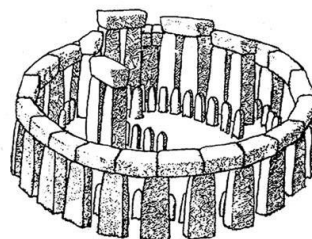


**WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
CHARITY NUMBER 290284**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 290284 CHARITIES ACT 2011

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Wiltshire Family History Society

Charity registration number 290284

 Unit 3
 Bath Road Business Centre
 Devizes
 Wiltshire
 SN10 1XA

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mr Bob Knightley
Mr Michael Langtree
Mr John Mills
Mrs Jenny Pope
Miss Jane Syckelmoore
Rev Graham Warmington
Mr David Weaver
Ms Sue Wight
Mrs Persis Wiltshire

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Society is an unincorporated association, administered in accordance with its Constitution and a member of the national Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS).

There has been no change to the revised Constitution which took effect on 15 September 2018. Like most other Family History Societies the COVID-19 pandemic in the early part of the 2020's has had a long term effect on the activities of the Society. The branches which previously had meetings twice a month reverted to monthly face to face meetings with additional meetings held virtually. The Virtual Branch has flourished and proved a useful addition for out of county and overseas members. The proposal to encourage the formation of regional overseas Virtual branches however did not reach fruition. Some of the branches have noticed considerably reduced attendances, and because of the lack of willing officers Chippenham Branch has ceased to operate as a separate entity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

During the year the Society was involved in promoting the ideals and objectives contained in the Constitution. The objectives are:

1. To promote and encourage the public study of Family History, Genealogy, Heraldry, and Local History with particular reference to Wiltshire.
2. To promote the preservation, security and accessibility of archival material.

In furtherance of the above objectives but not further or otherwise the Society shall have a number of powers including:- To promote and to engage in educational activities including the issue of a regular journal and the publication and sale of other appropriate material.

The trustees believe that our activities of preserving, transcribing and publishing original source material in paper form, CD, as downloads, and online, for the benefit of everyone, are within the accepted interpretations of education. The quarterly journal, available to all members, both in paper form and online, contains many informative as well as interesting articles.

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public benefit

We believe that our attendance at national family history events and in more normal years local shows, together with the publication of our own transcriptions in a variety of formats, which are available to the public, are a realistic interpretation of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. All our branch meetings are open to the public without charge. Similarly the Open Saturdays at the Resource Centre, which returned after the pandemic, are open to the general public. The data transcribed by the Society over many years which has been placed on the Findmypast website is a further indication of public benefit.

Transcribing and Publications

Our small but dedicated group of transcribers continues its work at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre. We have been delighted to welcome – and welcome back – three transcribers to join the “team”. We have continued work on Manor Court records, Jurors Lists and Quarter Session Depositions as well as checking transcriptions of parish registers. During the year we have published the final Salisbury parish registers of baptisms and burials – St Edmunds and St Martins. The latter was dedicated to John Hurley in acknowledgment of his sterling work in undertaking transcription, leading and encouraging other transcribers and in publishing so many titles over the years. Our Chairman made a formal presentation of a print copy to him in March, shortly after publication.

Coach Trips

In 2023 we were not able to attract sufficient researchers to visit London Metropolitan Archives. Previously, people planning to take advantage of other venues – Society of Genealogists and the London Museum – had joined us. Both places were closed for relocation to new premises; so a future visit when they are both opened again may be more successful.

We did however attract a greater number for our trip to the St. Fagans National Museum. Whereas much of our research relies on paper records, the benefit of seeing how our ancestors lived and worked can lead to a greater appreciation of our own families' past.

Resource Centre

The Society's Resource Centre in Devizes is its focal point. It is usually active on one morning a week for administration, printing, and despatch of publications. It is also used regularly by committees, on one Saturday each month for hosting visiting researchers, and on occasion for ad hoc visits. About a half-dozen research queries arrive each month and are answered by a small team using a mixture of Society's Library and computers, working-at-home, and on occasion the County Archives. The Resource Centre's storage space is invaluable for holding the stock of sales publications and CDs etc, the supplies needed for sending them out, and the paraphernalia for open days. The Library's holdings continue to increase, more noticeably in recent years due to the collections of books and research paperwork being given to the Society when family historians, often elderly, no longer pursue the hobby. Each collection requires careful, often lengthy, sifting to ensure that appropriate material is retained or found a suitable home.

Presentation

The Society maintains an outreach presence by attending family history shows, whether arranged by other Societies, by a large corporate player, or by the Family History Federation. On these occasions, which are attended by a range of commercial and voluntary groups from the wider world of family history, visitors can meet our team, see our products, receive advice, and possibly become WFHS members. This year we attended five such shows in person and attended three virtual shows. Virtual shows include the same range of participants as real shows, but everyone – whether exhibitor, or lecturer, or visitor from UK or abroad, appears via the internet. In the summer our Salisbury Branch hosted the first WFHS show since the pandemic; the event was concentrated on South Wiltshire and adjacent counties. It was a success, and in the coming year our Swindon Branch will host a similar day with a North Wiltshire emphasis.

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees acknowledge the debt the Society owes to the small group of volunteers comprising transcribers, Branch Officers, Journal and Website Officers, all committee members, and the Resource Centre volunteers, who contribute a considerable amount of time to the Society. Without their enthusiasm and support the Society would be less successful in looking after the needs of the members and promoting the objectives of the Society to the public at large. The number of active members willing to undertake positions of responsibility has declined even further during the year and resulted in Chippenham branch ceasing to operate as a separate branch.

The other branches have continued more or less as normal although with sometimes reduced attendances, with Devizes branch continuing to meet only once a month. Swindon branch has changed to one face-to-face meeting and one virtual meeting a month. The Virtual Branch has continued to flourish with increased attendances at the meetings although the possibility of overseas regional virtual meetings did not get off the ground.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In general, income remains reasonably steady with the decline in membership numbers slowing in the last year. Expenditure however continues to climb; in particular the cost of branch speakers and hall rentals has increased. The accounts have again resulted in a deficit situation, which is not ideal for a charity but the trustees believe that the overall financial position of the Society is healthy with a considerable surplus of assets over liabilities.

The Society has a reserves policy which ensures that there are sufficient funds to cover a minimum of 12 months expenses. At the present time the reserves considerably exceed that figure.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As mentioned above, the Society is in a reasonably healthy position even with the steady reduction in membership numbers, due in no small measure because of its financial position built up over a number of years. However it is a continuing worry that there is a reluctance of members willing to take on positions of responsibility.

In the future it is likely that the trend will be that the branch face-to-face meetings will diminish to be replaced by more virtual and hybrid meetings. It is anticipated that the parish register transcript of Ludgershall will be published in May 2024 which will just leave Ramsbury and Wilton to be published. This will complete the mammoth transcribing and publishing effort by the Society, of all the Wiltshire baptism and burial parish registers. Everyone who has been involved in the project should be justifiably proud.

Whilst there are no plans to increase the annual membership subscription in order to reduce the expected deficit financial situation, donations from existing members would be gratefully received to help us reduce the deficit. The cost of printing and posting the quarterly journal particularly to overseas members is a cause of concern as it often exceeds the annual subscription. Members are encouraged to access the digital copy from our website rather than having a posted copy.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 23 July 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

David Weaver
Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 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 the 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 matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirement of the Charities Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S.E. Brown FCA, CTA

23 July 2024

2 Chancel Way
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7RR

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

GENERAL UNRESTRICTED FUND

RESOURCES EXPENDED		INCOMING RESOURCES		
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Charitable activities:			Incoming resources from generating funds:	
Resource Centre Costs:			Donations and Legacies	
Rent	8,000	7,529	Subscriptions	17,268
Service Charges including Utilities	2,277	2,360	Gift Aid	2,301
Rates	637	604	General Donations	754
Premises Expenses	627	1,839	Bequests	-
Computer Maintenance and Security	1,243	110	Branch Income	967
Telephone and Broadband	613	739		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	13,397	13,181		
Journal Production	6,254	6,435	Other Trading Activities	
Journal Postage	4,445	4,757	Genfair Sales and Postage	3,406
Journal Editor Costs	3,308	2,992	Other Sales	641
Branch Expenditure	3,760	4,293	Internet Royalties	9,848
Open Days WFHS	700	173	Research	500
Open Days other	218	-	Coach Trips Income	1,090
Donations	40	410	Open Days WFHS	124
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	32,122	32,241		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Raising Funds			Investments	
Publication costs adjusted for stock	1,049	1,473	Interest	5,373
Publication Postage	109	189		
Nimrod Royalties	229	226		
Commission on Sales and Postage	490	565		
Research Costs	81	127		
Coach Trips Expenditure	750	1,420		
Investment Manager's Fees	84	125		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	2,792	4,125		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Governance Costs:				
Independent Examiner's Fees	500	524		
Finance Officer	2,660	2,664		
FFHS Subscription	545	560		
Other Subscriptions	280	840		
Insurance	511	508		
Administration, Postage and Stationery	342	156		
Membership Postage and Admin Costs	270	257		
Advertising	150	150		
Website Hosting and Maintenance Costs	4,547	1,149		
Annual General Meeting Costs	38	71		
Travel	15	20		
PayPal Fees	205	216		
Commission on Subs and Donations	60	44		
Depreciation of fixed assets	191	239		
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	11		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	10,314	7,409		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	45,228	43,775	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	42,272
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
NET MOVEMENT OF FUND	-	-	NET MOVEMENT OF FUND	2,956
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£ 45,228	£ 43,775		£ 45,228	£ 43,775
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WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
Incoming Resources				
Donations and Legacies	21,290	-	21,290	21,822
Other Trading Activities	15,609	-	15,609	16,208
Investments	5,373	-	5,373	652
Total receipts	<u>42,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,272</u>	<u>38,682</u>
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities	32,122	-	32,122	32,241
Raising Funds	2,792	-	2,792	4,125
Governance Costs	10,314	-	10,314	7,409
Total expenditure	<u>45,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,228</u>	<u>43,775</u>
Net expenditure	(2,956)	-	(2,956)	(5,093)
Transfers between funds	996	(996)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	<u>(1,960)</u>	<u>(996)</u>	<u>(2,956)</u>	<u>(5,093)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds				
Net Movement in Funds	(1,960)	(996)	(2,956)	(5,093)
Total Funds brought Forward	159,305	996	160,301	165,394
Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>£ 157,345</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 157,345</u>	<u>£ 160,301</u>

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	NOTE	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS	3	763	954
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		5,155	5,240
Debtors	4	13,165	9,898
Current Bank Accounts		3,426	10,987
Deposit Accounts and Bonds		139,096	139,801
Cash in hand		465	1,021
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>161,307</u>	<u>166,947</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	5	4,725	7,600
		<u>4,725</u>	<u>7,600</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		156,582	159,347
NET ASSETS		<u>£ 157,345</u>	<u>£ 160,301</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:			
Unrestricted Fund		157,345	159,305
Restricted Funds		-	996
Total Charity Funds		<u>£ 157,345</u>	<u>£ 160,301</u>

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity becomes entitled to the resource, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Tax reclaims on donations, gifts and subscriptions

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered is considered to be part of that donation, gift or subscription.

Recognition of outgoing resources

Expenditure is generally recognised when a liability is incurred.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Debtors are stated at the amount expected to be recovered.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is legal or constructive obligation committing the Society to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Depreciation policy

Provision for depreciation of fixed assets held by the Society is made at rates calculated to spread the cost less residual value of each asset evenly over its expected useful life. The rates applied are as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	20%	Reducing balance basis
Office Equipment	25%	Straight-line basis

2. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was received in the year by the trustees.

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont.)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and Fittings	Office Equipment	Total
COST			
At 1 April 2023	36,547	9,401	45,948
At 31 March 2024	<u>36,547</u>	<u>9,401</u>	<u>45,948</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	35,593	9,401	44,994
Charge for the year	191	-	191
At 31 March 2024	<u>35,784</u>	<u>9,401</u>	<u>45,185</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
31 March 2024	£ 763	£ -	£ 763
31 March 2023	<u>£ 954</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 954</u>

4. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2024	2023
Gift Aid	2,301	2,811
Accrued Income	6,779	2,089
Prepayments	2,460	3,373
Other Debtors	1,625	1,625
	<u>£ 13,165</u>	<u>£ 9,898</u>

5. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	2024	2023
Accruals	3,717	5,020
Income Received in Advance	1,008	2,580
	<u>£ 4,725</u>	<u>£ 7,600</u>

6. RESTRICTED FUND

The Special Fund is to assist with the preservation of Wiltshire archives and to enable the purchase of fiche and CD Roms for research carried out by or on behalf of the members. This fund has not been used for several year and is no longer required. The Trustees took the decision to take advantage of provisions of the Charities Act 2022 and transfer the remaining funds to the General Unrestricted Fund.

The balance as at 31 March 2024 was £NIL (2023 £996).

WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont.)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. THE EUNICE BANKS LEGACY FUND INCLUDED IN THE UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The Trustees have taken the decision to close the designated Eunice Bank Fund. The balance as at 31 March 2024 was £NIL (2023 £7,532).