



Midland Ancestors



Midland Ancestors is the public face of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 505916

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2023
FOR**

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

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Midland Ancestors is the public face of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st Jan 2023 to 31st Dec 2023

Charity Name	Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry
Charity Reg Number	505916
Objectives and Activities	
Summary of the Purposes of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document	<p>The Society's objectives, as stated in the Constitution, are to promote the advancement of public education in the study of Genealogy and Heraldry.</p> <p>In furtherance of these objects, but not otherwise, the Society has power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote, maintain and encourage the practice and dissemination of information • To promote and maintain research into all aspects of Genealogy and Heraldry • To preserve records, archives and any other material by transcription or otherwise • To publish literature, and • To collaborate with similar organisations and with such bodies as churches, libraries and record offices
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full programme of speakers and events for all groups • The production and distribution of the Society quarterly journal The Midland Ancestor. • The publication of material mainly in the form of digital downloads • The continued work on transcribing and checking of parish registers and other items of genealogical interest for future publication • Photographing, storing and indexing of cemetery registers and associated material • Responding to requests for search of indexes • The sale of publications • The maintaining of a Society web site on the Internet giving access to the Society Online Shop, members' interests, calendar of events and a comprehensive family history presence to the general public • Society <i>satellite</i> groups running their own web-sites providing for specific local interest • Responding to members enquiries • Representation at various family history fairs • Continuing with a programme for the care of reference library books • Maintaining and operating a Family History Centre. • Representing the interests of the Society as a member of the Federation of Family History Societies • Offering educational courses • Supporting the work of the area County Record Offices

Statement	In planning and maintaining activities, the trustees have had regard for the Charity Commission guidance concerning public benefit.	
Additional Information		
Contribution made by Volunteers	The work of the Society is supported by the following unsalaried voluntary appointments:	
	Publication Sales Team, Publications Committee Chairman, Projects and Publications Co-ordinators (vacant) Computer Support Team, Fairs Co-ordinator, Journal Editor, Lending Librarian, Reference Librarians,	Outings Co-ordinator, Record Office Liaison Officers (vacant) Publicity Officer (vacant), Web-site Manager, Gift Aid Officer, Subscriptions Secretary, Social Media Officer, Index Holders
To meet the needs of members living outside the Birmingham area, the Society is supported by a network of groups. In 2023 these were based in Bromsgrove (now closed), Kenilworth, London, Stoke-on-Trent, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton. Groups arrange their own events under the organisation of locally elected officers.		
Achievements & Performance		
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p>The year ended with a membership of 1317 which is lower than expected but is thought to be partly explained by historic weaknesses in data handling. The Trustees are satisfied that this issue is being addressed and will be more robust going forward. A major event was the celebration of the Diamond Anniversary of the Society. The Trustees were delighted to welcome self-financing members to a celebration lunch. The Society was one of the first family history societies to be formed.</p> <p>The Trustees are pleased to report that a full programme of Birmingham Group physical meetings has taken place. Attendances have not returned to pre-COVID levels and railway disruption has unfortunately resulted in frequent changes of date which has not helped. The other regional Society groups have made efforts to restore a programme of events to meet members needs in their local area.</p> <p>The Trustees express their satisfaction and thanks to those concerned who have enabled the Midland Ancestors Family History Centre to be open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays. This facility is also a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which means that in addition to the comprehensive holding of genealogical, heraldic and local history resources, visitors now have access to millions of records held by the Family History Department of the LDS Church. The Trustees would express their thanks to the dedicated and experienced team of librarians who are available to help and advise researchers.</p> <p>The Trustees are grateful for the willingness of those involved to provide a monthly conferencing programme of help and advice. This has provided the opportunity for members and visitors from more</p>	

distant parts of the UK and internationally to have a continuing involvement.

The Trustees are pleased to report that engaging with the various heritage events reported on last year provided ongoing contact opportunities in 2023 with groups and individuals sharing the aims of Midland Ancestors.

The Trustees are grateful to those involved for the continuing monthly members' newsletter which is an invaluable means of communicating current information and encouraging opportunities for member involvement both within the Society and the wider field of family history activity.

A large team of volunteers (60+), led by the Warwickshire Project manager continue to work on the Warwickshire County Record Office project to transcribe Warwickshire Parish Registers and to make indexes and images available for sale through the Society shop. This project is almost complete, with just four of the larger parishes for Warwick and Coventry remaining to be done.

Following on from success of indexing the Societies large collection of very detailed Birmingham maps OS c.1888 made available for sale as downloads in the society shop, the Project Manager has embarked upon a similar project involving our holdings of Staffordshire OS maps.

The Society's online shop is very popular with both members and non-members. The shop is managed daily by a team of three volunteers. A newsletter is emailed approximately monthly to 3400+ shop newsletter subscribers. The Midland Ancestors Shop generated around half of the year's income excluding legacies and donations. This vital source of income relies upon an expanding stock of available items in convenient and flexible format to meet the needs of family historians. There are over 3,600 items in the shop with new items added every week, these include family/local history books, maps, parish registers and monument inscription transcripts, most of our own data is now available as pdf downloads and some of our partners have also converted to pdf downloads rather than producing CDs or books. We also sell a large selection of used books which have been donated to the society for us to resell. We have approximately 15 partners and sell their items in our shop, our biggest partners being Warwickshire County Record Office and Staffordshire Parish Registers Society.

The Warwickshire Parish Register project is around 95% complete and will hopefully complete in 2024. This project has been running for 5+ years and could not have happened without the massive amount of work done by the Project manager and her team of around 60 volunteers. Resulting indexes and images are available for sale through the Society shop. Several other projects are also in progress to digitise and index data. Thanks to the Data Manager and two volunteers who process/test this data prior to adding to the shop for sale.

All our digitised data is also available via an app called "The Library Data Menu", which is available in our Family History Centre in Birmingham and several of our satellite Groups, again, many thanks

	<p>to the Data Manager who developed this app and maintains it with updated data every week.</p> <p>The Trustees were also pleased to learn that The North Staffs group had engaged with the local authority and the Stoke-on-Trent Archives to create a project to record local burial registers.</p> <p>As previously reported, the printing and distribution of the society quarterly journal The Midland Ancestor is the primary benefit to the membership as a whole. The Editor continues to oversee the production of a high-quality publication which remains fresh, varied and relevant. The Editor has been keen to encourage reader participation resulting in a greater confidence among our members to submit contributions for consideration. The trustees recognise with thanks the considerable time and effort involved.</p> <p>The Trustees are able to report that a Memorabilia Archives for Midland Ancestors has been created and is being developed.</p>
Additional Information	
Achievements against objectives set	The Trustees wish to draw attention to the considerable success with regard to running library based family history classes in the Wolverhampton area. This is a clear indicator that there is a demand to be met for the provision of courses such as these.
Other	The Trustees are pleased to be informed that Eventbrite was now being used to promote some major Society events. In particular, the site will be used to promote some upcoming outreach events.
Financial Review	
Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The Trustees have a reserves policy which is reviewed and updated annually to inform decision making. There continues to remain the expected significant increase in the Family History Centre room rent. In addition, reserves will be required to enlarge this facility to incorporate a training/seminar room and library extension, once the Midland Institute has decided, funded and completed work to modernise the building in which the library is situated. There have been during the year, and continue to be, general IT improvements to enhance members' and other users' experience and knowledge in addition to maintaining and improving IT security itself. Our reserves are also held for the purpose of satisfying further potential appropriate grant applications from other likeminded charitable organisations.
Reserves held	£164292.00
Additional Information	
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	<p>Regular income to support the Society aims and objectives has been generated in the main from donations, subscriptions, publications sales, index searches and Gift Aid.</p> <p>It became necessary for an increase in the membership subscription which was accepted at the AGM. This was the first increase since 2005.</p>

Other	The Society's application for National Lottery funding for the Family History Centre Library Digitisation Project was unsuccessful but the project still remains a necessary requirement.		
Structure Governance & Management			
Description of charity's trusts:			
Type of governing document	Constitution		
How is the charity constituted?	Unincorporated Association		
Trustee selection method	Elected by Annual General Meeting attendees for period of three years.		
Additional Information			
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Current charity law and advice is shared with the trustees to inform their activities and decisions. To support the trustees in fulfilling their role the Society joined the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.		
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	The Society is a member of The Family History Federation. This gives access to legal, financial and administrative guidance and expertise together with public liability insurance and the opportunity to engage with other like-minded national and international groups. The Society is a member of the West Midlands Group of Family History Societies.		
Relationship with any related parties	The Society seeks close links with the county record offices and local archive repositories through shared projects and sponsorship.		
Other	<p>The Trustees meet regularly to consider governance issues and review procedures and policies necessary to fulfil their legal obligations.</p> <p>The Trustees have made themselves aware of GDPR requirements and acted accordingly to achieve regulation compliance. They are assured that the new society membership data-base has much improved security features to further protect sensitive member data.</p> <p>The Trustees are able to confirm that this charity did not experience any serious incidents in 2023 that should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commission but were not.</p>		
Names of the Trustees who manage the Charity			
Trustee Name	Office (If Any)	Dates Acted if not for the whole Year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint Trustee (if any)
1	Mr Philip Lamb	Chairman	Members attending AGM
2	Mr Adrian de Redman	Vice-Chair Heraldry	
3	Mrs. Penny Smith	Vice-Chair Genealogy	
4	Ms. Linda Beilby		
5	Mr. David Kerr		
6	Mr Peter Middleton		
7	Mr Michael Sharpe		
8	Mr Gareth Pemberton	18 th July onwards	

There are no Corporate Trustees involved with the Charity
 There is no property (real estate) belonging to the Charity
 There are no funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry
Other name the charity uses	Midland Ancestors
Charity Reg. Number	505916
Charity's principal address	Birmingham and Midland Institute 9 Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BS

Names and Addresses of Advisers

Independent Examiner	Tom Williams, TASK Accounting Ltd., Colwyn Bay, Conway, LL29 7AW
The Charities Senior Staff Members	Mrs. K.S Walker - General Secretary Mr P.G. Morris – Treasurer Mr. S.E. Freeman – Sales Administrator
Declarations	The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above
Signed on Behalf of the Charities Trustees	
Signed	P. J. Lamb
Full Name	Philip John Lamb
Position	Chairman
Date	24/04/2024

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounting and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. 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 are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and the financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of Financial Statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages eleven and twelve.

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 required.

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 the 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 statements 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 requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T Williams
Task Accounting Limited
Commodore House
51 Conway Road
Colwyn Bay
Conwy
LL29 7AW

Date: 24/04/2024

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		47,409	-	47,409	49,043
Activities for generating funds	2	6,493	-	6,493	7,069
Investment income	3	<u>2,791</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,791</u>	<u>802</u>
Total incoming resources		56,694	-	56,694	56,915
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs		9,032	-	9,032	7,520
Charitable activities					
Midland ancestor		14,756	-	14,756	13,724
Grants to other organisations		-	-	-	7,500
Wages		13,279	-	13,279	13,858
Other expenses		37,565	-	37,565	27,305
Governance costs	4	<u>828</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>816</u>
Total resources expended		<u>75,461</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,461</u>	<u>70,724</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(18,767)	-	(18,767)	(13,809)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>183,059</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,059</u>	<u>196,868</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>164,292</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>164,292</u></u>	<u><u>183,059</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	2,877	-	2,877	3,836
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	8	17,147	-	17,147	17,527
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>144,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,269</u>	<u>161,696</u>
		161,415	-	161,415	179,223
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>161,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161,415</u>	<u>179,223</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		164,292	-	164,292	183,059
NET ASSETS		<u>164,292</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,292</u>	<u>183,059</u>
FUNDS					
	9				
Unrestricted funds				164,292	183,059
Restricted funds				<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>164,292</u>	<u>183,059</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24th April 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Philip Lamb

Chairman

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 25% on reducing balance

Office and PC - 25% on reducing balance

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pay to view	6,347	6,813
Sundry income	146	256
	<u>6,493</u>	<u>7,069</u>

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>2,791</u>	<u>802</u>

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accountancy	<u>828</u>	<u>816</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

6. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>13,279</u>	<u>13,858</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Governance	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and Machinery £
COST	
At 31 December 2023	<u>27,134</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2023	23,298
Charge for year	<u>959</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>24,257</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,877</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>3,836</u>

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

8. STOCKS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Library books	11,300	11,300
Stock of publications	5,847	6,227
	<u>17,147</u>	<u>17,527</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01/01/23	Net movement in funds	At 31/12/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	183,059	(18,767)	164,292
Restricted funds			
Heraldry	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>183,059</u>	<u>(18,767)</u>	<u>164,292</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	56,694	(75,461)	(18,767)
Restricted funds			
Heraldry	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>56,694</u>	<u>(75,461)</u>	<u>(18,767)</u>

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations and legacies	3,016	506
Publication sales	21,940	20,047
Meetings' fundraising activities	630	-
Ticket and fair sales income	-	1,605
Subscriptions	21,823	21,263
Worcester branch bequest	-	-
Gift aid	-	5,622
	47,409	49,043
Activities for generating funds		
Pay to view	6,347	6,813
Sundry income	146	256
	6,493	7,069
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	2,791	802
	2,791	802
Total incoming resources	56,694	56,915
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs		
Publication costs (inc. stock movement)	8,799	6,310
Excursion costs	-	-
Fair costs	240	1,210
	9,039	7,520
Charitable activities		
Honoraria	2,000	-
Grants to other organisations	-	7,500
Speakers	1,947	2,196
Subscriptions	974	807
Branch running costs	3,343	3,469
Sundries	191	82
Midland ancestor	14,756	13,724
Publicity and advertising	97	74
Repairs and maintenance	24	-
Room hire	1,164	636
Postage, stationery and printing	1,844	2,721
Rent	6,225	5,243
Depreciation	959	1,279
	33,525	37,730
Governance costs		
Accountancy	828	816

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR
GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Support costs		
Management		
Office salaries	13,279	13,858
Telephone	1,136	2,016
Travel	336	109
Bank processing	120	190
IT support and web hosting	<u>17,197</u>	<u>8,484</u>
	<u>32,069</u>	<u>24,657</u>
Total resources expended	<u>75,461</u>	<u>70,724</u>
Net income / loss	<u><u>(18,767)</u></u>	<u><u>(13,809)</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements