

The Book Society

Treasurer's Report for 2025

The result for the year is an operating surplus of £6,626 compared to just £42 in so an improvement in the operation and our first surplus for a few years. Actions taken throughout 2024 and 2025 to improve the position of the Society are now coming through and are shown in the continually improved position of cash and operations.

At 31st December our cash reserves stand at £19,724, an improvement of almost £5,000 on 2024 as a result of reduced costs, and increased subscription income.

Subscription income increased again year on year, by over £2,000 due to the continued reduction in unpaid subs. There were 234 paid up members at the end of the year (2024 – 241).

Costs for the year reduced significantly after the move from The Conduit to Browns with much lower hire fees, creating an £11,000 saving in venue fees.

Average attendance at all events was 83 (up 3 on 2024) and at the dinners average attendance was 68 (flat on 2024). The best attended events were the Summer and Christmas parties each at 120 tickets sold. We had dinner ticket prices at £60 all year and cut this back to four dinner events only. The two parties were at £45 and the Goldsboro Pizza party after the AGM was £20 and had 66 tickets sold.

Jo Dawson has continued to handle subscriptions, deal with event administration and maintain the accounting records very effectively, for which the Committee and myself are grateful.

As in past years, we donated to The Book Trade Charity (BTBS) and this year the Committee felt that the operating surplus was strong enough to increase the donation for the first time in several years from £1,500 to £2,000. A surplus in trading operations was still maintained even after this donation, in contrast to prior years.

Jonathan Paterson

Treasurer, May 2026