WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Reference and administration details

Name: Wandsworth Historical Society

Charity Registration Number: 270098

Principal Address: 5 Burntwood Close, London, SW18 3JU

Trustees:

Dr D Gerhold (Chair)

M C Bell (Secretary)

K D Nichol (Treasurer)

M S Bull

Dr P A Greenwood

Dr C Jenkins

G Kelly

N G Robson

2. Structure, governance and management

Wandsworth Historical Society (WHS) was entered onto the Register of Charities in October 1975.

WHS is an unincorporated organisation and is governed by its Constitution. It is run by a Management Committee, elected by its members, all of whom are volunteers. The Chair is required to retire by rotation every three years.

3. Objectives and activities

WHS' objectives, as set out in its constitution are to:

- Promote and encourage the study of local history, archaeology and related subjects in the London Borough of Wandsworth
- Put on permanent record and, where appropriate, publish the results of such study
- Coordinate local research and to guide those so engaged to sources of information
- Collect and preserve documents, pictures and other relics relating to the Borough and to encourage such preservation by official and other
- Further these objects by means of meetings, exhibitions, excavations, correspondence and visits to places of interest

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objective are:

- Striving to promote a keen interest among the public in history and archaeology through monthly talks (which members of the public may attend as guests, free of charge) and the publication of high quality research via its periodic journal, the Wandsworth Historian
- Encouraging members to undertake historical research and providing support and resources via its website

- Surveying and recording the Thames foreshore from an archaeological perspective, to demonstrate its historical value
- Keeping its annual membership fees affordable

Having reviewed the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit, the Trustees are satisfied that these objectives continue to be appropriate.

4. Achievements for the year

WHS' achievements for the year include:

- Active involvement in and promotion of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival 2025
- A significant contribution towards the organisation and presentation of the West London Local History Conference in April 2025
- Continuing involvement and recognition for its important on-going local Thames Foreshore Survey, now for more than 60 years
- Active involvement in volunteering with the regional Young Archaeologists Club based at Fulham Palace
- Representation on local heritage bodies including Wandsworth Heritage Forum and Wandsworth Council Conservation and Heritage Areas Advisory Committee
- Embarking upon an ambitious programme of projects using a substantial bequest by a former member. To date, these funds have been used for:
  - The purchase of a new microfiche reader for the local history library in Battersea. The library has advised that this new machine is very popular with members of the public conducting research
  - Ongoing development of a new website which will promote WHS' activities and provide valuable resources to both members and the community at large
  - Conservation of a historical tithe map. This work will enable broader access to the map as a research tool and preserve it for the future

5. Financial Review

WHS has had a successful financial year and has adequate reserves. Its resources have been boosted by further tranche of legacy funds received from a former member. As stated above, these funds, which are held for unrestricted purposes, are being used to support a series of projects to further WHS' objectives.

6. Approval

The Trustees declare that they have approved this Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Date

WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026		2025	
	General Fund*	H Sims Bequest*	General Fund*	H Sims Bequest*
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	1,668.00		2,073.00	
Sales of publications	93.50		151.99	
Donations	465.00	60,000.00	465.00	100,000.00
Sale of donated books	0.00		106.86	
Gift Aid repayment	31.76		90.55	
Bank interest received	94.22	2,461.21	158.27	44.38
	2,352.48	62,461.21	3,045.67	100,044.38
Payments				
Meeting expenses	687.87		717.04	
Historian expenses	899.49		1,506.09	
Affiliation fees	25.00		25.00	
Insurance	297.39		288.04	
Website	580.78		116.40	
Administration costs	52.50		76.12	
Donations made (see note 1)	0.00	7,210.00	0.00	0.00
	2,543.03	7,210.00	2,728.69	0.00
Net result for the year	(190.55)	55,251.21	316.98	100,044.38
Cash funds last year end	13,864.84	100,044.38	13,547.86	0.00
Cash funds this year end	£13,674.29	£155,295.59	£13,864.84	£100,044.38

Note *: All funds are unrestricted.

Note 1: Bequest payments to date

Deposit for new website (remainder to pay in year ended 31 March 2027)	2,160.00
Microfiche reader for Reference Library (maintenance contract still to be invoiced)	4,920.00
Wandsworth Tithe Map conservation project: initial costs	130.00
	£ 7,210.00

Registered Charity number
270098

WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

Cash Funds	**General Fund**	**H Sims Bequest**	**Total**
Bank current account	316.62		316.62
Bank deposit account (share of)	13,357.67	23,157.69	36,515.36
Money market deposits (note 2)	0.00	132,137.90	132,137.90
	£13,674.29	**£155,295.59**	**£168,969.88**

Prepayments and Debtors

Prepayment on Friends' Hall	577.50	
Insurance	297.39	
Prepaid website costs	347.00	
	£1,221.89	**£0.00**

Note 2
Current interest rate 2.14%

WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the Trustees of the Wandsworth Historical Society on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 statements

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

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

Jean Davidson, FCCA, MBA.