation of the phenomenology and impact of perceived direct and spontaneous after-death communications' with a second payment of £7,429.68 will follow next year, subject to a satisfactory report

£5,000 to Dr Gregory Shushan for support whilst writing his book on 'The Historical Anthology of Near-Death Experiences'.

Dr Matthew Colborn, a member of the SRC, has written an article on the purpose and projects of the SRC with consultation from other members of the Committee. This was published in the *Paranormal Review*, Issue 89.

We continue to handle survival-related enquiries referred to us by the Hon. Communications Officer. These come into the SPR via the Contact Us link on the SPR website.

The SRC also continues to give some support to the work of the Hon. Archives Liaison Officer as much of this relates to survival.

I would like to thank the Survival Research Committee members, Mr Dennis Bury, Dr Matthew Colborn, Dr Callum Cooper, Dr Alan Gauld, Dr David Rousseau and Dr David Saunders for the work they have done, especially with reading and commenting on the various projects requesting funding as well as general help and support.

Surprisingly we saw fewer loans – 147 compared to 217 the previous year; but the library continues to be popular, particularly when we have lectures and study days. In addition to members, we have welcomed a number of external researchers working on a wide range of topics.

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

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 mid-2019. The cataloguing of the contents of the thousands of hours of recordings of lectures, Study Days and Conferences continues to be key-worded. I have been in communication with numerous scholars concerning the archives and have attempted to answer their diverse queries and provide support. I assisted Paul Adams with his biographical work on Peter Underwood and also catalogued a large amount of administrative correspondence from the 1950s and 1960s, which were kindly donated to the SPR having been lost for a long time.

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; cases from the Spontaneous Cases Committee and many other sources. I joined Chris Roe there in September contributing to a documentary film by Netflix highlighting the important work of the SPR both historically and contemporarily. The SPR archive was also given a very positive representation by a display using our material by the Wellcome Foundation, which was exhibited in London earlier in 2019.

I spent many hours helping to produce and issue the SPR's *Proceedings* with Donald West, which

was successfully published in July 2019. I completed the digitisation and transcription of both Maurice Grosse and Guy Playfair's 'Enfield tapes', which have been described in a book I published in the same year. I also digitised the complete collection of Uri Geller tapes made by Guy Playfair. I am currently preparing the digitisation of the 'Enfield Poltergeist Investigation Committee' and am in correspondence with a film company interested in making a legitimate documentary about the 'Enfield Case' as well as another film company wishing to promote the important place of the SPR in all matters pertaining to psychical research.

I undertook the running of the book stall at the Conference, which was both popular in providing bargains for members and appreciated as a focus point for conversation and perusal of SPR publications.

I am working on cataloguing the extensive archives of Tony Cornell and Guy Playfair. There are further projects in the pipeline including the digitisation and key-wording of the SPR audio-visual collection.

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, photographs, correspondence 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.

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, so we have merged with the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), with Robert McLuhan (as former EEC chair) and Deborah Erickson (as Honorary Website Manager) now being members of the EPC. Nemo Mörck (as Website Content Manager) is also a member and looks after news items and book reviews. Deborah has summarised her own and Nemo's activities in her individual report, so these are described in more detail there. Leo Ruickbie (as editor of the *Paranormal Review*) and Chris Roe are also valued members.

Steve Parsons' *Guidance Notes for the Investigation of Spontaneous Cases*, aimed at the general ghost-hunting community and helping to re-

establish the SPR's crucial role in this area, has now been published. Steve has given several presentations about this and, as part of the book launch, we held two ghost-hunting workshops in March and May 2019. Further details are in the Spontaneous Cases Committee report. Videos from these workshops can be found on the SPR website.

The *Psi Encyclopedia*, ably managed by Robert McLuhan, continues to expand and now has some 360 articles. The general readership is growing and citations to its articles now appear in scholarly publications, attesting to its value to academic users. New articles are still being commissioned, as a number of topics remain to be covered. There is also a growing emphasis on updating and improving existing articles, often prompted by readers' suggestions, these being received in ever greater numbers. The encyclopedia includes biographical information about the growing number of key people

in the research community. Members should contact Mr McLuhan if they have suggestions (robertmcluhan@btinternet.com).

As part of the publication activities funded by the Buckmaster bequest, work is beginning on a book of scholarly essays and papers focusing on survival of consciousness after death, a subject that Nigel Buckmaster particularly wished to see covered. The collection will be jointly edited by Leo Ruickbie and Robert McLuhan, with publication being planned for 2021.

Our educational role includes overseeing study days in collaboration with Mary Rose Barrington. In November 2018 we held a study day entitled “Understanding the Uncanny”, chaired by Adrian Parker and co-organised with Erica Brostoff, with talks by Graham Kidd, Peter Heinl, Janine de Peyer, and Erica and Adrian themselves. The study day in April 2019, “Remembering Guy Lyon Playfair”, a tribute to our distinguished late Council member, was chaired by Bernard Carr and featured contributions from Alan Murdie, Tricia Robertson, Göran Brusewitz & Adrian Parker, Melvyn Willin and Roy Stemman.

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 also hold occasional discussion evenings on a theme related to some topic in recent issues of the *Journal* or *Paranormal Review*. The theme for discussion at the meeting in March 2019 was “The Washington State Poltergeist”, led by Richard Sugg, and arranged by Mary Rose Barrington, Dennis Bury and John Poynton.

Report of the Hon. Website Manager **Dr Deborah Erickson**

The SPR website has been running smoothly this fiscal year and the Content Manager, Nemo Mörck published 26 book reviews. Early in the year, Nemo also solved a vexing publishing issue that was impacting some members having difficulty downloading either the *Journal* or *Paranormal Review* issues. In the spring, there was an issue with the New Member online process that was quickly resolved by the developers. In the summer, two domains were generously donated to the SPR by Roy Stemman:

paranormalreview.com & *paranormalreview.co.uk*
are now owned by the SPR.

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 Holiday Inn in Leicester and a full account can be found in Adrian’s report and in the *Paranormal Review* (Issue 90).

Tom Ruffles continues to respond to enquiries via the website and social media. He has taken over the *Psi Encyclopedia* twitter account, dedicated to news relating to that project. 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 14,555 ‘Likes’ and Twitter had 5,375 followers. These sites publicise SPR events and 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.

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. Carlos Alvarado’s parapsychology blog regularly features the SPR and its publications, including the *Psi Encyclopedia*. We also arrange occasional joint meetings with other organisations with overlapping interests.

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

In the autumn, another issue was resolved after users reported email delivery issues. Updates to our domain’s Sender Policy Framework (SPF) record was completed. An SPF record is a type of Domain Name System record that can help to prevent email address forgery and can help prevent others from spoofing your domain. You can specify which mail servers are permitted to send email on behalf of your domain. The developers successfully performed a server upgrade in October requiring a further update to the spr.ac.uk domain record, which was successfully completed without any impact to user access.

The Journal of the Society for Psychical Research

Editor: **Dr David Vernon**

During the period 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019 we have produced and published four issues of the *Journal*: those for October 2018, January 2019, April 2019 and July 2019. 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 to include other materials being prepared for members.

Taken together, the four *Journal* issues under review included 10 refereed articles and research notes, 15 book reviews, and various correspondence, obituaries 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. The *Journal* continues to have international reach and, in this period, we have published contributions from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the USA, as

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

In an attempt to enhance the methodological rigour of the *Journal* and to respond to wider calls regarding the adoption of transparent research processes (e.g., Open Science Framework) the *Journal* currently encourages authors to pre-register their respective research projects and to share their data via an appropriate data repository site (e.g., Koestler Parapsychology Unit and *Psi Open Data*).

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 at Hope Services, for their prompt and scrupulous attention to detail. I am grateful to members of the Editorial Board, as well as the many anonymous referees, for their behind-the-scenes work in reviewing submissions and making recommendations for improvement. I would also like to express my gratitude to our Book Review Editor, Nemo Mörck, who manages the book review process with meticulous professionalism.

The Paranormal Review

Editor: **Dr Leo Ruickbie**

Due to injuries arising from an accident it was only possible to produce three issues of the *Paranormal Review* during the accounting period, these being numbers 88 to 90. PR88, 'The SPR at War', featured a cover photograph shot by the Editor and included a six-page article on the Editor's SPR-funded research project on the Society during the First World War, a report from Dr Rachael Ironside on the 'Supernatural in Contemporary Society Conference' at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, and a letter of appreciation from Council Member Steve Parsons for PR87 on the life and work of Guy Lyon Playfair. PR89, 'The Paranormal Preservers', included three papers from the important conference 'Preserving the Historical Collections of the Paranormal II' (PHCP II) that was held in Winnipeg, Canada, in May 2018. In addition, this issue carried a report on the 'Smoke and Mirrors' exhibition at the Wellcome Collection, London, which featured artefacts on loan

from the SPR's Archive at Cambridge University Library, with text by Dr Tom Ruffles and photography by the editor. PR90, 'Time', was named after the lead article by Dr Charles Whitehead and also included an important article by Prof. Chris Roe on scepticism and parapsychology, as well as the editor's six-page report on the 42nd Annual International Conference of the SPR in Newcastle, 2018, with extensive photographic coverage. All issues were twenty-eight pages in length, full colour throughout, and delivered as both print-ready files and compressed versions for digital distribution via the SPR website. Regular features in the magazines included articles from the SPR's President, Prof. Chris Roe, a regular column by Mr Brandon Hodge and SPR events reports by Mr Ashley Knibb.

In my role as Editor, I attended the *Smoke and Mirrors* exhibition mentioned above and the IMI-organised *Workshop on Psi Theories* in Paris for the

purposes of reviewing it for the magazine. I also presented at the Parapsychological Association Convention in Paris and used the opportunity to distribute promotional material for the Society and the *Paranormal Review*: copies of Issues 87 and 88, membership application forms and promotional flyers provided by The Secretary at my request. I was also contacted by Mr Roy Stemman in August 2019,

Annual Conference

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

The 43rd International SPR Conference was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Leicester. The location had on the plus side its accessibility and provided hotel facilities with relatively low costs. The SPR conference costs are now amongst the very lowest of academic conferences in Europe. The Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester has made the city a tourist attraction and the hotel was centrally placed in the older part of the city. Just over 70 delegates attended - a slight increase in the numbers from recent years. Although most papers were presented by UK researchers, especially those from The University of Northampton, there were also presentations from China, Germany, USA, and four contributions from Scandinavia. There were almost no experimentally-orientated papers this year. As well as the traditional areas of mediumship and altered states, topics this year focused on remote viewing and psychic detection as well as the elusiveness of psi and theories of psi. There were 20 main presentations and 4 invited talks. In addition to these, there were 4 poster presentations and 3 brief reports (introduced this year for the first time in order to accommodate the number of accepted submissions, which exceeded the number of available slots).

The four invited speakers were: Dr Paul H. Smith, retired US army major and former researcher on remote viewing who talked about the Stargate Project; Chris Robinson, who shared his experiences from working over many years with psychic detection; Dr Steve Taylor, who gave a talk on "awakening experiences"; and Dr Michael Nahm from the Freiburg Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology, who gave an historical account of a deceptive case of mediumship, and updated this with a demonstration of his discovery of deception in the Kei Mügge case of the Felix Circle. My impression

who generously wished to donate the domain names *paranormalreview.com* & *paranormalreview.co.uk* to the SPR, and, with the President's approval for the transfer, this was implemented by our Hon. Website Manager, Dr Erickson. The Editor is also grateful to Dr Ruffles for promoting the magazine via the Society's social media channels.

is that all four contributions were appropriate and well-received.

In addition, we received (for the second time) an unscheduled visit by a member from China who teaches blind children (using psi to locate their position); he held an impromptu demonstration of one of his methods. Paul Smith also kindly gave an unplanned workshop on the remote viewing of targets. These contributions were spontaneous but were seemingly much appreciated by the audience.

Despite its apparent success, there were some recurring basic problems that have implications for future conference organisation. This year we succeeded in announcing the conference as planned - in April. However, by the time of the deadline (May 31st) we had very few submissions. The submission deadline was extended and over the summer I contacted many, if not most, of the university departments with researchers who had previously carried out doctoral work in parapsychology. Prof. Bernard Carr has recently estimated there are some 17 such departments and that about 100 people in the UK are studying for or have obtained a doctorate with a thesis related to parapsychology. Since there was little or no response in terms of submissions, the enterprise of contacting researchers suggests to me that most of the graduates whose doctoral work concerned parapsychology rapidly turn to non-psi projects or they are otherwise entirely occupied with teaching commitments. Albeit very late, the final high quota of presentations was largely the result of contributions from The University of Northampton (as well as a couple of presentations from the University of Greenwich) and individual SPR members.

Secretary's Report

Peter Johnson

In the table below, you will be able to see that our membership numbers have increased this year, continuing the trend from last year.

The implementation of GDPR is running smoothly and the new bookkeeping systems are having a significant effect on our operations.

	Members & Associates		Student Associates		Totals	
	30 Sept 19	30 Sept 18	30 Sept 19	30 Sept 18	30 Sept 19	30 Sept 18
UK	545	483	35	26	580	509
USA	137	117	10	6	147	123
Other Countries	128	133	11	12	139	145
TOTALS	810	733	56	44	866	777

Besides the Gwen Tate Memorial Lectures (see the report of the Survival Research Committee), we held five lectures during the year:

Ross Bartlett & Matthew Smith - Reimagining the out-of-body experience
Ann Winsper - Ghosts or (Sheep) Goats?
Sandy Edwards - Healing in a Hospital: Scientific Evidence that Spiritual Healing Improves Health
Matthew Colborn - Strange Beings: A New Look at Entity Experiences
Simon Duan - Psi Research in China

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.

Even lower pricing levels of our Annual Conference this year made for a successful event that was enjoyed by all 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 the 25th of May 2018.

It was agreed at the SPR Council meeting of Thursday the 16th of 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 older British Data Protection Act 1998 to have to appoint a Data Protection Officer, DPO, 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 with ensuring that the SPR would be able to meet the requirements of this legislation, and a small GDPR Implementation Team (GDPRIT) would be formed within the SPR to carry out this vital work. I was appointed to fulfil the role of DPO and I went on two short training courses through Civil Society Media paid for by the SPR during the last reporting period, and a second one organised by the local Council for Voluntary Service where I live at no cost to the SPR.

The Information Commissioners Office, ICO, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of GDPR and is the UK GDPR monitoring body and regulator. GDPR came into force as planned on the

25th of 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 GDPR deadline by which full compliance should be achieved.

Through the hard work of GDPRIT 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 during the last reporting period.

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. 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 that will be achieved through enhanced GDPR compliance. This will enable the SPR to attain 'good practice' status within the charity and voluntary sector.

This year has been one of consolidation and review of our previous achievements as we have monitored the way in which new systems and procedures have bedded down, and been assimilated into the regular and routine work of the SPR.

One key aspect of this has been the change-over to a new accounting system software package as well as many software upgrades and updates to the office computer systems. Some of these were GDPR related while others affected the software systems used for the general administration of the SPR of which GDPR forms a part. Since good practice under GDPR is to integrate data protection systems and procedures within IT and manual based record keeping systems, all these changes had an impact on GDPR within the SPR.

GDPRIT has continued to meet during the reporting period and has monitored the comprehensive review of the SPR's entire operation in relation to the requirements of GDPR. The DPO has made regular reports to Council on the progress of this work. In addition, GDPRIT has carried out a great deal of work directly or by correspondence with each other and with other relevant parties outside the SPR and through liaison with the SPR office.

In order to meet the requirements of the regulations, GDPRIT has had to review and revise the processes and procedures used by all the SPR's committees and the Research Grants Committee as well as the Survival Research Grants Committee in particular. They are now fully GDPR compliant, as are the SPR's Conference committees. This was achieved during the last reporting period and this work was built on and extended, with various adjustments made to the processes and procedures used during the current reporting period.

There remains one area of the SPR's committee operations that requires further work: our Spontaneous Cases Committee (SCC) and the way in which the Society responds to spontaneous case reports in general. GDPRIT's work in this area has initiated a broader and deeper review of the SPR's spontaneous cases operation than in any of the other areas of the SPR's work. This was due to the nature, sensitivity and complexity of this particular area of work, which means that it is more difficult in both technical and managerial terms to assess and analyse the SPR's current operation, in order to review and revise it so as to ensure full and complete GDPR compliance in all aspects of spontaneous cases work.

The Financial Position

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Richard Broughton

Your Society continues in good financial health and continues to deliver its full range of services to education, science, and the public on a very tight budget. Overall our financial reserves remained

There have, in addition, been some new initiatives within spontaneous cases that will change the SPR's operation in this area and the way the SPR engages with spontaneous cases, and casework. One very large area of work that the SPR has recently undertaken has been to set up a Policy Working Group to look at the revision of existing policies and drawing up new SPR policies, particularly around Safeguarding. Safeguarding is a cross cutting issue that affects the SPR's entire operation and within which data protection forms a part. The issue of Safeguarding is particularly important within the area of spontaneous cases and this has increased the size and complexity of the workload in spontaneous cases. Certain aspects of this work have not yet been fully resolved and GDPRIT is currently working on these aspects as a matter of priority.

In addition, GDPRIT have continued to keep under review and to revise where necessary the content and functionality of the SPR's website and to work in partnership with the recently formed Policy Working Group.

During the last reporting period GDPRIT undertook a major piece of work in carrying out a comprehensive 'Shop Floor to Boardroom and back to Shop Floor' review of the SPR's entire operation in relation to the requirements of GDPR, encompassing a full risk assessment.

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

GDPRIT can report that the Team have reviewed the contents of the Compliance Table and we 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 complete, or at a low to minimal risk level. Some items have been assigned a zero risk.

Many items contained within the Table will need to be monitored to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness and GDPRIT have decided on a policy of carrying this out through a process of Continuous Quality Improvement monitoring.

The Data Protection Officer would like to thank the other members of the Team for all their hard work. They are: Peter Johnson, SPR Secretary, Richard Broughton, Honorary Treasurer and Adrian Ryan.

effectively stable this year. Although we are continuing to keep a tight rein on operational costs, as reflected in the unrestricted funds, it remains a concern that these costs are still far higher than our

income. Our operating costs were only slightly higher than last year primarily due to increased publications. As we have reported before, Council remains committed to making our services as widely available as possible, so membership costs remain unchanged and we have taken steps to reduce the costs of our annual conference.

The Society's reserves are invested in a specialist fund designed for charities and this continues to perform well. The fund managers have indicated that, as a diversified global fund, it should not be particularly affected by the uncertainties of the UK's economic future, but obviously it will follow global market trends.

Our online accounting system (Xero) is now fully embedded in our day-to-day operations and has provided the expected office efficiencies and improvements in reporting (including this year's annual financial report, which was ready in record time). With this and additional upgrades to our online membership system we have been able to file and reclaim both VAT and Gift Aid more efficiently as part of HMRC's "Making Tax Digital" programme.

While Council feels we must do what it takes to keep our services affordable, we are equally mindful of our ongoing 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. This past year we were fortunate to receive two modest bequests and 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.

At the Society's AGM the membership voted to amend the Society's Articles of Association to replace references to "Auditor/s" with "Accountant/s" thus permitting us to follow Charity Commission guidance regarding the level of financial scrutiny required for our organisation. This year the accounts have again been subject to a full audit and I am pleased to report that the auditor has submitted a positive report. However, Council remains concerned by the very high costs of this service and are keeping the matter under review. Please note that in the Auditor's Report, included with the Accounts, references to "members" is a technical usage to refer to the members of the Corporation, i.e., the Directors of the SPR.

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

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS - 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

Pages:	15-18	Report of the Directors and Trustees
	19-20	Auditor's report
	21	Accounts, comprising:
	22	Statement of Financial Activities
		Balance Sheet
	23 – 30	Notes to the accounts

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2019

The directors and trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2019.

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 objects and principal activities 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 21) shows a net deficit before gains on investments of £103,949 (2018: £118,902). The trustees are working to address the operating deficit. Gains on investments decreased from £208,651 in 2018 to £117,553 in the current year. This was as a result of the movement on markets during the year. The net increase in funds for the year was £13,604 (2018: £89,749).

The closing balance on reserves, representing the net assets of the Society, increased by this amount from £3,684,081 as at 30 September 2018 to £3,697,685 as at 30 September 2019 (see Balance Sheet on page 22).

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Society

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 11 to the accounts (page 28).

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2019

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 16 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 16) 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 16) 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. 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 16) 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 16.

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 2019

Grants

Research grants are awarded on an annual basis by the Research Grants Committees and are sourced from the SPR Research Fund and the Survival Research Fund.

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. 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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2019

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 5 March 2020 and signed on its behalf:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. A. Roe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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 2019

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research for the year ended 30 September 2019 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (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 2019, 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 described 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 Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees 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 authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees 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 2019

Opinions on other matters 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 (incorporating the directors' report) prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have 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 trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibility statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. 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 charitable company and the charity's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Anne Harraghy (Senior Statutory Auditor) Date: 12 March 2020
PK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

A. Harraghy

1 Parkshot
Richmond, Surrey
TW9 2RD

PK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 30 September 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	2	36,495	1,080	37,575	19,320
Membership and journal subscriptions		28,585	-	28,585	15,663
Investment income		19,545	45,717	65,262	62,735
Charitable activities income	3	13,900	-	13,900	14,900
Other income	4	2,997	300	3,297	2,024
TOTAL INCOME		<u>101,522</u>	<u>47,097</u>	<u>148,619</u>	<u>114,642</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED:					
Cost of generating funds:					
Activities for generating funds	5	21,266	-	21,266	11,025
Charitable activities costs	6	105,811	97,861	203,672	194,132
Governance costs	7	27,630	-	27,630	28,387
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>154,707</u>	<u>97,861</u>	<u>252,568</u>	<u>233,544</u>
Net (outgoing) resources before gains on investments		(53,185)	(50,764)	(103,949)	(118,902)
Transfers between funds		7,473	(7,473)	-	-
Net gains on investments	8	<u>33,324</u>	<u>84,229</u>	<u>117,553</u>	<u>208,651</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		(12,388)	25,992	13,604	89,749
Funds brought forward 1 October 2018		<u>2,025,375</u>	<u>1,658,706</u>	<u>3,684,081</u>	<u>3,594,332</u>
Funds carried forward 30 September 2019		<u>2,012,987</u>	<u>1,684,698</u>	<u>3,697,685</u>	<u>3,684,081</u>

**THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
BALANCE SHEET**

As at 30 September 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible assets	11	10,469	-	10,469	5,661
Leasehold property	11	1,264,610	-	1,264,610	1,264,610
Investments	12	712,466	1,701,937	2,414,403	2,421,410
		<u>1,987,545</u>	<u>1,701,937</u>	<u>3,689,482</u>	<u>3,691,681</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Stocks	13	1,809	-	1,809	3,071
Debtors	14	12,937	1,539	14,476	29,292
Cash at bank and in hand		61,430	3,764	65,194	9,854
		<u>76,176</u>	<u>5,303</u>	<u>81,479</u>	<u>42,217</u>
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(50,734)</u>	<u>(22,542)</u>	<u>(73,276)</u>	<u>(49,817)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS /(LIABILITIES)		<u>25,442</u>	<u>(17,239)</u>	<u>8,203</u>	<u>(7,600)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>2,012,987</u></u>	<u><u>1,684,698</u></u>	<u><u>3,697,685</u></u>	<u><u>3,684,081</u></u>
ACCUMULATED GENERAL RESERVE		2,012,987	-	2,012,987	2,025,375
RESTRICTED FUNDS	16	<u>-</u>	<u>1,684,698</u>	<u>1,684,698</u>	<u>1,658,706</u>
		<u><u>2,012,987</u></u>	<u><u>1,684,698</u></u>	<u><u>3,697,685</u></u>	<u><u>3,684,081</u></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 5 March 2020 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 2019

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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.

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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

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.

At each balance sheet date the company reviews the carrying amount of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss and if so the extent of the loss.

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.

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 recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

2 VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Gifts and donations	895	1,080	1,975	19,320
Bequests and legacies	35,600	-	35,600	-
	<u>36,495</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>37,575</u>	<u>19,320</u>

3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Conferences	11,404	-	11,404	12,233
Lectures	172	-	172	257
Study days	2,324	-	2,324	2,410
	<u>13,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,900</u>	<u>14,900</u>

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Publication and other sales	1,648	296	1,944	1,316
Royalties	504	-	504	472
Other sales	845	-	845	236
Interest	-	4	4	-
	<u>2,997</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>3,297</u>	<u>2,024</u>

5 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Publication costs	20,787	-	20,787	10,683
Publicity cost	479	-	1,350	342
	<u>21,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,137</u>	<u>11,025</u>

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Grants for research and education	3,000	78,497	80,626	70,430
Conferences	14,378	-	14,378	10,696
Lectures	1,519	490	2,009	1,687
Study days	2,194	-	2,194	1,492
Library and archive	951	-	951	10,353
Staff costs	67,016	-	67,016	71,731
Premises	11,589	-	11,589	9,832
Postage and stationery	1,962	-	1,962	8,396
Telecommunications	364	-	364	452
Website and internet expenses	1,500	-	1,500	2,798
Software	1,654	-	1,654	1,125
General expenses	6,469	-	6,469	3,624
Gift Aid adjustment	9,616	-	9,616	-
Depreciation	2,473	-	2,473	1,516
Administration fee	(18,874)	18,874	-	-
	<u>105,811</u>	<u>97,861</u>	<u>202,801</u>	<u>194,132</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 £4,767 social security costs.

7 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Legal and professional fees	10,561	-	10,561	17,877
Council meetings	2,788	-	2,788	793
Audit fee	12,000	-	12,000	7,500
Bank and credit card charges	2,281	-	2,281	2,217
	<u>27,630</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,630</u>	<u>28,387</u>

8 NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Unrealised gain on investments	(6,122)	34,495	28,373	199,693
Realised gain on investments	<u>39,446</u>	<u>49,734</u>	<u>89,180</u>	<u>8,958</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>33,324</u>	<u>84,229</u>	<u>117,553</u>	<u>208,651</u>

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

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 £7,061 (2018: £3,129) 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: £265 (2018: £114) for study day expenses and £47 (2018: £nil) for Lecture expenses.

Mr A Parker: £1,045 (2018: £831) for travel expenses.

Dr C. Cooper: £285 (2018: £390) for travel expenses, £214 (2018: £nil) for Lecture expenses, £410 (2018: £nil) for contribution to Psi Encyclopedia and £1,500 (2018: £nil) as a grant from the Survival Fund.

Mr J. Fraser: £nil (2018: £170) for committee expenses.

Mr Robert McLuhan £15,313 (2018: £15,575) 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: £51 (2018: £234) for Lecture expenses, £20 (2018: £nil) for travel expenses and £410 (2018: £nil) for contribution to Psi Encyclopedia.

Prof. C. A. Roe: £nil (2018: £507) for his editorial work regarding the SPR's Journal and £7,250 (2018: £6,149) as a grant, £387 for travel (2018: £380).

Dr T. H. Ruffles: £4,800 (2018: £5,125) as Hon Communications Officer (2018 also as Hon Book Review Editor); £163 (2018: £140) travel expenses for Council meetings.

Dr M. J. Willin: £5,220 (2018: £4,604) for his work on the archives, £nil (2018: £5,000) fee paid from the General Fund and £1,200 (2018: £4,400) as a grant from the Survival Research Fund, £369 (2018: £385) for travel expenses, £20 (2018: £nil) for purchase of books and £70 (2018: £nil) for tapes transfer.

Mr A Murdie £96 (2018: £nil) for travel expenses and £108 (2018: £nil) for study day expenses.

Dr L Ruickbie £2,400 (2018: £2,400) as Editor of the Paranormal Review, £900 (2018: £900) for typesetting costs, £601 (2018: £601) for conference expenses, £2,810 (2018: £nil) for travel expenses and £718 (2018: £nil) for contribution to Psi Encyclopedia.

Dr Z Weaver £nil (2018: £410) for contribution to Psi Encyclopedia.

Mr S T Parsons £340 (2018: £nil) for purchases of books, £30 (2018: £nil) for membership expenses and £300 (2018: £500) as a grant from the Buckmaster Fund.

Dr D J Vernon £2,520 (2018: £1,827) for his editorial work on the SPR Journal, £nil (2018: £4,582) for a grant and £140 (2018: £126) for travel 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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

11 FIXED ASSETS – Tangible assets

	Leasehold Property £	Furniture & equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1 October 2018	1,264,610	25,593	12,531	1,302,734
Additions	-	6,525	756	7,281
At 30 September 2019	1,264,610	32,118	13,287	1,310,015
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 October 2018	-	20,468	11,995	32,463
Charge for the year	-	1,748	725	2,473
At 30 September 2019	-	22,216	12,720	34,936
NET BOOK VALUE – 30 September 2019	1,264,610	9,902	567	1,275,079
NET BOOK VALUE – 30 September 2018	1,264,610	5,125	536	1,270,271

12a FIXED ASSETS – Investments

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2019 £	2018 £
Investments are shown in the balance sheet at market value. The movement in market values during the year is as follows:-				
Market value at 1 October 2018	749,142	1,672,268	2,421,410	2,282,823
Net additional funds invested/ (funds withdrawn)	(70,000)	(54,560)	(124,560)	(61,106)
Increase in market value during the year	33,324	84,229	117,553	199,693
Market value at 30 September 2019	712,466	1,701,937	2,414,403	2,421,410
UK listed investments	712,466	1,701,937	2,414,403	2,421,410
Cash balances on deposit and awaiting investment	-	-	-	-
Historical cost of listed investments on 30 September 2019	291,533	1,014,062	1,305,615	1,340,995

Investments at 30 September 2019 comprise 1,664,645 (2018 - 1,754,137) units held in Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

12b FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Unlisted Investment

At 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019

£1

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, London, W14 0SH & 1 Vernon Mews, London, W14 0RL.

13 STOCKS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Stock of publications etc.	1,809	-	1,809	3,071

14 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	500	104	604	-
Other debtors	11,164	1,435	12,599	28,077
Prepayments	1,273	-	1,273	1,215
	12,937	1,539	14,476	29,292

15 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	19,804	22,542	42,346	-
Deferred income – Memberships and subscriptions	13,902	-	13,902	13,291
Social security	-	-	-	3,639
Other creditors and accruals	17,028	-	17,028	32,889
	50,734	22,542	73,276	49,819

Other creditors and accruals includes grants payable of £22,542 (2018 - £17,337).

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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

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 Psychical Research, and related work.

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	618,897	734,932	304,877	1,658,706
2018 Investment income	16,625	18,515	10,576	45,716
Allocation of 2018 investment income	8,485	8,484	(16,969)	-
Other income	300	-	1,080	1,380
Grants awarded	(21,738)	(19,592)	(37,167)	(78,497)
Lecture expenses	(490)	-	-	(490)
Net Movement in investments	34,618	30,835	18,776	84,229
Transfers between funds	(58,182)	(62,768)	113,477	(7,473)
Administration fees	(6,189)	(7,349)	(5,335)	(18,873)
Balance at 30 September 2019	592,326	703,057	389,315	1,684,698

17 RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEMES

Defined contribution schemes

	2019	2018
	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>2,371</u>	<u>873</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 2019 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 27TH APRIL 2019

AT 1 VERNON MEWS, LONDON, W14 0RL

Prof. Chris Roe (President of the Society) opened the meeting at 5.30 p.m., welcoming 11 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 28th April 2018

Prof. Roe proposed the approval of the published minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting, and this was passed unanimously.

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 2018

Prof. Roe proposed that the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts should be received. This was approved unanimously.

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 duly re-elected: Dr R S Broughton, Dr G T B Kidd, Dr D N Rousseau, Dr T H Ruffles and Professor A D Parker.

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 Prof. Parker 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 Prof. Parker, this was carried unanimously.

Item 6 – 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

Prof. Roe explained that the proposed amendments were intended to facilitate modern practices in the operations of the Society (amendment a)) and to clarify outdated language contained in the original governing documents (amendment b)).

Mr Johnson clarified that whilst amendment a) permitted the Council to allow remote attendance at meetings of the Council, the specific procedural details would be agreed by the Council as and when they decide to allow it.

Prof. Roe proposed that amendment a) should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Mr Johnson clarified that amendment b) simply removed an obligation to submit the annual accounts to a full audit, rather than an independent examination by accounts. It did not remove this as an option, and it would be for the Council to decide.

Prof. Roe proposed that amendment b) should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Prof. Roe thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 5.41 p.m.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
NOTES ON CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL 2020
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

CIARAN FARRELL, BSc, GRSC

Ciaran was elected to Council at the 2017 AGM and has played an active role in all aspects of the Council's work. Ciaran was appointed by Council in 2017 to fulfil the role of Data Protection Officer (DPO), and to work alongside the Secretary and Honorary Treasurer within a small General Data Protection Regulation Implementation Team, to ensure that the SPR would be made ready for the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation, in May 2018. This significant milestone in the SPR's administration was achieved on time and on budget. Ciaran remains in post as DPO as there is still further work to be done in policy development for data protection and to act as a point of reference and contact for data protection matters.

Ciaran is an active member of the recently formed Policy Working Group and has made valuable contributions to the evaluation and revision of existing SPR policies and also to policy development due to the skills and knowledge he has gained in the charitable and voluntary sectors.

Ciaran is an active member of the Spontaneous Cases Committee, using the skills and knowledge he has gained through his background in psychical research, practical investigation skills and psychical experiences.

Ciaran is also an active member of the Conference Arrangements Committee, which assists the Secretary with the organisation of SPR Conferences. In addition, Ciaran also assists the Secretary by helping out with the general administration of the SPR.

Ciaran has had psychical experiences of various types over the years which started when he was young including a holiday in a haunted house and experiences in haunted hospitals and other locations. He became fascinated by the phenomena, rather than scared by them, and set out to do all he could to understand their nature. He has been carrying out psychical research for several years at

the British & Wellcome Libraries, the National Archives & various other institutions. This includes the history and nature of psychical phenomena, entities, apparitions, veridical dreams, telepathy and mediumship. He is particularly interested in comparing veridical information and psychical sense impression data with historical fact.

Ciaran joined the Society in February 2015 and regularly attends SPR Lectures, Study Days and last year's SPR Conference which he finds very rewarding and he is a regular contributor to the group discussion at these events.

Ciaran is a member of several health-related groups and is a local authority consultant in health & social care. He has also been the Company Secretary of a small business as well as Vice Chair of his local Community Health Council, and a member of its successor bodies, and a School Governor. In addition, he was the chair or vice chair of his local Tenants' Association for many years, and has represented communities at local, regional and national levels in health and housing. He has also been a Trustee of several charities involved in health, housing and education.

Ciaran graduated from London University with a joint honours degree in chemistry & physics after obtaining the first part of an engineering, toolmaking apprenticeship. He went on to carry out research for a PhD but was unable to secure funding for his qualification due to the merger of his college with others within the university. He became an honorary student in the college's Philosophy of Science department and engaged in original philosophical research into the mind body problem. He then went on to work for the charity National MIND.

JOHN FRASER, B.A.

John is a current member of the SPR Council and has been Vice Chair Investigations of the Ghost Club – the two oldest groups in the country that study the paranormal. John's active interest in the paranormal dates from the 1980s, when he participated in a long- running series of hypnotic regression experiments, assisting in the co-ordination of sessions and being trained in hypnotic regression techniques. Following a research project regarding the reasons behind supernatural occurrences at Sandwood Bay in Sutherland, he was invited to join the Ghost Club, where he became the Vice Chair (with investigations portfolio) 1998-2004. He joined the SPR in the late 1990s and, in 2003, became a member of the Spontaneous Cases Committee, where he has worked to widen its accessibility to the general public. He was also invited to join the Council in 2008. His 2010 *Ghost Hunting, a Survivors Guide* was one of the first UK books published about the subject since its popularisation by TV. Since 2015 John has been working on an extended project of witness testimony regarding the well-publicised phenomena occurring at The Cage in St Osyth, Essex, while also assessing the validity of witness testimony in spontaneous 'paranormal' cases. He has presented some of his findings both at an SPR lecture and article in the *Paranormal Review*. One of John's primary aims is to make the SPR more involved in spontaneous cases and 'paranormal' field research and he will be contributing to a forthcoming SPR Study Day on 29th April (ahead of the AGM) on New Approaches to Ghost Hunting, arguing along these lines. John has also appeared in numerous media discussions of the paranormal - including Japanese and Scottish Television, and national BBC radio.

ROBERT McLUHAN, B.A., B.Litt.

Robert McLuhan is a professional journalist who began his career as a foreign correspondent for the *Guardian* and *Economist*, and now writes mainly for *The Week* and for business publications. Robert joined the Society in 1993, making good use of the library to get to grips with psychical research. In 1998, the Survival Research Committee commissioned him to create an Abstracts Catalogue of all survival-related material in the SPR *Proceedings* and *Journals* from 1884 to the present day. This project was subsequently enlarged to cover all the archive material, taking five years to complete (the entire catalogue can now be accessed in the SPR website's Publications menu). In 2010, he published *Randi's Prize: What Sceptics Say About the Paranormal, Why They Are Wrong, and Why It Matters*, in which he closely compared research reports by psi investigators with the criticisms of sceptics. He has given occasional SPR lectures and contributed to SPR Study Days on topics such as mediumship, and reincarnation research, and scepticism. In 2014, he was commissioned to manage the Buckmaster Publications project, beginning with the creation of the online Psi Encyclopedia. He has also overseen the redesign of the SPR website. He contributes book reviews to the *Journal* and writes essays about paranormal matters on his blog Paranormalia.com.

CHRIS A. ROE, Ph.D.

Chris Roe joined the Society in 1991 and was co-opted onto Council in 1997 when he took over as Editor of the *Paranormal Review*. In 2003, he became Editor of the SPR's *Journal*. He studied Psychology at Edinburgh University and returned there to study for a PhD as part of the Koestler Parapsychology Unit. In 1995, he took up a lectureship in Psychology at the University of Northampton, and was responsible for introducing parapsychology into the undergraduate Psychology course at Northampton and has helped to establish the Centre for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Processes, which includes ten academic staff and nine PhD students with interests in parapsychology and transpersonal psychology. He is the Perrott-Warrick Senior Researcher and Professor of Psychology at the University of Northampton. He is currently President of the Parapsychological Association and Chair of the Transpersonal Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society. He is a member of the Scientific Board of the Bial Foundation and the International Affiliate for the Parapsychology Foundation representing England. He has personally conducted laboratory-based research on ESP and PK but also has a long-standing interest in psychic readers and readings.

ADRIAN RYAN

Adrian is a freelance business systems analyst for the financial services industry, with a long-standing interest in parapsychology and psychical research. He serves on several of the Society's committees and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Society's *Journal*. He is also a member of the Scientific & Medical Network and a Professional Member of the Parapsychological Association. Adrian recently assisted in migrating the Society's membership database onto new technology, enabling email communication with members and online renewals and registration for events. He is currently undertaking a project to implement an open data repository for parapsychological and psychical research data, and is also conducting research into environmental influences on psi. Adrian is keen to represent younger members of the Society and will always work to ensure that legacies received by the Society are utilised in accordance with the deceased's wishes.

CALLUM E COOPER, Ph.D.

Dr Callum E. Cooper joined the SPR in 2007. He became a member of the Survival Research Committee and then Council several years later. He is a senior lecturer and researcher of psychology at the University of Northampton. He is the third-year module co-ordinator for 'Parapsychology & Anomalous Experiences' and lectures on such topics as: parapsychology, positive psychology, sexual behaviour, and death and loss. He received a PhD from the University of Northampton (2017) exploring the impact of post-death experiences on bereavement, and soon after received a PhD from Manchester Metropolitan University (2018) based on ten years of work he'd conducted in parapsychology regarding spontaneous case research and the survival hypothesis. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2009 Eileen J. Garrett Scholarship Award (Parapsychology Foundation), the Dr Gertrude Schmeidler Award (Parapsychological Association), as was a nominee for the 2018 Ockham's Razor Award for Excellence in Skeptical Activism (The Skeptic Magazine / QEDcon). He also holds various positions with research institutes including: Library Fellow of the Eileen J. Garrett – Parapsychology Foundation (2015), Principle Researcher of the Alex Tanous Foundation, Research Associate of Hope Studies Central (University of Alberta), Professional Member of the Parapsychological Association, and Chartered Member of the British Psychological Society.

DAVID ELLIS, M.A.

David was born near the eastern edge of Sussex in 1941 and lived in the south-east with his mother while his father served in the RAF. He attended a private first school and had a year at the local grammar school before his family moved away in September 1953, following his father's promotion in the Westminster Bank. He went to grammar schools in Horsham, Winchester and Brighton, and having inherited his father's competitive nature (though not his ability at sport), was never satisfied unless he was top of the A stream. He was fortunate to win a Minor Scholarship in Natural Sciences to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, where he specialised in Chemistry but also played chess with some success and worked for the university photographic society, first as Darkroom Secretary and then as Chairman. Graduating with a 3rd Class degree from a College which can boast fourteen

Nobel Prize Winners, he found employment at an American-owned research laboratory in Harlow, which did at least have one (Charlie Kao, for his fibre-optic work) and also employed Alec Reeves, who invented digital signal coding in the 1930s. Despite being warned by Chris Stephenson of Caius of the effect that involvement in psychical research could have “on any sane career” he applied successfully for the Perrott-Warrick Studentship in 1970 with a project on the Raudive voices (EVP).

He served on two committees of the Churches’ Fellowship in the 1970s and as its first printer he helped his friend Leslie Price found *The Christian Parapsychologist* in 1975. He welcomed D. Scott Rogo to his flat in Epping in 1972, and they visited Dr Robert Crookall before travelling together to the Parapsychology Foundation Conference in Amsterdam, to which David had been invited as the Perrott-Warrick Student. Despite the efforts of SPR friends such as Alan Gauld, David was unable to continue in funded psychical research, but work friends helped him purchase litho printing equipment, and his concern for good English was key to his specialisation in books and periodicals. He printed and published an account of his Perrott-Warrick research, and did books for friends and local authors. Awarded the contract in 1991 for getting the *JSPR* into print, he was made Production Editor by Council in respect of his sub-editing work, and he was responsible for over 100 issues of the *Journal* and *Proceedings* until the end of 2015, for which he was made an honorary member of the Society.

David was elected to Council in 2005 and served on the Finance Committee from 2007 to 2012, setting up a fairer system for subscription renewal fees for members who had joined part-way through a subscription year. He had mailed the publications from 1992 and printed the annual subscription reminders. In 2014 he chaired the sub-committee to appoint an editor for the *Paranormal Review* after Nicola Holt retired, and he continues to proof-read each issue for Leo Ruickbie, a light task as Leo himself works hard on his contributors’ writing. (We need to be very careful with our writing, to avoid giving any impression that we are careless with our research.) For a number of reasons, David decided at the 2017 Annual General Meeting not to contest the election for Council members, and the three-year break has proved very helpful to him, not least as it has enabled him to get a second book of his own into print, this time dealing with his work at his local Church to promote the Christian faith as simple to understand, if not always simple to put into practice. Being at the Don Cupitt end of the theological spectrum, he would like to have visited the man, but this was precluded by the latter’s retirement on account of macular degeneration. Cupitt thanked him for pointing out some typos on his official website, and telephoned to acknowledge receipt of a copy of David’s book, although he would be unable to read it.

David is a Professional Member of the Parapsychological Association. He has friends in Adelaide and after a weekend there in May 2010 for the funeral of Michael Thalbourne, he has contributed to AIPR publications, as well as writing a few articles, book reviews, obituaries and letters for the SPR ones.

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, 25th April 2020 at 5.15 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1) To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2019.
- 2) To receive the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts made up to 30th September 2019.
- 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:
Mr C. J. Farrell, BSc, GRSC; Mr J. A. Fraser, BA; Mr R. G. McLuhan, BA, BLitt;
Prof. C. A. Roe, BSc, MSc, PhD, AFBPsS; Mr A. P. Ryan; Dr C. E. Cooper, BSc,
MRes, PhD, CPsychol., FHEA

Note that these six candidates do not require nominations.

The required nominations have been received from two members for the following candidate:

Mr D. J. Ellis, MA (nominated by Dr Ruffles and Dr Ruickbie)

Notes on all 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.

No other business will be transacted at this meeting.

Peter Johnson *Secretary to the Society*