



The Scottish Society for Psychical Research

(SSPR)

SC020421

Annual Report

2019 – 2020

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Trustees Report Year Ending Nov 30th 2020

Overview

The Scottish Society for Psychical Research, like all third sector organisations, had to adapt to a global pandemic. Regarding our educational programme of lectures: venue bookings were cancelled and meetings were held online instead. As to our research: no clients were visited in their homes, but instead, correspondence was via email or interviews were conducted by telephone. Despite these trying times, *or perhaps because of them*, our charity has been well supported by our membership. We ran an annual surplus for the Year Ending November 30th 2020 and membership *increased*. Regarding how the charity implemented public health measures: Despite many lockdown/pandemic restrictions being lifted over the summer and the autumn, the SSPR Council (the charity's trustees), unanimously agreed to be *more cautious* than the Scottish Government's Guidelines. Council recognised that too many of our members would fall within two groups; those in the 'at risk' health category and those who believed COVID19 *was a hoax*. Council agreed it would be irresponsible to bring these two groups together during a pandemic. Council agreed the Society would continue to meet online until the risks of catching COVID had passed.

Business of the Society

The Society fulfilled its educational charitable remit by providing two public talks within the Glasgow Theosophical Society, at 17 Queens Crescent, Glasgow. The March Demonstration of Mediumship to be held within the Boyd Orr Building at Glasgow University was cancelled due to COVID19. April's presentation was also cancelled due to the speaker not wanting to speak online. However, the Society successfully held the remaining programme on the platform *Zoom*: in total four online presentations. Our keynote speaker for the Professor Roy Memorial Lecture in 2020 was Past President Nick Kyle, who presented his talk online entitled '*The Paranormal Exists: So What?*' We had a variety of speakers including author Ann Treherne and Spiritualist Minister, John Seery. Our final talk in November 2020 was The University of Northampton's Dr Cal Cooper.

The Library is still housed/stored within Theosophy House on the first floor. 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 2019 – 2020 have numbered 9. The Society received 17 new contacts (16 via our website and 1 via Facebook). One on-going case was referred to Dr Ian Tierney (with the client's informed consent). Of the 17 new contacts, 5 were about investigation (exploring research methods, conducting specific experiments, etc). Of the remaining contacts, which were requiring an investigation, 3 did not respond to further requests for information. This meant the remaining contacts, involving correspondence, telephone calls or Zoom interviews, numbered 9 - up from last year.



Governance of the Society

The Trustees, referred to in the SSPR as 'The Council', met face-to-face 3 times and online 3 times, from Dec 2019 to Nov 2020, and managed to supplement Council Meetings with telephone calls and email means.

On the 16th of January 2019, the Society held its Annual General Meeting. It was attended by 19 members and 6 visitors. One Trustee stood down but *two new* Trustees were nominated and elected by the Membership. The Members unanimously voted to change the charity's status from an unincorporated organisation to an incorporated one. However, due to the pandemic, progress on change has been slow.

As of 30th of November 2020 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	
Dr Stephen Bostock	
Irene Loudon	
Michael McCann	

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 7th 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 7th April 2016. Amendment to clause 4, to reduce council quorum to 4.

EGM approved 7th April 2016. Reduce Size of AGM Quorum from 20 to 12.

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

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

AGM approved 18th Jan 2018. Amendment to clause 14.

AGM approved 18th Jan 2018. Addition of clause 25.

AGM approved 17th Jan 2019. Addition of clause 26.



27 August 2021

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 30th November 2020.

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.

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

D Service

David Service
Finance Manager (Retired)



Scottish Society For Psychical Research
Scottish Charity No SC020421
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ending 30 November 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Receipts		
Membership/Friends	1280.00	960.00
Door/Conference	289.00	615.00
Reflection/Investigator Meetings	0.00	0.00
Donations	220.01	30.00
Book Sales	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous (Glasgow Uni conference refund)	220.00	0.00
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Total Receipts	2009.01	1605.00
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Payments		
Lecture Room Hire	90.00	210.00
Venue Hire Conference (Glasgow Uni)	220.00	0.00
Conference Hospitality Expenses	0.00	0.00
Venue Hire Council Meetings	0.00	0.00
Venue Hire Reflection/Investigator Meetings	0.00	00.00
Speaker Expenses	21.50	138.80
Accounts Scrutineer	100.00	100.00
Insurance	323.10	320.60
Website Expenses	0.00	0.00
Travel Expenses Council Meetings	0.00	0.00
Post and stationery	0.00	1.40
Email Renewal	0.00	0.00
Publicity/Advertising	0.00	79.28
Cost of Fundraising	0.00	0.00
Membership Refund	0.00	20.00
Hospitality	54.65	20.81
Telephone expenses refund to Nick Kyle	0.00	0.00
Legal costs MacRoberts LLP	0.00	0.00
Sundry	159.79	0.00
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Total Payments	969.04	890.89
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Profit / Deficit for year	1039.97	714.11
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All Funds Are Unrestricted



Scottish Society For Psychical Research
Scottish Charity No SC020421
Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2020

	2020	2019
Bank		
Opening Balance	7195.07	6430.96
Surplus for the year banked	1039.97	714.11
Reduction in cash float banked	0.00	16.78
	-----	-----
Closing Balance	8201.82	7161.85
Cash	33.22	33.22
	-----	-----
Total Assets	8235.04	7195.07
	-----	-----
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----
Net Assets	8235.04	7195.07
	-----	-----
Reserves		
Opening Balance	7195.07	6480.96
Surplus for the Year	1039.97	714.11
	-----	-----
Closing Balance	8235.04	7195.07
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All funds are unrestricted

Approved by the Trustees and Signed on their behalf

Penny Sharp
Treasurer
31/08/21