



**DHS ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022-2023**

## **The Council and Officers**

The Devon History Society is a registered charity. The principal officers of the Society for the year 2022-2023 are:

President: Professor Henry French

Chair: Katie Findlay

Vice-Chair: Dr Tim Lomas

Secretary: Dr Tim Lomas

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Martin Smith

Programme Secretary: Marie Leverett

Bookings secretary: Judy Moss

Web-site manager: Martin Smith

Editor, The Devon Historian: Mike Sampson

Editor, DHS Newsletter: Brian Carpenter

Affiliated Societies: Abigail Gray

Other Council members:

Claire Skinner

Debbie Lister

Members of the Council are automatically trustees of the Society.

The Council meets quarterly to conduct the routine business of the Society. Regular reports are received covering finance, membership, publications, events and Affiliated Societies. The chair, secretary and treasurer form an Executive meeting to discuss operational issues between Council meetings. A copy of the Constitution of the Devon History Society is available on request from the secretary.

The term of office for Council members is three years. The current term of membership ends in 2023 for Brian Carpenter, Katie Findlay, Abi Gray and Mike Sampson. All have expressed an interest in serving for another term.

*Tim Lomas*

## Report from Chair:

This year has been one of settling into a 'new normal' after Covid. Thanks in large part to Marie Leverett, a successful programme of events has been organised. Digital now seems to attract more attendees so DHS are working towards a balance of around four digital events, an in-person Society Showcase with an affiliated society, and a face-to-face AGM with a keynote lecturer. In addition, we have cemented joint events with the Exeter and Plymouth branches of the Historical Association and Julia Neville has continued to organise a range of events as part of the Devon in the 1920s project, an initiative that has attracted national attention. Reciprocal arrangements with FODA also continue.

The twice-yearly newsletter has now become completely electronic and has earned a positive reputation for the range of information including news from affiliated societies. These things do not happen by accident and there are many people involved in the publishing side – Brian Carpenter for the newsletter, Abi Gray for links with the affiliated societies and FODA, Debbie Lister for communicating information through social media. Martin Smith also does a splendid job not just managing the website but also acting as DHS treasurer. The Devon Historian continues to appear annually as a respected and prestigious journal under Mike Sampson, its editor. The year saw an award from the British Association for Local History (BALH) for a long article in the journal. We were able to celebrate a wide choice of books through our Book of the Year award, especially our overall winner, *The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters* by Helen Wilson.

On the finance side DHS reports a healthy position. Whilst membership is slightly down this can in large measure be attributed to a cleansing of the database and the failure of some local societies to survive Covid. Hopefully a follow up by the treasurer will retrieve some of the former members. Despite this, the state of local history remains strong in Devon and there are some excellent societies many of whom are affiliated members of the Society. The quality is again demonstrated by one stalwart of a society, the Teign Valley History Group, being awarded a BALH personal award for services to local history.

I can look forward confidently to a healthy future for the DHS. We are keen to continue to offer what members and potential members want from us. We have a dedicated president and board of trustees but have space for more co-optees. I encourage anyone with a love of Devon's history and some time and skills to contribute to join the board. We would be especially pleased to hear from potential trustees from North Devon, West Devon and Torbay.



*Katherine Findlay*

## **Financial Reports**

Our accounting year runs from 1 May to 30 April.

Included are:

- 1. Treasurer's Report including membership**
- 2. Independent Examiner's Report**
- 3. Receipts and Payments Account**

### **Treasurer's Report including membership**

The annual receipts and payments accounts and balance sheet follow this report.

The finances of the Devon History Society continue to remain in a healthy state. Thank you to all our members who have maintained their subscriptions and increased their payment in line with our new standardised rate. Thank you for continuing to support us.

All funds held by the Devon History Society are unrestricted. This means that they are to be used in accordance with the Society's objectives and at the discretion of the trustees. The Society has no reserves policy as such, but all surplus funds are held to further our objectives.

I would also like to thank Mark Hazell of Sovereign Accountancy, Exmouth, for his detailed examination of the accounts. His report follows. Mark Hazell has confirmed that he is prepared to continue in the role of independent examiner for the year 2023–24, if agreed by the members at the AGM.

### **Membership**

Membership of the Devon History Society stood at 229 members, 38 affiliated local group and 13 corporate memberships, a total of 280 members. This represents a decrease of 32 on the previous year as people leave the society.

*Martin Smith*

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Devon History Society

Charity No: 262485

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Devon History Society for the year ended 30 April 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Devon History Society 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 accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

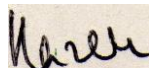
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Devon History Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the forms and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an examination. ■

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.

Signature

Date



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*Mark Hazell*

## Receipts and Payments Account



### The Devon History Society

Registered Charity No. 262485

## Receipts & Payments Account

For the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	2022-23		2021-22	
	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Membership		4,749		5,777
Donations		120		126
Conferences & seminars		267		
Interest		191		7
Gift Aid		1,163		583
Devon 1920s project		821		320
Other receipts				50
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>7,311</b>		<b>6,863</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Devon Historian		3,158		3,082
Newsletter				48
Conference & seminars		185		
Website maintenance		136		50
BALH/Insurance		75		75
Administration		114		77
Devon 1920s project		314	8,895	548
Zoom account		144		144
Annual accounts -examiner		80		240
AGM				191
Other				278
Book prizes		150		
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>4,356</b>	<b>8,895</b>	<b>4,733</b>
Net of receipts/(payments)		2955	(8,895)	2,130
Total funds brought forward		14,284	8,895	12,154

<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>17,239</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,284</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>17,239</u>		<u>14,284</u>



## The Devon History Society

Registered Charity No. 262485

### Balance Sheet

at 30 April 2023

	2022-23		2021-22	
	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
<b>Funds</b>				
<b>Cash at bank</b>				
Current account		2,868		1,267
Reserve account		6,913		5,710
COIF deposit account		7,458		7,307
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>17,239</b>		<b>14,284</b>
<b>Total funds held</b>		<b>17,239</b>		<b>14,284</b>

#### Notes:

1. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
2. No remuneration has been paid to any trustee during the year.

Approved by the Council (electronically) on ..... and signed on their behalf by: Martin Smith

Treasurer



## Programme Secretary's report

This year has been one of returning as much to a normal situation after covid but in part this has resulted in a new normal. A successful programme of events has been organised – digital though now seems to attract more so DHS are working towards a balance of around 4 digital events, an in-person Showcase working with at least one affiliated society and a face-to-face AGM with a keynote lecturer. The Showcase Event was held in Bideford with the Way of the Wharves. The online talks included Indigenous Americans in Devon, the Pinwill Sisters, the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Devon, Learning French in Medieval Devon and the Calf Club Centenary. The AGM for 2023 was also scheduled to include Steve Rippon speaking on Roman and Medieval Exeter. In addition we have cemented joint events with the two branches of the Historical Association – Exeter and Plymouth and Julia Neville has continued to organise a range of events associated with the Devon in the 1920s, an initiative that has attracted national attention. Reciprocal arrangements with FODA also continue

*Marie Leverett*

## Publications

### The Devon Historian

The 2022 issue of *The Devon Historian* was well received, with many pleasing comments about its contents, but wider recognition of the journal was received by the announcement in January that Esther Chant's article 'The cult of St Urith in pre-Reformation Devon', which appeared in *The Devon Historian*, vol. 91 (2021) had been chosen as one of the three runners-up in the British Association for Local History Publications Awards 2023, for the 'long article' category. It is always rewarding when our publication is clearly appreciated by a national organisation. There is always a trickle of requests from outside bodies for information about sources used in *The Devon Historian* articles – one such recent example has been from an archaeologist of the Museum of London asking for information about sources mentioned in an article in our 2005 volume. Work on this year's volume is currently under way, and a pleasing number of contributions have been submitted. There has been such an influx of material that some articles will have to be carried over to the 2025 volume. The contributors comprise not only people of the county of Devon, but from elsewhere in the country, and even one submission from an Associate Professor in a Canadian university. There will be a slight change in the appearance of this year's journal, as we have decided to replace the text font with an example which does not have serifs. This brings us in line with many national organisations; the idea being that the text is much easier to read.

*Mike Sampson*

### The Newsletter

Digital editions of the society's newsletter, *Devon History News*, were published in August 2022 and February 2023. Featured articles included a piece about a 16<sup>th</sup> century wall plaque in Bideford believed to have originated in Spain, a new online map of parish boundaries and the unveiling of the statue of Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Ottery St Mary churchyard.

The newsletter is a valuable forum for articles which are too concise to appear in *The Devon Historian*, book reviews, obituaries, news of local activities and the ongoing progress of the *Devon in the 1920s* project. The newsletter is also a key way of circulating details of both DHS events and those of Affiliated Societies. This is well supplemented by the DHS website, ably managed by Martin Smith, and through social media, for which huge thanks are due to Debbie Lister.

*Brian Carpenter*

## **Research**

### **Devon in the 1920s**

Over the past year project members have continued to research and collect information about Devon in the 1920s. Two collective events for researchers were held in November 2022 and August 2023 to begin the process of distilling the research findings. A joint event with Devon Buildings' Group on Devon's 1920s' Houses was also held in April and a joint event with the South West Maritime History Society is being planned for April 2024. The first phase of the research closed at the end of July 2023 with 46 research essays and over 100 other research notes or compilations being received. 60 family histories have also been received. Research continues for a further period, in particular on the farming and pottery strands of the research. Background work to develop the Festival of Devon in the 1920s project has also begun, engaging potential partners in heritage organizations and preparing an application for funding.

*Julia Neville*

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## **AGM 2022**

The draft minutes of the AGM are attached with notice of the 2023 AGM. Additional copies can be obtained from the secretary.

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