



# **The Scottish Society for Psychical Research (SSPR)**

**SC020421**

## **Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

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## Trustees Report Year Ending Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Overview

The Scottish Society for Psychical Research is on a stable footing, as we have run an annual surplus for the Year Ending November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019. Membership stands at 49 - a fall from the previous year but above our (2017 EGM projected) threshold for financial viability. Crucially, our programme of public talks attracts *many* visitors (sometimes almost *twice as many* visitors as members attend) and as such, puts the society on solid financial ground. Increasing our presence on *social media* and *word-of-mouth* has been responsible for this. We are confident that by continuing to generate interest in our lecture programme and keeping costs and expenses at a minimum, we can begin to properly plan for growth, an expansion in our activities and a re-investment in equipment.

### Business of the Society

The Society fulfilled its educational charitable remit by providing eight public talks within the Glasgow Theosophical Society, at 17 Queens Crescent, Glasgow. We had a variety of speakers and presentations, including a novel experiment with *infrasound* conducted by Sound Engineers Jim Brady and Shona Marshall, accompanied by a talk on 'Psychogeography' by Artist, Jim Colquhoun. Our final talk in November 2019 was 'Fungus and Folklore' by Mycologist and Regular Fortean Times contributor Gordon Rutter – which attracted a large number of visitors due to advertising on the Social Media Platform *Facebook*. We held our Professor Roy Memorial Lecture on May the 16<sup>th</sup>, our invited speaker being Past President and Author, Tricia Robertson, speaking about her '30 Years Amongst the Dead'.

We continued to hire two rooms within Theosophy House, to ensure access for those with mobility issues, holding our 2019 AGM on the Ground Floor.

The Library is still housed/stored within Theosophy House but has now been moved to the first floor, ensuring greater access. The SSPR is indebted to the Glasgow Theosophical Society for their assistance and generosity in allowing us to store our books within their building.

Cases coming into the Society during 2018 – 2019 have numbered 7. However, 3 potential clients did not respond to the Society when contacted for further information. As such cases number 4.



## Governance of the Society

The Trustees, referred to in the SSPR as 'The Council', met face-to-face 6 times from Dec 2018 to Nov 2019 and managed to supplement Council Meetings with telephone calls and email means.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2019, the Society held its Annual General Meeting. It was attended by 23 members and 1 visitor. Votes were held to amend the constitution; members voted unanimously to add a CODE OF CONDUCT, which is now Clause 26. See below for details.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 our Trustees are:

### TRUSTEES

Innes Smith	<i>Chair/President</i>
Marysia Lessnau	<i>Vice-President/Secretary</i>
Penny Sharp	<i>Treasurer</i>
Jean McDougall	
Derek Doran	
Paul Kelbie	
Dr Stephen Bostock	

On behalf of the Trustees,

Marysia Lessnau  
Secretary  
Vice President

Innes Smith  
President



**CONSTITUTION OF**  
**THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH**

*Investigating The Paranormal in Scotland*

**SCOTTISH CHARITY Index No. SC020421 (Previous Reg. No.16608)**

1. The name of the organisation shall be:-

**'The Scottish Society for Psychical Research', hereinafter called the 'Society'.**

2. The headquarters of the Society shall be situated in Scotland.

3. The aims of the Society shall be:

(a) The investigation, in a scientific manner, of ostensible telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, hallucinations, dreams, psychometry, and other forms of paranormal cognition; of phenomena bearing upon the hypothesis of survival of bodily death; claims of paranormal physical phenomena such as psychokinesis and poltergeists; the study of automatic writing, trance speech, alteration of personality, and other subconscious processes in so far as they may be related to paranormal processes; in short, all types of phenomena called parapsychological or paranormal.

(b) The collection, classification and study of reports dealing with the above phenomena. Names and places will be treated as confidential unless permission is given by the experiencers.

(c) The maintenance of a library on psychical research and related subjects, Contributions of books and periodical files will be welcomed.

Note: The Society holds no corporate views on any particular phenomenon.

4. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council which shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than ten members elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any four members, including the President or representative and three elected members, present at a properly summoned meeting as defined under paragraph 12 hereof, shall constitute a quorum. The co-opted members shall cease to hold office immediately after the AGM. New members of the Council shall take office at the first Council Meeting after the AGM.

5. At the first Council Meeting after the AGM of the Society, the Council shall elect one of their members to be President. A neutral chairperson will preside for the election process. The new President shall then take over the chair and will be President for the period until the first council meeting after the next AGM. The retiring President shall be eligible for re-election. In the case of equality of votes when six or more councillors are present, the chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

6. One third of the members of the Council must retire annually by rotation, but are individually eligible for re-election to the Council.

7. The proceedings of the Council shall be recorded in a bound Book of Minutes and signature by the President shall indicate that the minutes are approved.



8. The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting once every calendar year, to be notified to members of the Society at least three weeks in advance. Any 12 members, including the President or representative, shall constitute a quorum. Ten members of the Society shall be allowed to call an Extraordinary General Meeting through the Council.

9. The following shall be entitled to attend a General Meeting of the Society and vote at such meetings:

(a) Every paid-up member of the Society.

(b) The Trustees and honorary members of the Society.

10. The qualifying amount of annual subscription under sub - paragraph 9(a) above may be varied by Resolution of the Council and must subsequently be approved by an AGM.

11. The annual subscription is due for payment during the third week of October each year.

12. The Council will manage the Society and its property and exercise control over its activities.

13. It shall be the duty of the President to convene meetings of the Council either at the request of any two members of the Council, or if in his/her own judgement it is desirable that a Meeting be held, then with the consent of any two members, provided that two weeks' notice is given. The Council shall meet at least twice a year.

#### 14. NOMINATION OF COUNCILLORS

Each nomination shall be proposed and seconded by two members. The nominee, proposer and seconder shall be full members. The nomination may be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM or provided orally at the AGM. The nominee must indicate that he or she is willing to serve.

#### 15. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Co-option of additional Councillors, within the limit set out in paragraph 4, shall be subject to not less than three Councillors signing a Notice of Intention naming the additional Councillor or Councillors it proposes to co-opt; such notice is to be given such publicity among members as is reasonably available in the month prior to the next Council Meeting (without going to the cost of mailing the membership, except that all Councillors must be informed by the Secretary timeously), and shall be subject to approval by not less than a two-thirds majority of the members of Council attending the said Council Meeting.

#### 16. COUNCIL OFFICIALS

The Council shall appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Vice-President from among their own number. One person may hold any two or more of the foregoing offices.

17. The Treasurer shall present an account of expenditure since the last Council meeting at each meeting. Cheques on behalf of the Society must be countersigned by two Trustees, out of three nominated, of whom one is the President.

18. No alterations shall be made to this constitution except by a vote in favour by at least two-thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society.

#### 19. MEMBERSHIP

All persons 16 years of age and over who are interested in promoting the aims of the Society shall be eligible for membership. The Council shall be at liberty to refuse membership to any person.



## 20. MEMBERS IN ARREARS

If any member shall fail to pay the annual subscription within three months of the due date, that membership shall be deemed to have lapsed without further notice.

## 21. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

The Council may by a two-thirds majority, expel any member of the Society who in its opinion does not conduct himself or herself in a fit and becoming manner. A written notice to that effect shall be sent by Recorded Delivery to the member at his/her last known address and Council shall not be bound to assign any further explanation for such expulsion but shall refund any unexpired portion of such member's subscription calculated to the nearest month.

## 22. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

### Honorary Membership

The Council may invite and elect any person who is distinguished for knowledge and experience in the subjects of the Society's investigations, or has rendered valuable service to the Society, to become an Honorary Member, but the Council may rescind such an election whenever they deem it desirable to do so.

### Life Membership

This may be purchased on receipt of a single payment of ten times the current annual subscription.

23. Permission for any third party to reproduce or translate material from any SSPR publication must be obtained from the author and the respective editor of that publication.

24. Lectures may not be recorded without prior permission.

## 25. TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE

Trustees must attend council meetings regularly in person, or in the event of being unable to physically attend, by making use of modern communications technology to join in the meeting by telephone, Skype or such like. In the event of a trustee not attending council meetings, in person or via any of the widely accepted technology platforms, on three consecutive occasions the President can speak with that trustee to discuss their availability and commitment. Then, if the majority of the remaining members of council conclude that person is not able to fulfil their role in the best interests of the SSPR, they can be invited to resign from council.

## 26. CODE OF CONDUCT

All Members and Trustees of the SSPR must treat each other with respect and conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring the charity into disrepute. Trustees must not profit financially from their governance or association with the charity. Any reimbursement shall be in line with the Charity Regulator Guidelines on Remuneration. In short: Trustees must endeavour to act in accordance with the Charity Regulator's Guidance on Best Practice and ensure the Charity acts within all relevant laws at all times.

## SIGNED

President Innes Smith

Vice President and Secretary Marysia Lessnau



## **Record of Amendments**

**AGM approved, 7th Jan. 1993, Amendment to para. 14**

**AGM approved, 7th Jan. 1999, Adjustment to paras. 4, 5, 11 and 16**

**AGM approved, 12th Jan. 2006, Adjustment to para. 11**

**AGM approved, 11th Jan 2007, Adjustment to para. 5 and renumbering of paragraphs 8 through 23.**

**AGM 10th Jan 2008: Draft version approved.**

**AGM approved 7th January 2010 Amendment to Clause 20**

**AGM approved 9th January 2013. Amendment to clause 4, Minimum number of council members to now be 10.**

**AGM approved 9th January 2014. Amendment to clause 4, Maximum number of council members to now be 12.**

**AGM approved 9th January 2014. Amendment to clause 4, number of council members to now required for quorum to be 5.**

**EGM approved 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Amendment to delete Clause 3 (c) from the Constitution**

**The library was never dissolved and was held in trust by a trustee; hence revisiting this issue in Sept, 2017 – and on receiving instruction from a trustee, based on advice from OSCR, the library (3c) will remain part of the constitution.**

**EGM approved 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Amendment to clause 4, to reduce council quorum to 4.**

**EGM approved 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Reduce Size of AGM Quorum from 20 to 12.**

**EGM approved 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Amendment to clause 4, number of minimum council members to be 5, maximum 10 and quorum 4.**

**EGM approved 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Amendment to clause 11, change from July 1<sup>st</sup> to Third Week in October.**

**AGM approved 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. Amendment to clause 14.**

**AGM approved 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. Addition of clause 25.**

**AGM approved 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019. Addition of clause 26.**



23 August 2020

To The Treasurer  
The Scottish Society for Psychical Research

Overview of Accounts for Scottish Society for Psychical Research

Dear Ms. Sharp

I confirm that I have completed my overview of your accounts and bank statements for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

I am happy to confirm that your Receipts and Payments account is in accordance with the items on the group's bank statements, supplied receipts and in line with previous years. The results show an increase in this year's surplus of just over £430 compared to last year. This is largely accounted for by legal costs of £390 incurred last year which reduced to zero this year.

I confirm that I cannot find anything in the accounts which needs to be raised as an area of concern to  
The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Yours sincerely

David Service  
Finance Manager (Retired)



## Scottish Society For Psychological Research

### Scottish Charity No SC020421

#### Receipts & Payments Account for the year ending 30 November 2019

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Membership/Friends	960.00	1100.00
Door/Conference	615.00	601.00
Reflection/Investigator Meetings	0.00	33.00
Donations	30.00	42.37
Book Sales	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
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<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1605.00</b>	<b>1776.37</b>
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<b>Payments</b>		
Lecture Room Hire	210.00	353.70
Venue Hire Conference (Hilton)	0.00	0.00
Conference Hospitality Expenses	0.00	0.00
Venue Hire Council Meetings	0.00	0.00
Venue Hire Reflection/Investigator Meetings	0.00	45.00
Speaker Expenses	138.80	177.00
Accounts Scrutineer	100.00	0.00
Insurance	320.60	320.60
Website Expenses	0.00	106.00
Travel Expenses Council Meetings	0.00	0.00
Post and stationery	1.40	20.13
Email Renewal	0.00	0.00
Publicity/Advertising	79.28	0.00
Cost of Fundraising	0.00	0.00
Membership Refund	20.00	0.00
Hospitality	20.81	36.48
Telephone expenses refund to Nick Kyle	0.00	10.00
Legal costs MacRoberts LLP	0.00	390.00
Sundry	0.00	31.50
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<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>890.89</b>	<b>1490.41</b>
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<b>Surplus / Deficit for year</b>	<b>714.11</b>	<b>285.96</b>
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All Funds Are Unrestricted



**Scottish Society For Psychological Research**  
**Scottish Charity No SC020421**  
**Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Bank		
Opening Balance	6430.96	6134.73
Surplus for the year banked	714.11	285.96
Reduction in cash float banked	16.78	10.27
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Closing Balance	7161.85	6430.96
Cash	33.22	50.00
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7195.07</b>	<b>6480.96</b>
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<b>Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>7195.07</b>	<b>6480.96</b>
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<b>Reserves</b>		
Opening Balance	6480.96	6195.00
Surplus for the Year	714.11	285.96
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<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>7195.07</b>	<b>6480.96</b>
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All funds are unrestricted

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on their behalf

Penny Sharp  
Treasurer  
21/08/20