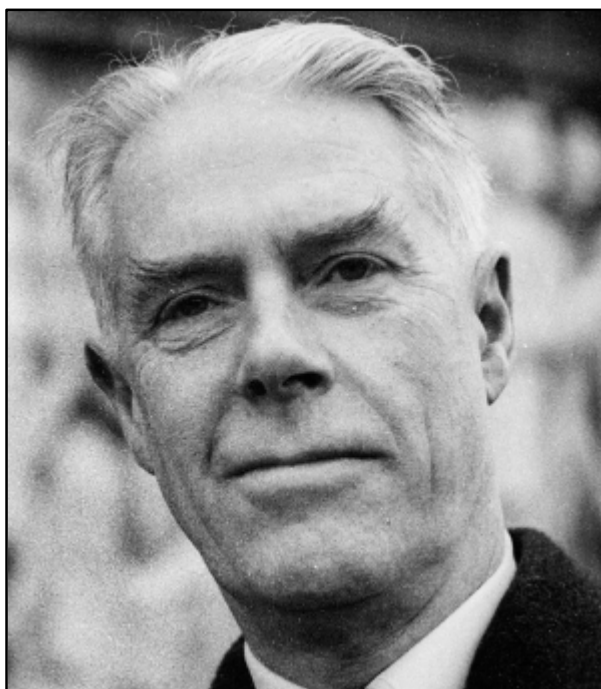




Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No. 1096873



Annual Report & Accounts 2026

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Hon. Secretary, John Moisson
12 Hawthorn Way, Storrington, Pulborough, RH20 4NL, UK

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The Anthony Powell Society

The Anthony Powell Society is an unincorporated association of members governed by its *Constitution*. The Society was registered as a charity in England & Wales in April 2003. Registered Charity No. 1096873.

The Society's aim and objectives, as stated in the *Constitution*, are:

To advance, for the public benefit, education and interest in the life and works of the English author Anthony Dymoke Powell. This Aim shall be achieved by:

- 1. The facilitation, support and undertaking of appropriate research*
- 2. The promotion and undertaking of relevant educational opportunities*
- 3. Other such related charitable purposes as the trustees may from time to time decide.*

Society Trustees

The Society's Trustees during the reporting year 2025-2026 were:

John Blaxter
Robin Bynoe (Chairman until AGM 2025)
Colin Donald
Jeffrey Manley
Paul Milliken (Hon. Secretary until AGM 2025)
John Moisson (Hon. Secretary after AGM 2025)
Harry Mount
Prof. John Roe
Bernard Stacey (Chairman after AGM 2025)
Mary-Louise Stewart (Hon. Treasurer)

The full list of all the Society's current officers is given at the end of the report.

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 315 Fulham Road, London, SW10 9QJ

Chairman's Report

This report differs from many previous Chairman's reports as there was a change in post-holder halfway through the reporting year as in November 2025 I took over from Robin Bynoe, whom we have to thank for his many years at the helm, as a trustee, and to whom we are grateful for his continuing tireless editorship of various collections of AP journalism and letters, as well as possibly the next instalment of the doings of Uncle Giles. At the same time, The Great Replacement as alluded to by Robin in last year's Chairman's report achieved a near full sweep with John Moisson gamely stepping up to the vital yet arduous post of Secretary, and Elwin Taylor taking over from Stephen and Alison Walker as editor of the *Newsletter* and journal *Secret Harmonies*. Mary-Lou Stewart provided the continuity by staying on Treasurer – a role she continues to perform with accuracy, efficiency and good humour.

Without question the major event of the period in question was the 25th birthday lunch at the National Liberal Club (a location whose innate strangeness AP might have found to balance his disapproval of its politics). Magnificently organised by Paul Milliken it was an opportunity to meet some of the key figures from AP's life, notably a last chance to see and hear Dame Jilly Cooper. This was a splendid and fitting tribute to the Society's silver jubilee. It was particularly nice to have lured Keith and Noreen Marshall into central London once more.

In no particular chronological order, there were however other notable events or occurrences. We published two books – *The Magnificent Seven*, thoughts by seven writers on AP's non-*Dance* novels, and *The Lost Heinemann files and Christmas with Kafka*, volume six of AP's collected journalism and volume three of those published by the Society.

We undertook sales and distribution of further AP-metafiction books: *Dogs Have No Uncles*, and *Garnered at Sunset (Leaves from an Edwardian Journal – a fragment)*, as well as the third *Dance* reference accompaniment (following *War Dance* and *Poetic Dance*), *Culinary Dance*.

A further welcome publication was the third year of the calendars featuring images from AP's boiler-room collage and his scrapbooks, beautifully prepared by John Blaxter and essential to anyone with a either a desk or kitchen wall.

A West Country weekend, again organised by the ubiquitous and ever-industrious John Blaxter, and including tea at the Chantry, where John Powell produced, also in honour of our 25th anniversary, a perfectly enormous cake was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group.

The AP birthday lunch at the beginning of December, once more at the accommodating (they again opened only for us on a Saturday lunchtime) Isolabella restaurant in Holborn, was a joyful affair and concluded with the (notional, as it was too large to carry on the train and was therefore sent by post) presentation of a picture of a reclining nude by Modigliani (a print, not an original) to Paul Milliken as thanks for his years as Secretary.

There are plenty of other new initiatives afoot designed to boost the Society's public profile, the most exciting of which is of course the Edinburgh Conference in April 2027 – the first for nine years and since the Covid pandemic. Booking forms were in the last *Newsletter* and are on the website; the programme looks tantalising, not to say mouth-

wateringly good. Book now whilst stocks last, as they say in the advertisements. Although plenty more accolades will flow his way over the course of the next months, I will conclude this report by thanking Colin Donald and his untiring efforts in arranging this event that will unquestionably be the jewel in the crown of another stimulating year in the life of our Society.

Dr Bernard Stacey
Chairman

Hon. Secretary's Report

Summary. Our reporting year of April 2025 to March 2026 was again characterised by an active programme of events and publications. Probably the most significant were those marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Anthony Powell as well as the founding of the Society, and the acquisition of AP memorabilia which the Society donated to Eton College. A series of talks on Favourite Characters who appear in *Dance* began. The production of our excellent quarterly *Newsletter* continued with Elwin Taylor as editor taking over from Stephen and Alison Walker. Further enhancements were made to the Society's website.

Officers and Trustees. At the 2025 AGM the following Trustees were elected for a 3-year term from November 2025: Colin Donald, Harry Mount, Mary Louise Stewart, and John Moisson. Robin Bynoe stepped down as Chairman of the Trustees and Bernard Stacey was appointed in his place. Paul Milliken stepped down as Trustee and Hon. Secretary with John Moisson taking his place.

Social Media. Further enhancements were made to the Society's website and work on developing a social media strategy continued.

Favourite Characters. In February Paul Milliken presented an online paper on Bob Duport, and in March John Moisson similarly spoke on Gibson Delavacquerie. A programme of these talks runs until March 2027. Full details are on the Society's website, where video recordings are uploaded by Peter Newman after each presentation, although at the moment he has a backlog. Members are wholeheartedly invited to volunteer to deliver a talk on their Favourite Character. There is a wealth of inspiration available, with some four to five hundred characters from whom to choose.

Social Events. Keith Marshall continued to host a regular series of Zoom 'social' sessions with the purpose of encouraging unstructured chat on topics of interest. The London Pub meets continued and Anthony Powell birthday luncheons were held in December 2025 in London and in New York City. Brad Bigelow's very successful *Dance* reading group came to an end. Around half the attendees were Society members who were asked to contribute. There was a great deal of interesting discussion from non-members. The Society was very pleased to gain a small number of new Members from the reading group.

25th Anniversary. 2025 saw the 25th anniversary of the Society's founding as well as the 25th anniversary of Powell's death and the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Hearing Secret Harmonies*, the final volume of *Dance*. Two events were held in June to mark these milestones. First there was a formal lunch held at the National Liberal Club, as always very capably organised by Paul Milliken, attended by 67 Members which was a resounding success. Many of the UK based great and good of the Society were present including, Lady Antonia Fraser, Melvyn Bragg, Dame Jilly Cooper, Ferdinand Mount, Harry Mount, Hilary Spurling, and D J Taylor. Full table by table reports appeared in the 100th Special Edition of the *Newsletter*, which was dedicated to the memory of Dr Derek Miles, part of whose bequest to the Society helped fund the edition. It was the last edition edited and published by Stephen and Alison Walker, to whom the Society is indebted and most grateful for their devoted efforts over many years.

Also in June, John Powell kindly hosted around a dozen members on a visit to The Chantry – the home of Anthony and Violet Powell – where, as well as enjoying a magnificent birthday cake, they were invited to explore the house including the extraordinary Boiler Room housing its remarkable collage, which many members will recognize from the Society's calendar. Again, a full report appeared in *Newsletter* 100.

Acquisition of Anthony Powell Memorabilia. In November the Powell family put some Anthony Powell memorabilia up for auction with Bonhams, London. The Trustees decided that it was wholly within the Society's charitable objectives to acquire certain of the lots to enhance the Society's research archive. The acquisition was fully supported by available funds and falls strictly within the Society's charitable purposes. Eton College (whose charitable purposes in this respect align with those of the Society) welcomed these items into its permanent Anthony Powell Collection. This arrangement guarantees professional curation, secures the long-term future of the acquisitions, and opens them up to the global research community. The items acquired were:

- Powell's copy of *What's Become of Waring* marked up for a new edition
- His working copies of volumes 1-11 of *Dance* with textual corrections
- A collection of typescripts of Powell's plays with his annotations.

Publications. The quarterly *Newsletter* concentrates on short and topical Powell-related articles, reviews, news, trivia and Society information, and is greatly appreciated by readers for its depth, diversity and interest. The Society published *The Magnificent Seven*; and Bernard Stacey published *Culinary Dance*; *Dogs Have No Uncles*; and *Garnered At Sunset, Leaves From An Edwardian Journal (A Fragment)*; all of which are available on the Society's website. The Society also produced an Anthony Powell Society annual calendar for 2026 thanks to the efforts of John Blaxter.

The Society's officers regularly respond to enquiries from members, researchers, the media and other persons interested in Powell.

As legally required, all Society publications are deposited with the British Library and, when requested, with the other UK Copyright Libraries. The Society also contributes, free of charge, copies of all its publications to the Bodleian Library; Balliol College, Oxford; The London Library; Eton College Library; The Travellers' Club.

Membership. (See the extensive table produced by Keith Marshall).

This year has seen an increase in overall membership from 326 to 337, and it is worth noting that this is an increase from 289 in 2021 and from a previous high of 305 in 2014. All ideas for attracting new members, in particular younger members and overseas Powell enthusiasts, are welcome. The Hon. Treasurer explains below the Trustees' decision to increase the annual subscription rate – the first increase for nearly twenty years.

Bursary. The Society offers two bursaries of £500 available to postgraduates each year.

IT Facilities. The Society's website remains of great importance as a means of communication to Members, and the enhancements agreed continue being implemented as time allows. The Trustees continued to focus on improvements in the Society's use of social media, particularly the Society's Facebook page. The online email discussion group remains successful and popular as a forum for discussion and comment on a wide variety of AP related topics and as a source of AP related

material. Naturally the changes of officers during the year created a need for additional IT support.

Policy on Reserves. Fully aware of the concerns expressed at last year's AGM, the Trustees have been most careful to consider the Society's policy on reserves. In order to be clear on the issue, and to reiterate, the Trustees budget each year to cover the basic costs of running the Society from membership subscriptions and for each event, including conferences, to be self-funding, although, with the Trustees' consent, subsidies can be made available from the Society's reserves. Financial reserves are maintained in order to facilitate expenditure of capital sums on the production or purchase of merchandise and publications, expansion of the Society's Archive, subsidising and underwriting risks associated with flagship events (e.g. conferences), reduced membership and conference fees for students, and other appropriate activities; the cost of servicing members who have paid subscriptions in advance has also to be covered, as does the underwriting of various risks.

Risk Management. In the same manner as for Reserves, the Trustees consider risk management and business continuity in accordance with the recommendations of the Charity Commission. They are satisfied that appropriate precautions and procedures are in place to manage risks and this is kept under regular review. Critical computer-based files held by the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Membership Secretary are regularly backed up and copies held off-site from the original with backups being swapped on a regular basis. The Society carries public liability insurance cover which is a pre-requisite for hiring most venues, as well as providing protection in the event of accident to volunteers.

Public Benefit. The Trustees continue to pay regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding the activities undertaken. The Trustees consider that the majority of benefits can be most effectively and efficiently delivered through a membership structure which also provides personnel, and basic funding, to carry out its work. The main activities undertaken by the Society in order to carry out its objects for the public benefit are:

- Publication of its occasional journal, *Secret Harmonies*, the quarterly *Newsletter*, proceedings of the conferences and other occasional publications and monographs.
- Making information publicly available via its website, email discussion list, and Facebook page.
- Building and maintaining the Society's Archive and providing access for members and bona fide researchers.
- Staging conferences, the Anthony Powell Lecture and other meetings, lectures and similar events.
- With the Powell family, seeking to (a) influence policy on the continuing publication of Anthony Powell's work, (b) encourage continuing academic research into Powell's work, (c) ensure a permanent place for Powell in the canon and history of English literature, and (d) safeguard Powell-related materials as part of the national heritage.
- Assistance to the media, researchers and the general public in answering enquiries relating to Anthony Powell and his work. Examples of these activities are highlighted throughout this report. As a general principle all the Society's

events are open to non-members unless there is good reason to restrict access (e.g. to the AGM).

Personnel. The Society relies on its Trustees, Officers and other members giving their time freely to organise its activities. Without those contributions, which are often in addition to professional work schedules, the Society would have to spend a substantial sum on salaries and consultancy fees. I am very conscious that as officers age and medical issues arise, succession for key roles needs to be established and more volunteers, who are able to take on officer roles, are always needed. Once again, all those who have been involved with the running and organisation of the Society during the year are sincerely thanked for their efforts – without them there would be no Society! We also have to thank the Powell family for their continuing support and all those who have contributed to the Society's work during the year.

On a personal note, I must thank Paul my predecessor and all the Trustees, Officers, and Members who have helped and supported me throughout the year since the last AGM.

John Moisson
Hon. Secretary

Anthony Powell Society Demographics

Year	2017		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total Members	301		292	290	292	289	311	319	319	326	337
Net Change	21		-9	-2	2	-3	22	8	0	7	11
Individual Members	250		248	249	250	247	278	282	279	278	283
Joint Members	42		34	30	28	30	22	24	28	28	32
Student Members	4		4	3	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Honorary Members	5		6	8	11	11	11	11	10	18	20
UK	194		190	191	194	194	208	214	217	225	236
USA & Canada	75		71	67	64	62	69	68	68	68	64
Rest of Europe	21		21	24	25	25	26	28	25	22	24
Rest of the World	11		10	8	9	8	8	9	9	11	13
Countries Represented	17		17	16	16	16	16	18	18	16	19
Members Gained	41		23	26	21	27	40	34	24	25	37
Members Lost	20		32	28	19	30	18	26	24	18	26
"5 for 4" Members				145	165	165	165	180	177	174	165
UK Standing Orders								52	60	62	61

Hon. Treasurer's Report – Financial Year Ending 31 March 2026

Financial Results. I am pleased to report on the financial activities of the Anthony Powell Society for the year ended 31 March 2026. The accounts show a deficit of £13,738. for the year. The key elements in this are:

- Purchase of memorabilia of special relevance to Anthony Powell at auction for £9,000, the items being donated to the archive at Eton College;
- Design and printing of *The Lost Heinemann Files* and *Christmas with Kafka* in February 2026 - £3,000

Excess of costs of Birthday lunch in June 2026 over related income - £2,000.

Receipts. Total income excluding income receipts related to special events (£8,351) was £13,073 compared to £11,565 for the previous year. There were also two donations of £500 and more income from merchandise. Income from subscriptions at £6,686 was higher than in 24-25 (£6,080) due to a welcome increase in member numbers.

We are very grateful for the donations we have received, and Gift Aid is always welcome. Investment income, representing bank interest on money held on a combination of short and fixed term deposits, amounted to £1,628 (2025: £2,330). Interest rates have been falling gradually, however, and the Trustees decided to reduce the amount kept on Money Market deposit when it matured in August to restore the balance of funds available for future expenses. This means that future interest received will be lower.

Payments. Costs continued to be managed very carefully and except for the cost of printing two new publications (merchandise) were held at levels very similar to the previous year. Costs excluding special events and the purchase of items for donation to Eton amounted to £15,367. Expenditure on printing and stationery included the cost of a special edition of the *Newsletter* to mark the 100th issue and 25 years of the Society and the Trustees decided to use £3,000 from the Derek Miles Bequest to fund this cost. The cost of postage continues to rise steeply and is an important concern as prices continue to rise.

Membership Subscriptions. In previous years the Trustees considered that the level of reserves was sufficient to absorb increases in printing costs (publications and newsletters) and postage, but this last year has seen funds spent down – as they should be, to meet our charitable objectives. The Trustees have therefore agreed that the annual membership subscription should be increased substantially to enable the Society to meet ongoing expenditure. Given that the last increase was in 2008, we hope that this will be acceptable to members.

Financial Position. The Society's total reserves are healthy despite the current year's large deficit. The total bank balance was nearly £47,000 at the year end and £15,000 has been taken back from the Money Market deposit into the main HSBC account to be readily available to fund expected regular costs such as the production of newsletters and merchandise, to absorb risks related to uninsured stock, and to be able to subsidise important member benefits, such as the Annual Lecture, when the costs exceed the income received.

The Trustees have considered the level of future income and expenditure over the next three years based on known and likely events. Whilst we do not have a crystal ball we

are satisfied that, with careful management and the increase in membership subscriptions, the Society will continue to deliver benefits to its Members and flourish.

Thanks. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Charlotte Bainbridge for her thorough scrutiny of these accounts, and I should also like to thank my fellow Trustees and our Membership Secretary Keith Marshall for all they do to make my work as Treasurer easy and enjoyable.

Mary-Lou Stewart
Hon. Treasurer

Registered Charity No 1096873**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

RECEIPTS	Special	2026		2025
Membership subscriptions		6,686		6,080
Events - Birthday lunch & WCW	6,518			0
- books sales	333			
- Donation received towards cost	1,500	8,351		0
Events - other				
Merchandise		2,760		1,994
Donations		1,080		297
HM Revenue & Customs (Gift Aid)		918		864
Investment Income		1,628		2,330
		<u>21,422</u>		<u>11,565</u>
PAYMENTS				
Events - Birthday lunch and WCW	10,421			373
- AGM	306	10,727		
Bonhams for AP items		9,068		
Merchandise Stock Purchase	4,422		1,130	
Add Opening Stock	2,834		2,839	
Less Closing Stock	2,935	4,321	2,834	1,135
Printing and stationery	6,170		2,701	
Derek Miles Bequest for Newsletter 100	3,000	3,170	0	2,701
Postage		4,209		3,149
Website development		2,636		3,850
Information technology		174		531
Society membership		15		15
Insurance		333		269
Bank and PayPal charges		509		458
Archive and new projects		0		265
		<u>35,163</u>		<u>12,746</u>
NET INCOME		-13,740		-1,181
GENERAL RESERVES B/F		46,662		47,843
GENERAL RESERVES C/F		32,922		46,662
DEREK MILES BEQUEST		7,000		10,000
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>39,922</u>		<u>56,662</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	2026		2025
	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Stock of merchandise		2,935	2,834
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank Accounts :			
HSBC Current account	595		907
HSBC Business Money Manager account	6,163		22,061
HSBC Money Market deposit	40,000		40,000
Gift Aid recoverable	908		882
Payments for event made in advance	0		3,300
		<u>47,667</u>	<u>67,150</u>
LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions received in advance	10,680		11,426
Payments for events received in advance			1,896
		<u>-10,680</u>	<u>-13,322</u>
		<u>39,922</u>	<u>56,662</u>

Society Officers and Trustees at 1 August 2026

Patron ¹	John MA Powell
President ¹	Ferdinand Mount
Vice-Presidents ^{1,2}	Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA (Oxon) (2028) Michael C Meredith (2026) Dr Jeremy Warren, FSA (2026)
Trustees & Executive Committee Members	John Blaxter (2027) Robin Bynoe (2026) Colin Donald ³ (2028) Jeffrey Manley LLB ⁴ (2026) Paul Milliken (2027) John Moisson (2028) Harry Mount (2028) Prof. John Roe (2026) Dr Bernard Stacey (2027) Mary-Louise Stewart (2027)
Chairman	Bernard Stacey
Hon. Secretary	John Moisson
Hon. Treasurer	Mary-Louise Stewart
Membership Secretary	Dr Keith C Marshall ⁵
Merchandise Secretary	Robin Bynoe
Shop Manager	Dr Keith C Marshall
Editor	Elwin Taylor
Hon. Archivist	Noreen Marshall
Webmaster	Dr Keith C Marshall
Social Media	Peter Newman
Assistant Secretary	John Blaxter
Publisher	Elwin Taylor
Local Group Organisers	Dr Nicholas Birns, Theo Langheid, Regina Rehbinder.

Notes

All officers of the Society are unpaid volunteers and serve in an honorary capacity.

¹ Non-executive officers

² Term expires in year shown; may be re-elected

³ Resident in Scotland

⁴ Resident in USA

⁵ Geoffrey Levett w.e.f. 1st September 2026