

The Robert Louis Stevenson Club

Year to 28 February 2026

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The Robert Louis Stevenson Club

Year to 28th February 2025

Legal and administrative information

Committee

Chairman	Joe Farrell
Committee Minutes Secretary	Valerie Pellatt
Membership Secretary	Dora Cossar
Hon Treasurer	James L Wilkie
Other Members of the Committee	Martin White
	Professor Linda Dryden
	Jeremy Hodges
	John Shedden
	Margaret Wilkie
	Elaine Greig
	Anna Donaldson

Charity Number	SC016582
Contact	7, Endfield Avenue Glasgow G12 0JX
Telephone	0131 258 3119
email	J.Farrell@strath.ac.uk
Bank	Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh Stockbridge Branch 12 North-West Circus Place, Edinburgh EH3 6SX Sort Code 83-2002 Account Number 00257982
Independent examiner	R Iain Gardner CA, ACMA, CGMA, MBIM 2 Bishops Park, Thorntonhall Glasgow G74 5AF

Report of the trustees for the year ended 28 February 2026

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 28th February 2026

The legal and administrative information given on page 1 forms part of this report.

Governing document and objectives of the charity

The Club is an unincorporated association established in 1920 and currently operates under a Constitution and set of Rules amended and endorsed at the Annual General Meeting held on 1st June 1998.

The affairs of the club are managed by the Club Committee whose members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The principal objective of the club is the education of the public concerning the life and works of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Additional or replacement Committee members are recruited from the Club membership when required to maintain the strength of the Committee.

New Committee members are elected at an Annual General Meeting.

Summary of main activities in relation to objects

The Club arranges and advises on projects, publications and activities relating to Robert Louis Stevenson and regularly provides advice in response to inquiries. A more extensive report on the main achievements of the Club during the year is contained within the Chairman's AGM Report on page 4.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The Club began the year with Reserves of £14,068 to which Receipts of £5,560 were added, giving £19,628 at its disposal. After total payments of £6,198 there was a balance in Reserve of £13,430 to carry forward.

The Committee consider the current level of reserves to be satisfactory; policy is to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet obligations and to ensure financial stability.

Risks to which the charity is exposed

The Committee consider that due to its small size and its simplicity there is no material risk to which it is exposed. The situation is reviewed at each meeting of trustees.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for maintaining accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

2.

The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the trustees report is limited to examining the report and

Approved by the Committee on 12 July 202~~6~~⁴ and signed on their behalf by

Joe Farrell.....Professor Joe Farrell Chairman
31/07/26

3.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Club

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Robert Louis Stevenson Club

Chairman's Report 2025-26

The club has been very active in the past year, and can claim to be an indispensable focus point for much national and international discussion and research on RLS.

Although plainly we would prefer to be able to report that the Club has been attracting new members, in fact the membership has remained more than stable. The reality is that the bulk of the membership is no longer in the Springtime of their (our) lives, but we are making every effort to attract a younger membership. In particular, we have been discussing the feasibility of having online events, of making use of Facebook, of showing films and of holding meetings in other parts of Scotland, not only Edinburgh

As regards the last objective, we have made contact with BBC Scotland to discuss the feasibility of having access to serials based on RLS fiction which in happier days they used to screen. We have had less encouragement from them than I would have hoped for but we will keep trying.

We have also been in touch with the Film Library in Kelvin Hall with a view to arranging some showings there of films which are adaptations of some of Stevenson's works. I can report that in this case we have had great encouragement from the officials. In the course of this year we will certainly organise at least one screening of one of the many RLS-based films they have.

This move is also part of another objective of ours, viz to try and move meetings away from Edinburgh to other places in Scotland. Specifically, we are arranging a meeting in Dunblane, and we will advertise the event in the Kelvin Hall in the hope of attracting new members.

The Club in Edinburgh itself has been active in manifold ways. There are regular coffee mornings at which people chat informally, with RLS as the central focus. In addition I have been surprised by the extent to which the Club is regarded as the main keeper of Stevenson's memory, and so we receive from various quarters requests for information or assistance on some of the more unexpected initiatives related to the memory of RLS. To choose two examples, the Colinton manse where RLS's grandfather was minister and where RLS himself played as a boy, has been in touch over an application to alter the nature of the surrounding land. We have discussed the matter and organised a visit on 25 August.

We were also approached by the owner of the Ship Inn in Limekilns who wanted some kind of imprecise recognition over a possible connection between his property and *Kidnapped*. Seemingly there are murals there depicting scenes in the novel, but he believes the relationship may be stronger. We had useful discussions on this point.

This was also the case with the manager of the ship *Fingal*, which was a lighthouse supply ship once used by the Stevenson family and is now permanently docked in Leith. He organised a special RLS dinner and contacted me to discuss the organisation of that evening. He hired an actor to dramatise - very vividly - scenes from *Jekyll & Hyde*. I have to stress that this was a private initiative and not an official Club evening, but he valued our involvement. Many members attended the evening was a great success. We will be happy to have future discussions with the management.

Central Club activities included:

Talks and Discussions:

November 25 Annual Lunch at the New Club, with an interesting talk by the novelist Stuart Campbell, who had completed RLS's unfinished work *The Great North Road*

March 26 *Kidnapped with a Piano* 1917 silent movie

March 26 *The Three Robins*, an informative talk by Prof David Purdie about the relationship between the three Scottish 'Robbies, Roberts or Robins.'

May 26 *A Friendship in Letters*, a dramatised reading by two actors, Jack Johnstone and Peter Berry, of the correspondence between RLS and J M Barrie.

We are organising a new series of talks, with the first, *A Rebel in Bohemia*, scheduled for 7 August. We are in touch with other possible speakers so we will have a full programme for the coming year. We will look in particular, but not exclusively, at the Lighthouse-building activities of the family to tie in with the forthcoming exhibition 'For the Safety of all Scotland' at the General Registrar House.

Individual members have been active on behalf of the Club in sectors which are of great importance. Jeremy Hodges has been invaluable in keeping track of new work on Stevenson. New biographies of Stevenson have appeared, and I would like to draw attention to work in Italian *Viaggio nelle Cevennes* by Tino Franza.

We continue to issue a quarterly - *The RLS Club News* - to keep everyone fully involved and informed. This is not a purely local initiative but carries news from different parts of the world. Recent articles have updated members on RLS-related activities on the Riviera, on Grez-sur-Loing where writers can receive an RLS bursary, and on our sister club in Monterey in California. I have personally had the honour of addressing them and am still in contact. There is also a RLS website.

There have been Stevenson-related initiatives in several countries in which we have been involved. Martin White, President of the European Cultural Routes, is an active member and has had the enthusiastic support of the Club. Of special interest are initiatives in several cities including Antwerp and Menton to ensure that Stevenson's presence in these places is fully recognised.

In this context, an Edinburgh Robert Louis Stevenson Club is more important than ever, nationally and internationally.

Joe Farrell
31-07-2026

Professor Joe Farrell (Chair)

THE ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON CLUB

FINANCIAL REPORT	Year to 28 February 2026	2026	2025
RECEIPTS			
Subscriptions			
Annual		2511	2200
Members Donations		398	428
Total Subscriptions		2909	2628
Bank Interest		156	231
Club Event - Annual Civic Lunch		2495	2860
Donations			65
TOTAL RECEIPTS		5560	5784
		"=====	"=====
PAYMENTS			
Charitable Activities			
Club Event -Annual Civic Lunch		2614	2730
Speaker fee and expenses		0	371
Social Event expenses		799	121
Postage, stationery - newsletters		1182	1113
Printing of Newsletters		470	475
Video Recording		816	720
Mentone Plaque			631
		5881	6161
Administration			
Misc		227	23
Subscription to RLS European Network		90	90
		317	113
TOTAL PAYMENTS		6198	6274
SURPLUS/ -DEFICIT for year		-638	-490
		"=====	"=====
Accumulated Fund Balance brought forward		14068	14558
Surplus/ -Deficit for year		-638	-490
Fund Balance carried forward		13430	14068
		"=====	"=====
Statement of Balances			
At 28 February 2026			
Bank Accounts		13430	14068
		"=====	"=====

John Wilkie

Joseph Trench

JAMES L WILKIE (TREASURER)

PROFESSOR JOE FARRELL (CHAIRMAN)

4/7/26

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 28 February 2026

1. Basis on which accounts have been prepared

With effect from 1 March 2007 the accounts have been prepared on a general receipts and payments basis.

The charity is entirely dependent on the continuing support of its subscribing member donors, both individual and corporate.

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, the society is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the society and is therefore included in any relevant costs

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having objects similar to those of the charity.

3 Remuneration of Trustees

The management committee who are trustees receive neither remuneration nor round sum expenses.

4 Endowment Funds

The charity had no endowment funds in the year ended 28 February 2026 nor in the year ended 28 February 2025

5 Designated Funds

The Club had no funds in the year under review other than for the general purposes expressly defined in its objects as a literary charity in accordance with its governing document as summarised at the outset of the Trustees' Report on Page 2

6.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Robert Louis Stevenson Club

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2026 which are set out on pages 5 and 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulations 10 (1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) c of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

- 2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R Iain Gardner CA, ACMA, CGMA, MBIM
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Glasgow G74 5AF