



THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

THE TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

CHARITY INFORMATION

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Homero Aridjis

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HSBC Bank plc, 31 Holborn,
London, EC1N 2HR

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Quilter Cheviot, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,
London, EC4V 4AB

SOLICITORS

Gordons Partnership LLP, Edgeborough House,
Upper Edgeborough Road,
Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2BJ

AUDITORS

WMT CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,
4 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RD

PROPERTY ADVISERS

Emmerson Barnett, Chartered Building Surveyors,
Stanbrook Mead, Stanbrook, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2NQ

The Swedenborg Society
20/21 Bloomsbury Way,
London, WC1A 2TH
Telephone: 020 7405 7986
Email: admin@swedenborg.org.uk
Website: www.swedenborg.org.uk
Charity number: 209172
Company number: 00209822 (England and Wales)

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CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

We are happy to report many new and exciting developments at Swedenborg House during 2023. Not only have we recorded our highest ever visitor numbers but we have also seen the introduction of several major new projects and ventures.

The first major development involved the opening of the café in the bookshop. This has been in planning for several years, but it has finally come to fruition. Working closely with our partners Arcana Coffee, the bookshop now provides a welcoming and comfortable space for our Friends and Members plus a community hub for new visitors. The long-term aim for the café is to support our ever-broadening events programme whilst offering refreshments to our tenants, room hirers and gallery visitors. We have already seen a vast upturn in book sales, and we are optimistic of increasing visitor numbers year on year.

A second major development is the ground floor gallery. Now in its second year, it has already established an international programme of events and exhibitions. For 2023 this included the exhibition *Tremulations*, which was curated by former director of the Moderna Museet, Daniel Birnbaum with film producer Jacqui Davies. In addition to this the gallery also staged the exhibition *Histories @ Hauntings* curated by the London writer Iain Sinclair, which featured work by Renchi Bicknell and Brian Catling. Connected to these two exhibitions we hosted a broad range of talks, activities, and workshops.

The Society also saw great advancements with institutional collaborations. Stand-out events involved the blockbuster summer exhibition at Tate Modern entitled *Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian: Forms of Life*, and *Swedish Ecstasy*, the major survey exhibition staged at Bozar in Brussels. In both cases the Swedenborg Society provided items on loan. The Society also worked in partnership with numerous other organizations including the art publisher Buchhandlung Walther Koenig, The Blake Society and The Linnean Society. Much of this work centred around the ground floor gallery, which has already proven to be an invaluable platform for promoting and engaging with Swedenborg's work and influence.

Next year we anticipate greater success via the café and the event programme. The *Swedenborg Review* continues to gain momentum and events through-out the year are now reaching capacity. Great work continues with our academic scholarships and the overall range of activities and multi-layered approach—including children's workshops, film festival, seminars, talks, book launches and exhibitions—continues to draw in a wider audience. Much of this is made possible by the generosity of the donations and legacies we receive that enable us to be more ambitious than we might otherwise have been.

On behalf of the board of Trustees I would like to thank everyone who has made the achievements of 2023 possible. In particular, the staff, interns, volunteers, café partners and contractors, all of whom, aside from their impressive professional output, make any visit or engagement with Swedenborg House a unique and pleasurable experience. I would also like to thank my fellow board members for the time commitment and expertise that they bring, albeit often at an awkward hour. Chief amongst them our commendable chair, Alan Lewin. Finally, I would like to thank Stephen McNeilly, our chief Executive, whose leadership helps us all to realize the shared endeavour of bringing the influence and relevance of Emanuel Swedenborg to an ever-widening audience.

Rufus Moore (Chair)



OBJECTIVES
& ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

PRIMARY OBJECTS

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 plus biographies 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 museum and a permanent collection of artefacts;*
- *We foster a community to all who share an interest in or a curiosity about the ideas and works of Swedenborg.*

COVID - 19

In recent Annual Reports, the trustees included a 'Post balance sheet event note' outlining their concerns and the dangers then facing the Society in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In those Reports there was presented an account of the various safeguarding measures needed to make sure that the Society's operations were able to adjust to these changing economic conditions. As anticipated, income from room hire, book sales and the investment portfolio are returning to pre-pandemic levels and the measures described in previous reports have allowed the Society to safely navigate this uncertain period. The trustees believe that, on balance, the Society has so far responded positively to the difficulties posed by

the pandemic. The trustees will continue to monitor the situation and prepare for ongoing difficulties that are likely to occur during 2024.

BOOK GRANTS

The Society continues in its policy of giving 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 (SPI), 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 translating projects and research.

VOLUNTEERING & IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Society is fortunate to be able to draw on a vital team of volunteers and in-kind giving to assist with the furtherance of its objectives. Much of this effort continues to be 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. In-kind giving here includes specialist work in translating, translation consultancy, editing, research, copy-editing and proofreading. Other in-kind giving includes design, artwork and photography. When open to the public, the Society's bookshop draws upon the vital support of volunteers who also assist in welcoming visitors during events at Swedenborg House. Warm thanks are extended to all those who have offered their time or provided specialist expertise, free of charge, during 2023.

ENHANCEMENT PLAN

In 2014, the Trustees announced broad plans for a range of enhancements to the Society's activities and infrastructure. During 2023 significant progress was made in several key areas. The first was the completion of the café in the bookshop. After several trial days earlier in the year, and catering at various Swedenborg Society events, the Arcana Coffee shop was launched and running daily between Mondays-Fridays from December 2023. An immediate increase in visitors was noticed. Work was also completed on refurbishing and converting part of the basement into office space. Plans are underway to convert additional space in the basement for improved storage of stock, room hire equipment, and archival material. Work was also completed converting the ground floor office demise into a museum/exhibition space. Four exhibitions were staged in 2023, demonstrating the space's adaptability to the needs of both external and in-house curatorial needs. Each exhibition required tailored lighting, decoration and display equipment. Two of the exhibitions also extended into rooms elsewhere at Swedenborg House (including Swedenborg Hall, the bookshop, the staircases and the Wynter Room), opening up the building to the public on a daily basis and in ways that accord with our ongoing plans to increase public engagement. The year also saw the continuation of the Society's aim to establish formal or informal academic and professional partnerships. New institutional partnerships for 2023 included Tate

Modern, the Royal Drawing School, Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Buchhandlung Walther Koenig, The Blake Society, The Linnean Society, the Konstakademien in Stockholm, Open City, Anglia Ruskin University, Tower Hamlets Council, Acute Art and Bokförlaget Stolpe. Plans are underway to explore new book distributors for forthcoming and existing titles. Plans are underway for the Society to take part in the 2024 London Book Fair at Kensington Olympia.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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

	2023	2022
Number of visitors	5600	5,206
Online engagement	20,383	7,020
Number of Members	588	599
Number of Friends	274	214
Social media followers	8693	6,187
Distribution	3251	4,257
Contribution from property	£126,976	£116,749



Installation view *Tremulations* © The Quinn Fizzlers



PUBLISHING

PUBLISHING

The Swedenborg Society continues its commitment to publish and translate Swedenborg's works and to produce a diverse range of publications exploring his intellectual and cultural impact. Titles in preparation include new English translations of Swedenborg's books; dual-language Latin-English editions of Swedenborg; scholarly study guides; introductory books; exhibition catalogues and art books; and academic studies. The Society's publishing programme also features the Collected Works of Swedenborg—a new scholarly edition of Swedenborg's work encompassing his entire published output, utilizing new English translations and some existing English translations modified for consistency of style alongside fresh critical apparatus and scholarly introductions.

INTRODUCING SWEDENBORG SERIES

Already published in this series are two titles: *Introducing Swedenborg*, a short biography by Peter Ackroyd; and *Introducing Swedenborg: Correspondences*, an overview of one of Swedenborg's most enduring ideas, by Gary Lachman. The books are designed to bring Swedenborgian content to new readerships. Ackroyd's book was the bestselling book in 2023 in the Society's Bloomsbury bookshop, and Gary Lachman spoke on his book in connection with the high-profile exhibition, *Swedish Ecstasy*, held at the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. More titles are in planning.

SWEDENBORG REVIEW

Issue 0.04 of the *Swedenborg Review* was printed in November 2022, with a companion launch event of live readings and screenings taking place on 15 February 2023. The *Review* highlights the literary, historical and cultural importance of Swedenborg and the activities of the Swedenborg Society, and develops professional and cultural links with contemporary writers and reviewers through a range of essays, interviews and photographic features. Published in full colour in a compact newspaper format, it helps to give focus and place the Society's publication and cultural events programme across a broad community of researchers, readers, Members, Friends and scholars. Issue 0.04 was guest edited, in part, by the curator, film producer and writer Gareth Evans. The event to launch issue 0.04 of the *Swedenborg Review* in February 2023 saw readings in Swedenborg Hall by David Harsent, Gillian McIver, Michiko Oki, Sally O'Reilly, Nicholas Royle, Iain Sinclair and Stephen Watts; joined by a screening programme of short films and exclusive preview excerpts from: Chiara Ambrosio, Josh Appignanesi, Oliver Bancroft, Martin Cottis, Stanley Schtinter and Andrea Luka Zimmerman. The night also featured an exclusive installation in the bookshop from the artists and filmmakers the Brothers Quay. Work continued throughout the year on issue 0.05, which is due for publication

in the summer of 2024. The editorial team of the *Swedenborg Review* includes: Stephen McNeilly (General Editor); James Wilson (Content Editor); Jonathan Sellers (Art Editor); Avery Curran (Copy Editor); and Anya Reeve.

DUAL LANGUAGE EDITIONS

A new dual language Latin-English edition of *De Nova Hierosolyma et ejus Doctrina Coelesti / New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for It* was published in July 2023. The book is edited by John Elliott, with the English translation being by John Elliott and John Chadwick. John Elliott completed a new English translation and newly edited Latin text of *Prophets and Psalms*, for the next volume in the dual language Latin-English series. John is working on a new introduction with the aim for publication in 2024. The dual language series highlights and continues the Society's stated commitment to preserve and promote the Latin texts of Swedenborg as primary source material for ongoing research and study.

THE SWEDENBORG COLLECTED EDITION

The aim of the series is to publish, in unabridged form, an authoritative English edition of Swedenborg's complete published works with full academic apparatus in line with university press standards. It is intended for this series to underpin new scholarly and institutional projects and also to serve as a primary resource for new doctoral research. This year saw work continue in preparing new editions of *Heaven and Hell*, *The Last Judgment* and *The Worlds in Space*. K C Ryder, with consultant Robert Gill, completed the translation of Swedenborg's *Divine Providence*. The aim is to publish this work conjointly with K C Ryder's previously completed translation of Swedenborg's *Divine Love and Wisdom*. Both texts are being looked over to achieve consistency of style for presentation in the Collected Works of Swedenborg edition. Stephen McNeilly is to serve as the Series Editor for the Collected Edition with the support of the in-house publishing team. Introductions to the works are to be commissioned from a broad range of academics and will be peer reviewed in line with broader academic standards. Accompanying and counterpointing the publication of English translations will be a new series of Latin editions.

STUDY GUIDES

Work continued on preparing volumes 4 and 5 of Norman Ryder's *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772)* for print publication. Plans are also being put in place for a digital and online version of the project that will enable records of new editions and translations of Swedenborg from around the world to continue to be logged going forwards. A new revised edition of the Society's academic anthology, *Philosophy, Literature, Mysticism: an anthology of essays on the work and influence of Emanuel Swedenborg* is almost complete and significant progress has been made on a follow-up volume focusing on art and social reform.

SWEDENBORG'S LUSTHUS

Featuring contributions from Chloe Aridjis, Anonymous Bosch, Arne Biornstad, Daniel Birnbaum, Hjalmar Gullberg, Stephen McNeilly, Iain Sinclair, Bridget Smith, Emanuel Swedenborg, Ben Wickey, Ken Worpole, along with an array of archival texts and images and a specially commissioned foreword by prize-winning author Deborah Levy, *Swedenborg's Lusthus* went to the printers in December 2023. The book will be launched on 27 January 2024 at the opening of a companion exhibition, curated by the book's editor, Stephen McNeilly, at Swedenborg House: *Swedenborg's Lusthus: On Memory and Place*. It is planned for this new title to help spearhead contacts with new distributors. The book serves as a suitable ambassador for the Society's archives and its new gallery, it also showcases both the scholarly and the creative expertise the Society possesses as a publisher.

TREMULATIONS

Published in conjunction with the prestigious German art publisher Walther Koenig, Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies's *Tremulations* is the companion book to the exhibition of the same name staged at Swedenborg House across April to June 2023. It documents artworks by Mark Leckey, Hilma af Klint, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Tony Cokes, Marcel Duchamp, Yayoi Kusama, Grace Ndiritu, Meret Oppenheim, Peter Saville, Emanuel Swedenborg and Apichatpong Weerasethakul and showcases the new exhibition and museum programme at Swedenborg House. The *Tremulations* publication has been beautifully designed to replicate the iconic Transactions series issued by the Swedenborg Society in the 1930s. It features 48 colour illustrations of the original exhibition and art works, including installation views, and stills from the cinematic and virtual reality artworks that featured. An introduction by Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies shed lights on the contexts and motivating ideas behind the exhibition, further elucidated throughout the book by carefully chosen quotations from Swedenborg's 'Nine Rules of Tremulations' and extracts from writers including Samuel Beckett, Adolfo Bioy Casares, Marcel Duchamp, Briony Fer, Clarice Lispector, Edgar Allan Poe and Raymond Roussel. The book was printed at the end of 2023 and has already been stocked across a wide range of bookshops of galleries and museums around Europe. A formal launch is planned in 2024 at the Swedish Academy of Arts in Stockholm.

HISTORIES & HAUNTINGS

To accompany the exhibition *Histories & Hauntings: Correspondences from the Whitechapel Gallery (1974) to Swedenborg House*. Through image and action, a companion publication was produced conjointly by the Swedenborg Archive and Albion Village Press. Printed in a limited run of 200 hand-numbered copies, in 5 loose fascicle bound together with a wraparound, and only available to visitors as a supplementary item to the exhibition, the catalogue was edited by James Wilson and featured contributions from Iain Sinclair, Stephen McNeilly, Renchi

Bicknell, Steve Dilworth, Claudia Barton, Carol Williams, Matthew Shaw, Brian Catling, Allen Fisher, Victor Rees, Gareth Evans, Anonymous Bosch and David Tolley. 120 copies of a standalone essay by Victor Rees to accompany the screening of Michael Whyte's film *The Gourmet*, on 16 October 2023, were also printed under the Swedenborg Archive / Albion Village Press imprint.

‘FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE’

A 24-page guide was printed to accompany the exhibition *‘For a better understanding of Life’: posters and promotional items from the Swedenborg Archive (1872-1996)*. The guide was prepared and written by the in-house curatorial team. Alex Murray and James Wilson produced commentaries on the items included in the exhibition and James Wilson provided an extended essay. Stephen McNeilly wrote an Afterword.

WORKS IN PREPARATION

Following the completion of the book *Swedenborg's Lusthus*, at the end of 2023, other titles in this series are to include *The Story of Swedenborg in 99 Objects* and *Swedenborg's London*. Edited by Stephen McNeilly, the aim of the series is to draw wider attention to the broader historical and cultural impact of Swedenborg's influence. All titles in the series will look to combine photographic works and texts commissioned from internationally recognized authors, academics and artists, with research undertaken by our in-house editorial and archive team. All titles will also look to draw upon items held in national collections in the UK, Sweden, the US and elsewhere. New books in preparation for the bestselling Swedenborg Archive series include *An Evening with Mr Benn and David McKee*; a new expanded edition of *An Angel Speaks* by Homero Aridjis; and a new edition of Ken Worpole's *The New Jerusalem: the Good City and the Good Society*. Explorations are underway to reissue this series in pocket paperback. A book version of Chloe Aridjis's hugely popular *Stilled Shadows* magic lantern show is underway; so too is a new and expanded version of the *Histories & Hauntings* publication.

EBOOKS

The Society has 10 titles in ebook format. These include *Introducing Swedenborg: Correspondences* by Gary Lachman; Carl Robsahm's *Memoirs of Swedenborg and other Documents*; P L Johnson's *The Five Ages*; R W Emerson's *Swedenborg: Introducing the Mystic*; Kristin King's *Gardens of Heaven*; Iain Sinclair's *Blake's London*; Anders Hallengren's *The Grand Theme & other Essays*; and three volumes of the journal: *In Search of the Absolute: Essays on Swedenborg and Literature*; *Between Method and Madness: Essays on Swedenborg and Literature*; and *The Arms of Morpheus: Essays on Swedenborg and Mysticism*. Other titles planned for ebook conversion include William Rowlandson's *Imaginal Landscapes: reflections on the mystical visions of Jorge Luis Borges and Emanuel Swedenborg*; John S Haller, Jr's *Distant Voices: Sketches of a Swedenborgian World View*; Ken

Worpole's *The New Jerusalem: the Good City and the Good Society*; Malcolm Peet's *Medicine, Mysticism, Mythology: Garth Wilkinson, Swedenborg and Nineteenth-Century Esoteric Culture*; and Iain Sinclair's *Swimming to Heaven*. Ebook formats are included in the Society's publication strategy going forward, including its new translations of Swedenborg and the landmark Collected Works of Swedenborg edition.

DISTRIBUTION

In 2023, 34 titles were distributed across the UK and abroad by Combined Book Services of Tonbridge, Kent. Gillian Hawkins of Hawkins Publishing Services was the sales representative, and books were stocked by high-street chain Waterstones and Blackwells, as well as The Tate Museums' bookshops, independent bookstores, such as London Review Bookshop, and online specialists such as Book Depository, Books etc., Paperback Shop, Rarewaves and Aphrohead. Orders to CBS from other distributors, such as Gardners, saw books supplied indirectly to other independent bookshops and online retailers (notably, Amazon). In the USA, the Swedenborg Foundation and their partner the Chicago Distribution Center, distributed 17 of the Swedenborg Society's titles. Plans are underway to review the Society's distribution within the broader framework of market trends, and attendance has been booked at the 2024 London Book Fair.



Cover designs for *Introducing Swedenborg* by Peter Ackroyd

CHOCOLAT
2.50

EGG, SULPHITES,
NUTS, SESAME, SOYA

PAIN AUX RAISIN
2.70

GLUTEN, MILK, EGG
May Contain NUTS

BOOKSHOP
& CAFÉ

BUTTER CROISSANT
2.20

GLUTEN, MILK, EGG

CAFÉ & BOOKSHOP

CAFÉ

Work was completed on installing a café within the bookshop. Named Arcana Coffee, the coffee shop was up and running in December 2023, having had several trial days earlier in the year, catering to Swedenborg Society events. Arcana Coffee is open daily Mondays-Fridays, 8.30 am – 3.30 pm, serving a range of high-quality teas, coffees, cold drinks and sweet and savoury cakes and pastries, for dine-in or takeaway. Plans are underway for the coffee shop to open at weekends in conjunction with exhibition openings and Swedenborg Society events. Catering packages will also be made available to hirers. It is anticipated that the coffee shop and a full programme of exhibitions open daily will see the number of visitors to Swedenborg House extending. The coffee shop will also provide increased hospitality for current visitors. All of this is aimed at developing increased book sales, foot traffic and awareness of the Swedenborg Society and Emanuel Swedenborg.

BOOKSHOP

The Swedenborg House bookshop continues to play an important role in the activities of the Swedenborg Society. During 2023 it welcomed more than 5000 visitors. As front of house for the building it also provides a friendly welcome for customers, event attendees, researchers, hirers and contractors as well as our Friends and Members. With its easily recognizable and distinctive bow window onto Bloomsbury Way, its Victorian wooden cabinets and shelving (installed in 1925 from the Society's old premises on Bloomsbury Street) and rotation of items from its museum and archive collection on prominent display, it also provides a focal point for passersby in London's historic and literary Bloomsbury neighbourhood. Being surrounded by many of the capital city's most distinguished cultural and academic institutions, galleries and museums, the bookshop is seen by and draws in many tourists and students who are new to London. The window, table and counter displays in the bookshop are regularly changed and new titles from other publishers stocked to showcase the incredibly diverse influence Swedenborg has had on literature and art. This year the bookshop welcomed the completion of a coffee shop element (for more see above) and also hosted wall texts and display items as part of several exhibitions. Work was commenced on refreshing the display of stock in the bookshop.



EVENTS

EVENTS

The events programme remains a key strategy for promoting the work of the Society and Swedenborg, as well as bringing in new people and existing Friends and Members. Where possible, events remain free to the public and seek to promote a variety of content and activities, including talks, conferences, reading groups, workshops, tours and the Swedenborg Film Festival. Details of the 2023 residency and exhibition programme are contained in the MUSEUM section on pages 23-26.

READINGS & SCREENINGS

—*An evening of live readings and film to celebrate the Swedenborg Review 0.04*

A companion event to celebrate issue 0.04 of the *Swedenborg Review*, printed in December 2022, took place in a packed Swedenborg Hall on 15 February 2023. The night featured live readings and exclusive screenings from some of the issue's contributors. There were readings from: David Harsent, Gillian McIver, Michiko Oki, Sally O'Reilly, Nicholas Royle, Iain Sinclair and Stephen Watts. This was followed by a second half screening programme of work from: Chiara Ambrosio, Josh Appignanesi, Oliver Bancroft, Martin Cottis, Stanley Schtinter and Andrea Luka Zimmerman. The Brothers Quay provided an exclusive installation piece in the form of a stereoscopic viewer featuring depictions from the forthcoming film *Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass*.

—*Cycle of Life: Dummy Jim's First Decade*

The evening of 28 November 2023 saw a special screening of the film *Dummy Jim* to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its release (and eight years since a memorable screening at Swedenborg House in 2015). The film is an adaptation of the memoir *I Cycled into the Arctic Circle* by James Duthie, who became familiar with the work of Swedenborg on his travels. The film was introduced by director Matt Hulse, and followed by a conversation with Matt and the film's editor Nick Currey, led by James Wilson. The spoken parts of the evening were live BSL interpreted by Jo Ross and there was an impressive display of costumes, props and memorabilia connected to the film set up in Swedenborg Hall.

TALKS & TOURS

—*Open House*

Swedenborg House took part in the new expanded annual Open House festival in September, with two especially themed talks. On 7 September there was a screening of John Rogers's film *Walking the Visionary London of Emanuel Swedenborg* followed by a panel discussion with the director and the film's protagonists Stephen McNeilly and Iain Sinclair. On 13 September Stockholm city guide Peter Frisk gave an illustrated talk on 'Swedenborg's Stockholm'. Swedenborg House was due to participate also with an open day on Saturday 9 September and a guided tour on Monday 11 September, with around 200 visitors

expected for the former, and the latter being fully booked. Unfortunately, due to emergency building repairs, these events couldn't take place. The Society has built up a good relationship with Open House and Open City over the years and in 2023 this saw the Society host one of the Open House festival's panel discussions, 'Decolonising Wembley' with key note speaker built-environment professional Nabil Al-Kinani, in Swedenborg Hall on 16 September.

—*Open City*

On Thursday 18 May 2023, James Wilson conducted a guided tour of Swedenborg House for a group of 20 who had booked through Open City. The tour concluded with a screening of the documentary film, *Heaven, Hell and Other Places* in Swedenborg Hall and a chance for the visitors to experience the virtual reality artworks and *Tremulations* exhibition.

—*Other tours and talks Tremulations*

The Society is always pleased to meet requests from educational bodies for guided tours of Swedenborg House and/or talks on Swedenborg and the work of Swedenborg House. During 2023 the Society received group visits from the Royal Drawing School (19 January) to see the exhibition *Concerning an idea about place*; Florida State University (8 February); Secret London (17 February and 3 May); Ben Jones Art Tours (several group visits across May and June to see the *Tremulations* exhibition); and the staff of the Linnean Society (14 June). These tours and talks were conducted by James Wilson, Alex Murray and Stephen McNeilly. The visit of the Linnean Society was reciprocated, with the Swedenborg Society staff then being welcomed to the Linnean Society's headquarters at Burlington House on 12 September.

PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS

—*Marriage of Heaven & Hell*

Inner Eye Productions presented their adaptation of William Blake's *Marriage of Heaven & Hell* in Swedenborg Hall in three performances across 27-29 April 2023. The performance was 'part read, part acted' and directed by actor and playwright Paul McNeilly. The cast: Gareth Balai, Emily Cosaitis, Jerry Ezekiel, Paul McNeilly and Priscilla Olympio.

—*House of Dreams Workshop with artist Sally Kindberg*

Artist and author Sally Kindberg's drawing workshop, for children and adults alike, themed around Swedenborg's summerhouse, took place in the afternoon of 25 October. Recordings of music played on Swedenborg's organ were accompanied by some live triola playing by Sally, helping to inspire the participants as they filled their 'House of Dreams' with images before cutting them out and turning them into free-standing models.

—*Stilled Shadows: A Magic Lantern Show with Chloe Aridjis*

Novelist Chloe Aridjis returned to Swedenborg House on 7 December 2023 to perform her enchanting magic lantern presentation. Drawing on magic lantern slides held in the Swedenborg Society's historic archive, Chloe's show weaves new

narratives and stories to long forgotten images and events. The show also featured lanternists Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, and music by composer James Keay.

—*Speak, Speak, I Listen: A Performance In Light And Shadow*

A new piece of theatre blending puppetry, shadow play, performance, and live music was written and performed by Chiara Ambrosio, Mikey Kirkpatrick, Iarla Prendergast Knight and Victor Rees on 21 December 2023.

COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

—*Swedenborg Gardens Heritage Signs Unveiling*

In collaboration with Tower Hamlets Council, on Saturday 22 April, heritage signs in Swedenborg Gardens and Wellclose Square were unveiled by Councillor Iqbal Hossain and Stephen McNeilly in a ceremony featuring talks by Iain Sinclair, Stephen McNeilly and John Rogers.

—*Auguries of Innocence: First Experiences with Letterpress*

On 22 May 2023, the Swedenborg Society, Ruskin Arts Publications, Anglia Ruskin University and the Blake Society presented an evening that saw the launch of a new book, published by Ruskin Arts Publications, *Auguries of Innocence: First Experiences with Letterpress*. The evening featured talks by the book's editor, Nicholas Jeeves, and contributors Sibylle Erle, Elizabeth Frazer and Stephen Pritchard. There was an exhibition in the Wynter Room of all of the 66 postcard-sized letterpress prints of couplets from Blake's 'Auguries of Innocence', made by students of the Cambridge School of Art between 2014-18, that together compose the complete poem, along with digital slide shows in both the Wynter Room and Swedenborg Hall showing images of works in progress and designs that didn't make it into the finished book. Many of the students, whose prints were used in the book, were able to be in attendance. The exhibition of prints in the Wynter Room then remained open Mondays-Fridays until 23 June 2023.

THE SWEDENBORG FILM FESTIVAL

The 2023 Swedenborg Film Festival took place on Saturday 2 December at Swedenborg House, with a showcase of the shortlisted films available to view on the Swedenborg House Vimeo site from 2-10 December. The 2023 festival featured 18 new works by emerging and established filmmakers, selected from a public call for submissions. The festival was curated by Dave Griffiths and Sally O'Reilly, with filmmakers Andrea Luka Zimmerman and Ben Rivers as guest judges. Shortlisted filmmakers for 2023 were: Stephanie Barber, Neil Bartlett & Anthony Reynolds, Jordan Baseman, Anat Ben-David, Anna Brass, Mariana Castiñeiras, Iolo Edwards, Xiaoxuan Han, Matt Hulse, Siôn Marshall-Waters, Zara Joan Miller, Charlie Osborne, Billy Palumbo, Edwin Rostron, Niyaz Saghari, Annelore Schneider & Claude Piguet (collectif_fact), Paul Tarragó, Jennet Thomas. The winners of the Festival were Siôn Marshall-Waters with *Forest Coal Pit*, Xiaoxuan Han with *Don't forget to take medicines on time*, Matt Hulse with *THE SCAN* and Niyaz Saghari with *Ripple Effect*. The winner of the public vote for best film was Billy Palumbo with *Billy Billy*.



MUSEUM

MUSEUM

Throughout 2023, the Swedenborg House Gallery established a new and pivotal focal point for the Society's cultural and outreach programme and activated a new phase of public and press engagement with the Society's activities and museum holdings. Over the year four exhibitions were staged, and the Society was involved in two further international survey exhibitions at the Bozar Centre for Fine Art, Brussels and the Tate Modern, London. A more detailed account of activities is given below.

EXHIBITIONS

—*Concerning an Idea About Place*

13 October 2022 - 28 February 2023

Forming the inaugural exhibition of the Society's new museum programme, *Concerning an Idea About Place* showcased a broad selection of rare items from the Swedenborg collection including works by William Blake, S T Coleridge, Jeremy Deller, Karl Holmqvist, Iain Sinclair, Bridget Smith, D T Suzuki, Emanuel Swedenborg, Kessler Voges, Vernon Watkins and J J G Wilkinson. Drawing on a now famous passage from Swedenborg's *Arcana Caelestia*, where he writes that 'ideas of place and distance' are not anything real but 'states of thought and affection' (§1376), the exhibition explored the impact of this idea on Romanticism, Symbolism, Surrealism and Psychogeography. Attracting over 1600 visitors the exhibition was curated by the Society's Museum Director, Stephen McNeilly, and included educational field trips from the Royal College of Drawing, University College London, Chelsea School of Art and Goldsmiths University.

—*Swedish Ecstasy, Bozar Centre for Fine Art, Brussels*

17 February - 21 May

Curated by Daniel Birnbaum, *Swedish Ecstasy* was a large museum exhibition focusing on visionary and esoteric art, with a special emphasis on Swedenborg and his influence on Swedish art and culture. The exhibition included works by August Strindberg, Hilma af Klint, Carsten Höller, Christine Ödlund, Daniel Youssef, Cecilia Edefalk and Lars Olof Loeld. A dedicated vitrine also included archival items related to Swedenborg, including his drawing of a flying machine on loan from the Diocesan Library at Linköping, Sweden and a rare book on loan from Swedenborg House. The Society's Museum Director was involved in curatorial discussions and contributed an essay on Swedenborg to the accompanying exhibition catalogue. The exhibition marked the first occasion in which Swedenborg's works have featured in a national survey exhibition at a major European art venue with over 36,000 visitors.

—*Forms of Life: Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian, Tate Modern, London*
@ *Kunstmuseum Den Haag*

20 April – 3 September (Tate); 7 October - 25 February 2024 (Kunstmuseum)

A facsimile drawing from Swedenborg's *Spiritual Diary* was included in the summer blockbuster and headlining exhibition at Tate Modern in 2023, *Forms of Life: Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian* (20 April-3 September). Curated by Tate Modern Director Frances Morris, Professor Briony Fer and Curator Nabila Abdel Nabi, the exhibition explored the underlying concepts of early abstract modernism. The exhibition attracted over 100,000 visitors and marked an important act of recognition from a major arts institution of Swedenborg's importance within the history of art and ideas. The exhibition received national press coverage and extensive critical appraisal. The Society's Museum Director and Archive team were included in the curatorial consultation process and the drawing by Swedenborg was drawn from the Swedenborg House Collection.

—*Tremulations*

30 March - 30 June

Curated by Daniel Birnbaum and Jacqui Davies, *Tremulations* (30 March-30 June) was a three-phase exhibition with accompanying events and virtual reality programme. The exhibition took as its starting point Swedenborg's small scientific work entitled *On Tremulations* and drew upon items drawn from the Swedenborg House Collection and Archive. These objects were supplemented with works of Yayoi Kusama and Meret Oppenheim and included the world première of Mark Leckey's VR work, *The Bridge* and the UK première of Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg's *It Will End in Stars*. The exhibition also included the screening of films by Grace Ndiritu and Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and a live Q&A with designer Peter Saville CBE and artist/filmmaker Tony Cokes. The amount of press attention and reportage received was unprecedented for the Society, and recommendations and reviews appeared in *AnOther Magazine*, MUBI Notebook, *Kunstkritikk*, e-flux Criticism, and *Das Magazin*. The latter review was written by Hans Ulrich Obrist, renowned art curator and writer and Director of the Serpentine Galleries. Approximately 1800 visitors attended the exhibition, and multiple tie-in events were booked to capacity. A book resulted from the exhibition, produced by Koenig and distributed widely to arts institutions and galleries such as the Centre Pompidou and Whitechapel Gallery.

—*For a better understanding of life: posters and promotional items from the Swedenborg Archive (1872-1996)*

24 July - 30 September

Curated by the Society's James Wilson and Alex Murray, with Stephen McNeilly, *For a better understanding of life* brought together a selection of posters, signs, handbills, audio recordings, magic lantern slides, display material and adverts from the Swedenborg House Archive. The first in a phased series of exhibitions excavating treasures from the holdings of the Archive, the exhibition also incorporated a participatory aspect within the gallery for the first time. Designed by the artist Kessler Voges, attendees were able to use stencils, to draw and write on poster templates derived from archival posters, which resulted in meaningful

creative engagement, particularly from families with children. An accompanying exhibition poster was available to purchase in the Bookshop.

—*Histories & Hauntings*

13 October – 22 December

Coinciding with and included as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2023, *Histories & Hauntings* (13 October-22 December) was the final instalment in a planned trilogy of staged interventions by Brian Catling and Iain Sinclair at Swedenborg House. Curated by Iain Sinclair, it was also simultaneously a reprisal of an exhibition held half a century ago at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. The Swedenborg House Gallery accommodated an increased number of artworks, from sculptures to paintings, and the exhibition extended throughout the Bookshop and up to the Wynter Room—an increase in scale and required preparation handled well by staff. The exhibition and series of events, including a launch evening, talks and film screenings, were attended by over 1500 visitors. A small booklet was published to accompany the exhibition and further book is in planning. A video tour of the exhibition incorporating a conversation between Iain Sinclair and the Society's Museum Director was uploaded by the filmmaker John Rogers to YouTube, where it has currently received over 10,000 views.

IN PLANNING

—*Swedenborg's Lusthus: On Memory and Place*

Conceived by the Society's Museum Director, and upcoming for 2024, planning has begun for a coordinated exhibition, book publication, merchandise line, YouTube film and events programme for the launch of the book *Swedenborg's Lusthus* (projected publication date, January 2024). This project will incorporate an exhibition in the gallery space, showcasing new works of art by Daniel Birnbaum, John Christie, Mark Riley, Bridget Smith and Ben Wickey in addition to carefully selected books, photographs, postcards and objects from the Swedenborg House Collection and Archive. The gallery will additionally be home to two oil lamps purportedly owned by Swedenborg, and on loan from the Center for Swedenborgian Studies in the US. This exhibition will counterpose a rich showing of the museum's holdings with contemporary artistic contributions and will present multiple opportunities for outreach and education. Improved lighting and fittings, plus acid-free mount boards and item display texts in the Gallery will raise the space to a new level of museum professionalism.

THE SWEDENBORG RESIDENCY

The 2023-2024 holder of the Swedenborg Residency, Gillian McIver, began her Residency in October. McIver will be tracing the connections between Swedenborg and Philip James de Louthembourg (1740-1812), who painted an important portrait of Swedenborg now held in the Swedenborg House Collection. The Residency commenced with an event entitled 'Profane and Sacred City', which was fully booked and at capacity. The event included a live performance of the Prologue of 'The Apologia of Count Cagliostro', a play in

development by McIver and directed by Jagoda Kamov, and a presentation by McIver outlining her plans for the Residency. Robert Poulter then performed, using his mechanical theatre, the New Model Theatre's play 'Pandemonium', which features 'de Louthembourg and Gainsborough in a double act' and 'tells of de Louthembourg's life and work within his own Eidophusikon and paintings'. To close the evening a short video piece by the artist Marwan Elgamal was shown with musical and spoken accompaniment by Femi Oriogun-Williams, who reinterpreted the music of Swedenborgian composer François-Hippolyte Barthélémon (1741-1808). An exclusive preview of McIver's upcoming graphic novel about de Louthembourg which prominently features Swedenborg, illustrated by Anna Chiarini, was supplied to attendees on the evening in booklet form. Planning is underway for the development of the project in 2024, which will see a reinterpretation of de Louthembourg's Eidophusikon with the participation of contemporary artists and musicians timed to coincide with the Bloomsbury Festival 2024. More broadly, McIver has already begun research and exploration in the Archive, arranging meetings with the Society's Librarian and Archivist Alex Murray.



Still from *Roi* © Neil Bartlett & Anthony Reynolds
Shortlisted for the Swedenborg Film Festival

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

ACCREDITATION

The survey to generate data needed for accreditation and policy for the Swedenborg Society's archival holdings is still ongoing. Policy, practice and monitoring surrounding climatic conditions in both the archives and gallery space has also been explored to improve overall care of collections. Once the data has been generated to move forward with the accreditation process, the next step will see a series of necessary reforms to the holdings take place to prepare for accreditation. These will include a reorganization of a number of sections, the creation of a new section of the library for rare books and some long overdue weeding of the collections. This will also open up much needed space on the shelves for a number of items currently in storage elsewhere in the building.

VISITORS

While not quite reaching the influx of researchers that was seen in 2022, visitors to the archive have continued at a regular pace throughout the year. As usual, the variety of specialist research being conducted has been wide ranging, including enquiries regarding André Breton's interest in Swedenborg; research on the Swedish Swedenborgian economist and abolitionist C B Wadström in relation to Nigerian returnees from Sierra Leone; Helen Keller and ideas of proprioception/sensory perception in Swedenborg's works; and research regarding the eighteenth-century occultist Abbé dom Pernety and a supposed Swedenborgian rite of Freemasonry. The Librarian and Archivist has also spent a significant amount of time working alongside the Society's current Artist in Residence Gillian McIver, assisting with her research into the artist and set designer Philip James de Louthembourg.

STORAGE

Much work has been done throughout the course of 2023 towards addressing a large number of duplicate items that have accumulated as a result of acquisitions from New Church societies over the last few years and from the merging of the General Conference and Swedenborg Society library collections. These items are being organized, checked against the main collection and inventorized ready for donation in line with similar work that was performed on the duplicate periodicals which took place from 2022 into early 2023. This project is about halfway through, and it is looking hopeful it will be completed in 2024. The desired outcomes of this project are two-fold: 1) to find suitable donors for duplicate items and 2) to free up much-needed space for other donations that are currently in temporary storage elsewhere in the building. A new project has also recently been started to open up more storage space in the basement amongst a

number of items which are already stored there. It is hoped this project will lead to the de-cluttering of the Gardiner Room which has become a bit of an overspill storage space during the last few years.

ACQUISITIONS

The archive recently received a significant donation from Stewart Gardiner, a philatelist and art historian, in the form of several items relating to the Tulk family. These include early memoranda and finance sheets between Swedenborg Society founding member John Augustus Tulk, Sr and Robert Hindmarsh. Alongside these, a lock of his son Charles Augustus Tulk's hair was also donated, another founding member of the Swedenborg Society. Stewart has also sent a number of letters written by John Augustus Tulk, Jr, Charles's son. Alongside this, four final boxes from the Radcliffe New Church Archive have been donated by Chris Chambers, Melegna Bodenska kindly donated a copy of her Bulgarian translation of Swedenborg's *Memorabilia* and Peter Fisk donated a postcard depicting Swedenborg's summerhouse (which is currently on display in the exhibition). The Swedenborg Society also recently made two donations from its collection of duplicate material, one in the form of a number of periodicals to the New Church Academy in Bryn Athyn and the other, around 20 publications by the nineteenth-century Swedenborgian doctor, translator and social campaigner James John Garth Wilkinson to the College of Psychic Studies. The College itself has archival and library holdings relating to JJG Wilkinson's brother William Wilkinson and as such this donation fits well alongside their current collections.



First edition bindings of Swedenborg's *Arcana Caelestia*

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

THE SWEDENBORG DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2018 the Society set up a Doctoral Scholarship fund to support outstanding candidates across a range of research studies within the Humanities and Social Sciences. The scholarship is a tuition-funded three-year postgraduate D. Phil./Ph.D. for candidates in partnership with accredited universities throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and North America. Recipients of the Scholarship during 2023 were as follows:

—*Bradley McKinnon*

Bradley McKinnon continued into the third year of his Ph.D. in History at the University of Aberdeen. The working title of Bradley's thesis is 'The Epiphanies of Helen Keller: Swedenborgianism, Socialism, and the Representations of Disability in Twentieth-Century America' and he is examining how Keller's religious identity as a reader of Swedenborg informed her socialist political activism, as well as her role as a champion for those with disabilities. Based on Keller's recognition of Swedenborg's Maximus Homo ('Grand Man' or 'Universal Humanity'), he is also exploring Keller's understanding of the social obligations of believers to the broader community or as she would put it—'love made visible'.

—*Dale Joseph Rose*

Dell Rose continued into the third year of his Ph.D. at the History of Hermetic Philosophy Centre, University of Amsterdam. Dell Rose is working on a project on Charles Augustus Tulk (1786-1849) and the role that Swedenborgianism played in the reforming societies of nineteenth-century Britain. Though Tulk is often only known as the artistic patron of William Blake, he was also one of the earliest advocates of 'public science'. He was elected in 1822 to the Royal Society for his own scientific work, and his quest to show the spiritual nature of the material world based on Swedenborg's revelations would be widely acclaimed during the period. In addition to his Ph.D. work, Dell is currently researching the medical theory and physicalism of Franz von Baader (1765-1841). Baader was one of the most important thinkers of nineteenth-century Germany and was instrumental in establishing academic interest in the theosophy of Jakob Boehme. Dell has had a lifelong interest in Christian theosophy, and millenarianism, and he currently has an article under review which deals with adaptation within the Southcottian movement.

—*Alex Murray*

Alex Murray completed the first year of his part-time Ph.D. in History at King's College London. The working title of Alex's thesis is 'Notions of Social Progress and Reform in English Swedenborgianism: c. 1780-1830'. Alex's research takes into account Swedenborg's early followers and their engagement with and

influence on ideas of social progress and reform during the period in question. It explores, geographically, the two separate movements that started in both the north and south of England during the late eighteenth century and seeks to bring their activities into relief against the backdrop of the wider 'Mystical Enlightenment' that was taking place throughout Europe.

ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Society continued its exciting association with Acute Art, Stolpe Bokförlaget and the Axel and Margaret Ax:Son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, with the *Tremulations* exhibition, curated by Daniel Birnbaum & Jacqui Davies, in April-June 2023. The exhibition also saw good relationships built up with Cabinet Gallery, Greene Naftali Gallery, Kate Macgarry Gallery, Parkett Art, Charles Asprey and Primitive Film. The exhibition has also led to a companion publication, published with prestigious art publisher Walther Koenig. A class visit of students from the Florida State University took place on 8 February. This



was arranged by Florida State University Faculty Member, Alan Walker, with Alex Murray and James Wilson speaking to the group about Swedenborg and the histories of Swedenborgianism and the Swedenborg Society. The Society also continued with its important partnership with the Bloomsbury Festival. This year featuring the exhibition, *Histories & Hauntings*, an exhibition that featured a partnership with Albion Village Press, as co-publishers of the exhibition's catalogue. The Society continued to develop its ties with the annual Open House festival and with the festival's organizers, Open City, with guided tours of Swedenborg House featuring on the programme for Friends of Open City; and the Society playing host to one of the festival's panel discussions. A fruitful partnership with the Blake Society saw the hosting of a book launch and exhibition, *Auguries of Innocence: First Experiences with Letterpress*, with more collaborations between the two organizations planned for

2024. Field trips of students to the exhibition programme were also organized from the University of Roehampton, Chelsea School of Art, University College London, the Royal College of Drawing and the Royal College of Art.

THE BUILDING

Situated in the heart of Bloomsbury, Swedenborg House is central to the work and mission of the Swedenborg Society. The Grade II-listed building is home to a large neoclassical lecture hall, library rooms, a bookshop, office space and storage for book stock. It also provides office space to tenants over four floors. 2023 has seen the following work and upgrades to the building.

UPGRADES

In 2023 two major Building Enhancement Plan projects were carried out and brought to fruition: 1. Work to convert part of the basement—previously used for storage—into high-quality office space was completed, creating an attractive, practical and well-lit open plan office. 2. Work to reconfigure the bookshop to include a coffee shop was completed late in 2023. This involved the installation of a bespoke bar, the purchase and commissioning of catering equipment with relevant electric fittings, plumbing and waste facilities. Careful consideration was given to additional details, such as seating, decoration and the enhancement of the existing interior features, to ensure that the layout and ambience of the shared space is both welcoming and practical for visitors and staff. In addition to planned upgrades, significant reactive works took place in 2023. Following the collapse of a ceiling on the third floor in September, a major clearance and rebuilding project was required. A survey was commissioned and plans were provided by structural engineers. The office rebuild and decoration is scheduled for completion in early 2024. In line with our heritage and listed status, and in keeping with our mission to uncover and protect the original features of the building, all works and upgrades within Swedenborg House during 2023 were undertaken with great care and attention to detail, with a consistently high-quality finish throughout.

FIRE PREVENTION & SECURITY

Pete Pinney MIFSM GFireE continued to act as the Society's Security Consultant and independent annual risk assessor. A site visit was conducted on 22 February 2023. The Society undertakes a number of Fire and Security measures including the installation of advanced detection systems and periodic manual checks. In 2023 the installation of a new 'Redcare' monitored fire alarm system was commissioned, which links the alarm system directly to the fire service through Wi-Fi and mobile signalling.

ACCESS

Swedenborg House provides assisted wheelchair access via ramps through the shop entrance and from the shop to the ground floor. This facilitates access to the shop and to events in the hall and gallery. An accessible toilet is in place on the ground floor.

M A I N T E N A N C E

Swedenborg House is a Grade II-listed Georgian building and requires continuous maintenance and care to its interior and exterior. To fulfil these responsibilities, the Society employs a Building Manager and a team of specialist contractors across a range of trades including plumbing, decorating and electrical works, as well as regular checks and upgrades to our fire alarm and security systems. This allows a swift response to any urgent maintenance needs across all areas of the building. In 2023 relevant team members undertook additional training in workplace health and safety and risk assessment.

G R E E N S P A C E S

The Greening Plan was further developed throughout 2023, with additional improvements to the structure and finish of the decking in preparation for the roof garden. The planting scheme for the roof garden will be actioned once new security railings are in place. Work on improving the light well garden was completed, with the addition of two large—shade loving—Fatsia japonica plants. The light well garden now offers a well-established green space in the heart of the building.

G R E E N H O U S E K E E P I N G

Following the Environmental Enhancement Policy, Swedenborg House continues to use environmentally friendly materials and solutions whenever possible and seeks continually to improve its environmental impact. Daily refuse is carefully sorted to maximize recycling and minimize landfill and coffee shop partners, Arcana Coffee, operate according to the same standards. Recyclable options are prioritized for purchase for office, housekeeping and maintenance use. In 2022 a working relationship with Envirowaste Management was consolidated, a company who have taken any building project waste that cannot be reused for sorting and recycling. All suitable domestic waste is sent for recycling and 'triple life' LED light bulbs are used in all light fixtures throughout the building. All staff travel to work using either public transport or bicycles.

DIGITAL MEDIA

WEBSITE

The Swedenborg Society's website continued to serve as the core focal point for the Society's online activities. During 2023 the website enjoyed over 125,000 page views. As well as providing information content related to Swedenborg and the Society, the website hosts the Society's online bookshop; library and archive catalogue; room hire booking system; events calendar; membership applications; and donation platform.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Society's social media platforms continue to be Instagram, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). Scheduling and content creation for the Society's social media strategy is managed by Rebekka Cartwright with oversight by Executive Director Stephen McNeilly. During 2023, our social media accounts gained an additional 1,373 Instagram followers, 432 Facebook followers and 174 Twitter followers. Social media strategy during 2023 included a consistent schedule of posts with varied content and themes, with initial event announcement posts being sponsored on Facebook and Instagram. Our popular 'On This Day' content continues to provide some of our top performing posts across all platforms. Rebekka Cartwright works closely with James Wilson and Alex Murray to produce compelling and informative narrative of Swedenborg and Swedenborgian-related content. Our sponsored posts featured 'Hilma af Klint - The Temple Immersive Virtual Reality Event'; 'Stilled Shadows: A Magic Lantern Show with Chloe Aridjis'; and our exhibitions 'Tremulations', 'For a Better Understanding of Life' and 'Histories and Hauntings' '#OnThisDay: Death of August Strindberg' post was the most popular across Instagram gaining 1,938 impressions in May. 'Mark Leckey's first Virtual Reality work: The Bridge' announcement post emerged as our most successful posting of the year on Facebook achieving a reach of 23,886 in April. '#OnThisDay: Death of WB Yeats' post was the most popular across Twitter gaining 4,771 impressions in January. The exhibition 'Tremulations' and related events in April, May and June provided an excellent opportunity for consolidating our strong partnerships with Acute Art and Hilma Af Klint Official with cross-sharing of posts across all our social media platforms.

The 'Hilma af Klint - The Temple Immersive Virtual Reality Event' in October provided an excellent opportunity for forming strong partnerships with Acute Art, Bokförlaget Stolpe and Frieze with cross-sharing of posts across all our social media platforms. Bokförlaget Stolpe also published a promotional video of the event on their YouTube channel 'Hilma af Klint - The Temple at Swedenborg House' which received 25,024 views.

YOUTUBE & LIVE STREAMING

The Society's YouTube channel is a key component of our online presence and a valuable interface with the public. Our channel continues to grow in popularity gaining a further 527 subscribers throughout the year, bringing the total subscriber count to 1,220. *Heaven, Hell and Other Places*, a documentary about Emanuel Swedenborg, performed exceptionally well all year with a total of 16,376 views on YouTube in 2023 an increase of 362% from 2022. In collaboration with the filmmaker John Rogers and the writer Iain Sinclair, Stephen McNeilly also participated in a filmed walk exploring Swedenborg's London. By the close of 2023 this had received 30,000 views.

SWEDENBORG RADIO

The Society is working on an ambitious long-term plan to produce podcasts, round-table discussions, interviews, audio artworks, readings, audio books and musical events for 'Swedenborg Radio'. More information regarding these plans will be forthcoming in the 2024 report.



Swedenborg's Earbones. Photo © The Quinn Fizzlers.

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 £479,104 (2022: £467,072) and total resources expended for the year was £643,123 (2022: £538,724), resulting in a net deficit before investments and revaluations of £164,019 (2022: deficit of £71,652).

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 £459,146 (2022: decreased by £686,930). 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. Swedenborg House was revalued at 31 December 2023, which resulted in a loss on revaluation of £2.9m. The net movement in funds for the year is -£2,604,873 (2022: -£758,582). Total funds at 31 December 2023 were £18,038,454 (2022: £20,643,327).

RISKS & 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.

—*Economic risk*

The majority of the Society's income is derived from its investment portfolio and its property. By the end of 2023, and following the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, the Society's investments dividend income has largely returned to pre-COVID levels.

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

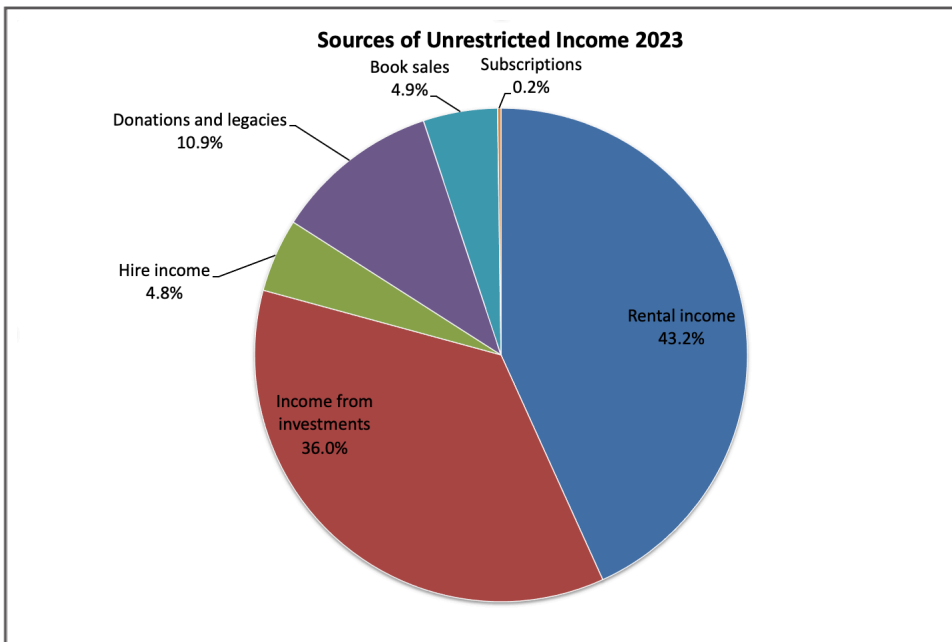
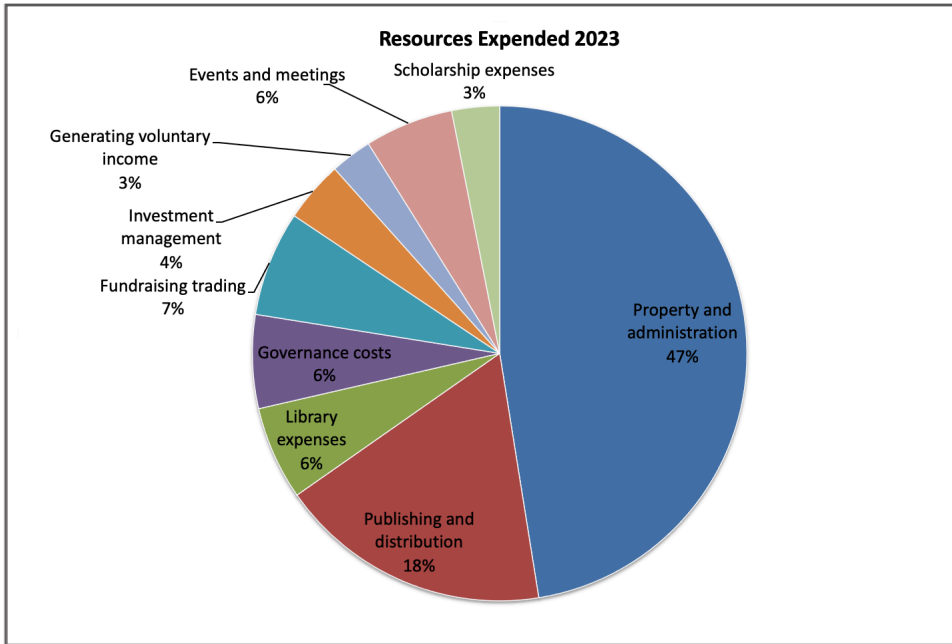
At 31 December 2023 total unrestricted funds amounted to £17,940,127 (2022: £20,487,585). The majority of these funds are represented by the Society's premises, which houses the Society's library, archiving and administrative facilities, and by its investment portfolio, which is held to provide income 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 2023 was £595,380 (2021: £559,410). This level of free reserves represents 340 days of operating costs (2022: 370 days). The Council considers that this level of free reserves is prudent against the context of unpredictable economic conditions. 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 2023 was £4,788,091 (2022: £4,564,751).

DONATIONS & LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are a vital source of income for the Society. During 2023 the Society received £11,132 in charitable donations and the following legacies:

JM Lang £16,605

The Society did not engage in material fundraising from the public in the year to 31 December 2023.





GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE
& MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and a charity registered in England and Wales. It 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*. The 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—was last updated in 2021.

AGM & 2023 COUNCIL ELECTION

The Society's 213th Annual General Meeting was held at Swedenborg House and broadcast via Zoom on 24 July 2023. During the meeting Kristin King and Erica Wyncoll were re-elected as trustees. In addition to the usual business of the meeting, short presentations were given by the Treasurer Erica Wyncoll, the Chair, Rufus Moore, and the Executive Director Stephen McNeilly.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2023

Chair: Alan Lewin; Hon. Treasurer: Erica Wyncoll; Andrew Bentley; Revd Alan Cowley, MDiv; Clare Cumberlidge; Erika Heilman; Dr Kristin King; Rufus Moore, MA; Alexander Morley, MA; Dr Bridget Smith (resigned on 12 September 2023); Nigel Sutton. Members of the Council are also directors of the company.

THE ADVISORY & REVISION BOARD

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

STAFF

The Society continues to draw upon a small but dedicated team of staff who provide the specialist skills needed to operate as the leading world-centre for Swedenborg-related activities and studies. The day-to-day running of the Society is delegated to Stephen McNeilly who continued in his role as Executive Director and Museum Director; James Wilson continued in his role as an Editor and Secretary of the Advisory and Revision Board; Alex Murray continued in his post as Librarian and Archivist; Jacob Cartwright continued in his role as Building Manager; Denise Prentice continued in her role as Administrator and Office Manager; Anthony Finnigan continued in the role of Financial Controller; and Rebekka Cartwright continued in her role as Social Media Co-ordinator. Simran Hussain continued in her role as Publishing Assistant and Anya Reeve was appointed to the role of Gallery, Publishing and Events Assistant. Lolita Sobolyova continued in her part-time role 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 elsewhere in this Report, volunteers provide a vital support for the continuation of our charitable activities and also an important framework for social networking and people investment. The volunteering programme in the bookshop in particular helps its participants to learn and develop communication, hospitality and information management skills, as well as being an entry point into bookselling. During 2023 our dedicated team of volunteers were: David Lister, Ross Melvin and Lolita Sobolyova. The work of all our volunteers is greatly appreciated and vital for the continued work of the Society.

HEALTH & 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 2022 Jacob Cartwright undertook an interim Health, 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 periodically reviews its activities in relation 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. Insofar 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

By Order of the Council

Rufus Moore (Chairperson)

THE SWEDENBORG SOCIETY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endow-ment Funds	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds as restated	Restricted Funds	Endow-ment Funds	Total 2022 as restated
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income	1								
Donations and legacies	6	50,519	-	-	50,519	82,828	-	-	82,828
Charitable activities:									
Book sales		22,215	-	-	22,215	11,986	-	-	11,986
Other trading activities - hire income		21,965	-	-	21,965	22,393	-	-	22,293
Investments	7	360,538	-	554	361,092	349,311	-	554	349,865
Other income - insurance claim receivable		23,313	-	-	23,313	-	-	-	-
Total		478,550	-	554	479,104	466,518	-	554	467,072
Expenditure	1								
Raising funds:									
Cost of generating voluntary income		17,429	-	-	17,429	12,666	-	-	12,666
Fundraising trading and other costs	8	44,140	-	-	44,140	41,453	-	-	41,453
Investment management costs	9	28,847	-	39	28,886	36,650	-	41	36,691
Charitable activities	10	552,668	-	-	552,668	447,914	-	-	447,914
Total		643,084	-	39	643,123	538,683	-	41	538,724
Net gains/(losses) on investments									
Realized gains/(losses) on investments		13,502	-	-	13,502	(11,706)	-	-	(11,706)
Unrealized gains/(losses) on investment assets	14	445,701	-	(57)	445,644	(673,113)	-	(2,111)	(675,224)
		459,203	-	(57)	459,146	(684,819)	-	(2,111)	(686,930)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		294,669	-	458	295,127	(756,984)	-	(1,598)	(758,582)
Transfers between funds		515	-	(515)	-	513	-	(513)	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognized gains and losses		295,184	-	(57)	295,127	(756,471)	-	(2,111)	(758,582)
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of fixed assets	22	(2,900,000)	-	-	(2,900,000)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,604,816)	-	(57)	(2,604,873)	(756,471)	-	(2,111)	(758,582)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		20,544,943	88,000	10,384	20,643,327	21,301,414	88,000	12,495	21,401,909
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		17,940,127	88,000	10,327	18,038,454	20,544,943	88,000	10,384	20,643,327

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022 as restated	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	1, 12		5,727,207		7,351,333
Heritage assets	12		342,410		342,410
Investment property	13		4,435,000		5,708,000
Investments	14		6,840,130		6,549,643
			<u>17,344,747</u>		<u>19,951,386</u>
Current Assets					
Stocks	15	26,349		26,789	
Debtors	16	209,257		727,436	
Cash at bank and in hand		640,554		107,093	
		<u>876,160</u>		<u>861,318</u>	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(168,286)		(145,210)	
Net Current Assets					
			707,874		716,108
Creditors falling due after one year	18		(14,167)		(24,167)
Net Assets					
			<u>18,038,454</u>		<u>20,643,327</u>
The funds of the charity					
Endowment funds	19		10,327		10,384
Unrestricted income funds					
General fund	20		2,759,212		2,747,293
Capital investment reserve	21		4,788,091		4,584,751
Scholarship reserve	21		79,925		-
Freehold property revaluation reserve	22		10,070,499		12,970,499
Heritage asset revaluation reserve	22		242,400		242,400
Restricted funds					
Scholarship fund	23		-		-
Heritage asset fund	23		88,000		88,000
Total Funds	24		<u>18,038,454</u>		<u>20,643,327</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Council on ?? month 2024 and signed on its behalf by
Rufus Moore Chair of the Council

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022 as restated
	£	£
Cash used in operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	38,721	(460,497)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	361,092	349,865
Purchase of fixed assets	(25,013)	(41,494)
Acquisition cost of investments	(22,784)	(238,213)
Disposal proceeds of investments	191,445	315,600
Net cash provided by investing activities	504,740	385,758
Cash inflow/(outflow) from borrowings	(10,000)	(10,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	(10,000)	(10,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	533,461	(84,739)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	107,093	191,832
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	640,554	107,093
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	295,127	(758,582)
Depreciation charges and profit or loss on disposals	22,137	21,016
Realized and unrealized losses/(gains) on investments	(459,146)	686,930
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(361,092)	(349,865)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	440	(6,384)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	518,179	(72,335)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	23,076	18,723
Net cash provided by /(used in) operating activities	38,721	(460,497)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	640,554	107,093
Total cash and cash equivalents	640,554	107,093

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022 as restated
	£	£
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	533,461	(84,739)
Cash (outflow)/inflow from (decrease)/increase in debt	10,000	10,000
Change in net funds for the year	<u>543,461</u>	<u>(74,739)</u>
Net funds at 1 January	72,926	147,665
Net funds at 31 December	<u>616,387</u>	<u>72,926</u>

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	Non-cash changes	At 31 December 2023
Cash in hand and at bank	107,093	533,461	-	640,554
Debt due within 1 year	(10,000)	-	-	(10,000)
Debt due after 1 year	(24,167)	10,000	-	(14,167)
Total	<u>72,926</u>	<u>543,461</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>616,387</u>

I. 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) **Change in accounting policy**

As described more fully in m) below, the accounting treatment with respect to the valuation of stock has been changed to include the carrying value of stock at net realizable value rather than at a nominal value of £100. The trustees consider that this change of accounting policy will provide more relevant information about the valuation of stock in the financial statements. Where required, comparatives have been restated to be consistent with the new accounting policy. The effect of the restatement is to increase unrestricted net assets in 2022 by £26,689 and net incoming resources in 2022 by £6,384, and to increase brought forward unrestricted funds in the current year by £26,689.

d) **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.

e) 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.

f) 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.

g) 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.

h) 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 80.7%
Trading costs 19.3%

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%

i) Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalized at cost 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 an independent valuer, as detailed in note 12. This valuation is considered by the Trustees 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 Trustees consider that any depreciation charge would be immaterial after taking into account the estimated residual value of the property.

j) 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.

k) 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.

l) Investments

Investments are held at market value.

m) Stock

Stocks of books, printed sheets and papers are included in the accounts at the lower of cost or net realizable value. A provision is made for slow-moving or obsolete stock. This is a change to the previous accounting policy and comparatives have been restated to be consistent with the new accounting treatment.

n) 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.

o) 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.

p) 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.

q) 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.

r) 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. Note 13 describes the factors considered in the valuation of the property and the allocation between freehold property and investment property.
- the valuation of the heritage assets. Note 12 gives details of the external valuation of the heritage assets.

—the recognition and valuation of legacies that are notified to the Society but the final value is not yet known. Note 16 describes the method of valuation of legacies receivable, and amounts recognized through the Statement of Financial Activities for the year.

2. LEGAL STATUS OF THE SOCIETY

The Swedenborg 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 TAX

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

4. NET SURPLUS OF THE PERIOD

	2023	2022
	£	£
The net movement in funds for the period is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	<u>11,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

5. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs:		
Wages and salaries	260,383	214,410
Social security costs	18,639	14,065
Pension contributions	<u>24,544</u>	<u>12,339</u>
	<u>303,566</u>	<u>240,814</u>

The average number of employees during the period was 10 (2022: 9). The number of employees earning in excess of £60,000 is as follows:

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £70,000	1	0

No trustee was remunerated during the year. 4 trustees received reimbursement of travel expenses amounting to £4,827 during the year (2022: £3,789 to 4 members). Nothing was owed (2022: £nil) to a trustee at the year end.

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 £85,549 (2022: £70,867).

There are no related party transactions in the year that require disclosure.

6. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	11,132	13,745
Subscriptions	1,012	2,083
Legacies	<u>38,375</u>	<u>67,000</u>
	<u>50,519</u>	<u>82,828</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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rental income	160,729	155,015
Service charges receivable	36,290	29,013
Interest and dividends receivable	<u>164,073</u>	<u>165,837</u>
	<u>361,092</u>	<u>349,865</u>

8. FUNDRAISING, TRADING AND OTHER COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	10,529	9,650
Property costs	26,505	23,850
Administration	2,833	3,897
Depreciation	<u>4,272</u>	<u>4,056</u>
	<u>44,140</u>	<u>41,453</u>

9. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	25,696	25,859
Property professional fees	<u>3,190</u>	<u>10,832</u>
	<u>28,886</u>	<u>36,691</u>

10. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	as restated £
Lectures and meetings	10,144	6,967
Education and outreach	420	522
Publishing and distribution:		
Printing and binding	71,736	58,473
Books purchased for resale	2,211	999
Revision and translation	40,679	40,009
Property, shop and stock room expenses	302,103	233,918
Events	26,643	12,761
Library and catalogue expenses	39,324	45,128
Scholarship expenses	20,075	18,450
Governance costs	<u>39,333</u>	<u>30,687</u>
	<u>552,668</u>	<u>447,914</u>

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

The comparative for Property, shop and stock room expenses has been restated to reflect the new accounting policy for stock as described in note 1c.

Included in governance costs is £11,000 (2022: £10,000) in respect of audit fees.

Included in total expenditure is £82,981 (2022: £74,271) relating to the ongoing refurbishment of Swedenborg House.

11. SUPPORT COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Premises		
Repairs and maintenance	21,773	16,708
Building works	82,981	74,271
Office operating costs	80,817	86,699
Support staff salaries	43,133	37,106
Office salaries	69,714	50,066
Audit fees	11,000	10,000
Accountancy services	916	814
	<u>310,334</u>	<u>275,664</u>
Allocation of support costs:		
Costs of generating voluntary income	17,428	12,517
Fundraising, trading and other costs	44,140	41,453
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>248,766</u>	<u>221,694</u>
	<u>310,334</u>	<u>275,664</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

Cost / valuation	Freehold Land and Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	7,292,000	159,482	7,451,482
Additions	-	25,013	25,013
Revaluation	(1,627,000)	-	(1,627,000)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>5,665,000</u>	<u>184,495</u>	<u>5,849,495</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	100,151	100,151
Charge for the year	-	22,137	22,137
On disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>122,288</u>	<u>122,288</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	<u>5,665,000</u>	<u>62,207</u>	<u>5,727,207</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>7,292,000</u>	<u>59,331</u>	<u>7,351,331</u>

All assets are held for the benefit of the charity.

The freehold property was revalued by Jake Toddington MRICS, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2023. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

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 & 31 December 2023	<u>342,410</u>				
Net book value					
At 31 December 2023	<u>342,410</u>				
At 31 December 2022	<u>342,410</u>				
Heritage assets additions	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Heritage assets donated	0	0	0	0	0
Heritage assets purchased	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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 2023. 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	2023	2022
	£	£
At 1 January 2023	5,708,000	5,749,600
Revaluation	(1,273,000)	-
Transfer to freehold property	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,600)</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>4,435,000</u>	<u>5,708,000</u>

The investment property was revalued by Jake Toddington MRICS, an independent professional property valuer, on an open market basis as at 31 December 2023. The valuation was then allocated between freehold land and buildings and investment property on the basis of floor area. The transfer to freehold property in the prior year is a result of the change in the proportion of floor area used for the charity's own purposes.

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	6,549,643	7,313,962
Disposals at market value	(177,941)	(327,308)
Acquisitions at cost	<u>22,784</u>	<u>238,213</u>
	6,394,486	7,224,867
Unrealized gains	<u>445,644</u>	<u>(675,224)</u>
Market value at 31 December	<u>6,840,130</u>	<u>6,549,643</u>
Historical cost at 31 December	<u>4,000,137</u>	<u>4,121,011</u>

The following investments comprised more than 5% of the investment fund at valuation at 31 December 2022:

Findlay Park LLP American Fund	£638,583
SPDR S&P500 ETF Trust	£659,043

	2023	2022
	£	£
Analysis of investments held		
Fixed interest - UK	509,459	497,798
Fixed interest - Non UK	77,979	78,591
Equities - UK	2,303,894	2,244,852
Equities - Non UK	3,685,529	3,476,151
Absolute return funds	<u>263,269</u>	<u>252,251</u>
	<u>6,840,130</u>	<u>6,549,643</u>

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

15. STOCK

	2023	2022
	£	£
Books for resale	<u>26,349</u>	<u>26,789</u>

16. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	60,731	39,538
Other debtors	24,013	1,856
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>124,513</u>	<u>686,042</u>
	<u>209,257</u>	<u>727,436</u>

Included in prepayments and accrued income is an amount of £24,883 (2022: £34,469) due after more than one year.

Prepayments includes an amount relating to legacies notified to the Society but not yet received in full. The final value of a legacy is uncertain as it is contingent on the sale of assets and completion of the probate process by the executor. Based on information received from the executor, the trustees consider that legacies receivable are an asset with a carrying value of £40,000 (2022: £617,000). During the year, distributions totalling £598,770 (2022: £50,000) were received in respect of these legacies.

17. CREDITORS DUE IN LESS THAN 1 YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bounce back loan	10,000	10,000
Trade creditors	16,865	9,475
Other creditors	62,627	62,208
Accruals and deferred income	<u>78,794</u>	<u>63,527</u>
	<u>168,286</u>	<u>145,210</u>

Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income as at 1 January	2,255	1,300
Released during the year	(2,255)	(1,300)
Deferred during the year	<u>10,750</u>	<u>2,255</u>
Deferred income as at 31 December	<u>10,750</u>	<u>2,255</u>

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

18. CREDITORS DUE IN GREATER THAN 1 YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bounce back loan	<u>14,167</u>	<u>24,167</u>

The bounce back loan is repayable as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	10,000	10,000
Between one and two years	10,000	10,000
Between two and five years	<u>4,167</u>	<u>14,167</u>
	<u>24,167</u>	<u>34,167</u>

The Bounce back loan is unsecured and has a fixed interest rate of 2.5% per year. Interest paid in the year was £648 (2022: £648).

The United Kingdom government has paid the interest cost for the first year as part of its Corona virus support measures. The loan is repayable in 60 equal instalments beginning in June 2021.

19. ENDOWMENTS

	Balances 1.1.23	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	<u>10,384</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>(572)</u>	<u>10,327</u>

	Balances 1.1.22	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£
Endowment fund	<u>12,495</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>(2,624)</u>	<u>10,384</u>

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

20. GENERAL FUND

	2023	2022 as restated
	£	£
Balance at 1 January (as restated)	2,747,293	2,968,741
Net incoming resources per SOFA	294,669	(756,984)
Resources expended charged to designated funds	20,075	-
Transfer from/(to) capital investment reserve	(203,340)	535,023
Transfer from/(to) scholarship reserve	(100,000)	-
Transfer from endowment fund	515	513
Balance at 31 December	<u>2,759,212</u>	<u>2,747,293</u>

21. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.23	Net resources expended	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£
Capital investment reserve	4,584,751	-	203,340	4,788,091
Scholarship reserve	-	(20,075)	100,000	79,925

	Balances 1.1.22	Net resources expended	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£
Capital investment reserve	5,119,774	-	(535,023)	4,584,751
Scholarship reserve	-	-	-	-

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

22. REVALUATION RESERVES

<u>Freehold property revaluation reserve</u>	2023	2022
	£	£
As at 1 January 2023	12,970,499	12,970,499
Re-evaluation	<u>(2,900,000)</u>	-
Reserve at 31 December 2023	<u>10,070,499</u>	<u>12,970,499</u>
<u>Analysis of reserve</u>		
Land and buildings	5,650,154	7,235,554
Investment property	<u>4,420,345</u>	<u>5,734,945</u>
	<u>10,070,499</u>	<u>12,970,499</u>
<u>Heritage asset revaluation reserve</u>	2023	2022
	£	£
At 1 January & 31 December 2023	<u>242,400</u>	<u>242,400</u>

22. REVALUATION RESERVES (CONTINUED)

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

23. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balances 1.1.23	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£
Heritage asset	88,000	-	-	88,000

	Balances 1.1.22	Net incoming resources	Gains and transfers	Balances 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£
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.

24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5,981,617	88,000	-	6,069,617
Investment property	4,435,000	-	-	4,435,000
Investments	6,829,803	-	10,327	6,840,130
Current assets	876,160	-	-	876,160
Current liabilities	(168,286)	-	-	(168,286)
Long-term liabilities	(14,167)	-	-	(14,167)
Total net assets	<u>17,940,127</u>	<u>88,000</u>	<u>10,327</u>	<u>18,038,454</u>
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fixed assets	10,312,899	-	-	10,312,899
On investment assets (see note below)	2,839,482	-	511	2,839,993

Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Endowment Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrealized gains at 1 January 2023	2,428,064	-	568	2,428,632
Net gains/(losses) arising on revaluations	424,920	-	(57)	424,863
(Gains)/losses realized on disposals	(13,502)	-	-	(13,502)
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2023	<u>2,839,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>2,839,993</u>

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 as restated	Restricted Funds 2022	Endowment Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022 as restated
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	7,605,743	88,000	-	7,693,743
Investment property	5,708,000	-	-	5,708,000
Investments	6,539,259	-	10,384	6,549,643
Current assets	861,318	-	-	861,318
Current liabilities	(145,210)	-	-	(145,210)
Long-term liabilities	(24,167)	-	-	(24,167)
Total net assets	<u>20,544,943</u>	<u>88,000</u>	<u>10,384</u>	<u>20,643,327</u>
Unrealized gains/(losses) included in above:				
On tangible fixed assets	13,212,899	-	-	13,212,899
On investment assets (see note below)	<u>2,428,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>2,428,632</u>

Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains on investment assets

Unrealized gains at 1 January 2022	3,282,788	-	2,679	3,285,467
Net gains/(losses) arising on revaluations	(866,430)	-	(2,111)	(868,541)
(Gains)/losses realized on disposals	11,706	-	-	11,706
Unrealized gains at 31 December 2022	<u>2,428,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>2,428,632</u>



OBJECTS &
MISSION
STATEMENT

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 our website where the Governing Document is available for download.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Swedenborg Society provides for the continuation of the public knowledge of the works of Emanuel 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 age, religious beliefs, ethnicity, political affiliations, sexual orientation or gender.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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 and donations may be sent to the Administrator or the Society's Collectors.

DONATIONS & LEGACIES

Donations and legacies play a vital part in the Society's ability to undertake its charitable activities. Would-be donors are reminded that there are tax advantages to the Society if donations are made under Gift Aid. As the Society is a registered charity, legacies are free of inheritance tax. Please contact our Administrator for more information.

LIST OF COLLECTORS

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

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.

IMAGE CREDITS

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The Swedenborg Society

20/21 Bloomsbury Way,
London, WC1A 2TH

Telephone: 020 7405 7986

email: admin@swedenborg.org.uk

Website: www.swedenborg.org.uk

Charity number: 209172

Company number: 00209822 (England and Wales)

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