

The Incorporated
SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
Established 1882



ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017

Council, Officers, Staff and Advisers	2
President's Report	3
Research	3
Research Grants Committee	3
Buckmaster Oversight Committee	4
Spontaneous Cases Committee	5
Survival Research Committee.....	6
Statistical Work	7
Library	7
Archives	7
Education and Publicity	8
Website Manager	9
The <i>Journal</i>	9
The <i>Paranormal Review</i>	10
Annual Conference	10
Secretary's Report	11
The Financial Position.....	12
Annual Report and Accounts	13
Minutes of 2017 A.G.M.	29
Candidates for Election to Council	30
Agenda for 2018 A.G.M.	31

COUNCIL, OFFICERS, STAFF AND ADVISERS as at 30 Sept. 2017

President: Prof. J. C. Poynton, MSc, PhD

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
Mr G. L. Playfair, BA
Prof. D. J. West, MD, LittD, FRCPsych

Elected Members of Council

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 Ciaran Farrell, BSc, GRSC
Mr J. Fraser, BA
Mr R. McLuhan, BA, BLitt

Mr A. D. Murdie, LL B
Mr G. L. Playfair, BA
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 (Hons)

Dr T. H. Ruffles, BSc, BA, MA,
PhD, ARPS
Mr A. P. Ryan
Dr Z. Weaver, BA, PhD
Prof. D. J. West, MD, LittD,
FRCPsych
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

Mrs M. E. Barton
Dr D. L. Erickson, MBA, PhD,

Dr G. T. B. Kidd, MBBS, MRCPsych
Prof. Adrian Parker, MA, PhD

Council Appointments

Hon. Secretary – Prof. D. J. West
Hon. Treasurer – Dr R. S. Broughton

Hon. Editor, Journal & Proceedings – Prof. C. A. Roe
Editorial Assistant – Miss C. M. Sonnex

Hon. Statistical Adviser – Miss B. M. Markwick
Hon. Website Manager – Dr D. L. Erickson
Hon. Archives Liaison Officer – Dr M. J. Willin

Hon. Communications Officer – Dr T. H. Ruffles
Hon. Book Review Editor, JSPPR – Dr T. H. Ruffles
Hon. Editor, The Paranormal Review – Dr L. Ruickbie

Council Committees

Committee	Chairman	Members
Education & Publicity	Prof. Carr	Dr Erickson, Mr McLuhan, Mr Playfair, Prof. Roe, Dr Ruickbie, Dr Ruffles, Mr Ryan.
Research Grants	Prof. Delanoy	Dr Broughton, Prof. Carr, Dr Rousseau, Prof. West
Buckmaster Oversight	Dr Broughton	Miss Barrington, Prof. Carr, Mr Fraser, Mr Murdie, Prof. Poynton, Mr Ryan, Dr Weaver
Library	Dr Ruffles	Mr McLuhan, Dr. John Newton, Mrs Patel, Prof. Poynton, Dr Willin
Spontaneous Cases	Mr Murdie	Miss Barrington, Dr Colvin, Dr Callum Cooper, Mr Paul Cropper, Mr Fraser, Dr Kidd, Mrs Rita Leek, Dr John Newton, Mr Steve Parsons, Mr Playfair, Mr James Tacchi, Dr Weaver
Survival Research	Mrs Barton	Mr Dennis Bury, Dr Callum Cooper, Dr Gauld, Mr Playfair, Dr Rousseau
Editorial Board	Dr Broughton	Dr Carlos Alvarado, Prof. Stephen Braude, Prof. Carr, Prof. Delanoy, Dr Gauld, Dr James Houran, Prof. Parker, Prof. Poynton, Mr Ryan, Dr Stefan Schmidt, Dr Paul Stevens, Prof. West, Dr Carl Williams, Dr Robin Wooffitt
Conference Programme	Prof. Parker	Prof. Carr, Dr Gauld, Prof. Roe, Dr Ruffles, Prof. West

Secretary Mr P. M. Johnson

Librarian Mrs K. Patel

Professional Advisers

Auditors & Accountants

PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants

Investment Manager

Newton Investment Management Ltd.

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the President - Professor John Poynton

The Society has benefitted from another year both of consolidation and of development. The Vernon Mews premises continue to deliver all that had been hoped for, and more, under the control and care of our industrious Secretary, Peter Johnson. The Society's finances have continued to meet the many demands thanks to the supervision of our Hon. Treasurer Dr Richard Broughton. This includes chairing the Buckmaster Oversight Committee, responsible for funding three major initiatives summarised in Dr Broughton's report. Prof. Donald West has continued to give wise advice as Hon. Secretary, and, effectively on the executive, Prof. Bernard Carr has made a great contribution to various activities of the Society, much of it summarised in his report of the Education and Publicity Committee.

The Society's many lines of outreach have grown and strengthened. The production of the *Journal* and *Paranormal Review*, under the editorship respectively of Prof. Chris Roe and Dr Leo Ruickbie, continue in the tradition of a society in the lead of its field, while the *Psi Encyclopedia* continues to bring new strength to the field under the direction of Robert McLuhan. In a similar vein Adrian Ryan has initiated an Open Data Repository, described along with the *Psi Encyclopedia* in Dr Broughton's report. The annual international

conference again achieved notable success under the chairmanship of Professor Adrian Parker. Being held this time at a specialist hotel gave general satisfaction. Public relations have prospered under our Hon. Website Manager, Dr Deborah Erickson, and under Dr Tom Ruffles as Hon. Communications Officer, who has also been involved as Hon. Book Review Editor and Chair of the Library Committee. Members have continued to benefit from the services provided by our Librarian, Karen Patel, in addition to her work as Membership Secretary. Public relations have also been enhanced by Dr Melvyn Willin, Hon. Archives Liaison Officer. Research has continued to be fostered by grants from the Research Grants Committee chaired by Prof. Deborah Delanoy, and the Survival Research Committee chaired by Marian Barton.

I regret having to report the death of three long-standing members, Syd Gillingham, Gerd Hövelmann and Tony Pritchett.

The committee and other reports that follow show a Society that is full of vigour and accomplishing much. It is with satisfaction that I commend this Annual Report to Society members and interested parties beyond.

RESEARCH

Report of the Research Grants Committee

Chairman: Professor Deborah Delanoy

The Chair extends her grateful thanks to the RGC members who generously gave their time and expertise to evaluate the research grant funding applications submitted this year. The RGC members are: Dr Richard Broughton, Professor Bernard Carr, and Professor Donald West.

Funding remains a problem for the RGC, and this year we took the unusual step of spending more than the generated income, to enable the funding of the most deserving projects (total of awarded grants: £34,705.76). Unless more funding is donated to the RGC, we will be unable to support a similar group of worthy research projects in future years.

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 will be able to continue to support important research projects. This will help advance the goal of extending our knowledge and understanding of psychical phenomena.

The RGC appreciates the effort that went into the 12 research proposals that were submitted for our consideration. The proposals addressed broad-ranging questions, and were submitted by an international group of individuals, including well-

established, as well as ‘up and coming’, researchers. Our commiserations are extended to those whom we were unable to support this year. To the following

successful applicants, we send our congratulations and wish them every success with their research.

Dr Callum Cooper & Dr David Saunders: A grant of £5,382 is awarded for their proposed pilot study of the role of floatation tanks and sensory isolation in producing psi-conductive imagery.

Dr Josie Malinowski: A grant of £6,822 is awarded to explore the effect of emotional arousal on dream precognition, while piloting an experimental procedure based on the Maimonides dream research conducted in the 1960’s and following-up on finding from more recent precognitive dream meta-analyses.

Prof. Chris Roe, Mr Chetak Nangare and Mr Jonathan Ryan: A grant of £3,982.40 is awarded to test for displacement effects in a dream ESP study, whilst comparing individual versus group judgements.

Dr Andreas Sommer: A grant of £7,000 is awarded to examine key German historical debates over possession states and mediumship, their reception by mainstream scientists and to explore their significance during the professionalization of German parapsychology.

Dr Lance Storm: A grant of £6,937.16 is awarded for research exploring the application of Psychological Reactance Theory to the sheep-goat effect in a free-response psi task that uses a fuzz-set encoded target pool.

Dr David Vernon: A grant of £4,582.20 is awarded for the experimental study of eliciting and comparing precognitive effects using a fast implicit and fast explicit task.

Report of the Buckmaster Oversight Committee (BOC)

Chairman: Dr Richard S. Broughton

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

The main new development within the suite of projects is that the SPR Psi Open Data Project is now operational. This project, directed by Mr 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. Since launching in July, the repository had acquired 10 datasets from researchers in five different countries and already has been accessed 149 times at last count, with the main interest coming from the USA, Russia, The Netherlands and the UK. Mr Ryan’s presentations on the repository, at the SPR Annual Conference and the Parapsychological Association Convention, attracted considerable positive attention and the main parapsychological journals are expected to recommend lodging data for published research in the Psi Open Data repository. The repository is registered with re3data.org, the global registry of research data repositories.

The 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 over 220 articles from around 50 contributors. Project director Mr McLuhan is continuing to solicit quality material from psychical research professionals as the online project moves toward completion.

The Systems Methodology for Exploratory Science project, under Dr Rousseau, has progressed from further developing the foundations of Systems Science, proposing specific principles for applications of the methodology that are currently being evaluated in projects at two collaborating US universities. Dr Rousseau’s work has generated an extraordinary number of requests for workshops and presentations at organisations as diverse as NASA and Rolls-Royce as well as several professional bodies and universities. Dr Rousseau reports that an additional 10 peer-reviewed papers have been published this year, and the papers specific to the aims of the Buckmaster project are near completion or expected early in the next year.

As the Buckmaster project passes the three-year mark the BOC is pleased to report that the projects are proceeding satisfactorily and that benefits of Mr Buckmaster’s generosity are now 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

Following papers on the conduct of contemporary Spontaneous Cases presented at the 2015 and 2016 SPR conferences and a special SPR Study Day on haunting investigations at the Society's headquarters held on 29 April 2017, members of the SCC have embarked upon issuing a new guide aimed to meet the needs of field investigators in the 21st century.

This is the first full-scale revision of the guidelines issued by the Society for nearly thirty years in the area of hauntings and poltergeist research. With support of a small grant from the Society, SCC member Steve Parsons has undertaken the writing of a new guidance manual for investigators to be issued in 2018. The guide will cover scientific methodology and techniques relevant to investigation hauntings, the use of equipment and the importance of observing scientific standards of measurement and data collection. A specific aim of the guide will be to provide information of assistance not only to SPR members interested in spontaneous case research but also to members of some of the large number of amateur investigation groups operating throughout the British Isles. It is recognised that many full-time parapsychologists and PhD students began as "amateurs" so such a distinction as amateur and professional research should be seen as somewhat unreal: the only valid difference is between 'good' and 'bad' paranormal research. The role of amateur researchers is recognised in fields as diverse as astronomy and archaeology and it is the same in psychical research. Many amateurs have studied the subject to a high level and demonstrate a responsibility and a dedication to the subject upon which psychical research continues to draw and rely. The aim of the guide will be to support such an approach and encourage the application of scientific standards and support this work

The Spontaneous Cases Committee has dealt with a range of enquiries and reports submitted by the public and members over the year and a number of media enquiries. With some reports of activity in the UK, SCC members have also met with the individuals concerned. Although nothing paranormal has been conclusively established, a number of these cases are of interest from psychological and cultural perspectives. Popular interest in phenomena falling within the

classification of spontaneous cases remains high, which is one of the reasons underlying the need for the issue of guidance for would-be investigators. Fewer examples of anomalous photographs and video footage have been submitted to the Society by the public than in recent years, the decline perhaps indicating that there may be an increased awareness in some quarters that artefacts generated on digital cameras and mobile telephones have a normal rather than paranormal explanation.

Contrasting with the decline continuing decline in the number of anomalous photographs have been increasing numbers of what are claimed to be anomalous recordings of sounds. Where what are claimed as spontaneous raps are submitted there are opportunities for analysis and testable predictions based upon the findings identified by Dr Barrie Colvin ('The Acoustic Properties of Unexplained Rapping Sounds' in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* [2010], Vol. 73.2, pp. 65-93). Currently, SCC member James Tacchi is conducting an on-going analysis of claimed anomalous raps based upon these. Anyone obtaining or holding recordings of what they consider may represent paranormal raps or sounds are invited to submit these to the SCC.

Work has continued on examining historic material, including the Battersea Poltergeist case of 1956-68, supported by a grant from the Survival Research Committee, with research now examining records concerning the official involvement of the teenage focus in an intensive police operation and the search for two missing children (subsequently found to have been murdered) conducted in Bristol, England, in July 1957.

Outside the UK, SCC member Paul Cropper from Australia has concluded a five-year monitoring project gathering poltergeist reports drawn from international media. These accumulated reports await further analysis, and it is noted that the collected accounts often feature claims of dramatic and violent physical manifestations. Whilst these accounts cannot be accepted at face value and without reservations, the physical nature of these phenomena (including fires, the throwing of stones and the breaking of objects) indicates that these are objective events which cannot be wholly ascribed to the operation of purely subjective psychological processes.

Report of the Survival Research Committee

Chairman: Marian Barton

As some members will be aware we no longer receive an annual contribution from the Henry Burton Tate estate, as this was just for 20 years and has run its full term. Fortunately, our Hon. Treasurer has been judicious in managing the Fund with some very good investments. However, it does mean that, with very little additional income, we now must manage our Fund especially well. So, if any member wishes to specifically support work on survival, we would welcome any donations, small or large, so that we can continue our support.

We held only one Gwen Tate Lecture during the year and this was given by Ann Treherne in March. Ann is the Chairperson of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh. Ann talked about the life of Conan Doyle, his childhood in Edinburgh, his schooling and university life before becoming a doctor, then a writer. Famous as the author of

Sherlock Holmes, he became the world's foremost spokesman on spiritualism. Ann explored some strange coincidences and communication which she considered came from the deceased Conan Doyle and which eventually led to the founding of The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh.

As I mentioned last year, the SRC gives an annual sum towards the cost of the SPR's archivist as much of his work involves the preservation of survival type material. From this year a small percentage of the SRC's Fund will be going to the SPR's General Fund to help support the work of the Office and Library in relation to survival.

The total of the awards for this year amounts to more than our usual figure but this is balanced by the previous year being much lower.

The following are the awards for this year:

Karen Wehrstein awarded £1,200

Canada. Two Adult Reincarnation Cases with Multiple Past Lives Part 1

Karen Wehrstein awarded £1,200

Canada. Two Adult Reincarnation Cases with Multiple Past Lives Part 2

Professor Chris Roe awarded £1,435.73

University of Northampton. Test of mediumship to showcase facilities at the research laboratory of the Arthur Findlay College at Stanstead

Samuel Bright awarded £4,500

Australia. A Case of the Reincarnation Type with Possible Xenoglossy

Dr Annkatrin Puhle awarded £3,000

Sweden. Activating the Study of Consciousness Continuation Using Dreams of the Deceased

Dr Callum Cooper awarded £2,770

University of Northampton. A Parapsychological inquiry into purportedly anomalous telecommunication experiences and their implications for the survival hypothesis

Dr James Matlock awarded £635.22

Research Fellow USA. A Possibly Important American Child Reincarnation Case

Dr James Matlock awarded £6,484

Research Fellow USA. Ian Stevenson and the Explanatory Value of Reincarnation

Professor Chris Roe awarded £6,080.40

University of Northampton. A further test of mediumship to showcase the facilities at the Arthur Findlay College research laboratory and to replicate Delorme et al's 2013 study

The SRC gave a joint grant to Dr Michael Nahm, Dr David Rousseau and Prof. Bruce Greyson. We are delighted to announce that a paper on Discrepancy Between Cerebral Structures and Cognitive

Functioning: a Review, has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*.

The SRC supported some of the research by Dr Callum Cooper for his PhD and we congratulate him on achieving his PhD this year. He has placed a copy of his thesis in the SPR Library.

The committee has also responded to some requests for help or information from members and non-members via the Hon. Communications Officer.

Report of the Hon. Statistical Adviser

Betty Markwick

Some progress has been made during the year on the Soal *Proceedings*. Appendices and preliminary pages have been included and cross-references updated, bringing the total to over 200 pages. The

I would like to thank the Survival Research Committee of Miss Barrington, Mr Dennis Bury, Dr Cooper, Dr Gauld, Mr Lyon Playfair and Dr Rousseau for all their work and support during this year. Sadly, Miss Barrington retired from the Committee in April, and we particularly thank her for all her expertise over the past years and for her help and support.

concluding section of one chapter needed to be added to complete the account and bring the investigation to a satisfactory clear-cut conclusion.

Report of the Library Committee

Chairman: Dr Tom Ruffles

Library usage has increased considerably since the move to Vernon Mews as members can now combine lectures and study days with a visit to the library and read publications in a comfortable environment. The Librarian has continued to improve the layout of the stock, and some journals have been re-bound. During the reporting period the library made 148 loans (compared to 39 the previous year when the library was shut for eight months).

During the year, Prof. West retired from the Library Committee and Dr John Newton joined it. I would like to thank Prof. West for his lengthy and valuable service. The other Library Committee members are: Mr McLuhan, Mrs Patel (Librarian and Committee Secretary), Mr Lyon Playfair, Prof. Poynton and Dr Willin.

The Committee met three times and maintained regular email contact. We agreed the purchase of 22

books at a cost of £417.65, and a further 30 books were donated by members. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Alison Cornell who generously agreed to donate a number of books that had belonged to the late Tony Cornell.

Members unable to visit the library in person can take advantage of our postal loan service. This is free apart from the cost of postage: the book is posted to the member, and when it is posted back the borrower includes reimbursement of the Society's postage costs. It is also possible to have an account whereby the member advances a sum of money, then with each loan the Librarian deducts postage and informs the borrower of the running tally.

The Secretary continues to issue letters of authorisation to those members who wish to make use of 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 is moving along. Lew Sutton has been helpful in unravelling some of the complexities (literally) of decaying cassette tapes. The cataloguing of the contents of the thousands of hours of recordings of lectures, Study Days and Conferences continues. One particularly recent find was an un-published recording (on reel-to-reel) of Rosemary Brown talking about and playing her music.

I have been in communication with numerous scholars concerning the archives and have attempted

to answer their diverse queries and provide support. These have included Grace Williams, an art specialist and the author Kate Summerscale. I often liaise with the Librarian concerning the joint queries that we receive.

I have built-up a good working relationship with Sian Collins, the new Archivist at Cambridge University Library (CUL) and make occasional visits there to deposit new material which this year has included further correspondence from Dr Gauld's collection and archive material from the Spontaneous Cases Committee. I have been very involved with the Donald West and Betty Markwick Soal papers. I also

catalogued Rosemary Dinnage's 'Scole' papers and I am in contact with our President, Prof. Poynton, concerning the Whiteman papers. I arranged a visit to the London SPR office by Sian Collins, from CUL. She was particularly impressed by the Society's library and I was invited to the opening of the *Curious Objects* Exhibition at CUL which exhibited several SPR artefacts.

I joined the CUL staff in speaking to two groups of students from the St Thomas University, Minnesota about the SPR archives and liaised with staff holding

an exhibition at the Zuckerman Museum of Art Galleries which included some acoustic examples.

I finish with my usual request repeated from previous years and made at the various lectures I have given about the archives. Could members PLEASE send me copies of their dissertations and articles for inclusion in the archives when they are of relevance to psychical research. We need more contemporary material to add to the huge amount of information conveyed to the Society 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 last year we merged with the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC). There was a large overlap of the committee members anyway, so only Robert McLuhan and Deborah Erickson formally joined the EPC. Deborah is the Honorary Website Manager and has summarised her activities in that capacity in her individual report. I will not repeat anything she says here, even though it is relevant to our remit.

The educational content of our website is burgeoning as a result of the growth of *Psi Encyclopedia*, ably edited and managed by Robert McLuhan. This project is now in its fourth year and offers more than 220 articles by around 50 writers. The total word-count is 750,000. The website development phase is largely complete. The focus now is on filling obvious gaps in the coverage, in order to make this as comprehensive as possible, and to optimise pages for search. Members are invited to get in touch with Mr McLuhan if they would like to offer comments or suggestions (robertmcluhan@gmail.com). Also relevant to the EPC remit is Adrian Ryan's *Psi Open Data Repository*, which was launched last year. Progress in this project is described in the report of the Buckmaster Committee, so it will not be discussed here.

These developments have required us to oversee an update of the SPR logo. The discussions about this began in 2016 but are now complete and the new logo has been adopted for all our documents and websites.

Our educational role includes overseeing study days in collaboration with Mary Rose Barrington. In October 2016 we held a study day entitled "Repeatable Psi – A Contradiction in Terms?", chaired by Bernard Carr and with talks by Chris Roe,

Zofia Weaver, Mary Rose Barrington and Stephen Braude. In an interesting break from tradition Stephen spoke to us by Skype and this may be an economical way of involving foreign speakers in the future. The study day in April 2017 was on "New Approaches to Ghost-Hunting". It was chaired by Bernard Carr and featured talks by Steve Parsons, Ciarán O'Keeffe, Leo Ruickbie, Alan Murdie and John Fraser. As a result of this event, Steve Parsons was commissioned to write an updated Guidebook for the Investigation of Spontaneous Cases. The study day also prompted a number of articles on the topic in the Spring 2017 *Paranormal Review*.

The EPC assists the Secretary in selecting speakers for and publicising the London evening lectures. This year we have continued to hold lectures and study days at the new SPR premises in Vernon Mews. Eventually this will allow us to broadcast events as webinars, with many people attending remotely. We have also continued to hold discussion evenings at our premises, with the theme being some topic in the current *Journal* or *Paranormal Review*: John Poynton led a discussion of Presidential letters in the *Paranormal Review* and Jason Jorjani's paper in the *Journal*; Callum Cooper led a discussion of his article in the *Paranormal Review* about the work of Dr Alex Tanous; Rupert Sheldrake led a discussion of morphic resonance, animal memory and instinct; Zofia Weaver led a discussion of anomalous materialisations.

The Committee plays a part in organising the annual conference, with Bernard Carr and Tom Ruffles serving on the Programme Committee. This year's conference was held at the De Vere hotel, Horsley and a report has been provided by Leo Ruickbie in the Winter 2017 *Paranormal Review*. The Programme Chair, Adrian Parker, is also part of the newly formed Conference Planning Group, so the EPC makes some input here.

Tom Ruffles continues to respond to enquiries via the

website and social media. Frequent references to the SPR, both in print and online, can be followed on our Facebook page and Twitter feed, both of which are overseen by Tom and are thriving. During the reporting year the SPR's Facebook page passed 12,000 'likes' and Twitter now has 3,500 followers. These sites not only publicise SPR events but also carry news about the field in general. Posts are circulated by readers and thereby reach a very large audience. Significant information relating to the SPR appears on our website as news items. Book information and reviews are also posted on the website.

We continue to build bridges with other organisations since this allows news of our activities to reach a wider audience. For example, lecture dates are regularly carried in ASSAP's e-newsletter and

we are happy to supply SPR leaflets to members for distribution at events arranged by other groups. Leo Ruickbie reproduces his *Paranormal Review* editorials and contents lists on the *Supernatural Magazine* website and on his own blog. Carlos Alvarado's parapsychology blog regularly features the SPR and its publications. We also try to arrange joint meetings with other organisations, both in the UK and abroad. For example, Ed May spoke to the SPR as part of a visit to Europe.

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

Report of the Hon. Website Manager

Dr Deborah Erickson

Various projects have kept me busy during the year.

In February discussions were initiated with Circle about integrating the library database directly into the SPR site, so users will search and access the most current book list. The library website page will also need to have additional searching capabilities enabled. The Spontaneous Cases committee had some updates to their Contact form. Adrian Ryan also worked with Circle on his database project; development began in mid-February. Robert added video files to the site for member viewing, and Council discussed edits to the web site SPR logo.

In March, website issues were minimal. Circle continued to be very responsive on operations and maintenance issues for the SPR site. Dr Broughton pursued getting automated membership renewal reminders running from the members database.

The SPR library catalogue database integration continued. Currently the library is maintained separately from the website, in a standalone

system. The frequent updates, additions, and edits that are added to the website catalogue periodically. This is time-consuming and can be problematic. The plan is to build interfaces to maintain the library as integrated with the web site, for a new single source-of-record for the library catalogue database.

In May we decreased the monthly hosting and maintenance costs. Circle set us up with a Wildcard over 3 years for our SSL license, as all three sites (SPR site, PSI site, and Open Data site) are on a single domain. We also accepted their offer to pay annually for all three sites, at a discount.

In July the library integration work continued, several new Council Members' Who's Who pages were published. The Open Data project's new subdomain was setup with our domain hosting company.

Updates to Who's Who pages for committee members were published in September. The library integration project continues.

The Journal of the Society for Psychical Research

Editor: Professor Chris Roe

During the period to 30 September 2017, we have produced four issues of the *Journal*: those for October 2016, January 2017, April 2017 and July 2017. We aim 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, to keep distribution

costs down, mailings are sometimes delayed so as to include other materials being prepared for members.

Taken together, the four *Journal* issues under review included 13 refereed articles and research notes, 20 book reviews, and various correspondence and Society notices. The published material continues to reflect the breadth of interest within psychical research, ranging from reanalysis of case studies,

investigations of ostensible after death communications in dreams, to experimental tests of psychometry, implicit precognition, and of synchronicity. Other work has focused on the causes and consequences of paranormal belief and experiences. The approaches and methods adopted in this published work are similarly diverse, including controlled experiments, surveys and questionnaire-based studies, through to analyses of collected cases. 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 followed with sufficient rigour and awareness of the wider literature. The *Journal* continues to have international reach and, in this period, we have published contributions from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and 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 or pdf files.

I should like to thank my Editorial Assistant, Charmaine Sonnex, for her hard work in helping to manage the many submissions we receive – including many that are reviewed but are deemed unsuitable for publication by our referees. I should like to take this opportunity to our typesetter and Richard Broughton for their 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 like also to express my gratitude to our Hon. Book Review Editor, Tom Ruffles, who manages the book review process with meticulous professionalism. Finally, I should like to thank Jacqui Wilson for her valuable assistance with proof reading.

The Paranormal Review

Editor: Dr Leo Ruickbie

Four issues of the *Paranormal Review* were published during this accounting period as scheduled: ‘Parazology’ (issue 80, Autumn 2016), ‘Just One of Those Things’ (issue 81, Winter 2017), ‘The Ghost Hunting Issue, Pt 1’ (issue 82, Spring 2017) and ‘The Ghost Hunting Issue, Pt 2’ (issue 83, Summer 2017). Issue 80 also focused on the Society’s move to its new premises in Vernon Mews. Working closely with the Society’s Hon. Treasurer, Dr Broughton, I designed and published an advertisement for the Building Fund to raise donations to contribute towards the purchase costs of the new premises. This advertisement ran in all four issues published during this accounting period. In issue 81, I launched the *Paranormal Review*’s first photography competition, with an expert panel of judges comprising: Andreas Fischer, Curator of Photographs at the IGPP in Freiburg; Dr Michael Pritchard, FRPS, Chief Executive of the Royal Photographic Society; Shannon Taggart, Artist and Scholar in Residence at the Morbid Anatomy Museum, New York; the Society’s Hon. Communications Officer, Dr Tom Ruffles, ARPS;

and the Society’s Hon. Archive Liaison Officer, Dr Willin. Olympus UK generously agreed to sponsor the competition, providing one of their cameras for the winner. The results were announced at the Society’s conference in September. Issue 81 also carried my in-depth report on the Society’s 2016 conference.

During the accounting period, the *Paranormal Review* carried 45 articles, plus announcements, letters, reader offers and other material totalling 144 published pages. David Ellis proof-read all four issues and made many useful suggestions.

A ‘press release’ was posted to Facebook and Twitter, and redistributed by Dr Ruffles across the SPR channels, the contents and editorial pages were also syndicated by supernaturalmagazine.com run by SPR member Norie Miles. This additional promotional activity continued to maintain the visibility of the magazine and hence contributed to raising awareness of the SPR in general.

Annual Conference

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

The 41st International Annual Conference of the SPR took place at the De Vere Hotel at East Horsley, Leatherhead. This was the first time for 15 years that the conference took place at a venue which offered the residential and conference facilities in the same building complex, thereby eliminating the need for long walks between the two. Although there has been no formal evaluation, it is my distinct impression from the comments of attendees that this

arrangement was much appreciated and an improvement on previous years. I believe that was also much satisfaction with the general facilities offered there and with the support of the hotel staff (the only problem I encountered was mixed messages concerning the times for entry to and departure from the rooms).

The cost was £380 for single attendance and for students it would be just under £300. (The latter cost is clearly too high as shown by the conspicuously near absence of students). The invited speakers this year were from the UK thereby reducing expenses.

There were around 60 attendees at the conference and 27 presentations, including from invited speakers, were given. These presentations were chosen from around 30 submissions and, as well as from the UK and US, they included those from France, Germany, Holland, India, Puerto Rico, Norway, and Sweden - which certainly justified the "international" title of the conference. It is my impression that all the presentations were of a high standard and were well-received by the audience. The topics covered included apparitions, mediumship, and the latest research on unconscious measures and psychokinetic phenomena. Apologies to Adrian Ryan for the misunderstanding of the true nature of his presentation (which concerned the SPR's Psi Open Data project, collecting data from past and current research).

The invited speakers were Dr Peter Fenwick who gave the after-dinner speech, which was a biographical account of his work on near-death experiences and Professor Allan Kellehear who gave his invited talk on "NDEs: visions of the bereaved and death-bed visions and the politics of

knowledge". Prof. Adrian Parker and Dr Annekatrin Puhle gave the first evening after-dinner talk - a light hearted presentation entitled "Making Thoughtforms Work - magic rabbits and polar bears."

Several other presentations (e.g., Cooper; Roe & Saunders; Puhle) were centred on the topic of near death experiences. The focus on NDEs in this conference (thanks to Peter Fenwick's comments on Allan Kellehear's paper) may have served to resolve a major issue concerning the reality of one of the more controversial evidential NDEs cases.

A first-time feature of the conference was a video link-up with two researchers in India. Despite best efforts, the link was too intermittent to enable the full presentation to take place but hopefully it will encourage further documentation of the work by these researchers.

I want to thank Peter Johnson and the programme committee: Bernard Carr, Alan Gauld, Chris Roe, Tom Ruffles, and Donald West, for their valuable help and to the excellent SPR support staff: Peter Johnson, Mick O'Neill, Bryan Jones and Karen Patel. There were no complaints (that I received) and it is my impression that the conference was an enjoyable and meaningful event for the majority of attendees.

Secretary's Report

Peter Johnson

Settling well into our new premises, we have been taking full advantage of the facilities on offer, using the lecture room for events throughout the year and welcoming an increasing number of users to our library.

Karen Patel has officially become our Membership Secretary, in addition to carrying out her work as Librarian, which has been a tremendous help in the Office. We have ramped up our online membership management system, with renewals and other notices being dealt with automatically by email. Richard Broughton has been a huge support during this year,

as ever, and I must also thank our President, John Poynton, for his work overseeing the office administration. John handles many requests for interviews and enquiries about the history and current work of the Society, providing an authoritative insider view for interested parties.

As shown in the table below, membership numbers are steady. We hope that our ever-developing offer of new services and facilities through our website and social media will go some way to address this. In this regard, huge thanks are due to Robert McLuhan for his work on the website and to Tom Ruffles for running our social media pages.

	Members & Associates		Student Associates		Totals	
	30 Sept 17	30 Sept 16	30 Sept 17	30 Sept 16	30 Sept 17	30 Sept 16
UK	446	459	24	29	470	488
USA	125	110	6	6	131	116
Other Countries	148	165	10	8	158	173
TOTALS	719	734	40	43	759	777

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

Sean O'Donnell – “Bringing Psi and Science Together”

Callum Cooper – “Water, Altered States and Psi”

Ciarán O'Keeffe – “The San Pantaleon Phenomena: Miraculous Healing and Miracle Blood”

Anthony Peake – “Opening the Doors of Perception”.

Audio recordings of all our events are available for loan (members only) and purchase. A list of recordings is available on 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 running these events.

The Financial Position

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Richard Broughton

Although the investment markets have not been as favourable to the Society this year as in the recent past I am pleased to report that the Society remains on a sound financial footing and we are generally meeting our financial objectives. Our overall financial position is down from last year though this is primarily due to the weaker performance of the investment market and the programmatic spending of the Buckmaster Fund. Our goal to reduce operational costs was realised in that our unrestricted operational expenses are down £20,515 from last year and indeed lower than two years ago. We are looking to make further cost savings in the coming year.

Unrestricted income is up from last year, though this figure can fluctuate widely depending on occasional legacies and gifts or the way the annual conference costs are structured. Unfortunately, it continues to be the case that unrestricted expenses outstrip our income. Nonetheless Council is committed to making our services as widely available as possible, which is why membership dues have remained

unchanged for many years and Council is investigating ways of reducing the costs of our annual conference, particularly for students. 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 is our “New Home Campaign” that is aimed at replenishing the investment reserves needed to purchase our new premises. Although this campaign has seen quite a few generous donors, and further are expected, it is still very far from its goal and the Treasurer welcomes any interest in participating in this campaign.

The Accounts have once again been subject to a full audit and I am pleased to report that the auditor has submitted a positive report. Please note that in the Auditor's Report, included with the Accounts, references to “members” is a technical usage 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 2017

Pages:	14-16	Report of the Directors and Trustees
	17-18	Auditor's report
		Accounts, comprising:
	19	Statement of Financial Activities
	20	Balance Sheet
	21 - 28	Notes to the Accounts

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2017

The directors and trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

Development, activities and achievements this year and future developments

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

Transactions and financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities (page 18) shows a net deficit before gains on investments of £153,063 (2016: £203,965 deficit). The gains on investments decreased from £418,110 in 2016 to £64,430 in the current year. This was due to the state of the markets during the year. The net decrease in funds for the year was therefore £88,633 (2016: £214,145 increase). This net decrease in funds arises from several factors, including weaker performance of investments compared with previous years, the programmatic spending down of the restricted Buckmaster Fund, and an operating deficit that the Trustees are working to address.

The closing balance on reserves, representing the net assets of the Society, is decreased by this amount from £3,682,965 to £3,594,332 (see Balance Sheet on page 19).

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Society

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in note 11 to the accounts (page 27).

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2017

Reserves available

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

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

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. Specific plans for the near future include a concerted effort to reduce costs of the annual conference to encourage greater participation by students, continued cost reductions in the day-to-day operations of the Society, and the upgrading of systems and processes to ensure that the Society is compliant with new data protection regulations that come into force in the next fiscal year. Efforts to develop new sources of funding to expand the Society's research support programmes are ongoing, as is a campaign to 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.

Grants

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

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Year ended 30 September 2017

Directors and trustees

All of the elected members of Council are directors of the company and trustees of the charity and there are a further three co-opted members who are also trustees. All the members listed in the attached Annual Report of Council served throughout the year, except Prof. Adrian Parker who was appointed by Council on 4 August 2016. No remuneration is paid to the Society's officers in their capacity as trustees or directors.

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

Risk management

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

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the company for that year. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Society will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

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

This report was approved by Council representing the board of directors and trustees on 22 February 2018 and signed on its behalf:

J. Poynton - 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 2017

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research for the year ended 30 September 2017 which comprise a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 30 September 2017, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of members

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

A. E. Harraghy
Anne Harraghy (Senior Statutory Auditor) Date *6 March 2018*
For and on behalf of PK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

1 Parkshot
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 2RD

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 30 September 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	2	5,063	13	5,076	18,033
Membership and journal subscriptions		32,303	-	32,303	23,108
Investment income		21,332	50,210	71,542	69,673
Charitable activities income	3	28,721	-	28,721	12,685
Other income	4	2,127	-	2,127	10,744
TOTAL INCOME		89,546	50,223	139,769	134,243
RESOURCES EXPENDED:					
Cost of generating funds:					
Activities for generating funds	5	16,908	-	16,908	15,378
Charitable activities costs	6	125,713	120,462	246,175	288,464
Governance costs	7	29,735	14	29,749	34,366
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		172,356	120,476	292,832	338,208
Net (outgoing) resources before gains on investments		(82,810)	(70,253)	(153,063)	(203,965)
Transfers		19,545	(19,545)	-	-
Net gains on investments	8	20,558	43,872	64,430	418,110
Net movement in funds for the year		(42,707)	(45,926)	(88,633)	214,145
Funds brought forward 1 October 2016		2,037,323	1,645,642	3,682,965	3,468,820
Funds carried forward 30 September 2017		1,994,616	1,599,716	3,594,332	3,682,965

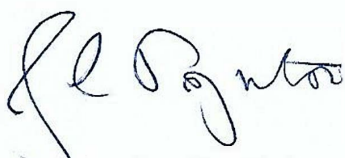
**THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
BALANCE SHEET**

As at 30 September 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible assets	11	7,177	-	7,177	8,986
Leasehold property	11	1,264,610	-	1,264,610	1,264,610
Investments	12	732,428	1,550,395	2,282,823	2,411,073
		<u>2,004,215</u>	<u>1,550,395</u>	<u>3,554,610</u>	<u>3,684,669</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Stocks		2,645	-	2,645	1,862
Debtors	13	22,871	83,056	105,927	59,130
Cash at bank and in hand		7,335	3,771	11,106	26,533
		<u>32,851</u>	<u>86,827</u>	<u>119,678</u>	<u>87,525</u>
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(42,450)	(37,506)	(79,956)	(89,229)
NET CURRENT ASSETS /(LIABILITIES)					
		<u>(9,599)</u>	<u>49,321</u>	<u>39,722</u>	<u>(1,704)</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>1,994,616</u>	<u>1,599,716</u>	<u>3,594,332</u>	<u>3,682,965</u>
ACCUMULATED GENERAL RESERVE					
		1,994,616	-	1,994,616	2,037,323
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	15	-	1,599,716	1,599,716	1,645,642
		<u>1,994,616</u>	<u>1,599,716</u>	<u>3,594,332</u>	<u>3,682,965</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 22nd February 2018 signed on its behalf:


J. C. Poynton - 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 2017

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

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 2017

1.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets as follows:

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

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

1.6 STOCKS

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

1.7 INVESTMENTS

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

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

1.8 FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

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

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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

2 VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Gifts and donations	5,063	-	5,063	356
Bequests and legacies	-	13	13	17,677
	<u>5,063</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5,076</u>	<u>18,033</u>

3 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Conferences	26,737	-	26,737	10,215
Lectures	7	-	7	15
Study days	1,977	-	1,977	2,455
	<u>28,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,721</u>	<u>12,685</u>

4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Publication and other sales	472	-	472	1,720
Royalties	952	-	952	1,252
Other sales	703	-	703	5,272
Other income	-	-	-	2,500
	<u>2,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>10,744</u>

5 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Publication costs	16,908	-	16,908	15,378
Publicity cost	-	-	-	-
	<u>16,908</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,908</u>	<u>15,378</u>

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Grants for research and education	-	107,417	107,417	101,814
Conferences	23,297	-	23,297	16,398
Lectures	1,964	-	1,964	1,232
Study days	1,954	-	1,954	3,657
Library and archive	2,245	3,000	5,245	5,407
Staff costs	62,445	-	62,445	60,398
Premises	21,109	-	21,109	25,821
Postage and stationery	5,204	-	5,204	7,566
Telecommunications	486	-	486	531
Website and internet expenses	1,823	10,045	11,868	44,169
General expenses	4,142	-	4,142	1,253
Loss on stock value	(784)	-	(784)	196
Depreciation	1,808	-	1,808	1,863
Relocation expenses	20	-	20	9,739
Partial VAT exemption	-	-	-	8,420
	<u>125,713</u>	<u>120,462</u>	<u>246,175</u>	<u>288,464</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.

7 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Legal and professional fees	17,110	-	17,110	24,014
Council meetings	1,441	-	1,441	1,141
Audit fee	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Bank and credit card charges	3,684	14	3,698	1,711
	<u>29,735</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>29,749</u>	<u>34,366</u>

8 NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Unrealised gain on investments	20,558	43,872	64,430	418,110
Realised gain on investments	-	-	-	-
Net gains on investments	<u>20,558</u>	<u>43,872</u>	<u>64,430</u>	<u>418,110</u>

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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 £2,627 (2016 - £1,076) 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: £44 (2016 - £207) for study day expenses.

Mr A Ryan: £500 (2016 - £nil) as a grant from the Buckmaster Fund.

Mr A Parker: £979 (2016 - £nil) for work on the Buckmaster project and travel expenses.

Dr C. Cooper: £2,944 (2016 - £nil) for lectures and a research grant.

Mr Robert McLuhan and Ms C McLuhan £24,593 (2016 - £31,176) for work as Editor of the encyclopedia being developed as part of the Buckmaster Project.

Prof. J. Poynton: £82 (2016 - £645) for work on Lecture projects (2016: Buckmaster project encyclopedia).

Prof. C. A. Roe: £3,040 (2016 - £2,660) for his editorial work regarding the SPR's Journal and £7,595 (2016 £7,534) as a grant, £180 for travel.

Dr Rousseau and Mrs Rousseau are both directors of the Centre for Fundamental and Anomalies Research (C-FAR), which was paid £nil (2016 - £26,000) for the development of a systemic methodology for Psychical Research.

Dr T. H. Ruffles: £5,525 (2016 £4,800) as Hon Communications Officer and Hon Book Review Editor; £133 (2016 - £235) travel expenses for Council meetings.

Dr M. J. Willin: £4,800 (2016 - £4,800) for his work on the archives and contributions to the Buckmaster Project encyclopedia; £4,000 grant from the Research Fund (2016 £1,000), £177 expenses (2016 £1,838).

£144 (2016 - £9,329) was remitted to Mr D. J. Ellis for proofreading the Society's publications and other printed materials. Mr Ellis reports that his net earnings from this were £nil (2016 - £1,977).

Mr A Murdie £200 (2016 £nil) for book sales and Council travel expenses.

Dr L Ruickbie £3,773 (2016 £nil) £2,400 as Editor of the Paranormal Review, £900 typesetting costs, £473 conference expenses.

Dr Z Weaver £185 (2016 £nil) for travel costs.

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.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

10 TAXATION

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

11 FIXED ASSETS – Tangible assets

	Leasehold Property £	Furniture & equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1 October 2016	1,264,610	25,593	12,531	1,302,734
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 30 September 2017	1,264,610	25,593	12,531	1,302,734
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 October 2016	-	18,500	10,638	29,138
Charge for the year	-	1,064	745	1,809
At 30 September 2017	-	19,564	11,383	30,947
NET BOOK VALUE – 30 September 2017	1,264,610	6,029	1,148	1,271,787
NET BOOK VALUE – 30 September 2016	1,264,610	7,093	1,893	1,273,596

12a FIXED ASSETS – Investments

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2017 £	2016 £
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 2016	781,870	1,629,202	2,411,072	2,229,266
Net additional funds invested/ (funds withdrawn)	(70,000)	(122,679)	(192,679)	(236,304)
Increase in market value during the year	20,558	43,872	64,430	418,111
Market value at 30 September 2017	732,428	1,550,395	2,282,823	2,411,073
UK listed investments	732,428	1,550,395	2,282,823	2,411,073
Cash balances on deposit and awaiting investment	-	-	-	-
Historical cost of listed investments on 30 September 2017	376,764	1,120,731	1,497,495	1,731,828

Investments at 30 September 2017 comprise 1,802,466.99 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 2017

12b FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

**Unlisted
Investment**

At 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017

£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 and 1 Vernon Mews, London, W14 0RL.

13 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	2017	2016
			£	£
Trade debtors	3,300	-	3,300	2,906
Other debtors	18,530	58,758	77,288	24,011
Inter fund balances	-	24,298	24,298	31,217
Prepayments	1,041	-	1,041	996
	<u>22,871</u>	<u>83,056</u>	<u>105,927</u>	<u>59,130</u>

14 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	2017	2016
			£	£
Deferred income	-	-	-	-
Social security	-	-	-	-
Inter fund balances	24,298	-	24,298	31,217
Other creditors and accruals	18,152	37,506	55,658	58,012
	<u>42,450</u>	<u>37,506</u>	<u>79,956</u>	<u>89,229</u>

15 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Society's restricted funds include:

SPR Research Fund

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

Survival Research Fund

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

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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 2016	580,211	653,674	411,757	1,645,642
Legacy income	-	13	-	13
Investment income	16,389	17,135	16,686	50,210
Allocation of investment income	9,838	9,838	(19,676)	-
Expenditure:				
Grants awarded	(30,939)	(24,025)	(52,453)	(107,417)
Library expenses	-	(3,000)	-	(3,000)
Website and internet	-	-	(10,045)	(10,045)
Bank charges	-	(14)	-	(14)
Net Movement in investments	15,749	16,807	11,316	43,872
Transfers between funds	(5,802)	(6,537)	(7,206)	(19,545)
Balance at 30 September 2017	585,446	663,891	350,379	1,599,716

16 RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEMES

Defined contribution schemes

	2017 £	2016 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	182	-

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.

17 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Incorporated Society for Psychical Research is a 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.

18 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The charitable company's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2016 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 29TH APRIL 2017

AT 1 VERNON MEWS, LONDON, W14 0RL

Prof. John Poynton (President of the Society) opened the meeting at 5.15 p.m., welcoming 19 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 30th April 2016

Mr Ellis wished to amend the minutes to record general agreement in the meeting that the dating system of the *Journal* should not be changed. After some discussion, Mr Fraser proposed the approval of the published minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting and, seconded by Mrs Barton, this was agreed with 11 in favour, one against and five abstentions. The minutes were approved as a fair record.

Item 2 – To receive the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts made up to 30th September 2016

Mr Ellis commented that the receipt of £800,000 for the sale of property at 1 Adam & Eve Mews should be recorded in the reference to the New Building Fund. This was noted. Prof. Poynton proposed from the chair the receipt and endorsement of the Report and Accounts. This was agreed with 15 in favour and two abstentions.

Item 3 – To elect six members to the Council

Mr Ellis commented that the Proxy Forms sent to members did not include options to express their opinion on each motion separately. This was noted for consideration.

Six members of the Council were due to retire from office and were eligible for re-election: Mr David Ellis, Mr John Fraser, Mr Robert McLuhan, Prof. John Poynton, Prof. Chris Roe and Mr Adrian Ryan. All had been nominated by two members. One further candidate, Mr Ciaran Farrell, had also been nominated.

Mr Ellis stated that he no longer wished to stand for re-election, leaving a total of six candidates for the six available positions on the Council.

Prof. Poynton expressed surprise and expressed his personal thanks to Mr Ellis, and also on behalf of the Council, for his contribution to the work of the Council during his term of service.

Since Prof. Poynton was a candidate, Dr Broughton temporarily took the chair.

Miss Barrington invited Mr Ellis to reverse his decision to withdraw. He confirmed his decision and spoke in favour of Mr Farrell. Mr Farrell was invited to comment. He expressed his shock and surprise, confirming that he was willing to stand for election. He thanked Mr Ellis for his support and encouragement.

With six remaining candidates for six positions, they were duly elected without a vote. Prof. Poynton resumed in the chair.

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

Prof. Poynton proposed from the chair the re-appointment of PK Audit LLP as the Society's Accountants. This was unanimously approved.

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

Dr Broughton proposed that the Council be authorised to determine the remuneration of the Accountants. Seconded by Mr Fraser, this was carried unanimously.

Prof. Poynton thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 6.06 p.m.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

Notes on Candidates for election at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held on Saturday, 28th April 2018

MARIAN BARTON

Marian Barton joined the Society in 1963. Her grounding in psychical research was by attending courses given by other members of the SPR in the 1960s. In the early days she helped investigate spontaneous cases with her late husband Arthur Ellison. She acted as the Society's Social Secretary for some years, providing a welcome to new members and introducing them to others in the Society at SPR events.

Marian worked at the Institute of Psychiatry for 5 years helping with the research on twins via Hans Eysenck's twin register, where she was also the contact name for the twins when they needed help and advice. Marian worked for over 13 years as Admissions Officer at St Christopher's Hospice, London and considers that survival is an important aspect of research into the paranormal, believing that a knowledge that we may survive bodily death can help the bereaved.

Marian has been on the Survival Research Committee for some years and was co-opted to the Council and appointed Chairman of the Committee in 2013. Further to the resignation of Dr Weaver in January 2018, Mrs Barton was appointed by Council to fill the temporary vacancy in the list of elected members. Mrs Barton oversaw the reprint of the Scole Report and is a member of the Conference Planning Group. She has also given workshops and lectures on the paranormal at the Theosophical Society Summer Schools and other meetings.

BARRIE G COLVIN, BSc, PhD

Barrie Colvin joined the SPR in 1973 and was co-opted to Council in 2007. He was appointed by the Council to fill a temporary vacancy in the list of elected members of Council in January 2014, following the resignation of Dr Sommer. He has been actively involved in the investigation of mental and physical mediums, including direct-voice, transfiguration and materialisation mediumship. Past projects have included the investigation of haunted houses, the human aura, X-ray analysis of hair reported to be taken from the head of Katie King and evaluation of evidence presented by Gerard Croiset in a missing person case. His principal interest in recent times has been the physics of poltergeist activity, including the development of instrumentation for this branch of the subject. He developed and successfully trialled infra-red absorption equipment as well as a bespoke mid-frequency infra-red camera for poltergeist field work. His most recent projects have been a study of the acoustic properties of poltergeist rapping sounds and the analysis of voices generated at a materialisation séance.

JULIE A ROUSSEAU, BSc

Julie Rousseau joined the SPR in 1994 and has been a member of Council since 2002. She served as the SPR's Hon Website Manager from 2006 to 2014, introducing online subscription and membership management, and providing tools for non-technical volunteers to add editorial content to the website easily. She is currently an ecommerce strategy consultant helping businesses to optimise their online operations, having provided mathematical decision support in areas as diverse as fisheries management, aeronautics and new business development. She promotes interdisciplinary and systems approaches to the study of anomalous phenomena and has a particular interest in the mechanisms by which new ideas catalyse social transformation. She is a co-founder of the Library of Exploratory Science, which houses the SPR's Online Library.

DEBORAH L DELANOY, BA PhD

Deborah Delanoy joined the Society in 1980, was co-opted to Council in 1995 and elected to Council in 2000. She was the SPR President from 2007-2011, and currently is Chairperson of the Research Grants Committee. She is an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Northampton, where she was the Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences (Research and Business Development) before her retirement in 2010. She was a Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh (2010 – 2011) where, after completing her PhD under the supervision of John Beloff, was a Research Fellow with the Koestler Chair of Parapsychology (1986 - 1999). Also, she has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Parapsychological Association (PA). Her main research areas include the training and development of ESP, ganzfeld research, and DMILS research (direct interactions with living systems). Additionally, Deborah has worked with a psychic claimant and in some field investigations.

ALAN D MURDIE, LL.B., Barrister

Alan Murdie has been a member of the SPR since 1997 and was co-opted to the Council in 1999. He was appointed by the Council to fill a temporary vacancy in the list of elected members of Council, replacing Chris Roe in 2005. He is a lawyer by profession, has investigated spontaneous cases both in Britain and abroad and is the Chairman of the Society's Spontaneous Cases Committee. He also serves as Chairman of The Ghost Club.

MELVYN J WILLIN, MMus, PhD

Dr Willin has been a member of the Society since 1992, was co-opted to Council in 1997 and became an elected member in 2000. He currently serves as the Society's Hon. Archives Liaison Officer, working on the archives held in Cambridge University Library. He holds two PhDs, on the subject of music. The first is in connection with the paranormal and the second studying its place in pagan and witchcraft ritual and culture. Melvyn used to teach parapsychology and psychical research at a college in Essex, and he continues to play and teach the guitar. He has led investigations into alleged haunting and poltergeist cases and continues to support the serious research of all such phenomena.

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, 28th April 2018** at 5.15 p.m.

Agenda

1. To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th April 2017.
2. To receive the Report of the Council and the Annual Statement of Accounts made up to 30th September 2017.
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:—
Mrs M Barton; Dr B G Colvin, BSc, PhD; Mrs J A Rousseau, BSc; Prof. D J Delanoy, BA, PhD; Mr A D Murdie, LL.B, Barrister; Dr M J Willin, MMus, PhD
This item will not require a vote at the meeting, since there are six candidates for six places on the Council. No other nominations having been received by 31st January, all six will be declared as elected without contest.
Notes on the candidates precede this Agenda.
4. To re-appoint PK Audit LLP Chartered Accountants as Reporting Accountants for the period prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.
5. To authorise the Council to determine the remuneration of the Reporting Accountants.

No other business will be transacted at this meeting.



Peter Johnson *Secretary to the Society*

