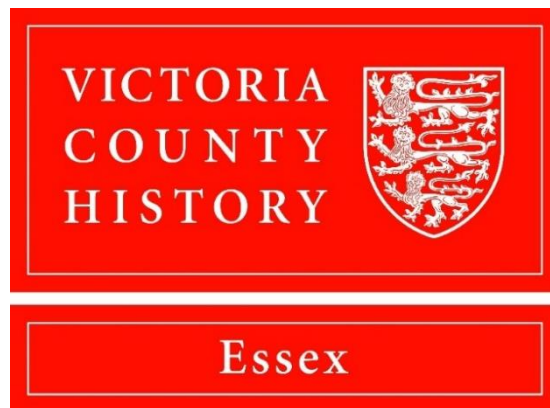


Victoria County History of Essex Trust



Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Contents

	<i>page</i>
Trustees and Advisers	2
Trustees' Report	3
Trustees' Responsibility Statement	5
Receipts and Payments Account	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	7
Notes to the Accounts	8
Independent Examiner's Report	10

Trustees and Advisers

Trustees	Kenneth L Crowe, BEd, MA, AMA, <i>Chairman</i> Rt Hon Lord Petre, KCVO, JP, MA, <i>Vice Chairman</i> Louisa Tippett, BSc, ACA, <i>Treasurer</i> Sarah E L Manning-Press, BA, <i>Secretary</i> Benjamin J Cowell, OBE, BA, PhD (<i>appointed 15 June 2024</i>) Johanna Dale, MA, PhD, FRHistS Amanda Flather, PhD Sir Graham Hart, KCB, PhD John Jowers Darren McLoughlin (<i>appointed 15 June 2024</i>) Professor Anthony Tuck, PhD (<i>retired 15 June 2024</i>)
Principal address	25 Sussex Road Colchester Essex CO3 3QH
Registered charity number	1038801
Editor	Herbert Eiden, BA, PhD
Independent Examiner	Samantha Martin, FCCA 119 Colchester Road West Bergholt Colchester Essex CO6 3JX
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 99 High Street Chelmsford Essex CM1 1EQ

Trustees' Report

We are delighted to welcome two new Trustees this year: Dr Ben Cowell and Darren McLoughlin. Ben is Director General of Historic Houses and was previously the regional director for the National Trust in the East of England. Darren is a senior building surveyor who has worked in Southend (notably on the Prittlewell Priory restoration project), in the south-west of England and for the National Trust, based in Kent. He is now back in south-east Essex.

Herbert Eiden and Andrew Senter, along with your Chairman, attended the VCH Day in May at Senate House. Dr Ruth Slatter presented a paper on the programme of digitising the Red Books, while the principal talk was by Dr Catherine Clarke, the Director, on the future of VCH Shorts. University of London Press will no longer be involved in the publishing of the shorts series and in the future individual Trusts will be responsible for publishing, although VCH Central will still have oversight to ensure academic standards are met and also facilitate the process. This will inevitably put an extra burden on our editorial team.

The Southend short will be the final one published by ULP and it is pleasing to report that the final proofs for this volume were received towards the end of the year.

VCH Central Office invited all VCH Trusts to complete a "Knowledge Exchange Survey" the purpose of which was to discover how Trusts engage with the public and communities, contribute to local growth and regeneration, together with sections on research partnerships and publications. We are grateful to Chris Thornton and Herbert Eiden for completing this form for the Essex VCH Trust.

The work on Volume XIII (Harwich and Dovercourt) has progressed steadily, with final drafts of the completed chapters having been uploaded onto the VCH website. These include Medieval Landownership together with the sections on Religious History, Government and Politics and Social and Economic History for the 19th century. Work is progressing on the interwar period and on the 'long' 17th century.

We must extend our thanks to Essex Heritage Trust for their continued support, and also to our marvellous supporters and regular donors, although the financial situation remains challenging.

The Clacton Group had a very successful launch of their latest publication, *The Holland Brook Story and the Tendring Hundred*, in Tendring Village Hall on 20 April. Talks were given by Chris Thornton, Herbert Eiden and Ken Crowe to the Clacton Group during the year.

Trustees' Report

VCH Essex held their second annual conference at the Galleywood Heritage Centre in October, on the theme of *Religion, Reformation and Society*. This was a very successful event, with many very favourable comments afterwards, and helped to raise awareness of the VCH Essex Trust and the work we do. Thanks to our speakers, three of whom were Trustees! Ticket sales, raffle and sales from our second-hand bookstall raised about £1,000, a valuable contribution to our funds.

Finally, I must thank our external examiner, Samantha Martin, and my fellow Trustees for their support throughout the year and, in particular, our Secretary, Sarah Manning-Press and Treasurer, Louisa Tippett; and our splendid editorial team, Herbert Eiden and Andrew Senter and, of course, Chris Thornton, who continues to contribute so much.

Ken Crowe
Chairman

Trustees' Responsibility Statement

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year that properly present the Charity's receipts and payments during the year and its assets and liabilities at the end of the year. In preparing those statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which enable them to ensure that the receipts and payments account and the statement of assets and liabilities comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

Receipts and Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Receipts				
Designated funds and donations		5,000		5,000
Unrestricted donations				
Donations from individuals <i>(see note 3)</i>	13,666		8,820	
Gift Aid (including interest) reclaimed	1,527		5,031	
Donations from Councils and Societies	1,188		4,300	
Donations from Trusts	4,250		4,250	
Legacy			500	
		20,631		22,901
Investment income - interest	1,513		1,354	
		1,513		1,354
Other income <i>(see note 4)</i>	1,581		1,155	
		1,581		1,155
Total receipts		28,725		30,410
Payments				
Direct charitable payments				
Payments in respect of Volume XII, Volume XIII, Harwich and Southend				
Editors	17,765		14,125	
Assistant Editor	19,200		20,000	
		36,965		34,125
Grants - Clacton Group	500			
		500		
Other expenditure <i>(see note 6)</i>	1,894		2,663	
		1,894		2,663
Total payments		39,359		36,788
(Deficit)/surplus of receipts over payments		(10,634)		(6,378)
Funds balances brought forward		88,369		94,747
Funds balances		77,735		88,369
Designated funds included in funds <i>(see note 2)</i>		120		120

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Monetary assets		
HSBC current account	2,941	2,340
HSBC deposit account	74,750	85,985
Cash	44	44
	<hr/> 77,735	<hr/> 88,369

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 March 2025
and signed on their behalf by

Ken Crowe
Trustee and Chairman of the meeting

Louisa Tippett
Trustee and Hon Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

General

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis whereby income and expenditure is only recognised as it is received or paid.

2. Designated funds and donations

In 2022 donations were received to assist with postage and publishing costs for members preferring to receive AGM papers rather than digital delivery and costs have reduced this designated reserve.

In 2024 we received the final annual payment of £5,000 of a total grant of £15,000 from the Essex Heritage Trust which has been used to partly fund the work of Dr A Senter for his continued work on Harwich for inclusion in Volume XIII.

3. Donations from individuals

Donations from individuals in 2024 amounted to £13,666 and £8,820 in 2023. Where available the claim for Gift Aid of £1,527 was received with interest for 2023. A claim of £3,359 has been made for 2024.

4. Other income	2024	2023
	£	£
Raffles - AGM and 120 th Celebration event	247	232
Lectures	130	60
120 th Celebration event	1,035	628
Book sale	95	91
Sales of Newport 'Short'	64	48
Sales of Harwich 'Short'	10	96
	1,581	1,155

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

5. VCH 'Shorts'

Newport - The Trustees funded production costs of £1,748 in 2015. During 2021 a further print of 50 books was funded at £328. Total sales up to 31 December 2024 amounted to £2,760 (2023: £2,696).

Harwich - The costs of production were agreed at £1,220 in 2020. During 2024 a further print of 50 books was funded at £156. Total sales up to 31 December 2024 amounted to £2,160 (2023: £2,150).

6. Other expenditure	2024	2023
	£	£
Editors' other services	825	1,750
Insurance	90	90
Subscriptions and books	24	6
Newport 'Short'	156	-
Stationery, printing and postage	-	420
Room rental	301	318
Bank charges	201	79
Publicity material	297	-
	<hr/> 1,894 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,663 <hr/>

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the Victoria County History of Essex Trust

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of the Report

As the Trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Samantha Martin FCCA
Independent Examiner

119 Colchester Road
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Essex CO6 3JX

31 May 2025