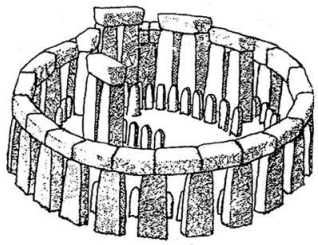
WILTSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
CHARITY NUMBER 290284

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The trustees present their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 - Chairman
Mr Michael Langtree -Vice Chairman
Mr Jerry King
Mrs Sue Lewis
Mr John Mills
Mrs Jenny Pope
Miss Jane Syckelmoore - General Secretary
Ms Sue Wight
Mrs Persis Wiltshire
Mr Mark Woodlands

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Society is an unincorporated association, administered in accordance with its Constitution and is a member of the Family History Federation.
The Constitution was revised at the Society's 2025 AGM and took effect on 20 September 2025.
The number of Trustees remains as 12 but now with 4 elected by the 4 Branches and 8 at the AGM.
The Member's Handbook has also been updated. Both are available to view on our website.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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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**.**

Public benefit
We believe that our attendance at national family history events and 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, 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.

Membership
We welcomed over 100 new members during the last year but more than 200 members did not renew their membership bringing the total number of members to 1220.This continues the trend of the last few years.
Thanks go to our Membership Secretary, Sue Pawlowski, for maintaining our membership database and processing annual payments.

Quarterly Journal.
Our quarterly Journal was published in April, July, October and January.
Our new Editor, Carolyn Harper, and our Articles Editor, Cathy Day, have ensured that our Journals continue to maintain the high standard achieved by our previous Editor Bethanie Afton. Many thanks go to both of them.

Family History Advice
Our team of six volunteers - Paul Cole, Nick Dark, Charles Eldridge, Mike Norman, Ali Palmer, and Jan Pennington - continue to support family history researchers contacting the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (WSHC) through one-to-one advice sessions twice a month and answering email enquiries on family history research sent to WSHC. The latter has proved extremely valuable, providing more in-depth research to enquirers than History Centre staff are normally able to give.

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The laptops and projectors used by our four branches were also replaced.
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 by our Librarian Mike Langtree.

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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.

Our Branches have continued more of 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In general, income remains reasonably steady but the decline in membership numbers does reduce income.
Expenditure however continues to climb due to inflation.
We were extremely fortunate to receive a bequest of over £50,000 from the estate of Terence A Robinson who sadly died in 2023. Terence was born in Swindon but eventually moved to Skegness in Lincolnshire.
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

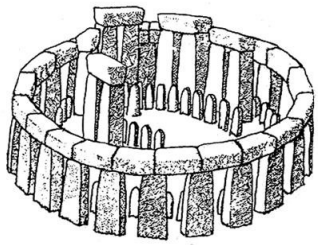
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The trustees' annual report was approved on ???? 2026 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:
Bob Knightley, Chairman

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