THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. 81st Annual General Meeting

The Society held its 81st Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22 June 2021 as a virtual event conducted over the digital platform zoom. The President, Mrs Olga Polizzi, addressed the meeting. The Chairman, Richard Northern, then took the Chair. 41 members attended.

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved at the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

The Meeting passed resolutions approving both the Accounts and the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Mrs Silvia Pieretti was re-elected Treasurer for 2021-22.

The Treasurer introduced the Society's Accounts, which had been issued separately. Further copies were made available on request from the Society's Secretary.

2. Membership

At 31 March 2022 (and 31 March 2021 and 2022) the figures for membership of the Society were:

	2020	2021	20 2	22
Ordinary (including Country*) Men 250	nbers	330	272	
Life Members Complimentary** Student and Under 26	91	91 24 8	90 21 6	35 6
TOTAL	453	390	381	

^{*}Country includes overseas members

office-holders from partner organisations or institutions.

^{**}Complimentary includes 12 months membership for recent speakers plus a number of

3. Awards and Donations

The Trustees approved the following new donations during 2021-2022:

- (a) a further contribution of £500 to the **Keats-Shelley Memorial Association** in part-sponsorship of the Keats-Shelley Young Romantics Prizes in March 2022.
- (b) A donation of £300 to the **Tricolore Theatre Company** for a joint production with UCL of a tribute to Joseph Grimaldi, *The Clown in Popular Culture*, in March 2022.
- (c) A donation of £500 to the **Literary & Philosophical Society of Newcastle** for a series of celebrations of Dante in December 2021.
- (d)A donation of £500 to **I Musicanti** as a contribution towards the costs of recording Giovanni Bottesini's four quartets to mark the composer's bicentenary in 2021.

The total committed in grants, awards and prizes in 2020-21 amounted to £2,850.

4. Prizes

The Society sponsored its biennial British-Italian Society Prizes for students of Italian

studies at British and Irish universities in 2021. The competition is administered by the

Society for Italian Studies (SIS). The prizes were awarded to:

Postgraduate Winner (£500): **Dr Claudia Dellacasa**, University of Durham for her thesis

Italo Calvino in Japan, Japan in Italo Calvino: a Cross-Cultural Encounter.

Postgraduate Runners-up (£100 each): Dr Anna Lisa Somma, Birmingham University,

and Dr Maddalena Moretti, Leeds University.

Undergraduate Winner (£250): **Freya Cazalet**, Cambridge University for her dissertation

The Sleeping Guards: Depictions of the Resurrection in Trecento Italy.

Undergraduate Runners-up (£50): Isabelle Ragnetti, Kings College, London, and Ella

5. Rivista

The Society published the latest edition of its annual magazine *Rivista* in February 2022.

We are very grateful to the Editor, Philippa Leslie, who again put together an excellent

edition in difficult circumstances. Digital versions of this, and previous, editions can be

found on the Society's website. Hard copies of the magazine can be obtained from the

Secretary.

Members who would like to contribute material or place an advertisement in the next

edition, which will appear in January 2023, are invited to contact the Editor or the

Secretary.

6. Events

The Society was at last able to organise live meetings and events again from October 2021 onwards, though we will continue to include some virtual lectures in our programme.

The following lectures and events were organised during the 2021-22 financial year:

April – Live from Bergamo: How the 'Museum' Radio Station GAMEC Faced the Storm of Coronavirus, a talk by Dott Leonardo Merlini (online).

May - Gaetano Donizetti: Triumph and Tragedy in the World of Bel Canto Opera, a talk by Mr Jonathan Keates (online).

June – AGM followed by the Charles de Chassiron Memorial Lecture, *The Most Beautiful Language in the World*, a talk by Dr Stefano Jossa (online).

July – *Pompeii@Madre and Pompeii Commitment: Where and When Archaeological Matters become Contemporary,* a talk by Dr Andrea Viliani and Dr Stella Bottai (online).

September - La Dolce Vita Trivia Challenge, a cultural quiz presented by Ms Carla Gambescia (online)

October - A House in the Mountains: The Women Who Liberated Italy from Fascism, a conversation with author Mrs Caroline Moorehead followed by dinner (live event).

November - Leconfield Lecture - Once Upon a Time in the West: Shooting a Masterpiece, a talk by Sir Christopher Frayling (live event).

December - Annual Christmas Dinner at Il Granaio Restaurant in Piccadilly (live event).

January - *Great Minds Think Alike: Cicero and Ovid in Exile,* a talk by Dr Gabriele Rota (online event).

February – Finding Renaissance Bronze-Founders and Sculptors in the Veneto: Joseph De Levis and Il Bresciano, a talk by Dr Charles Avery (live event – together with Venice in Peril Fund).

March - Global Finance and the Migrant: the Story of Amadeo Peter Giannini, Founder of Bank of America, a talk by Dr V. Signorelli and Dr C. Zoppelletto (live event).

March - Private (curator-led) Viewing of *Emilio Vedova Exhibition* at Thaddeus Ropac Gallery in Mayfair (live event - together with Club di Londra).

7. The Leconfield Lecture

The annual Leconfield Lecture, the main event in the Society's calendar, was delivered by Sir Christopher Frayling. Sir Christopher gave a full and fascinating lecture, including never-released archive clips, about influential director Sergio Leone's art, focussing on his masterpiece *Once Upon a Time in the West*. A recording of the lecture is available on the Society's Vimeo channel (accessed through the events page on our website).

8. Acknowledgements

We would like to record our thanks to our Patron, HE Raffaele Trombetta, the Italian

Ambassador, who has given us unstinting support during the year. We also thank Dr

Katia Pizzi, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, for her support and collaboration.

We would like to thank all the Speakers who have given the Society such interesting

and stimulating lectures throughout the year.

Thanks are due to all our Trustees for their work in putting together and directing the

Society's programme of cultural and social activities for members and guests and for its

charitable work.

The Trustees are also grateful to Rhuna Barduagni, who has provided an excellent service

to the Society and its members over the year.

programme and activities.

The website address for the Society is <u>www.british-italian.org</u>. The e-mail address for

enquiries about membership and events is: rhuna@british-italian.org (tel: 020 3974 1035).

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE KIND PEOPLE WHO HAVE REMEMBERED THE SOCIETY IN THEIR WILL

If you would like to leave a legacy to the Society, just ask your solicitor to add the appropriate clause stating the Society's name and Charity Number: **253386**

June 2022

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2022

Registered Charity No. 253386

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1	Significant Information
2	Trustees Report
3	Independent Examiners Report
4	Receipts and Payments
5	Statement of Assets and Liabilities

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

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PATRON

HE The Italian Ambassador Raffaele Trombetta

PRESIDENT

The Hon Mrs Olga Polizzi CBE

HONORARY DIRECTOR

Mrs Susan Kikoler

OFFICERS

Chairman:

Mr Richard Northern

Vice Chairmen

Miss Sidney Ross Mr Eugenio Bosco

Treasurer:

Mrs Silvia Pieretti Malim

TRUSTEES

Mr Richard Northern Mrs Tina Villarosa Miss Sidney Ross Mrs Silvia Pieretti Malim Mr Eugenio Bosco Ms Silvia Badiali Prof Jane Everson Mrs Maria Beatrice Panico

Events and Membership Secretary:

Ms Rhuna Barduagni

ADVISERS

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc

London Corporate Banking

Independent Examiner:

Richard Windsor 4a Langside Avenue

SW15 5QT London

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

86-90 Paul Street

London EC2A 4NE

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires the Trustees of the Society to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year. In addition, the Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the Society are:

- To increase knowledge and understanding in the United Kingdom of all aspects of Italian culture and of the Italian way of life, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Italian history, literature, art, music, politics, business, commerce, and the Italian language.
- To disseminate knowledge in those fields by means, inter alia, of lectures, publications, exhibitions, readings, concerts and the like.
- To encourage and to work with other individuals and organisations with similar objectives, in particular by awarding of academic or other prizes in the field of Italian studies broadly construed.
- Where possible and practical, to assist communities in need, whether by reasons of flood, earthquake, or other calamities whatsoever and whether in the United Kingdom or Italy.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are recruited from the members of the charity and are elected by the board of Trustees in General meeting for a term of up to 3 years. Trustees are eligible for re-election after expiration of their term of appointment.

Activities during the year

The Society ran a full programme of lectures and events during the year, and funded several charitable donations and academic prizes, in addition to publishing the annual Rivista magazine.

The Society's Policies

Policy on Income Reserves

The Society's running costs usually produce an annual deficit, which is covered by reserves built up through fund-raising events, and by legacies left to the Society. It is the Society's policy to preserve these legacies as intact as possible.

Policy on Selection of Investments

The Society aims to maintain the investments which formed the greater part of the legacies bequested as a broadly-based portfolio of high-yielding blue-chip equities, excluding investments in tobacco companies.

Policy on Grant Recipients

The Society donates funds in accordance with its stated aims, namely:

- To increase knowledge and understanding in the United Kingdom of Italy in all its aspects, for example by giving prizes to graduates and undergraduates for essays which raise the profile of Italian studies at British and Irish universities.
- To assist organisations or persons in need of support for worthwhile cultural initiatives, or in need of help following major natural disasters or other calamities in Great Britain or Italy, by donating funds for relief or recovery.

Robert North

Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of the British Italian Society (Charity no. 253386) for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Richard Windsor 4 4a Langside Avenue SW15 5QT

London

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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RECEIPTS Subscriptions			etricted nds (Legacies) £	Total funds £	Last Year £
Activities Christmas Dinner (Net of costs) Rivista Advertising COIF Fixed Interest Fund Gift Aid Dividends Barclays Deposit Interest Donations Received		2,613 15 875 396 1,951 2,071	4,685 	2,613 15 875 396 1,951 4,685 2,071	1,180 488 1,500 4,517 3 1,732
ASSET AND INVESTMENT SALES	Sub total	15,611	4,685 49,650	20,296 49,650	17,292 32,041
Tot	al Receipts	15,611	54,335	69,946	49,333
PAYMENTS Investment management fee Secretarial services Postage Activities Rivista Accountancy & Legal Donations & Grants General admin expenses Bank /PayPal charges / RSM Fees		10,000 2,488 3,743 630 2,350 3,517 595	1,861	1,861 10,000 2,488 3,743 630 2,350 3,517 595	1,694 10,000 123 3,790 600 1,200 1,972 95
ASSET AND INVESTMENT PURCHASE	Sub total	23,323	1,861 48,336	25,184 48,336	19,474 33,184
Total	Payments	23,323	50,197	73,520	52,658
Net Receipts (I	Payments)	(7,712)	4,138	(3,574)	(3,325)
Transfers between funds		8,500	(8,500)	-	
Cash funds last year end		5,038	7,646	12,684	16,009
Cash funds this year end		5,826	3,284	9,110	12,684

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	
		(General) £	(Legacies) £
Cash funds	Bank Current Account PayPal Account Bank Deposit Account J M Finn Client Current Account J M Finn Client Deposit Account Sundry Debtors (Gift Aid + Rivista Adv)	2,129 871 - - - 2,826	669 73 2,542
		5,826	3,284
		Unres Fur (General) £	
Other monetary funds	COIF Fixed Interest fund	- 1	13,769
			13,769
			£
Investment assets	UK Equities as at 1 April 2021 Investment additions Sale proceeds Loss on disposal Revaluation surplus		245,882 48,336 (49,649) (2,717) 18,742
	Value as at 31 March 2022		260,594
			£
Total Funds and Assets			283,473

Pichard Northe

Trustee

Trustee

THE BRITISH ITALIAN SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2022

Registered Charity No. 253386

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