The Orwell Society

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2021

The Orwell Society is a registered charity in England and Wales (Number 1159072)

The Orwell Society

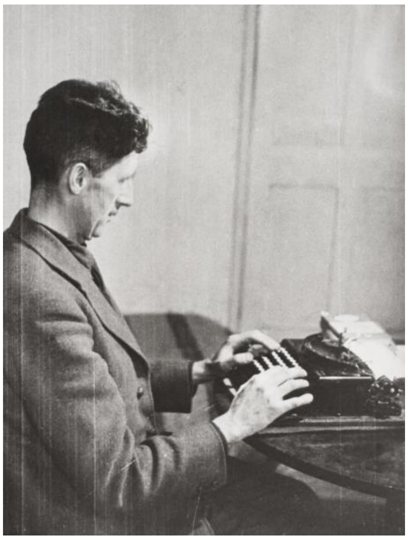
Page

Orwell at Canonbury Square with son Richard looking on

Cover photo: Barnhill on Jura, where Orwell wrote Nineteen Eighty-Four
Erratum: Last year's Annual Report and Financial Statements mistakenly stated that the above photo of Orwell and Richard at Canonbury Square was taken on Jura and was previously unpublished. It had been published before including in Freedom Press' "George Orwell at Home".

The Orwell Society

The Society



Orwell at work

The Orwell Society is a membership organisation for George Orwell enthusiasts and scholars worldwide, with a charitable purpose to promote the public understanding and appreciation of Orwell's life and work.

The Society's Patron is Richard Blair, son of George Orwell.

The Society owns the Orwell statue outside the BBC headquarters in London.

We aim to be the world's leading society for Orwell lovers and to use that status to promote Orwell's life and work to the wider public.

During 2021 the Trustees and their roles in the Society were:

Chair and Events	Quentin Kopp (from 17 April 2021)
Secretary	Neil Smith (from 17 April 2021)
Treasurer	Neil Smith (to 17 April 2021)
	Zigurds Kronbergs (from 17 April 2021)
Patron	Richard Blair
Publicity Officer	Benedict Cooper
Research and Digital Officer	Les Hurst
Journal Editor	Masha Karp
Education	Ann Kronbergs

Quentin Kopp was Acting Chair and Neil Smith was Acting Secretary prior to their election.

All Trustees are elected annually by members of the Society at the AGM with the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer elected to their specific posts.

The Orwell Society

Trustees' Report

The Society continues to meet its twin aims of providing a home for Orwell lovers and spreading the Orwell word to the wider public in the UK and elsewhere.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge, impacting both the extent of our charitable activities and our ability to hold in-person events.

Our charitable activities depend on member subscriptions as well as donations and any surpluses on member events (which are self-funding). Membership at the end of 2021 was 428, an increase of 132 over the year. We are well on our way to early achievement of the target we set last year of 500 members by the end of 2023.

The Society's net assets were £171,198 at the end of 2021, including the value of the Orwell statue.

We have awarded bursaries, prizes and awards of £3,221 in the year. Our Young Journalist award was won by Nicholas Harris and our Student Dystopian Fiction Prize by Eleni Socratous. The recipients of the two teacher-in-school bursaries awarded in 2020, Jane Wild in South Shields and Danielle Hayward in Wigan, have both continued to incorporate Orwell into their teaching and have been great ambassadors for the Society.

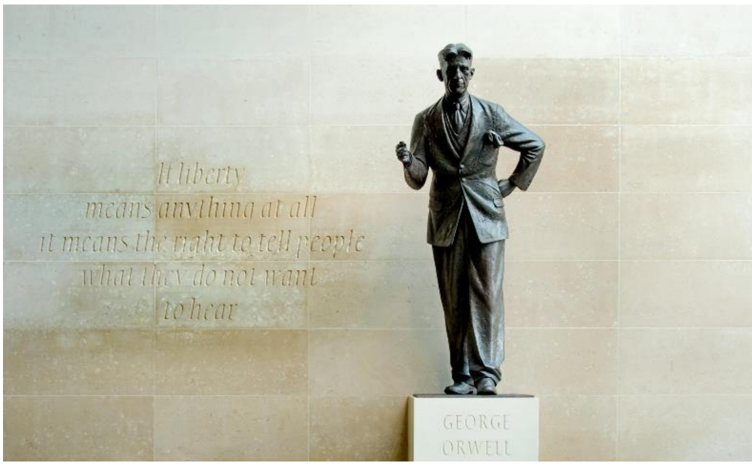
The library in Wigan where Orwell carried out research

During 2021 we worked with Wigan Council to create a permanent Orwell display at the Museum of Wigan Life.

This was opened on 5 March 2022. It complements the book collection donated to the Society by Peter Davison which we have lent to the Museum. We hope that we can expand the Orwell presence in the town further.

In Myanmar, the funding we provided for the development of the Katha museum has been used for rewiring the electrics. Katha is in Sagaing District, which is under intensifying armed clashes. We understand that the team has continued its restoration in order to maintain hope and to use the funding while they still can.

Our monthly *George Talks* on Zoom, introduced as a response to restrictions on in-person events, are now a permanent feature of our activities. In addition, we have had held online events with the D.H. Lawrence Society and to launch a new graphic novel of *Such, Such Were The Joys*. Some online events have been opened to the wider public and most are available publicly as videos on our website.



The Orwell statue at the BBC in London

We published two editions of the Journal as usual, despite COVID-related challenges.

Our website sees increasing traffic and now has over 400 articles. We update our Facebook pages and Twitter feed daily.

The lifting of COVID-related restrictions has enabled us to plan an extended programme of events for 2022 and will also allow an increase in our charitable activity.

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Financial Review

The Society remains in good financial health. Society funds were £171,198 at the end of 2021, including £150,000 which represents the value of the Orwell statue.

The Trustees have a prudent reserves policy which is reviewed annually. This currently requires Society funds to be maintained within a range of £8,000 to £12,000 (excluding fixed assets) in order to allow for charitable activities to continue if faced with an unexpected fall in income. Society funds are currently above this range following a cautious build-up over the early years of the Society's life. For 2022, the Trustees have budgeted for a small excess of expenditure over income of £3,000 with the aim of bringing reserves in line with the policy range by the end of 2023. This will enable an increase in the Society's charitable activities and is consistent with Charities Commission guidance, which requires that funds raised are not held in reserve unnecessarily when they could be spent on charitable activities.

Income in the year was £12,154, being £3,068 higher than the previous year. The increase was largely caused by the increase in subscriptions due to membership growth and greater sums received as donations. The continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted our spend on charitable activities compared with the previous year. Together with the increase in income, this led to a smaller-than-expected excess of expenditure over income for the year of £482.

Structure and Governance

The Society is a registered charity in England and Wales (Number 1159072) and is governed by a constitution which has been approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can only be changed by agreement of the members and further approval by the Commission.

The Society has in place a Governance Framework which includes:

- A trustee code of conduct which all Trustees have signed.
- Statements on equality and diversity, health and safety, and safeguarding.

The Society also has in place policies in respect of the following:

- Reserves.
- Financial controls.
- Liquidity risk and investment.
- Risk management.
- Data protection.
- Conflicts of interest.
- Complaints.
- IT security.

The Governance Framework is published on the Society website www.orwellsociety.com.

The address of the Society's principal and registered office is Marie Cottage, Bickenhill Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull, B92 0DE, UK.

Charitable Purpose

The Society's charitable purpose for the public benefit, as set out in its constitution, is to promote the public understanding and appreciation of George Orwell's life and work.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when deciding on their main activities which are:

- Informing members of Orwell-related events and publications regarding Orwell’s life and work via regular newsletters and through social media. Promoting discussion of such.
- Arranging self-financing member events.
- Publishing original material on the Society’s website, through social media and in a regular journal.
- Arranging academic symposia and other public educational events including through schools and higher educational establishments.
- Awarding scholarships, bursaries and other awards.
- Sponsoring prizes and original research into Orwell’s life and work.
- Supporting Orwell-related educational and other activities worldwide.
- Acting as custodian of the Orwell statue outside the BBC in London and other heritage assets.
- Any other means that the Trustees may deem appropriate.

Risks

The Trustees assess the key risks to the Society to be:

- An unexpected requirement to move or to repair the Orwell statue at the BBC in London.
- Legal action arising from personal injury or losses in relation to events organised by the Society.
- A sudden and unexpected decrease in member subscriptions.
- Loss of monies due to fraud or error.

The Trustees review these risks regularly and consider they have appropriate mitigating actions in place including insurance cover and the governance arrangements discussed on page 7.

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	**2021** £	2020 £
Income from:			
Member subscriptions	2	**8,311**	5,414
Donations	2	**2,443**	1,312
Surplus from events	2	**-**	63
Trading activities	2	**694**	1,446
Other	2	**706**	851
Total income		**12,154**	9,086
Expenditure on charitable activities:			
Bursaries, prizes and awards	3	**3,221**	4,200
Journal	3	**5,867**	3,979
Other	3	**965**	1,074
Total expenditure on charitable activities		**10,053**	9,253
Expenditure on other activities:			
Cost of sales	3	**476**	147
Other	3	**2,107**	1,214
Total expenditure on other activities		**2,583**	1,361
Total expenditure		**12,636**	10,614
Net (expenditure) / income		**(482)**	(1,528)
Transfer from George Orwell Memorial Trust	4	**-**	150,393
Net movement in funds		**(482)**	148,865
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		**171,680**	22,815
Total funds carried forward		**171,198**	171,680

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Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2021

	Note	**2021**	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets:			
Heritage assets	5	**152,500**	152,500
Current assets:			
Stocks	6	**392**	441
Cash at bank and in hand		**36,927**	32,426
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	**(11,999)**	(7,045)
Net current assets		**25,320**	25,822
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	8	**(6,622)**	(6,642)
Total net assets		**171,198**	171,680
The funds of the Society:			
Total Society funds		**171,198**	171,680

All Society funds are unrestricted.

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, authorised for issue on 9 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Quentin Kopp
Chair

Zigurds Kronbergs
Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

Since the Society's annual income is below £250,000, the Society may produce accounts on a receipts and payments basis. However, the Society has chosen to produce accounts on an accruals basis in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Since the Society's income is below £25,000, the Society is not required to have its financial statements independently examined or audited.

Accounting convention
The financial statements are prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention. The going-concern basis is considered appropriate due to the strength of the Society's balance sheet, which would allow the Society to continue to operate if there was either a significant and prolonged reduction in income or an unexpected increase in costs, or both.

Income
Income is recognised in the financial statements when the Society is legally entitled to the income, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with reasonable accuracy. It is deferred when it relates to future accounting periods.

Life membership
Life membership subscriptions are deferred and released to income in equal annual instalments over the remaining life of the life member, as estimated at the time of their becoming a life member.

Gift aid
Gift aid receipts are recognised when a gift aid claim is approved by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (HMRC).

Donated goods
Material donated items are recognised at the Trustees’ estimated valuation.

Heritage assets
Material heritage assets are recognised at cost, or, if donated, at the Trustees’ estimated valuation.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value if considered material by the Trustees. Other items held for resale, including past Society journals, badges and other items are not recognised in the financial statements until sold.

Surplus from events
Surplus from events represents the surplus from member events which the Society organises. The receipts and payments in respect of these events are deemed to be on behalf of members and it is not deemed appropriate to separate the receipts and payments.

2. Income

	2021 **£**	2020 £
Member subscriptions	**8,311**	5,414
Donations	**2,443**	1,312
Surplus from events	**-**	63
Trading activities	**694**	1,446
Other		
Gift aid claimed	**659**	713
Bank interest	**47**	138
Sub-total	**706**	851
Total income	**12,154**	9,086

Member subscriptions relate to a total membership of 428 at 31 December 2021 (2020: 296). Of these 32 (2020: 31) were life members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person events were held in 2021 but the Society has resumed such events in 2022.

Trading activities represents the sale of past Society journals, Barnhill slates (held as stock – see Note 6), badges and other items.

3. Expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Bursaries, prizes and awards		
Young journalist's award	**2,402**	2,000
Teacher-in-school bursaries	**319**	1,500
Dystopian fiction prize	**500**	700
Sub-total	**3,221**	4,200
Journal	**5,867**	3,979
Other		
Website development	**746**	856
Donation to Katha Museum in Myanmar	**-**	218
Other	**219**	-
Sub-total	**965**	1,074
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**10,053**	9,253
Expenditure on other activities		
Cost of sales	**476**	147
Other		
Postage and stationery	**514**	546
Insurance	**174**	258
Bank charges	**185**	74
Video and telephone conference calling	**399**	321
Alliance of Literary Societies subscription	**15**	15
Professional fees	**820**	-
Sub-total	**2,107**	1,214
Total expenditure on other activities	**2,583**	1,361
Total expenditure	**12,636**	10,614

No remuneration or benefits were paid to Trustees in the current or prior year.

The Society had no employees in the current or prior year.

4. Transfer from George Orwell Memorial Trust

On 15 June 2020 the Orwell statue by Martin Jennings located at the BBC headquarters in London was transferred to the Society from the George Orwell Memorial Trust. The statue was valued as at that date by Martin Jennings at £150,000. In addition, cash of £393 was transferred to the Society. There was no consideration.

5. Heritage assets

Heritage assets of £152,500 comprise:

The Orwell statue at the BBC (£150,000). This is valued according to the estimated value provided to the Society by the sculptor at the point of transfer to the Society (see Note 4). The Trustees are satisfied that this is still an appropriate valuation at the balance-sheet date.

A collection of books donated to the Society in 2017 by Orwell's Complete Works editor Peter Davison (£2,500). The value has been estimated by the Trustees. The collection is on indefinite loan to the Museum of Wigan Life.

6. Stocks

Stocks represent presentational slates featuring Barnhill, Orwell's former home on Jura, Scotland, valued at cost.

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7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2021 **£**	2020 £
Net deposits on events		**(6,898)**	(3,470)
Subscriptions paid in advance		**(90)**	(100)
Deferred income due within one year	Note 9	**(401)**	(381)
Accruals		**(4,610)**	(3,094)
Total		**(11,999)**	(7,045)

8. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

This represents deferred income on life-membership subscriptions (see Note 9).

9. Deferred income

Deferred income is deferred life-membership subscription income.

	2021 **£**	2020 £
Deferred income at 1 January	**(7,024)**	(6,905)
Amount deferred during the year	**(400)**	(500)
Amount released during the year	**401**	381
Deferred income at 31 December	**(7,023)**	(7,024)
Of which due within one year	**(401)**	(382)
Of which due after more than one year	**(6,622)**	(6,642)