

The Swedenborg Society

Swedenborg House
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2020

Two hundred and tenth
Report for the year 2019



Charity information

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Rufus Moore, MA (appointed 14 March 2019)
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**THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2019**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the Society's *Annual Report* for 2019.

I would like to draw your attention to some innovations introduced over the last year. The first is a broad-sheet, *Swedenborg Review*, with articles on several past and present aspects of Swedenborg's ideas. We have also improved our website with a great deal of illustrative and informative material about our activities.

We have also established links with some academic partners. This is partly due to the way that over the past few years Swedenborg's ideas have become more academically respectable, and we hope this trend will continue with Swedenborg Studies becoming subjects for Ph. D. research. With this in mind the Society has been funding a D. Phil. candidate at Oxford and plans are under way to fund further scholarships.

We have also been considering how to make the Society's bookshop more instructive and entertaining. We had a visit from Helen O'Hara from the Museum of London about museum and archive accreditation and she showed us video material illustrating various aspects of her museum activities and attractions.

One of the highlights of the year was the exhibition in the Hall by Bridget Smith, now one of our Council Members, whose title drew on a quote by Virginia Woolf: 'Let us record the atoms as they fall'. A fuller citation reads:

'Let us record the atoms as they fall upon the mind in the order in which they fall; let us trace the pattern, however disconnected and incoherent in appearance, which each sight or incident scores upon the consciousness. Let us not take it for granted that life exists more fully in what is commonly thought big than in what is commonly thought small.'

I think this well suggests and summarizes Swedenborg's work, especially his theory of correspondences as outlined in his magnum opus, *Arcana Caelestia*.

I would finally like to record my deep appreciation for the work of the Society's staff during 2019, and also during the difficult period of the coronavirus.

David Lister, FRCS

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Society exists to provide for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and influence on later generations.

The primary charitable objects of the Swedenborg Society are summarized as:

- To print, publish, purchase, sell and distribute as grants the literary remains of Emanuel Swedenborg, biographies of Swedenborg and literature in agreement with his writings;
- To organize meetings, lectures, conferences and other functions as a means of directing attention to, and promoting interest in, the works of Swedenborg;
- To encourage study of the works of Swedenborg.

The Society undertakes a number of activities to further these objectives:

- We grant books to public and university libraries;
- We organize events, lectures, seminars and exhibitions at Swedenborg House;
- We develop links with academic institutions to assist the research and study of Swedenborg's writings and their impact on later philosophical thought;
- We operate a bookshop to make the writings of Swedenborg and later books based on his ideas available to the public;
- We house a library, archive and permanent collection of artefacts;
- We foster a community to all who share an interest or a curiosity in the ideas and works of Swedenborg.

ENHANCEMENT PLAN

During 2018 the Society's Trustees oversaw the updating of the Society's Governing Document, which was last revised in 1963. The Objects and Articles of Association of the updated document allow for a much broader remit of charitable activities and the Trustees are now proceeding to the second phase of its planned charitable upgrades and enhancements, the first phase of which was begun in 2010. New initiatives under development include applications for National Museum and National Archive Status, doctoral research scholarships, new membership structures, partnerships with academic and cultural institutions, expanded community engagement, plus new social media and enhanced on-line activities. Hard copies of the Governing Document can be downloaded from our website.

BOOK GRANTS

The Society has long maintained a policy of giving its publications as grants to libraries, universities and other public institutions in the UK and overseas. The Society is also a member of an umbrella body called Swedenborg Publishers International, which provides funding for translation and publishing projects around the world. The Society is keen to further its efforts in this sphere and is taking an active role in providing financial support for doctoral research.

VOLUNTEERS

The Society is fortunate to be able to draw on volunteers to assist with the furtherance of its objectives by providing support for translating, editing, research, copy-editing and proofreading. Much of this effort is provided by members of the Society's Advisory and Revision Board, who also play a crucial role in establishing a suitable forum for scholarly discussion and publishing strategy. The Society's bookshop is open five days a week with the support of volunteers who also assist in welcoming visitors during events at Swedenborg House.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Council monitors the Society's performance through a range of financial and non-financial performance indicators. The key ones are:

	2019	2018
Number of visitors *	4,100	1,297
Number of members	583	588
Social Media followers	3,478	2,774
Distribution of books	3,098	2,185
Contribution from property	£136,842	£197,964

(* The 2019 figure shows bookshop visitors and event attendees.)

PRINTING, PUBLISHING, TRANSLATING AND EDITING

- *Latin/English editions*

Books printed during 2019 were:

- *Doctrina Novae Hierosolymae de Domino/Teaching of the New Jerusalem concerning the Lord;*
- *Doctrina Novae Hierosolymae de Scriptura Sacra/Teaching of the New Jerusalem concerning Sacred Scripture;*
- *Doctrina Vitae pro Nova Hierosolyma ex praeceptis Decalogi/Teaching for the New Jerusalem concerning Life drawn from the Ten Commandments;*
- *Doctrina Novae Hierosolymae de Fide/Teaching of the New Jerusalem concerning Faith.*

These were edited and translated by John Elliott with Robert Gill as his consultant. The books were published in case bound editions and also as an elegant boxed set containing all four titles in a board slipcase. The series follows the Society's longstanding commitment to producing modern English translations and Latin editions of Swedenborg's works.

- *Swedenborg Review*

2019 also saw the publication of the inaugural issue of the *Swedenborg Review*. Issue 0.01 came out in August and followed a seventeen-year successful run of *Things Heard and Seen*, edited by Patrick Johnson, which ceased publication in 2017.

The *Swedenborg Review* incorporates the news and review elements of *Things Heard and Seen* alongside a range of essays, interviews and photographic features highlighting the cultural importance of the work of both Swedenborg and the Swedenborg Society. Published in full colour in an attractive compact newspaper format, the *Review* is intended to highlight the Society's publication and cultural event programme plus also providing a print platform for new research, articles and interviews.

Contributors to the first issue included the world-renowned illustrator and children's book author David McKee; former member of the rock band *Blondie* Gary Lachman; art critic Paul O'Kane; ceramic artist Diane Eagles; and Swedenborg Society librarian and archivist Alex Murray. The editorial team of the *Review* includes: Stephen McNeilly (General Editor); James Wilson (Content Editor); Avery Curran (Copy Editor) and Jonathan Sellers (Art Editor).

- *Works in preparation*

As part of the Society's longstanding commitment to producing a broad variety of publications exploring Swedenborg's intellectual and cultural impact, the Society has currently over 30 titles at various stages of development. These titles range from new English translations of Swedenborg's books; a new library edition encompassing Swedenborg's entire literary output; scholarly study guides; introductory books and academic studies.

John Elliott neared completion of his revision of an English translation of *New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for It*, which will be published in the dual language series alongside the Latin text of *De Nova Hierosolyma*, the latter to feature a critical apparatus amended from that published in 2004 as a result of the further close attention paid to the text in the course of translation.

K C Ryder completed a first draft of his translation of *Divine Providence* and continued work on the subsequent draft with consultant Robert Gill.

James Wilson carried on the work of preparing volumes 4 and 5 of Norman Ryder's *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772)* for publication.

Stephen McNeilly continued preparation for a new library edition of Swedenborg's works. The first titles in the series are to include *Heaven and Hell*, *The Worlds in Space* and *The Last Judgment*, and is to include K C Ryder's new translation of *Divine Love and Wisdom*.

Other books that were worked on during the year include new titles for the Swedenborg Archive Series. Edited by Stephen McNeilly, new titles in this series are to include: *On the Conjugal Angel* by A S Byatt; *Swedenborg's Lunars* by Simon Schaffer; *Swedenborg and the Emergence of a Modern Heaven* by Colleen McDannell & Bernhard Lang; *Death Is Waking Up: A Conversation with Marina Abramović* by Marina Abramović with Devin Zuber; *The Story of Swedenborg in 99 Objects* with Oliver Chanarin, et al; *An Evening with Mr Benn*, with David McKee; and *Swedenborg's Lusthus* with Chloe Aridjis, Anonymous Bosch, Stephen McNeilly, Iain Sinclair, Bridget Smith and Ken Worpole. A new introductory series of books is also underway featuring titles by Gary Lachman on *Correspondences*, David Dunér on *Mathematics* and others.

EVENTS

2019 witnessed another varied programme of events including exhibitions, talks, conferences, reading groups, workshops and the Swedenborg Film Festival. The event programme remains a key strategy to bring new faces and existing friends and members to Swedenborg House and in raising the profile of Swedenborg and his work. All the events were free to the public.

- *Lectures, Symposiums and Talks*

The first event of the year was *x10: an ensemble of award-winning poets*, staged in conjunction with the annual Swedenborg Birthday Meeting on Saturday 26 January and seeing the formal launch of the Society's book *In Celebration of Tomas Tranströmer* (published 2018). The event featured readings from the following poets: Homero Aridjis, Ruth Fainlight, Sarah Howe, Helder Macedo, Adam O'Riordan, Robin Robertson, Declan Ryan, Hannah Sullivan, Per Wästberg and Hugo Williams.

On Saturday 4 May, the symposium *Swedenborg and the Body: Anatomy, Alcohol and the Soul* took place featuring the speakers David Dunér (Lund University), speaking on 'Swedenborg's Lost Dreams: the Mind-Body Problem and the Italian Journey 1738-1739'; John Lidwell-Durnin (Linacre College, University of Oxford), on 'Spirit, Madness, and the Body: Swedenborgianism and the Temperance Movement in Early Nineteenth-Century America'; and Vincent Roy-Di Piazza (Linacre College, University of Oxford), on "'*Demonstretur animae immortalitas*": the evolution of Swedenborg's theories on soul-body interaction'.

On Friday 21 June, Susan Sommers (Saint Vincent College, Pennsylvania) gave the talk 'Astrological Twins: Dr Ebenezer Sibly and Revd Manoah Sibly', drawing on her recently published book *The Sibbys of London: A Family on the Esoteric Fringes of Georgian England* (OUP, 2018). Alex Murray and James Wilson prepared a small exhibition of material from the Archives relating to the Sibly brothers to accompany the talk.

On Saturday 14 September, Lee Differ and Alison Southcombe spoke about their experiences in the ministry and in relation to Swedenborgian thought as part of the Society's AGM held at Purley Chase Centre in Atherstone.

On Tuesday 17 September, Michelle Lindson of the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park spoke about the work going on to revitalize Swedenborg Gardens in Wapping; James Wilson introduced the evening with a talk on the historical connections between the Swedenborg Family and the area.

On 7 November, the novelist and academic Scarlett Thomas spoke on ‘Oligarchy, Diet and Spirituality’, drawing from Swedenborg’s statements on diet and her recently published novel *Oligarchy* (Canongate, 2019).

- *Exhibitions and Performances*

- Let Us Record The Atoms As They Fall*

A mixed-media installation in Swedenborg Hall by Bridget Smith using cyanotypes, tintypes, lithographs, printed fabric and props, responding to Swedenborg’s writings and drawings held in the Society archive from both his scientific and visionary periods. This exhibition saw the culmination of Bridget’s four-year residency with the Swedenborg Society and ran from 17-30 October 2019. The display structures were by Michael Marriott with thanks to Nicky Thompson. The exhibition was staged in conjunction with the Bloomsbury Festival and attracted around 400 visitors.

- Peter Cartwright: works on paper and wood.*

An exhibition of works from the 1960s to the present, spanning the career to date of Peter Cartwright, former Artist in Residence in 2013. Held in the first-floor suite of offices on the No. 21 side of Swedenborg House, the exhibition was open 10-12 September 2019 and was curated by Stephen McNeilly.

- *Seminars and Discussion Groups*

- Arcana Caelestia Reading Group*

The monthly reading group related to Swedenborg’s magnum opus *Arcana Caelestia* continued in 2019 through to September, meeting on the last Thursday in every month. The sessions were led by a variety of people, including John Cunningham and Stephen McNeilly.

- Henry Corbin Reading Group – Spiritual Hermeneutics*

Max Phillips led a series of seminars comparing the revelation of the internal sense of the sacred books to two distinct religions, Christianity and Islam, drawing directly on the publication *Swedenborg and Esoteric Islam* by the late Islamic scholar and perennial philosopher Henry Corbin. The seminars ran once a month, concluding in December.

- Cartography of the Brain*

A series of five seminars run by David Lister on 18 July, 1, 15 and 29 August and 12 September on: ‘Cartography of the Environment’; ‘Cartography of the Brain’; ‘The Infundibulum or Swedenborg’s views of the Brain’; ‘Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy’; and ‘Near-Death Experiences’.

- *Children’s Workshops*

- Discover the Hidden Treasures of Swedenborg House*

On the Saturdays 1 June and 14 December, the Society hosted further children’s drawing workshops, run by the celebrated author and artist Sally Kindberg with Bill Osment and the Swedenborg Society’s Avery Curran. The children were led through a unique exploration of our collection of artefacts and treasures at Swedenborg House, including strange mechanical inventions, powdered wigs, and duck feather pens.

- *Open House and Tours*

The Swedenborg Society took part in Open House London on Saturday 21 September 2019, the first time since 2015 that Swedenborg House has been included in what has become the world’s largest architecture festival. The Wynter Room, Gardiner Room and Swedenborg Hall were opened to the public along with the light well, staircases and vestibule, allowing visitors to explore the building, the library and the parts of the museum collection that are on permanent display. Volunteers staffed each of the spaces open to the public and a four-page leaflet about the building was given to visitors. Alex Murray and James Wilson prepared an exhibition illustrating the history of Swedenborg House (and the Society’s presence within it) that was on display in the Wynter Room.

An additional tour of Swedenborg House with a guide to the Swedenborg Society and its history was given by James Wilson to a student group from James Madison University (on their

Study Abroad programme) on Tuesday 17 September. The Society plans to build on the success of Open House by running regular guided tours of Swedenborg House in 2020.

- *The Swedenborg Film Festival*

This year saw the Society stage the tenth Swedenborg Film Festival. Curated by Gareth Evans (writer; presenter; producer of the films *Patience: After Sebald*, *By Our Selves* and *Unseen*; and Film Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery) and Nora Foster (Communications Manager, Frieze, and formerly Assistant Curator at the Swedenborg Society), the Festival continues to promote new filmic responses to Swedenborgian thought, and to help raise the profile of Swedenborg House.

As with previous years, we received nearly 200 entry applications from all around the world. The theme for the year's competition was 'Use and Purpose'. The guest judge was the writer Chloe Aridjis and the Festival was accompanied by three screenings of feature films selected to reflect the settings and sensibilities of Chloe's novels: on 27 November there was a screening of Carlos Reygadas's *Silent Light*, preceded by Chloe reading an extract from her latest novel *Sea Monsters*; on 4 December there was a screening of Jem Cohen's *Museum Hours*, preceded by Chloe reading from her second novel *Asunder*; and on 7 December there was a screening of John Burgan's *Memory of Berlin*, preceded by Chloe reading from her debut novel *Book of Clouds*.

Chosen from an open call for submissions, the year's shortlisted artists were: Yuan Kong, Nicolas Jimy Awashish, Nick Jordan, Georg Koszulinski, Maya Ramsay, Alexandra Kaucher, Sista Pratesi, Hope Tucker, Charlotte Pryce and Stephanie Barber. The shortlisted films were screened on the evening of Saturday 7 December 2019. The Swedenborg Film Festival Winner for 2019 was Hope Tucker for her documentary film about an Austrian nuclear power plant, *Atomkraftwerke Zwetendorf*. The judge gave special mentions to *Oh My Homeland* by Stephanie Barber and *Leave or Remain* by Maya Ramsay.

SWEDENBORG RESIDENCY

Bridget Smith concluded her four-year residency with a major exhibition, *Let Us Record The Atoms As They Fall*, in October 2019. Bridget's practice involves filmmaking and photography and she has exhibited internationally, featuring in public collections in Austria, Spain, Mexico, the USA and the UK (including the V&A and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art). Bridget's residency at Swedenborg House ran alongside her Ph.D. research at the Royal College of Art and saw her involvement with two previous exhibitions: *Now It Is Permitted: 24 Wayside Pulpits*, co-curated with Stephen McNeilly in 2016, and which transferred to Mansions of the Future and across the city of Lincoln in 2018; and an exhibition at the Frith Street Gallery in December 2017 to formally launch the Swedenborg Archive series book *An Evening of Dreams*. Bridget was also guest judge of the 2016 Swedenborg Film Festival and spoke and presented on her work and the Swedenborg Residency on several occasions, including at the Swedenborg and the Arts International Conference held in Bryn Athyn in June 2017 and at the Swedenborg Society's AGM 18 September 2017, where her film *Monitoring Space* was also screened. We thank Bridget for all her work and are delighted that she will continue her involvement with the Swedenborg Society as one of its Trustees.

In November 2019, the Swedenborg Residency for 2019-20 was awarded to Chloe Aridjis, a London-based novelist and writer whose most recent novel, *Sea Monsters*, was published in 2019 by Chatto & Windus to much acclaim. Beginning with a role as guest judge of the tenth Swedenborg Film Festival and giving readings of her work in accompaniment to film screenings of the work of directors Carlos Reygadas, Jem Cohen and John Burgan. During her Residency at Swedenborg House, Chloe will be involved in a series of events and publications. Chloe has previously worked with the Swedenborg Society, speaking and reading at several events in conjunction with the Mexican and Swedish embassies, including as moderator to a multi-disciplinary panel of writers at the memorable *Evening of Dreams* event in October 2015. Chloe subsequently contributed to the resultant book of the same name published in 2017.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Swedenborg House continues to be a focal point for the Society's programme of community engagement. Plans continue for the development of a community garden on the roof at Swedenborg house for Members, local residents and Friends. Discussions were also begun

regarding the viability of a coffee shop within the bookshop to help encourage more visitors and also to provide a social space for hirers, researchers and event attendees. Discussions were also underway with Tower Hamlets, East End Homes and the Friends of Swedenborg Gardens regarding information boards and collaborative activities at Swedenborg Gardens, East London.

FRIENDS OF SWEDENBORG HOUSE

At the Society's Annual General Meeting in September, the Society launched a new Friend of Swedenborg House initiative. Annual subscriptions are £5 and this includes a free copy of the *Swedenborg Review*, a free gift, 20% discount on books and free entry to Society events. At the end of 2019 the Society had received 55 subscriptions. It is hoped that the Friend of Swedenborg House initiative will encourage greater engagement with the Society's activities and also serve as a stepping-stone to full membership.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the Society's broader enhancement plan, another new initiative developed during 2019 involved academic partnerships with Birkbeck University and the Royal College of Art. The former is to involve 2 professional placement schemes at Swedenborg House for students from the Postgraduate School of Arts and the MA in Museum Culture programme. Each student will undertake a 3 month internship working with the Society's library, museum and archive collections. The partnership with the Royal College of Art is to involve the Society hosting a spring module for students from within the MA Writing cohort. This will involve students engaging with the Society's collection and a public exhibition at Swedenborg House during 2020.

SWEDENBORG PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship reserve was set up in 2017 to help fulfil the Society's stated charitable aim to support academic, educational and scholarly research in relation to the work and intellectual legacy of Swedenborg. During 2019 financial support was given to Mr Vincent Roy-Di Piazza who continued his doctoral research on the theme of Emanuel Swedenborg's natural theology of soul-mind-body interaction, in the departments of History of Science and Medicine & Economic and Social History at Linacre College, Oxford. Vincent also helped in the organization of the symposium *Swedenborg and the Body: Anatomy, Alcohol and the Soul*, which took place at Swedenborg House on Saturday 4 May 2019. As one of three speakers, Vincent delivered the paper, "*Demonstratur animae immortalitas*": the evolution of Swedenborg's theories on soul-body interaction'. New applications were received and will be considered for funding during 2020.

BOOKSHOP AND DISTRIBUTION

2019 saw continued activities in the Swedenborg Society's Bookshop. We are also pleased to note that Swedenborg Society titles continue to be stocked in a range of bookshops throughout the UK, including Foyles, Blackwell's, Daunt Books, Waterstones, the bookshops of the various Tate museums and a number of independent booksellers. Several Swedenborg Society titles were stocked and displayed prominently at Tate Britain's bookshop, selling well, and receiving great exposure to the thousands of people who visited for their *William Blake* exhibition running September 2019-February 2020. During 2019 the Society also continued in its distribution of grants, supplying copies of its publications to individuals and institutions throughout the world.

The Swedenborg Foundation continued to act as US distributors for 17 of the Society's titles. The distribution agreement with Combined Book Services (of Tonbridge, Kent), continued to provide new sales outlets and marketing opportunities, with CBS distributing 31 of the Society's titles. Commission from the latter services tends to be high, but as part of our desire to have copies of Swedenborg's works made as widely accessible as possible, it is felt necessary to increase availability of our publishing stock through established sales outlets (and therefore at decreased margins), rather than seek to limit distribution by handling all book sales in-house.

MARKETING, PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

During 2019 the Society appointed Avery Curran as its Social Media Co-ordinator on a part time basis. This is to help develop and expand the Society's social media strategy as developed by Denise Prentice. New strategies and techniques were employed, including an increased use of

paid advertising of events on Facebook and regular scheduling of social media posts in order to maintain a consistent schedule. Over the year, Facebook followers increased from 1298 to 1452. Twitter followers increased by 147, and impressions increased from 120,570 in 2018 to 193,900 in 2019. Mailchimp mailing list subscribers increased by 384.

In addition to this, the Society's marketing and publicity strategy continued to embrace a broad and diverse variety of media types and outlets, including traditional print-based flyers and social media networks. Much work was done in developing a new website, which went live in January 2020. The first issue of the *Swedenborg Review*, a new Swedenborg Society periodical in a modern compact newspaper form, was issued in August 2019. 4,000 copies were printed. Additional conventional publicity methods included: poster display boards; information displays and leaflets; printed invitations and flyers posted to the press and selected individuals and handed out to visitors to Swedenborg House.

WEBSITE

2019 saw the development and completion of the Society's new website. In addition to hosting the Society's on-line bookshop; room hire booking platform; Events Calendar; Library and Archive Catalogue; Blog; and general information content, the new website is intended to serve as the focus for new and developing digital media projects. These are to include: online live streaming; real time educational webinars; videos and a Swedenborg radio. New fibre optic cabling was installed throughout the building at the end of 2018 to help facilitate this. Following design templates drafted inhouse, the website was developed and built by *Digital Agency Cambridge: Kappam*. The website went live on January 1, 2020.

ARCHIVE & LIBRARY

The primary focus during 2019 has been the Conference archive collection. Cataloguing the church records (other than new acquisitions) has been an ongoing project which is now almost complete. It has allowed for a vastly more detailed and complete picture of the church records collection, both in terms of expanding the descriptions of previously catalogued items and in cataloguing items for the first time. Progress has also been made regarding the cataloguing of the extensive collection of pamphlets present in the Conference archive strong room.

In terms of acquisitions, 2019 saw many new items donated to the Society. These have largely arrived through the generosity of New Church Societies around the UK, including Paisley in Scotland and Kensington in London. The Society also received a significant donation of books from the library of the late Richard Lines, President of the Swedenborg Society from 1991-'94 and Secretary from 2002-'14. The donation has significantly improved the collateral section of the library. The Swedenborg Society would like to thank Anna Lines for facilitating this and for her generosity as well as the various Conference societies that have donated their items.

Areas explored by individual researchers via the Society's library and archive during 2019 are as follows: the influence of Swedenborg's theology on John Flaxman; research into Kensington Society of the New Church; Swedenborg's theory of the correspondences of colours; the influence of Swedenborg on Victorian literature; the literary remains of Carl Bernhard Wadström; the relationship between Swedenborg's and Kant's philosophy of religion; John Hart, Swedenborg's bookseller; the name and location of the inn where Swedenborg had his initial vision; the Society's collection of medical and anatomical material; the influence of Swedenborg on William Blake's *The Four Zoas*; S T Coleridge's time in Somerset; and Swedenborg's influence on dissenting/non-conformist Christianity.

2019 also saw the successful completion of an internship by Jae Cottrell who made huge progress on the church records collection as well as fulfilling other sundry library roles. The Swedenborg Society would like to extend its thanks to Jae.

MUSEUM & COLLECTION

The Society continued with its preparations for National Museum Accreditation. Contact was made with Helen O'Hara, Museum Development Officer at the Museum of London, and a meeting was arranged at Swedenborg House on March 25. Helen O'Hara led a discussion on the various stages to be undertaken and the criteria needed for full museum accreditation. Preliminary discussions were also underway amongst the trustees regarding the viability of a

permanent display area for the collection within the building, the aim being to increase the number of visitors to Swedenborg house and also help raise the profile of the Society's unique collection.

PREMISES

The Swedenborg Society's premises at 20-21 Bloomsbury Way remain an essential component of the Society's ongoing charitable activities and investment income. During 2019, repair of the 1925 terrazzo flooring in the bathrooms on both sides of the building and in the hallway and 2nd floor mezzanine of no. 21 was completed. Mosaic tiling in the hallway of no. 21 was revealed and restored. The emergency lighting system (throughout the building) and the lighting rig and uplights in Swedenborg Hall were upgraded. LED bulbs were introduced throughout the building to save energy, and as part of the Society's ongoing environmental and sustainability audit of Swedenborg House and the Society's activities. The Gardiner Room was redecorated to form a more dedicated space for in-house meetings and seminars, and for visiting researchers using the library. The building's loft space has been newly insulated and made ready as a storage facility. The first-floor office suite at no. 21 was redecorated ahead of new tenants moving in in September 2019. New carpet was laid on the staircase of no. 21. Further work on electrical rewiring and installation of new plug sockets took place in the basement and will roll out to other parts of the building in 2020. Stock was rearranged in the basement as part of long-term plans to create more archival storage space. As with previous years, Swedenborg House underwent a comprehensive Fire, Health and Safety Risk Assessment. During 2019 all renovation work has been completed on time and within budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

During 2019 steps were undertaken to evaluate the Society's overall environmental impact. Small improvements were made including the installation of timer light switches in the common areas of the building, conversion to low voltage lighting, insulation in the attic areas, conversion to digital content for trustee meetings and the use of recycled paper wherever possible. For 2020 plans are underway for a full environmental audit aimed at facilitating ways in which the Society can consider long term sustainability and improve on its environmental impact.

4. FINANCIAL REVIEW

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes and comply with the Society's Governing Document. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (SORP 2nd Edition, effective 1 January 2019). The financial and budgetary controls in place have allowed the Society to concentrate its efforts on its core activities of publishing and events, whilst ensuring the effective stewardship of the Society's assets. The Society's activities are funded primarily through income generated by its investment portfolio and property, with additional income generated through membership subscriptions and book sales. The Society is also extremely fortunate to benefit from generous donations from its members and associated organizations.

Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £487,781 (2018: £515,776) and total resources expended for the year was £555,354 (2018: £463,199), resulting in a net deficit before investments and revaluations of £67,573 (2018: surplus of £52,577).

The Society's investment portfolio continues to generate a substantial part of our income each year, and at the year end the valuation of the portfolio had increased by £797,260 (2018: decreased by £372,345). The Society has a very long investment horizon and changes in the portfolio value from year to year do not impact the Society's operations. The net movement in funds for the year is £729,687 (2018: £3,680,232). Total funds at 31 December 2019 were £19,888,860 (2018: £19,159,173).

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Society is exposed to various risks in the pursuance of its charitable objectives. The Society's activities are diverse, and the Council monitors the risks facing the Society periodically. The principal risks are:

- *Loss and damage of the building*

Swedenborg House is critical to the Society's success both as the location of its head office and as a key source of income through event hire and rent received. The Society has mitigated this risk through a comprehensive assessment of fire and health and safety issues at the building, and through holding appropriate insurance.

- *Membership changes*

The Society is a membership organization and needs to attract new members in order to grow and for the membership to prosper. The Society considers that the introduction of a new *Friend of Swedenborg House* scheme is a positive way in which this risk is mitigated as it will introduce a new generation of visitors to engage with the activities and aims of the Society. The Society is increasing its presence on social media as a way of connecting with an audience that has historically not engaged with the Society.

- *Credit risk*

The Society is exposed to credit risk in respect of its sales subject to credit arrangements. The largest elements of this relate to rental income from its tenants and income from customers who hire the Hall. The Society manages this risk by assessing the credit worthiness of prospective tenants before agreeing a new lease and by holding a deposit. Since the year end, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on many sectors of the economy. The Society is proactively engaging with its tenants to manage the elevated credit risk associated with the economic shock caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforced closure of businesses.

- *Economic risk*

The majority of the Society's income is derived from its investment portfolio and its property. It is anticipated that the effects of Covid-19 on the economy will be significant, and in the short term the Society may experience lower income from its investments. The Society is focusing its efforts on mission critical activities and reducing discretionary spending on items that do not directly deliver the Society's charitable objects.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Trustees have delegated day-to-day management of the Society's investment portfolio to Quilter Cheviot. The Society's investments are the primary means of funding its activities and are held to produce a reasonable level of income whilst allowing the potential for capital growth.

RESERVES POLICY

At 31 December 2019 total unrestricted funds amounted to £19,787,370 (2018: £19,057,812). The majority of these funds are represented by the Society's premises, which houses the Society's library, archiving and administrative facilities, and by its investment portfolio, which is held to provide income over the long term. These could not be disposed of without seriously impairing the Society's ability to continue its charitable activities over the long term.

The amount of free reserves—defined as unrestricted funds less fixed assets and investments—at 31 December 2019 was £172,425 (2018: £205,646). This level of free reserves represents 113 days of operating costs (2018: 162 days), which the Council considers provides a reasonable buffer to enable the Society to manage temporary changes in its income streams or expenditure profile.

Much of the Society's work is long term in character, with the work of translation, revision and publication taking place over a number of years. The council have designated a reserve of 70% of the Society's investment portfolio as a Capital Investment Reserve to provide for continuity of these long-term operations. The balance of the Capital Investment Reserve at 31 December 2019 was £4,437,270 (2018: £3,901,291).

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT NOTE

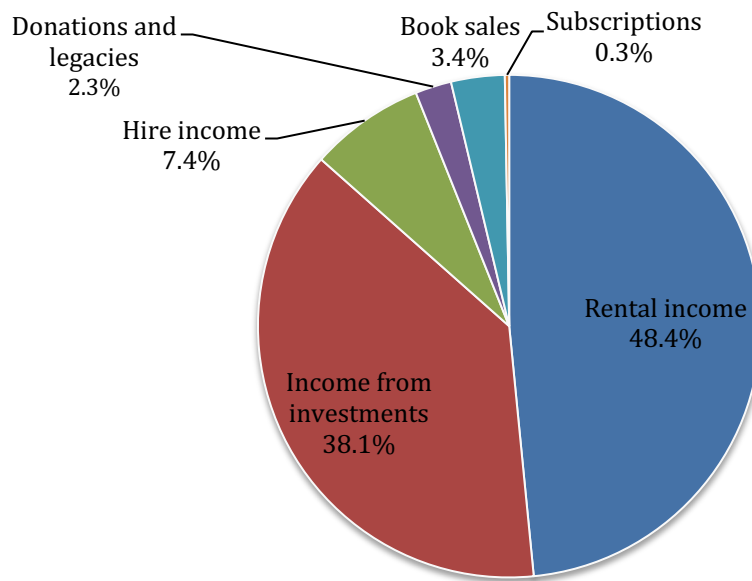
Since the balance sheet date, the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has had an increasingly significant effect on individuals, businesses and organisations worldwide, including The Swedenborg Society. The outbreak came into widespread public knowledge in 2020. In accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and as confirmed by the Financial Reporting Council, the emergence of coronavirus is a non-adjusting post balance sheet event for any entity with a year-end of 31 December 2019 or earlier, so this is applicable to The Swedenborg Society. Therefore, assets and liabilities should not be adjusted for any potential impact of the pandemic unless the impact is so significant that the charity is no longer a going concern.

The trustees consider that income from the investment portfolio, room hire and bookshop are likely to decline over the next twelve months. The trustees consider that the Society has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for the foreseeable future but have nevertheless adjusted the Society's budget for 2020 in response to the changing economic conditions.

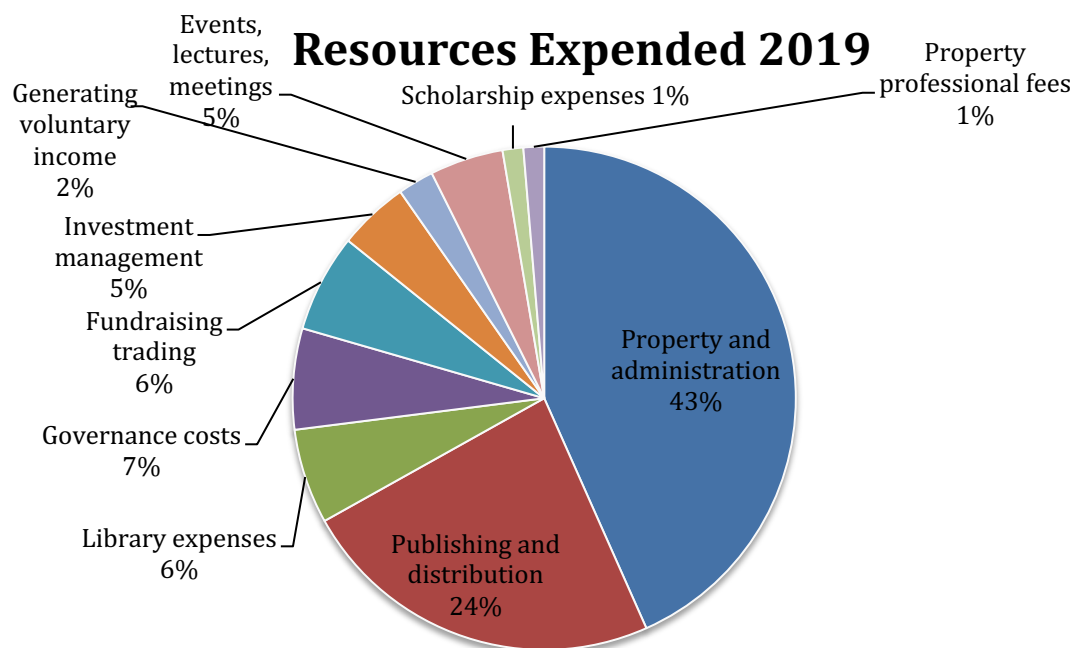
GIFTS AND LEGACIES

No legacies were received during 2019.

Sources of Unrestricted Income 2019



Resources Expended 2019



5. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and a charity registered in England and Wales. The charity is governed by its newly drafted Articles of Association dated 2018. The Society is run by a board of Trustees called the Council. The Council delegates the day-to-day running of the Society to its Executive Director and takes advice from a number of subcommittees. All paid-up members of the Society are eligible for election to the Council, which is the Society's decision-making body, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Articles of Association. The Council has the power to fill casual vacancies by co-option. New members of the Council are given copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and are advised by the Chairperson and Executive Director of their duties as company directors and charity Trustees. Council decisions are taken by majority vote. Members of the subcommittees are elected by the Council. New candidates for the Council, following an informal interview/meeting with the Chairperson and Council, are invited to attend a preliminary Council meeting and are given a copy of the Society's Annual Report, the Minutes of three previous Council meetings and a copy of the Charity Commission's *The Essential Trustee*.

During 2019 the Council reviewed its newly drafted Trustee Handbook which includes comprehensive guidelines for Trustee inductions; Trustee training; Trustee decision making; Trustee meeting protocols; and other such items as given as best practice from the Charity Commission. Christen Jamar continued in her role as Trustee Clerk, a supporting role for the Trustees, which includes the duties of minute taking, researching and keeping the Council informed of recommended best practice.

2019 COUNCIL ELECTION

At the Annual General Meeting held on 14 September at Purley Chase Centre in Atherstone the following appointments were agreed: Mr Homero Aridjis, poet, novelist and former Mexican Ambassador to the Netherlands and Switzerland, was elected President (which is no longer a Trustee position according to the new Governing Document); Dr Kristin King, Erica Wyncoll, Rufus Moore and Bridget Smith were elected onto the Council as ordinary members; the Revd Fred Elphick retired from the Council.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

David Lister, FRCS (Chairperson); John Cunningham, FCII; Alec Morley, MA (Hon. Treasurer); Nigel Sutton; Revd Alan Cowley; Alan Lewin; Rufus Moore MA; Bridget Smith MA; Andrew Bentley, MA; Revd Ethan McCardell; Dr Kristin King; and Erica Wyncoll. Members of the Council are also directors of the company.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY AND REVISION BOARD

David Lister, FRCS (Chairperson); James Wilson, BA (Secretary); Revd Göran Applegren; Josephine Applegren, MA; Revd Alan Cowley; Revd John Elliott, BA, BD; Revd F C Elphick, MDiv; Revd Robert Gill; Alan Lewin; Revd Ethan McCardell; Stephen McNeilly, MA; Alex Murray, MA; Kenneth Ryder, MA.

STAFF

Stephen McNeilly continued in his role as Executive and Museum Director. James Wilson continued in his role as an Editor. Alex Murray became Librarian and continued in his post throughout the year. Maia Gaffney-Hyde continued on a part-time basis helping with publicity, events and publishing projects. Jacob Cartwright continued in his role as Building Manager. Denise Prentice continued in her role as Administrator and Office Manager and Anthony Finnigan, ACA was appointed to the role of Financial Controller. Avery Curran continued in her role as publishing assistant and was also appointed to the role of Events and Social Media Co-Ordinator. Two internships were undertaken in 2019, by Jae Cottrell and Alex Rowe. Lolita Sobolyova was appointed on a part time basis as a Concierge. The pay structure at Swedenborg

House is decided by the Council and follows recommendations of Ashworth Black, market review specialists, and is in line with charitable sector wages for the South-East and London area.

VOLUNTEERS

As mentioned above, volunteers provide a vital support for the continuation of our charitable activities and also an important framework for social networking and people investment. Our team of dedicated on-site volunteers for 2019 were Andrew Bentley, John Cunningham, Lucas De Francesco, David Lister, Alex Rowe, Elizabeth Seninde, Michael Shea and Lolita Sobolyova. The work of all our volunteers and interns is greatly appreciated and vital for the continued work of the Society.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The general provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 are such that it is incumbent upon the Council of the Society to exercise a duty of care to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of their employees at work by maintaining safe plant; safe systems of work; safe premises; ensuring safe access to and egress from the premises and maintaining a safe working environment without risks and with adequate facilities and arrangements for staff welfare; also ensuring adequate instruction, training and supervision. The Swedenborg Society is also bound by the Act to ensure the safety, while on its premises, of all persons, employees, contractors and visitors (either working or otherwise) using the facilities there. During 2019 the Society undertook its comprehensive yearly Fire and Safety Risk Assessment of the premises. The Council have determined to review its Fire, Health and Safety policies annually. Jacob Cartwright, Stephen McNeilly and James Wilson were the designated first aiders and fire officers.

COMPANY MATTERS

This report represents a Directors' Report as required by section 417 of the Companies Act 2006. In its preparation the Council has taken advantage of the exemption available to small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Society has had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Society's charitable aims relate to the furtherance of education, culture and philosophy, and the Society seeks to ensure that its activities in this regard are accessible to all as far as possible. The vast majority of events held by the Society are free to attend, and the Society grants its books to libraries free of charge. The Council considers that through the Society's programme of events, publishing, translating and publicity the Society is acting for the public benefit in the pursuance of its objects.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the charity's Council (whose members are also directors of the Swedenborg Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Council's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Council is 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Council is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Council has taken all steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Council is 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.

By Order of the Council

David Lister *Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Lister', is positioned above the date.

Date: 19 June 2020

THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

**6. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY**

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Swedenborg Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activity, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for company law purposes, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 17 and 18 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or 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: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Elizabeth Irvine (Senior Statutory Auditor)



For and on behalf of

WMT

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Verulam Point
Station Way
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 5HE

Date: 22 June 2020

7. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endow- ment Funds	Total 2019	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2018
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income	1								
Donations and legacies	6	12,723	-	-	12,723	77,244	-	-	77,244
Charitable activities:									
Book sales		16,817	-	-	16,817	12,809	-	-	12,809
Other trading activities - hire income		36,089	-	-	36,089	41,170	-	-	41,170
Investments	7	421,596	-	556	422,152	383,997	-	556	384,553
Total		487,225	-	556	487,781	515,220	-	556	515,776
Expenditure	1								
Raising funds:									
Cost of generating voluntary income		13,027	-	-	13,027	10,845	-	-	10,845
Fundraising trading and other costs	8	35,433	-	-	35,433	29,267	-	-	29,267
Investment management costs	9	32,942	-	54	32,996	30,264	-	61	30,325
Charitable activities	10	473,898	-	-	473,898	392,762	-	-	392,762
Total		555,300	-	54	555,354	463,138	-	61	463,199
Net gains/(losses) on investments									
Realized gains/(losses) on investments		1,213	-	-	1,213	(3,392)	-	-	(3,392)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investment assets	14	795,918	-	129	796,047	(368,569)	-	(384)	(368,953)
		797,131	-	129	797,260	(371,961)	-	(384)	(372,345)
Net income/ (expenditure) before transfers		729,056	-	631	729,687	(319,879)	-	111	(319,768)
Transfers between funds		502		(502)	-	495	-	(495)	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recog- nized gains and losses		729,558	-	129	729,687	(319,384)	-	(384)	(319,768)
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	4,000,000	-	-	4,000,000
Net movement in funds		729,558	-	129	729,687	3,680,616	-	(384)	3,680,232
Fund balances at 1 January 2019		19,057,812	88,000	13,361	19,159,173	15,377,196	88,000	13,745	15,478,941
Fund balances at 31 December 2019		19,787,370	88,000	13,490	19,888,860	19,057,812	88,000	13,361	19,159,173

The notes numbered 1 to 24 form part of these financial statements

8. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

		2019		2018	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	1, 12		6,662,469		6,665,245
Heritage assets	12		342,410		342,410
Investment property	13		6,372,600		6,372,600
Investments	14		6,338,956		5,573,272
			<u>19,716,435</u>		<u>18,953,527</u>
Current Assets					
Stocks		100		100	
Debtors	15	110,816		192,250	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>241,506</u>		<u>161,169</u>	
		352,422		353,519	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(179,997)</u>		<u>(147,873)</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>172,425</u>		<u>205,646</u>
Net Assets			<u>19,888,860</u>		<u>19,159,173</u>
The funds of the charity					
Endowment funds	17		13,490		13,361
Unrestricted income funds					
General fund	18		2,102,058		1,900,994
Capital investment reserve	19		4,437,270		3,901,291
Scholarship reserve	19		35,143		42,628
Freehold property revaluation reserve	20		12,970,499		12,970,499
Heritage asset revaluation reserve	20		242,400		242,400
Restricted funds					
Heritage asset	21		<u>88,000</u>		<u>88,000</u>
Total Funds	22		<u>19,888,860</u>		<u>19,159,173</u>

Under the Companies Act 2006 s454, on a voluntary basis the Trustees can amend these financial statements if they subsequently prove to be defective. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Council on 19 June 2020 and signed on its behalf by
David Lister FRCS, *Chair of the Council*

The notes numbered 1 to 24 form part of these financial statements
Charity Registration No: 209172
Company Registration No: 00209822



9. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £		
Cash used in operating activities				
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(358,464)	(364,111)		
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	422,152	384,553		
Purchase of fixed assets	(14,927)	(19,910)		
Acquisition cost of investments	(263,114)	(47,309)		
Disposal proceeds of investments	294,690	73,732		
Net cash provided by investing activities	438,801	391,066		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	80,337	26,955		
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	161,169	134,214		
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	241,506	161,169		
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:				
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	729,687	(319,768)		
Depreciation charges	17,703	13,853		
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	(797,260)	372,345		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(422,152)	(384,553)		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	81,434	(107,924)		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	32,124	61,936		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(358,464)	(364,111)		
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand	241,506	161,169		
Total cash and cash equivalents	241,506	161,169		
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds				
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	80,337	26,955		
Change in net funds	80,337	26,955		
Net funds at 1 January	161,169	134,214		
Net funds at 31 December	241,506	161,169		
Analysis of changes in net funds				
	At 1 January 2019	Cash flows	Non-cash changes	At 31 December 2019
Cash in hand and at bank	161,169	80,337	-	241,506
Total	161,169	80,337	-	241,506

10. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102, 2nd Edition) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 March 2018) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Swedenborg Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees consider that the Charity will be able to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

c) Incoming resources

Income is recognized when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Investment income, comprising income from rent, service charges, dividends and interest, is accounted for on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalized and notification has been made by the executors to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of room hire or provision of other specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Goods and services that are donated to the charity are included at their value to the charity where this can be reliably measured. Donations that meet the recognition criteria for heritage assets are recognized as an addition at a value determined by an external valuer as detailed in note 12. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Endowment funds are historical donations given to the charity to be held as capital, where the trustees have discretionary power to use the funds as income.

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognized once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- costs of raising funds comprise a proportion of the property costs and their associated support costs.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes property, shop and publication costs with associated support costs.
- investment management costs comprise investment management fees and professional fees.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs, with the exception of payroll costs, have been allocated between the cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on estimated floor space as follows:

Charitable activities 78.8%

Trading costs 21.2%

Payroll costs have been allocated based on the estimated time spent by support staff as follows:

Costs of generating voluntary income 25%

Charitable activities 75%

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

h) Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalized at costs and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment 25% - straight line.

The freehold land and property is held at a valuation prepared by the directors. This valuation is considered by the directors on an annual basis to determine whether there has been any impairment in the value of the property. No depreciation is charged in relation to the property as the directors consider that any depreciation charge would be immaterial after taking into account the estimated residual value of the property.

i) Heritage assets

The Society holds an extensive library and archive relating to the life and works of Emanuel Swedenborg, held primarily for the purposes of transferring knowledge and promoting culture. This collection is considered to be a heritage asset and is stated in the balance sheet at an attributed value based on a valuation performed by Bernard Quaritch Limited. The asset is not depreciated as it is considered to have an indefinite life. Material additions, through purchase or donation, to the library are capitalized at their fair value.

j) Investment property

The proportion by floor area of the freehold property, Swedenborg House, that is rented out to tenants is classified as investment property.

The investment property is held at a valuation, determined by an independent valuer, at open market value.

k) Investments

Investments are held at market value.

l) Stock

Stocks of books, printed sheets and papers are included in the accounts at a nominal value of £100, based on significant uncertainties with regards to the realizable value of the books held. Disposal proceeds and acquisition costs are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are received/paid.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognized at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognized where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognized at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Financial instruments

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

q) Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year. The nature of estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that could have an impact on the financial statements relate to the valuation of the freehold property, as included in fixed assets and investment property, and the valuation of the heritage assets. Note 13 describes the factors considered in the valuation of the property and note 12 gives details of the external valuation of the heritage assets.

2. LEGAL STATUS OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

3. CORPORATION TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied to its charitable objects.

4. NET SURPLUS OF THE PERIOD

	2019	2018
The net movement in funds for the period is stated after charging:	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>5,775</u>	<u>7,250</u>

5. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	2019	2018
Staff costs:	£	£
Wages and salaries	202,846	176,852
Social security costs	15,579	14,003
Pension contributions	<u>9,675</u>	<u>7,410</u>
	<u>228,100</u>	<u>198,265</u>

5. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

The average number of employees during the period was 9 (2018: 8). No employees (2018: no employees) earned in excess of £60,000.

No Council Member was remunerated during the year. Reimbursement of travel expenses of £3,757 (2018: £1,893) were made to 4 (2018: 5) Council Members during the year. Nothing was owed (2018: £nil) to a Trustee at the year end. Property maintenance services were purchased from Rufus Moore, a Trustee, on normal commercial terms totalling £12,790 (2018: £1,775) during the year. Publishing and exhibition services were purchased from Bridget Smith, a Trustee, on normal commercial terms totalling £1,838 (2018: £nil) during the year.

The key management personnel of the Society comprise the Council and the Executive Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Society were £69,196 (2018: £64,856).

6. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2019	2018
	£	£
Donations	9,768	10,745
Subscriptions	1,361	965
Legacies	<u>1,594</u>	<u>65,534</u>
	<u>12,723</u>	<u>77,244</u>

The Society benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic benefit contribution of general volunteers is not recognized in the financial statements.

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2019	2018
	£	£
Rental income	204,319	202,147
Service charges receivable	31,964	26,413
Interest and dividends receivable	<u>185,869</u>	<u>155,993</u>
	<u>422,152</u>	<u>384,553</u>

8. FUNDRAISING, TRADING AND OTHER COSTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Wages and salaries	8,353	8,339
Property costs	20,936	14,976
Administration	2,391	2,770
Depreciation	<u>3,753</u>	<u>3,182</u>
	<u>35,433</u>	<u>29,267</u>

9. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Portfolio management	25,537	25,511
Property professional fees	<u>7,459</u>	<u>4,814</u>
	<u>32,996</u>	<u>30,325</u>

10. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2019	2018
	£	£
Lectures and meetings	4,090	3,196
Education and outreach	1,685	1,503
Publishing and distribution:		
Printing and binding	82,874	76,371
Books purchased for resale	3,901	3,196
Revision and translation	45,805	33,904
Property, shop and stock room expenses	244,036	165,51
Events	13,138	10,179
Library and catalogue expenses	34,362	47,767
Scholarship expenses	7,485	7,372
Governance costs	<u>36,522</u>	<u>43,763</u>
	<u>473,898</u>	<u>392,762</u>

As outlined in the accounting policies, relevant expenses are apportioned between charitable activities and other costs based on utilization of floor space.

Included in governance costs is £5,775 (2018: £7,250) in respect of audit fees.

Included in total expenditure is £46,387 (2018: £20,409) relating to the ongoing refurbishment of Swedenborg House.

11. SUPPORT COSTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Premises		
Repairs and maintenance	19,917	9,454
Building works	46,387	20,409
Office operating costs	63,168	61,529
Support staff salaries	37,665	36,414
Office salaries	47,875	43,300
Audit fees	7,900	8,623
Accountancy services	<u>11,968</u>	<u>14,180</u>
	<u>234,880</u>	<u>193,909</u>

11. SUPPORT COSTS (CONTINUED)

	2019	2018
	£	£
Allocation of support costs:		
Costs of generating voluntary income	11,969	10,825
Fundraising, trading and other costs	35,433	29,267
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	<u>187,478</u>	<u>153,817</u>
	<u>234,880</u>	<u>193,909</u>

Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities.

Costs that cannot be allocated directly, with the exception of payroll, have been apportioned between charitable activities and fundraising costs based on estimated floor space as outlined in the accounting policies. Payroll costs relating to support staff have been apportioned equally between costs of generating voluntary income and expenditure on charitable activities.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
Cost / valuation	£	£	£
At 1 January 2019	6,627,400	114,063	6,741,463
Additions	-	14,927	14,927
Disposals	-	(10,792)	(10,792)
At 31 December 2019	<u>6,627,400</u>	<u>118,198</u>	<u>6,745,598</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2019	-	76,218	76,218
Charge for the year	-	15,935	15,935
On disposals	-	(9,024)	(9,024)
At 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>83,129</u>	<u>83,129</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2019	<u>6,627,400</u>	<u>35,069</u>	<u>6,662,469</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>6,627,400</u>	<u>37,845</u>	<u>6,665,245</u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

All assets are held for the benefit of the charity.

The freehold property was revalued by Jonathan Hudson MICBA, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2018. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area.

The comparable amount under the historical cost basis for land and buildings is immaterial due to the age of the asset and its small original cost.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - HERITAGE ASSETS

	Heritage Assets
Cost	£
At 1 January and 31 December 2019	342,410
Net book value	
At 31 December 2019	342,410
At 31 December 2018	342,410

Heritage assets additions

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£	£	£
Heritage assets donated	0	0	88,000	0	0
Heritage assets purchased	0	11,910	0	0	0
	0	11,910	88,000	0	0

The heritage assets relate to the library and archives. They are included in the financial statements at a valuation based on insurance value. The historic cost was £100. The library was valued in 2015 by Bernard Quaritch Ltd, an independent antiquarian valuation expert who valued these assets at £242,500 for insurance purposes. The valuation is reviewed on a regular basis by the Society - the Trustees consider that the current valuation is appropriate as at 31 December 2019. Additions are valued at purchase cost or, where the additions are donated, they are periodically valued by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation of additions was performed by Bernard Quaritch Ltd as at 31 December 2017. The library was established in 1824 and provides an important resource for those researching Swedenborg. It has five main sections: The Swedenborg Collection; the Archives; Collateral titles; Periodicals; and the General Conference Collection. The library is a research library and is open to the public. Further details are provided in the Report of the Council.

Full information is available on the Society's website www.swedenborg.org.uk/library.

13. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Valuation	2019	2018
	£	£
At 31 December 2019	6,372,600	4,529,137
Revaluation	-	1,843,463
At 31 December 2018	<u>6,372,600</u>	<u>6,372,600</u>

The investment property was revalued by Jonathan Hudson MICBA, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2018. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area.

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2019	5,573,272	5,972,040
Disposals at market value	(293,478)	(77,124)
Acquisitions at cost	<u>263,114</u>	<u>47,309</u>
	5,542,908	5,942,225
Unrealized gains	<u>796,048</u>	<u>(368,953)</u>
Market value at 31 December 2019	<u>6,338,956</u>	<u>5,573,272</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2019	<u>3,943,029</u>	<u>3,973,481</u>

The following investments comprised more than 5% of the investment fund at valuation at 31 December 2019:

Mercantile Investment Trust	£445,400
Findlay Park LLP American Fund	£456,510

Analysis of investments held	2019	2018
	£	£
Fixed interest - UK	736,909	735,995
Fixed interest - Non UK	104,013	102,956
Equities - UK	2,682,588	2,253,351
Equities - Non UK	2,664,476	2,472,312
Property fund	<u>150,970</u>	<u>8,658</u>
	<u>6,338,956</u>	<u>5,573,272</u>

Fixed asset investments represent financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure.

15. DEBTORS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade debtors	63,952	80,466
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>46,865</u>	<u>111,784</u>
	<u>110,816</u>	<u>192,250</u>

Included in prepayments and accrued income is an amount of £13,730 (2018: £18,167) due after more than one year.

16. CREDITORS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,150	21,221
Other creditors	75,509	56,949
Accruals and deferred income	<u>92,338</u>	<u>69,703</u>
	<u>179,997</u>	<u>147,873</u>

Deferred income

	2019	2018
	£	£
Deferred income as at 1 January	20,121	15,645
Released during the year	(20,121)	(15,645)
Deferred during the year	<u>24,122</u>	<u>20,121</u>
Deferred income as at 31 December	<u>24,122</u>	<u>20,121</u>

Deferred income comprises advance bookings for the hire of rooms at Swedenborg House.

17. ENDOWMENTS

	Balances 1.1.19	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.19
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	<u>13,361</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>(373)</u>	<u>13,490</u>

	Balances 1.1.18	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.18
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	<u>13,745</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>(879)</u>	<u>13,361</u>

The endowment fund comprises the Coulson Bequest Fund, the income from which is unrestricted.

18. GENERAL FUND

	2019	2018
	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	1,900,994	1,926,377
Net incoming resources per SOFA	729,558	(319,384)
Resources expended charged to designated funds	7,485	14,863
Transfer from/(to) capital investment reserve	(535,979)	279,138
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>2,102,058</u>	<u>1,900,994</u>

19. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.19	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.19
	£	£	£	£
Capital investment reserve	3,901,291	-	535,979	4,437,270
Scholarship reserve	42,628	(7,485)	-	35,143

	Balances 1.1.18	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.18
	£	£	£	£
Property reserve	7,492	(7,492)	-	-
Capital investment reserve	4,180,428	(279,137)	-	3,901,291
Scholarship reserve	50,000	(7,372)	-	42,628

The capital investment reserve was designated by the Trustees and is equivalent to 70% of the Society's investment portfolio. Much of the Charity's work is long-term in character, including a commitment to maintain the library and archives, and therefore justifies this designated reserve to ensure the continuity of operations.

The property reserve was a fund designated for exceptional expenditure required to maintain the property. The project completed in 2018.

The scholarship reserve was set up in 2017 to fund the provision of scholarships.

20. REVALUATION RESERVES

<u>Freehold property revaluation reserve</u>	2019	2018
	£	£
As at 1 January 2019	12,970,499	8,970,499
Revaluation	-	4,000,000
Reserve at 31 December 2019	<u>12,970,499</u>	<u>12,970,499</u>
<u>Analysis of reserve</u>		
Land and buildings	6,612,554	6,612,554
Investment property	<u>6,357,945</u>	<u>6,357,945</u>
	<u>12,970,499</u>	<u>12,970,499</u>
 <u>Heritage asset revaluation reserve</u>	 2019	 2018
	£	£
At 1 January and 31 December 2019	<u>242,400</u>	<u>242,400</u>

The heritage assets as a whole were revalued in 2015. Subsequent material additions are valued when they are received.

21. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.19	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.19
	£	£	£	£
Heritage asset	88,000	-	-	88,000
	Balances 1.1.18	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.18
	£	£	£	£
Heritage asset	88,000	-	-	88,000

The heritage asset restricted fund represents an archive donated to the Society. The conditions of the donation are such that the heritage asset will revert to the donor in the event that the Society ceases to operate or otherwise opts to no longer hold the archive.

22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Restricted Funds 2019	Endowment Funds 2019	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	6,916,879	88,000	-	7,004,879
Investment property	6,372,600	-	-	6,372,600
Investments	6,325,466	-	13,490	6,338,956
Current assets	352,422	-	-	352,422
Current liabilities	(179,997)	-	-	(179,997)
Total net assets	19,787,370	88,000	13,490	19,888,860
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fixed assets	13,212,899	-	-	13,212,899
On investment assets (see note below)	2,392,253	-	3,674	2,395,927
Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets				
Unrealized gains at 1 January 2019	1,596,246	-	3,545	1,599,791
Net gains arising on revaluations in year	795,918	-	129	796,047
Losses realized on disposals	89	-	-	89
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2019	2,392,253	-	3,674	2,395,927

	Unrestricted Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Endowment Funds 2018	Total Funds 2018
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	6,919,655	88,000	-	7,007,655
Investment property	6,372,600	-	-	6,372,600
Investments	5,559,911	-	13,361	5,573,272
Current assets	353,519	-	-	353,519
Current liabilities	(147,873)	-	-	(147,873)
Total net assets	19,057,812	88,000	13,361	19,159,173
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fixed assets	13,212,899	-	-	13,212,899
On investment assets (see note below)	1,601,093	-	3,545	1,604,638

22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets

	Unrestricted Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Endowment Funds 2018	Total Funds 2018
	£	£	£	£
Unrealized gains at 1 January 2018	2,003,586	-	3,929	2,007,515
Net gains arising on revaluations in year	(368,569)	-	(384)	(368,953)
Losses realized on disposals	(33,924)	-	-	(33,924)
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2018	1,601,093	-	3,545	1,604,638

23. GRANT COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2019 the charity had grant commitments of £7,600 (2018: £nil) in relation to its Scholarship programme.

24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 23 March 2020, the UK government ordered the majority of businesses to close in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Society had closed Swedenborg House to the public on 17 March 2020, and staff began working remotely on 24 March. As at the date of approval of these financial statements, the Trustees consider that the Covid-19 pandemic will have a material impact on the Society's investment portfolio in the short term. Due to the long-term nature of the investment holdings and the unpredictable nature of the pandemic it is not possible to quantify the financial effect. In accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and as confirmed by the Financial Reporting Council, the emergence of coronavirus is a non-adjusting post balance sheet event for any entity with a year-end of 31 December 2019 or earlier, so this is applicable to The Swedenborg Society. Therefore, assets and liabilities should not be adjusted for any potential impact of the pandemic unless the impact is so significant that the charity is no longer a going concern.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY

The primary charitable objects of the Swedenborg Society are as follows:

- To provide for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and influence on later generations.
- To print, publish, purchase, sell and distribute as grants the literary remains of Emanuel Swedenborg, biographies of Swedenborg and literature in agreement with his writings
- To organize meetings, lectures, conferences and other events as a means of directing attention to, and promoting interest in, the works of Swedenborg.
- To encourage study of the works of Swedenborg.

The Society undertakes a number of activities to further these objectives:

- We grant books to public and university libraries
- We organize events, lectures, seminars and exhibitions at Swedenborg House
- We develop links with academic institutions to assist the research and study of Swedenborg's writings and their impact on later philosophical thought
- We operate a bookshop to make the writings of Swedenborg and later books based on his ideas, available to the public
- We care for a library, archive and permanent collection of artefacts
- We foster a community to all who share an interest or a curiosity in the ideas and works of Swedenborg

For a full list of the Society's OBJECTS and POWERS please visit the website link below where the Governing Document is available for download.

THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY was established in 1810 (incorporated 1925) for the purpose of translating and publishing the works of Emanuel Swedenborg Annual Membership subscriptions £20 or upwards (£15 for those aged 65 or over, students and the unwaged) Life Membership, £200 (£150 for those aged 65 or over) For a married couple – one-and-a-half times the individual subscription (applying to both annual and life membership) Application for membership must be in writing and approved by the Council

SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND LEGACIES are most welcome. Subscriptions and donations may be sent to the Administrator or the Society's Collectors, a list of whom appears in this Report. Would-be donors are reminded that there are tax advantages to the Society if donations are made under Gift Aid. Details may be obtained from the Administrator. As the Society is a registered charity, legacies are free of inheritance tax.

REFERENCE LIBRARY. The Library at Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, is open each week-day and the works of Swedenborg and collateral literature may be consulted free to members

PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Many of Swedenborg's theological works may be borrowed from the principal Public Libraries in Great Britain and throughout the world

A COMPLETE LIST of the Society's publications can be found on the Society's website www.swedenborg.org.uk

THE SWEDENBORG HALL AND ROOMS. When not required for the Society's purposes, may be hired. For terms and conditions see the Society's website www.swedenborg.org.uk or apply to the Society's Administrator

MISSION STATEMENT

The Swedenborg Society provides for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emmanuel Swedenborg, the appreciation of Swedenborg's ideas and the influence of his works on later generations. We hold that Swedenborg's work and legacy will always remain of importance and we support work that is evidence of its continued relevance. As an institution in the service of society, and open to the public, we give home to a permanent collection of artefacts, a library, a book room, an exhibition space and meeting rooms. The Society offers a community to all who share these interests and, within its means, assistance for those who seriously wish to further those interests in research or interpretation. The Society is a fully inclusive organization and is committed to maintaining an ethos in which every person feels welcomed, valued and respected regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnicity, political affiliations, sexual orientation or gender.

LIST OF COLLECTORS

UK: The Administrator, The Swedenborg Society, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH.

OVERSEAS

USA: Mr Christopher Bowyer, PO Box 487, Bryn Athyn, PA, 19009, USA.

Australia:

Mr Murray Heldon, 35 O'Brien's Road, Hurstville, New South Wales 2220. Mr Ian Brock, 11 Chester Street, Lockleys, South Australia 5032.

Mrs Val Hart, 28 Kincardine Close, Floreat Park, Western Australia 6014.

Canada: Mr John Wyncoll, 19 Hampshire Heights, Etobicoke, ON, M9B 2J9.