

# Spalding Gentlemen's Society

## 2017 Annual Report and Accounts

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## About the Society

The Spalding Gentlemen's Society was founded in 1710 by Maurice Johnson II (1688-1755). Its current emblem, the water bouget, comes from Johnson's armorial bearings. The early eighteenth century was an exciting time of world exploration, scientific discoveries, and cultural and social change. The foundation of the Royal Society in 1660 had fostered an increasingly active scientific and intellectual culture in England, and those in the provinces played a full and active part in it. As a young lawyer in London, Johnson had participated in coffee house society and become a close friend of members of the Royal Society and of a group of antiquaries with whom Johnson would found the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1717. When he returned to Spalding in 1710, however, Johnson and other gentlemen began to meet every week to discuss cultural, scientific and antiquarian subjects, aided by correspondence with individuals throughout Britain and around the world. This small group formed the nucleus of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, the oldest provincial learned society in Britain.

Today, the Society continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings to discuss a wide range of topics. It owns its hundred-year-old premises in Broad Street, which houses a museum, library and archive of national and international importance.

The Society is a registered charity and is also incorporated as a not-for-profit Company limited by guarantee. Should the Society be wound up, the liability of members is limited to a sum not exceeding £2 per member.

### Objectives of the Society

Under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Society exists to 'promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and study' of the arts, humanities and sciences. The two most important ways in which the Society achieves this objective are: maintaining the museum, library and archive holdings; and an annual series of evening lectures, open to the public, delivered between September and March at Spalding Grammar School.

### Membership of the Society

Membership is open to anyone aged eighteen or over who supports the Society's objectives. The annual membership fee is at present £60, with £10 as a one-time joining fee.

Annual membership fees provide significant revenue to support the Society's work, almost all of which is undertaken by volunteers. Most volunteers are members of the Society. Society members have a crucial role to play in the election of the President and other officers and members of the Council of Management, the body that manages the Society's affairs. Council members are trustees and directors under Charity and Company laws, respectively. Thus it is that Society members have the privilege and the duty to ensure that Council remains true to the Society's objectives.

There are several ways in which members of the Society can benefit personally. There are opportunities to volunteer to assist with the many tasks that must be undertaken to keep the

Society functioning, and volunteers can benefit from numerous opportunities for training provided. There is ready access for members most Monday mornings between 9am and noon, and on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Access at other times may be arranged in advance.

### **Access for Non-members**

Non-members are welcome to visit the Society for individual and group tours, and to undertake personal or scholarly research. Arrangements for such visits must be made in advance by contacting a Curator or Librarian. Individual visitors are normally welcomed if they wish to visit on a Monday morning, when small group visits can be accommodated. At other times, access will depend on the availability of volunteers.

The Society holds Sunday afternoon open days between September and April. Non-members are welcome to visit on these days, details of which are advertised outside the Society's premises in Broad Street.

### **Public Lectures**

Details of upcoming lectures are available on the Society's website and are publicised in the local press. Admission for members and non-members is normally £2.50 at the door. On rare occasions, there may be a higher charge; if so, the relevant details are publicised in advance.

### **Public Benefit**

Details of the public benefit provided by the Society in pursuit of its charitable objectives may be found in the 'Report of members of the Council' contained in the Unaudited Reports and Financial Statements contained in this Annual Report.

## Members of Council and Officers of the Society as of 31 December 2017

### Ex-Officio Members of Council

*Ex-officio members are elected at an AGM and serve a term of three years*

President	M D I Chisholm
Chair of Council and Keeper of Coins and Tokens	T Grimes
Vice-President	B Jarvie
Vice-President and Lanternist	C Baslington
Vice-President and Deputy Curator	I Hoult
Curator	M Hollanders
Treasurer and Hon. Membership Secretary	S Barsley
Secretary	N Casswell
Librarian	D M Frazier Wood
Lecture Secretary	H Fuller

### Representative Members of Council

*Representative members are elected at an Annual General Meeting*

Representative Member	H Violet
Representative Member	E J Sneath
Representative Member	A B Watson
Representative Member	R West

### Appointed Officers

*Officers of the Society are appointed by Council but are not members of Council*

Assistant Curator	P Clay
Deputy Librarian	M Brassington
Curator of Medals	M Hollanders
Philatelist	G Darley
Curator of Archaeology	R.Buck
Assistant Secretary	S Martinelli
Communications Officer	L Eldridge
Caretaker	G Cupper

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

<b>Presiding Officers Present:</b>	<i>T. Grimes* (Senior Vice-President and Chairman of Council), F N Casswell* (Secretary); S.M. Barsley* (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)</i>
<b>Present:</b> <i>All offices are Honorary * Council <sup>α</sup> Members <sup>β</sup> Others</i>	<i>C E Baslington* (Second Vice-President &amp; Lanternist), M C Blake<sup>α</sup>, M Bullock<sup>α</sup>, J A Burgess<sup>α</sup>, M Burgess<sup>α</sup>, P G Clay<sup>α</sup> (Assistant Curator), M Constantine<sup>β</sup>, G C Cooper<sup>α</sup>, P C Dorr<sup>α</sup>, D M Frazier Wood* (Librarian), H Fuller* (Lecture Secretary), N George<sup>α</sup>, M A Grimes<sup>α</sup>, D E Hemmant<sup>α</sup>, R Hemsall<sup>α</sup>, M J Hollanders* (Curator &amp; Curator of Medals), D E Honeybone<sup>α</sup>, M J Honeybone<sup>α</sup>, I Hoult* (Deputy Curator), S A L Hoult<sup>α</sup>, D S Jacobs<sup>α</sup> (Operator/Lanternist), B P Jarvie* (Third Vice-President), R W Lewis<sup>α</sup>, W I Naylor<sup>α</sup>, G A Petch<sup>α</sup>, J F H Smith<sup>α</sup>, E J Sneath* (Representative Member), G R Tresidder<sup>α</sup>, H J I Violet* (Representative Member), A B Watson* (Representative Member), R C West* (Representative Member)</i>
<b>Totals</b>	<i>34, of whom Council: 14; Members: 19 Others: 1</i>

The meeting was opened at 19:30 hours by the Chairman - the Senior Vice-President and Chairman of Council, **T. Grimes** - declaring that a quorum was present and giving a warm welcome to all those attending. He explained that the President was unavoidably absent because he was in hospital for a short stay, but he had sent his good wishes to the meeting.

**The ordinary business of the meeting was as follows:**

1. **Apologies**  
Apologies for absence were received from:  
*J. Bailey-Scott<sup>α</sup>, R. Bailey-Scott<sup>α</sup>, M. D. I. Chisholm\* (President), J. C. Chisholm<sup>α</sup>, The Rt Hon Lord Taylor of Holbeach<sup>β</sup>, Lady Taylor of Holbeach<sup>β</sup>, The Lord Cormack<sup>α</sup>, The Venerable T. R. Barker<sup>α</sup>, C. J. Lewis<sup>α</sup>, E. Gunning<sup>α</sup>, H. Casswell<sup>α</sup>, E. J. Redshaw<sup>α</sup>, M. Byrd<sup>α</sup>, D. Mossman<sup>α</sup>, E. Napier<sup>α</sup>*  
**Totals** *15, of whom Council: 1; Members: 14 Others: 0*
  
2. **Minutes**  
The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held of Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 had been previously circulated with the Annual Report 2016. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **F. N. Casswell** seconded by **R. W. Lewis** that the meeting approve the Minutes of the AGM of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.
  
3. **Matters arising from the previous Minutes**  
The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the previous Minutes.  
a) **G. A. Petch** referred to **(AOB) Minute 10(b)(i) & (ii)** raised by him and asked what action had been taken.  
*NB: Extract from the AGM Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016*  
b) **G.A. Petch**  
i) *The ban on bags in the Museum. He understood that exceptions are perhaps made for ladies' handbags but there was no similar guidance for "man bags". There was some discussion and acknowledgement made that discretion was needed but there was a general need for security with respect to the collections. The matter was referred to Council for further consideration.*  
ii) *The Fire extinguishers standing on the floor. He understood that they should be positioned at a height of 1 metre above the floor to make their use easier. M.J. Hollanders stated that during the last inspection, the Fire Officer had not commented on the Extinguishers. The matter was referred to Council for review.*  
At the invitation of the chairman, **F. N. Casswell** responded:  
Item 10(b)(i) The "ban" was enforced principally during organised visits – the size of bag adjudged inappropriate was left to the discretion of the Curators and Stewards. Members, be they male or female, could be requested to leave oversized bags in security - at the discretion of the Curators. **T. Grimes** added that lockable cabinets were now available in the foyer for bag security.  
Item 10(b)(ii) The matter of "Fire Extinguisher position" had been specifically drawn to the Fire Officer's attention during the last Fire Inspection and the Society had been informed that their current positions were satisfactory for our particular circumstances.  
b) **P. C. Dorr** referred to **(Election of Officers) Minute 7(e)** – the resignation of **N.R. Gant (Security Officer)** and inquired whether he had been replaced. **F. N. Casswell** responded that the previous holder had been a retired policeman and, as no-one on Council held similar experience and expertise, the position of Security Officer had been replaced with a Security Committee empowered to seek expertise when and where necessary. Its members were: **F. N. Casswell, M. D. I. Chisholm, M. J. Hollanders** and **T. Grimes**, the latter being the "Reporting Member" of the Committee to Council.
  
4. **Annual Report**  
The Annual Report for 2016 had been previously circulated and was to be received by the meeting. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments on the report. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **D. M. Frazier Wood** and seconded by **F. N. Casswell** that the meeting receive the 2016 Annual Report. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.
  
5. **Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet**  
The Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2016 had been previously circulated in the Annual Report 2016 and was to be received by the meeting. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments. There were none.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
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**Decision:** It was proposed by the **S. M. Barsley** and seconded by **R. W. Lewis** that the meeting receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2016. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

**6. Amendment to the Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Article 42 (originally 43) of our constitution currently provides for no less than five nor more than nine Representative Members. Council have proposed that the said article 42 be amended to read "shall not be less than three nor more than seven."

**Decision:** It was proposed by **F. N. Casswell** and seconded by **A. B. Watson** that Article 42 (originally 43) be amended to read "shall not be less than three nor more than seven." The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

The full **amended** article reads as follows: "*The Council shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Curator of the Museum, the Librarian, the Lecture Secretary, the Lanternist, the Keeper of Coins and Tokens and the Curator of the Bird Museum together with Members of the Society (hereinafter called "Representative Members") the number of whom unless otherwise determined by a General Meeting shall not be less than three nor more than seven. No person who is not a Member of the Society shall be eligible to hold office as a Member of the Council.*"

**7. Election of Officers**

The Chairman reported to the meeting that the list of nominations for various offices had been listed in the agenda and there had been no further nomination received. He therefore invited the meeting to elect the officers "en bloc"

**Decision:** It was proposed by **R. W. Lewis** and seconded by **S. M. Barsley** that the list of nominated officers appearing below and in the meeting agenda be elected "en bloc". The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

List of officers so elected:

a) **President.** Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the Office of President is held for one year. The current President, **M.D.I. Chisholm**, retires. Council proposes that he be re-elected.

Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the other officers are elected for three years.

b) A **Vice President** serves for three years and is not eligible for re-election at the meeting at which he or she retires. The **Senior Vice-President, T. Grimes**, retires and is therefore not eligible for re-election. **I. Hoult**, has confirmed his willingness to stand. Council proposes that he be elected.

c) **The Keeper of Coins and Tokens, M.S. Snowdon** has decided to stand down. **T. Grimes** has confirmed his willingness to stand. It was proposed that he be elected.

d) **Representative members of Council.** The Articles of Association provide that one third must retire each year, currently applying to two members. The articles also provide that vacancies **may** be filled, not that they **must** be filled. The prescribed number of Representative Members is a minimum of three and a maximum of seven. Any members co-opted during the year also retire and are eligible for election.

The current Representative Members number nine of whom **E. J. Sneath** and **A. B. Watson** will continue to serve. **R. C. West** must retire. **D. Mossman** has resigned. The election of **I. Hoult** above has removed him from the office of Representative Member. Council proposes **R. C. West** be re-elected. He has indicated his willingness to continue to serve.

e) **Co-opted member H. Violet** must retire. Council proposes that she be elected. She has indicated her willingness to serve.

**Notes:** *These changes maintain **four** Representative Members of a possible seven: **E. J. Sneath, A.B. Watson, R. C. West, and H. J. I. Violet**. Council had decided that no further nominations would be made and that the remaining vacancies stay unfilled for the present, with the intention that Council may exercise the power to co-opt one or two individuals who would, prospectively, be proposed for election next year. Council would be looking for individuals with relevant skills, knowledge, or experience.*

*[The following paragraph was included in the AGM papers.]*

*Any member qualified to be present and vote at the meeting may nominate any qualified member for any of the Society's offices. Such nominations have to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary to be received not later than the 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting [Friday 14 April 2017] together with a written consent to act from the person so nominated. Such nominations shall be offered for proposal at the meeting.*

*[A copy of the nomination form was sent to every member.]*

*Council asks that anyone nominated should supply a written statement about themselves, so that copies may be provided to those attending the AGM.*

*[A full list of Officers and Council members as of the end of this AGM appears under **Addendum 1**.]*

**8. Re-Appointment of Accountants**

The meeting was recommended to re-appoint Messrs. Duncan & Toplis as reporting accountants and authorise the Council to determine their remuneration. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

**Decision:** It was proposed by **S. M. Barsley** and seconded by **H. J. I. Violet** that Messrs. Duncan & Toplis, the Society's reporting accountants, are re-appointed and that Council be authorised to determine their remuneration. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

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**9. Date of AGM 2018** The meeting was invited to consider and confirm the date for the next Annual General Meeting. The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that the equivalent date for next year would be Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**Decision:** It was proposed by **F. N. Casswell** and seconded by **R. W. Lewis** that the next Annual General Meeting should be held in the Society's Lecture Theatre at 19:30 hours on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

**10. AOB** The Chairman asked if there was any other business. There were no matters raised.

Finally, it was proposed by **T. Grimes** and seconded by **C. E. Baslington** that a message of "Best Wishes for a speedy recovery" be sent to the President **Michael Chisholm**. This was **carried** unanimously with hearty acclaim.

**11. Meeting Closure** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19:45 hours. Minutes recorded by B.P. Jarvie

**12. Guest Speaker** The Speaker was Michael Constantine of the Newark Civil War Museum.

**Addendum** **Table of Council and other Officers of the Society after the AGM 2017.**  
*Offices shown in italic do not confer membership of Council upon the holder.*

	<b>Office(s) held</b> <i>All Honorary positions</i>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b> "Elected" = Council member "M" = Minute reference	<b>Year / Date Elected</b>
1	The President	M. D. I. Chisholm	Elected Annually	2017
2	Senior Vice President <i>Lanternist Emeritus</i>	C. E. Baslington	Elected triennially <i>Appointed by Council M 6(c)(v)</i>	2015 20170217
3	Second Vice-President	B.P. Jarvie	Elected triennially	2016
4	Third Vice President <i>Deputy Curator</i>	I. Hoult	Elected triennially <i>Appointed by Council M 10</i>	2017 20141121
5	Secretary	F. N. Casswell	Elected triennially	2016
6	Treasurer Membership Secretary	S. M. Barsley	Elected triennially Elected triennially	2016 2015
7	Curator <i>Curator of Medals</i>	M. J. Hollanders	Elected triennially <i>Appointed by Council M 7(a)</i>	2016 20131206
8	Librarian	D. M. Frazier Wood	Elected triennially	2015
9	Lecture Secretary	H. Fuller	Elected triennially	2015
10	Curator of Coins and Tokens	T. Grimes	Elected triennially	2017
11	<i>Curator of Natural History [formerly Bird Museum]</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Elected triennially</i>	
1	Representative Member	A. B. Watson	One-third retire annually	2015
2	Representative Member	E. J. Sneath	One-third retire annually	2016
3	Representative Member	R. C. West	One-third retire annually	2017
4	Representative Member	H. Violett	One-third retire annually	2017
	<i>Deputy Librarian</i>	<i>M. Brassington</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>N/K</i>
	<i>Curator of Archaeological Artefacts</i>	<i>R. H. Buck</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 15(c)</i>	<i>20150313</i>
	<i>Assistant Curator</i>	<i>M Cartwright</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 7(a)</i>	<i>20160708</i>
	<i>Assistant Curator</i>	<i>P. G. Clay</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 7(a)</i>	<i>20151120</i>
	<i>Caretaker</i>	<i>G. Cupper</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>N/K</i>
	<i>Curator of Philately</i>	<i>R. G. Darley</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 7(b)</i>	<i>20131206</i>
	<i>Communications Officer</i>	<i>L.A. Eldridge</i>	<i>Co-opted by Council by</i>	<i>20151200</i>
	<i>Operator (Lanternist)</i>	<i>D. S. Jacobs</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 6(c)(v)</i>	<i>20170217</i>
	<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	<i>S. Martinelli</i>	<i>Appointed by Council M 5</i>	<i>20130708</i>

## President's Letter

Tim Knox, then Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, gathered a dozen people with varied museum experience with Council members in October for a brainstorming event about the Society's future. As with many others, they loved the quirky building and displays. Nichola Johnson of the University of East Anglia facilitated the brainstorming session and prepared a summary. The first bullet point reads: 'Cherish the SGS's amazing history and atmosphere: don't destroy it by trying to make it into a modern museum'. The sixth bullet point says: 'Re-display everything, starting with an introductory historic display'. Among the detailed comments that follow is included the following statement: 'Consider whether the Society's purposes require it to be on this site/in this building at all'. The dilemma facing the Society is laid bare.

Much happened in 2017, laying the groundwork for important decisions to be taken. At the end of 2017, Council received the final report from the consultancy firm Focus who, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), had been asked to review options for the Society's future under the HLF Resilient Heritage programme. Also to hand was the final offer from our insurers, Royal Sun Alliance, regarding the subsidence claim that has been ongoing for several years. Another development late in the year was the planning application submitted to re-develop the Business Centre next door as housing. It will take time for Council to digest all of this.

Whatever is decided for the future, substantial capital expenditure will be needed. According to the indicative figures provided by Focus, to stay in the existing building, repair the fabric and retain all our holdings would currently cost about £2.4 million (VAT included); with off-site storage in addition, the cost would be about £3.1 million. Focus concluded that neither solution should be pursued, partly because the result would be a building not as fit for purpose as a newer property would be. To enable us to provide proper storage and to engage in activities such as conservation or digitisation (work which some members would enjoy and which would be cheaper than contracting out) on one site, some other solution has to be found to live up to our Vision Statement.

The Focus report identifies two possibilities that they commend for further immediate investigation. Their first preference is for the Society to move from the existing premises to a new location providing fit for purpose accommodation and space for storage, at a cost in the order of £5.5 million. Their second preference is to stay on the present site, demolish the post-1910 rear extensions and rebuild, incorporating some land from the Business Centre to permit sufficient space for the Society. With a new building, a flexible union with the 1910 building could be included to allow for differential movement. This would cost about £4.0 million, excluding land acquisition.

Although these are the two courses of action preferred by Focus, Council will consider whether there are other options that should be appraised. Council will almost certainly feel that further and more detailed professional assessment of selected options will be required. Whatever the final conclusion, substantial capital spending will be needed, well in excess of the funds that will be available when the insurance claim is finally settled.

The Focus report recognises that many members and visitors appreciate the present building and the quirky atmosphere, but the difficult issue is deciding the weight to be placed on this in deciding what to do. The report does not address the consequence of the Grade II listing

of the Society's premises, namely that every effort must be made to safeguard the building. The irony is that by general consent the heritage significance of the holdings is considerably greater than that of the building. But the Society is more than just a building and its contents – it is a membership Society. It is a living corporate body, something that must be nurtured in any solution proposed – a place to meet, to learn and interact, to assist the Society and also to pursue private interests and research. We need to preserve and enhance the buzz that there is in the Society and the growing interest in what we can do within the local community, both among members and the public at large.

External financial help is going to be necessary come what may. Such help will only be forthcoming if we are able to provide clear evidence of the need in a manner attractive to donors – both grant giving bodies and private individuals – and justification that amounts in one way or another to increased public benefit in the form of better access to the Society's collections, either in person or online, for the public and researchers. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available from grant-giving bodies such as the HLF but responsible custodianship means that we must try.

Potential donors will want to know whether recurrent income will be sufficient once capital works have been completed. In recent years, the Society has had a modest surplus of income over expenditure, but this is because we have been spending too little on too many things, such as repair and maintenance of the building and the conservation of our holdings, to mention just two headings. Ahead of the preparation of a full Business Plan, there can be no doubt that, over a period of time and allowing for inflation, annual expenditure must rise significantly. Initial steps have been and are being taken to increase revenue from guided tours, merchandising and fees for reproduction rights, for example, but each is limited in scope. Although membership numbers are edging up, it would be imprudent to expect a sharp increase until or unless the public at large recognises the Society as becoming more accessible. However helpful an increase in membership would be, we cannot regard this source of income as the magic solution. Consequently, the prospect is that an appeal will have to be launched, maybe in part for capital funding and certainly to increase the endowment income.

A hopeful fact is that the HLF now recognises that in at least some cases capital grants must be accompanied by steps to raise endowment income. This is done by HLF pledging to match funds raised by the organization £1 for £1, in some cases to a maximum of £0.5 million, creating an endowment fund of £1 million.

There is much to be done in 2018 and the years that follow. Council will consider what option or options to pursue, and key stakeholders will have to be consulted and hopefully persuaded to be supportive. And, of course, there will be further consultation with members, building on the four discussion evenings held in the autumn. Ultimately a reasoned proposal will come either to an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for decision.

Necessity and opportunity conspire for change. How radical such change will be I cannot predict. However, my hope and expectation is that a century hence our successors will regard the second decade of the twenty-first century as a re-founding of the Society of which they will be proud, as we today are proud of Maurice Johnson and his friends in the eighteenth century and those who rescued the Society in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth.

**Michael Chisholm**

## Secretary's Report

Once again I am indebted to colleagues for their support over the last year. Lesley Eldridge has done a wonderful job of keeping members informed via the newsletter and lecture reminders. Harrison Fuller has spent long hours updating the website and Facebook. We continue to work to improve e-communications. We are grateful for Phil Callow's advice in this respect, and on our IT systems in general. The President has alluded in his letter to our ongoing insurance claim, regarding which the advice of Richard Lewis has been invaluable.

In the spring we commissioned Focus Consultants to carry out a study of future options for the Society, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We thank those of you who participated in the associated survey. There were three surveys in fact: one of members, one of visitors, and one of 'non-users' (people with little or no previous engagement with the Society). There were some instructive similarities and contrasts across the surveys. 60% of members believed we were achieving our mission, the same figure as our visitors. The age profile of our members and visitors was also much the same. It would seem that many of our members do not visit the museum even once a year and that the main reason for membership is support for local heritage. Since our last survey of members the percentage of women members has increased from low single figures to 23%.

Across all three surveys the message came loud and clear that we should publicise ourselves better and in particular publish regular opening hours so that members and new and returning visitors can properly plan their visits. The need for better publicity was confirmed in the non-user survey, which showed 43% of a predominantly local sample group had never heard of us. 26% who had heard of us had little awareness of what we are and what it is we do. A further 18% who did know about us had no idea of when we were open! 80% of the non-users sampled were from South Holland and were regular 'museum goers'. There is clearly a potential audience for our museum and our current arrangements do not provide for them.

Surveys also showed that 70% of members would support total relocation of the collections if necessary. Our visitors enjoyed the character of the building and their general experience but were more divided about how the exhibits were displayed. They were highly appreciative of the interaction with guiding stewards: volunteers, please take a bow.

The conclusion of the Focus report stressed the importance of our membership in sustaining the Society both financially and through volunteering contributions of time. The report suggests that availability of staff is the main constraint on public opening hours and therefore visitor numbers. In order to provide for a vastly increased public footfall spread over several days of the week we would require professional paid staff. Up and down the country heritage sites are finding staff costs unsustainable and posts are being shed. Focus concluded that raising income from increased visitor numbers could be achieved but this increase would be wiped out by increased wage and administration costs.

Given this picture there is a temptation to try and consolidate the resources of the Society on our existing members and visitor profile. This would be at odds with the aims of the Society and lead to a very narrow outlook that has not served us well in the management of our building or in the care of our collections. 'Business as usual' will not generate the financial resources required to preserve the assets of the Society.

The recommended options from Focus pick out complete relocation and refurbishment-and-expansion of our current premises as the two best ways forward. Both these options would cost in excess of £3m. The member survey showed reluctance to join forces with partner organisations. It is indeed difficult to see how a membership organisation could formally ally with another trust or public organisation. Nonetheless at some level a sharing of professional staff to assist with administering our heritage assets and a use of shared exhibition space to show some of our collections would confer significant benefits.

Without professional input it becomes increasingly difficult to administer the expanding legal and regulatory responsibilities of a growing organisation. As we review our governance it is apparent that trustees will need to develop specific skills to cope with statutory requirements. Any significant building project will require us to access expertise in planning, construction and project management that we currently lack at trustee level. At the end of 2017 we learnt of the application to demolish the property next door and redevelop the site. This opens up significant challenges and perhaps an opportunity for which we must prepare.

**Nick Casswell**

## Women and the Spalding Gentlemen's Society: 300 Years

2017 marked the tenth anniversary of the admission of women members to the SGS. At first glance, therefore, this account would seem to require only a couple of paragraphs documenting their acceptance, their current role as officers and active members, and their involvement in the Society's recent and present activities. A careful study of the SGS's history, however, indicates the presence of women in the background over the centuries; indeed, by the end of this journey through the Society's past, it may be thought that the first sentence should be rephrased to read 'the admission of women members to the Society *in its present form*'.

From its earliest days at the beginning of the eighteenth century, the participation of women has been in the minds of the Society's founders. One of its first activities, in addition to reading and discussing national papers like the *Tatler*, was the establishment of a system for purchasing books, then very expensive items, and lending them to each other. In a letter concerning the collection of subscriptions from members written to Maurice Johnson in 1713, the Revd Francis Curtis, headmaster of Moulton Grammar School, wrote that 'I would have due regard had to the Ladys that are lovers of learning'.<sup>1</sup> Some women may even have contributed to the cost of the earliest books bought for the Society's library.

A woman was listed by Maurice Johnson as among the honoured benefactors of the Society. She was Mary Deacon, born in Spalding though married to William Deacon of Peterborough, former High Sheriff and founder of Deacon's School there. In 1730 she made the SGS a 'noble present' of a six-volume folio Polyglot Bible, in which the text of the Bible appears side by side in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and several other Middle Eastern languages.<sup>2</sup> It is still in the Society's library.

Around the same time, Johnson confided in a letter to his friend and fellow-member William Stukeley on 8 January 1733 a plan to have women members of the Society. Both of them had already been members of the London-based Society of Roman Knights, dedicated to the preservation of Roman antiquities in Britain, which had women among its members, including Stukeley's first wife Frances. Johnson wrote that he was 'so much of my Countryman St Gilbert of Sempringhams Mind, that I would have a Mixture of Female Members, Women sweetening and softening our Rugged Sex'.<sup>3</sup>

Like others of Johnson's ambitious plans, this was not successful. It is tempting, however, to imagine what would have resulted if all his schemes had come into operation: a purpose-built eighteenth-century library, museum and meeting-room, working in collaboration with the grammar school, a mixture of men and women members from the earliest days, and a network of learned societies across Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, all corresponding with each other about their discoveries: truly a far-sighted vision.

There is evidence of an actual presence of women in the eighteenth-century Society's activities. At the annual anniversary concerts, one of the performers was Mrs Heighington of Yarmouth, who joined her husband Musgrave Heighington, the SGS's official composer, in performing songs that set to music verses by Johnson, as well as other musical items. The SGS's minutes record that women were present in the audience at these concerts; Johnson's letter of January 1733 tells Stukeley that they 'had the honour to Entertain the Ladies who love Musick with It & Tea & Coffee & a Glass of Wine as celebrating the Anniversary of our Institution'.<sup>4</sup>

Johnson's eldest daughter, Jane, married to the SGS's assistant secretary John Green, contributed a letter, read at a meeting, which described and criticised paintings she had seen on a visit to County Durham. His youngest daughter, the talented Anne Alethea, provided some of the illustrations for the Minute Books. Behind it all was Johnson's wife, the remarkable Elizabeth Johnson, née Ambler. A recent article by Valerie Rumbold points out that the background work undertaken by Elizabeth Johnson was 'a fundamental support' to the SGS, especially during Maurice's absences in London on legal business: 'the archive suggests that she read many of the reports that flowed in. She controlled access to Johnson's collections in his absence, and when he wrote home he included his communications for SGS in his letters to her'.<sup>5</sup> Undertaking all this, in addition to producing twenty-six children and rearing many of them to at least young adulthood, suggests that Elizabeth was an unusually talented woman.

In the early nineteenth century, immediately following the Napoleonic Wars, the society of England as a whole was open and accepting towards new ideas. In 1814, the SGS drew up new regulations for its organisation and conduct. These are recorded in the Treasurer's Account books, as the keeping of weekly minutes had lapsed. They included the statement that 'Ladies may be admitted Members of this Society but they shall not have any Vote in the Management or Business of the Society'. So at least for a time, and on limited terms, the SGS gave women the opportunity to participate in its activities. These consisted at this period largely of borrowing books and operating a reading-room for the latest papers and journals in Cox's Room overlooking the river. There is little evidence of women's participation, however (and little evidence of the Society's activities at all during this period). The Society moved back towards its original all-male membership as the nineteenth century continued. It was a time of mixed fortunes for the position of women in society in general: it witnessed pioneers like Florence Nightingale and the beginnings of university education for women, satirised by SGS member Lord Tennyson in *The Princess*, but also pressure for women to remain the 'angel in the house' and reactions against the Suffragist and Suffragette movements. Spalding town saw the presence of some determined women such as the two Johnson sisters, who contributed to the building of new churches in the town and funded the Johnson Hospital.

The end of the nineteenth and the opening of the twentieth century saw great events in the SGS, with its revival under Marten Perry and the reintroduction of an active lecture programme. Women were admitted as guests, and in 1909, at a lecture about the French Napoleonic prisoners of war held at Norman Cross, south of Peterborough, the minutes recorded that 'females were largely in excess, they having been specially invited'.<sup>6</sup> They were not to have a more significant role, however. As Susan Martinelli points out, only one woman appears in the photograph taken at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Society building on 9 July 1910, the wife of W. S. Royce who had come to see him lay one of the stones. Martinelli records that a splendid lunch was served to members at the opening ceremony on 25 October 1911, during which Mr Nussey of the Building Committee thanked the ladies for 'furnishing that room and decorating the tables' – it was their only role and they were not present.<sup>7</sup>

After the Second World War, the Society again revived after the necessary diminution in its activities during wartime conditions. Women had taken an active part, both in the Services and in social roles such as ambulance drivers and land-girls during the War, and this was one of the moving forces behind an attempt in 1946 to have them formally admitted as members of the Society. However, the President, Ashley K. Maples, who had a leading role in the SGS in the

mid-twentieth century, proposed that 'In view of the large influx of male members, the question of the admission of ladies does not arise'. The proposal was carried unanimously.<sup>8</sup> In 1955, new Articles of Association were drawn up for the Society. Article 4 stated clearly: 'No female shall be eligible for admission as a Member of the Society'.

Again, however, women were working for the Society behind the scenes. In the 1930s it became clear that an up-to-date catalogue of the Society's growing library would be needed. As the Librarian was also occupied as headmaster of the grammar school, a professional cataloguer, Ivy Barrett of London, worked from 1930 to 1933 in creating the Library card index that is still in use today. The 1970s saw moves toward the involvement of women in the SGS's activities. In 1971, an Honorary Fellowship was created to honour the achievements of several women who had done significant work on the history of Lincolnshire, drawing on the archives kept at the Society. Some of them are well-known names and have published important books and publications. They were Sylvia Hallam (the wife and assistant of Herbert Hallam, an active member of the Society and himself a distinguished historian), Betty Kemp, Kathleen Major, Dorothy Owen and the archivist Joan Varley. While this was an honour, it did not convey membership of the Society, unlike the Fellowships of organisations like the Royal Society. In 1981 Dorothy Owen published a volume in the Lincoln Record Society's series, giving an account of the Society's history and providing photographs of the minutes for 1733.<sup>10</sup> Kathleen Major, then the President and Chair of the Lincoln Record Society, was a guest of honour at the SGS's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in 1985.

Women were also working as assistants to the Society on a regular basis. From the 1970s onwards, they had been helping in the Society's library, some as trained librarians. Marion Brassington deserves particular recognition for her years of service to the Society in this respect. Women were also allowed to attend the regular lectures as guests of members. There were increasing numbers of female lecturers and speakers as part of this annual programme, and women could use the Society's archives for study and research.

By the twenty-first century, we enter territory familiar to many members. The Charity Commission was bringing increasing pressure to bear on organisations with charitable status to work for greater openness, both in terms of membership and engagement with the public. Following considerable discussion, the Society decided on 1 December 2006 to admit women as full members. An addendum to the original text of the Articles of Association records this decision as follows:

An extraordinary general meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 to consider a special resolution in respect of the Society's Articles of Association:

That with effect from the passing of this Resolution that the Articles of Association be altered by deleting Clause 4 and that Articles 5 to 75 inclusive be renumbered 4 to 74 inclusive.

The resolution was duly passed.

This was recorded in the annual report of the Hon. Secretary, Clive Smith:

Female Members: Following the deletion of Article 4 of the Society's Articles of Association, this year has seen the admission of female

members for the first time in the Society's 297 years of existence. The Charity Commission was duly informed.

So, in this rather understated way, women came into the Society. They have already made their mark as members and officers, contributing to the range of activities. The first female officer, Susan Martinelli, Secretary in 2009, was soon followed by others, and now their presence is a normal feature of the Society's life and work. Perhaps this brief account will meet the approval of two significant Lincolnshire historical figures looking on from the past: the founder, Maurice Johnson, and behind him that other great supporter of women's participation, St Gilbert of Sempringham?

**Diana Honeybone**

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- 1 Honeybone, D. and Honeybone, M., *The Correspondence of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society 1710-1761* (Lincoln, 2010), 6.
  - 2 SGS Minute Book 2, fol. 28v, 21 May 1733.
  - 3 Honeybone, D. and Honeybone, M., *The Correspondence of William Stukeley and Maurice Johnson 1714-1754* (Lincoln, 2014), 75.
  - 4 Ibid.
  - 5 Rumbold, Valerie, 'Reading *The Tatler* in 1710: Polite Print and the Spalding Gentlemen's Society', *Eighteenth-Century Life* 40:3 (2016), 1-35.
  - 6 SGS Minute Book 8, 16 November 1909.
  - 7 Martinelli, Susan J., *The Museum Building of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society 1911-2011* (Spalding, 2011), 48.
  - 8 SGS Minute Book 9, 8 March 1946.
  - 9 Owen, D. M., ed, *The Minute-Books of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society 1712-1755* (Lincoln, 1981).

## Curators' Report

The following people and organisations visited the Society during 2017:

Grantham U3A	Spalding U3A
Rotary Club of the Deepings	SHDC Councilors
Red Hat Society Holbeach	Wyberton WI
Holbeach Rainbow Club	Hallaton Fields Working Group
Ayscoughfee Hall School	Lindsey U3A Welton
St Johns School	St Paul's School
Spalding & District Radio Society	Frampton WI
Hoylake Historical Society	Bicker School
Boston U3A	Horncastle U3A
Witham U3A Lincoln	Hallerton History Group
Stamford Civic Society	

Our attendance figure for visitors is up on last year, with approximately 994 people visiting the society. The public Open Days have proved successful. This was evident on December 28<sup>th</sup>, when fifty-seven people came through the door. Hopefully we will be able to make the museum even more accessible to the public.

Unfortunately due to exploratory holes dug in the lower Maples Gallery in February, we had to close off the gallery to visitors for safety reasons for several months. Two of the cabinets had to be emptied and moved. This meant moving the artefacts into other cabinets and sheeting up everything else to prevent the ingress of dust. When it was decided that further work was not to be carried out, we returned the cabinets and artefacts back and reopened the gallery.

In April we changed the display at Ayscoughfee Hall, with the new theme being 'A Gentleman's Cabinet of Curiosities'. This was made up of artefacts that are not normally on display or ones that people don't always notice.

Due to its deteriorating condition we decided to have the Irby Banner moved into the strong room with the Irby Helm. This was done by two conservators from Burghley House in May. In September Eileen Royce made a new cover for the harp as the old one was deteriorating and looking shabby. Various artefacts are undergoing cleaning and conservation by Mary Evans. Mary recently graduated from Lincoln University, where she studied conservation for three years. During the year volunteers continued to attend courses run by MDEM and EMMS. These are very worthwhile and useful and add to our knowledge to help run the museum.

On-going work is being carried out conserving, photographing, cataloguing, and labelling our collection. We would like to thank all our valued volunteers for giving their time and support in carrying out these duties and stewarding the visitors.

**Marilyn Hollanders**  
**Ian Hoult**

## Museum Acquisitions and Loans

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Donor</b>
12 January	Corset made for Bertha Knipe (1908-82)	E Royce
12 January	Wooden butter marking wheel	F Hodson
13 February	Archaeological finds and papers relating to Pinchbeck dig held 2008-2009	J Lyon
20 February	20 photographs of Spalding c1990	E Royce
20 February	Tyd Pottery jug, c1982	A Fordham
6 March	6 Russian currency stamps	A Fordham
4 April	Fossil clam shell (LOAN)	B Flatters
10 April	Silver plated cup for Spalding Scooter Club	G Buck
29 June	Engraving of John Wesley, James Hamilton and Joseph Cole in original frame	N Duce
27 July	German $\frac{3}{4}$ suit of cuirassiers armour and helmet, c1570 (LOAN)	M Hollanders
7 September	English dish hilt rapier, c1640 (LOAN)	M Hollanders
7 September	English Civil War era 'mortuary' sword, c1640	M Hollanders
7 September	CD of West Elloe Deanery	C Baslington
28 September	English Civil War era 'mortuary' sword with stylised heads of Charles I, c1640	M Hollanders
29 September	Brass eight-sided seal	C Cox
6 November	German swept hilt rapier, c1600 (LOAN)	M Hollanders
6 November	English Civil War era dish hilt broadsword with traces of original gilding, mid 17 <sup>th</sup> century (LOAN)	M Hollanders
6 November	English Civil War era armour consisting of breast and back plate, gorget and helmet, mid 17 <sup>th</sup> century (LOAN)	M Hollanders

## Librarians' Report

Throughout 2017 we continued to carry out cataloguing, conservation and digitisation to make the materials in the library and archive more accessible to members and the wider public according to the priorities outlined in last year's Annual Report. The digital catalogue of the library continues to grow, and currently contains 5220 entries. A digital archive catalogue was designed with the assistance of volunteer Nikki Cox, and new materials are now being added on a weekly basis. It is hoped that anyone wishing to carry out research on the Society's collection of manuscripts and maps will be able to locate that information via the website by the end of 2018.

Alongside cataloguing, conservation remains a primary focus for library and archive volunteers. In May we welcomed to the Society Caroline Bendix, book conservation advisor to the British Library, National Trust and English Heritage. Caroline led the first in an ongoing series of conservation skills training sessions, during which eight volunteers learned how to assess, clean and stabilise damaged books, and how to repair loose leather and cloth covers and spines.

We have launched a digitisation initiative to make the most rare and fragile items in the collection available to the increasing number of researchers who use the Society each year. In June we received digital images of the first six Minute Books from TownsWeb Archiving, funded by a grant from Lincoln Record Society that will lead to a digital scholarly edition of the first Minute Book. Additional items digitised this year include letters, notebooks, maps and drawings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

None of the cataloguing and conservation work would be possible without the dedication of a team of volunteer members and, increasingly, volunteer non-members. Bringing the library and archive into the twenty-first century requires more than labour, however, and to support the high cost of conserving the Society's collections for the future we have launched the Adopt-A-Book and Conservation Circle initiatives. Full details are included in the leaflet with this Annual Report. We hope you will consider supporting this vital work.

**Dustin M. Frazier Wood**  
**Marion Brassington**

### Library Acquisitions

- 'An Act for Raising the Militia . . . And for Repealing . . . An Act Against Shooting in Hail-Shot' (London, 1695)  
Birch, Thomas, *The Life of the Most Reverend Dr. John Tillotson*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (London, 1753)  
Bishop of Sarum, *A Sermon Preached at the Funeral of the Most Reverend Father in God, John Tillotson* (London, 1709)  
Carpenter, Edward, *Thomas Tenison Archbishop of Canterbury: His Life & Times* (London, 1948)  
Carpenter, Edward, *The Protestant Bishop: Being the Life of Henry Compton, 1632-1713: Bishop of London* (London, 1956)  
Childs, John, *The Army of Charles II* (London, 1976)  
Clark, W. K. L., *A History of the SPCK* (London, 1959)

- Colledge, J. J., *Ships of the Royal Navy: An Historical Index*, 2 vols (Newton Abbot, 1970)
- The Complete Peerage*, 6 vols (Stroud, 1987)
- The Complete Peerage: or a History of the House of Lords and All Its Members from the Earliest Times* (Stroud, 1998)
- Davis, Ralph, *The Rise of the English Shipping Industry in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries* (London, 1962)
- Dalrymple, John, *Memoirs of Great Britain & Ireland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 3 vols (London, 1771-78)
- Fiennes, Celia, *Journal of Celia Fiennes* (London, 1947)
- Fleming, Simon, 'Musical activities of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society', *Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle* 48 (2017), 65-90
- Foxcroft, H. C., *The Life & Letters of Sir George Saville, Bart.*, 2 vols (London, 1898)
- Haffenden, Philip, *New England in the English Nation 1689-1713* (Oxford, 1974)
- Hayton, D. W., *The Parliamentary Diary of Sir Richard Cocks 1698-1702* (Oxford, 1996)
- Humfrey, C., *Sampled Lives* (Cambridge, 2017)
- A Letter to a New Member of the Ensuing Parliament* (London, 1701)
- Lever, Tresham, *Godolphin: His Life & Times* (London, 1952)
- Malcomson, Patricia and Robert and Ann Stephenson, eds, *A Parson in Wartime: The Boston Diary of the Rev. Arthur Hopkins* (Lincoln, 2017)
- Marshall, Hilary, *Palaeography for Family and Local Historians* (Bognor Regis, 2004)
- Midgley, Patricia, *The Northenders – A Disappeared Community: an account of the fisher folk of Kings Lynn* (1987)
- Newman, A., ed, *The Parliamentary Lists of the Early Eighteenth Century: Their Compilation and Use* (Leicester, 1973)
- The Peerage of England*, 2 vols (London, 1714)
- Russell, Lady Rachel, *Letters of Lady Rachel Russell* (London, 1809)
- Schwoerer, Lois G., ed, *The Revolution of 1688-1689: Changing Perspectives* (Cambridge, 1992)
- Selwyn, D. G., *Edmund Geste and his Books* (London, 2017)
- Sherlock, William, *A Sermon Preached at the Temple-Church, December 30 1694, Upon the Sad Occasion of the Death of our Gracious Queen*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn (London, 1695)
- Sykes, Norman, *William Wake: Archbishop of Canterbury 1657-1737*, 2 vols (Cambridge, 1957)
- Sykes, Norman, *From Sheldon to Secker: Aspects of English Church History 1660-1768* (Cambridge, 1959)
- Symcox, Geoffrey, *Victor Amadeus II – Absolutism in the Savoyard State 1675-1730* (London, 1983)
- Thompson, Pishey, *Collections for a Topographical and Historical Account of Boston* (London, 1820)
- Thrower, N. J. W., *The Three Voyages of Edmond Halley in the Paramore 1698-1701* (London, 1984)
- Webb, Cliff, ed, *Yorkshire Probate Records: Medieval and Peculiar Courts 1267-1858* (London, 2017)

## **Archive Acquisitions**

- The Present State of Europe: Or, the Historical & Political MONTHLY MERCURY*, 2 (Oct. 1691)
- Instructions for Jury-Men, on the Commission of Sewers* (T. Leach, 1664) [Maurice Johnson's copy, with extensive MS annotations]
- 'Mortgage of the Manor of East & West Deeping . . . John Clarke to John Lane'
- 'Admission of Mary King & Alfred Henry Clark to the General Court of the Manor of Spalding, 25 May 1889'
- 'Plan of Proposed Goods Shed Alterations at Spalding – LNER. 2.5.1946'

## Keeper of Coins and Tokens' Report

This is the first report on Coins and Tokens for some years. Michael Snowdon previously combined the role of Keeper of Coins and Tokens with that of President. When he retired from both positions in April 2017, I was elected as Keeper of this part of the collection.

The collection of Coins and Tokens has not been previously recorded to the same extent as the museum collection, although my predecessors have compiled detailed lists of, for example, the British Tokens. Since taking over the Keepership I have photographed the collection in an outline manner by taking pictures of the items in bulk, for example by taking an image of each tray of coins in the various coin cabinets. As well as making a record of the collection, this has made it possible to count the number of items: the Society has 14,024 coins, tokens and medallions, and 148 banknotes. There is some overlap in the collection records in that the main museum collection includes some medallions, as do several of the coin boxes that have only now been recorded. I am working with the Curators to avoid any demarcation problems.

There are significant collections of Roman coins, of tokens and of British coins of all ages. There are a number of examples that have not been identified, and some effort will go into resolving these problem items in future.

Some members with detailed knowledge of particular specialist areas have helped to classify and record parts of the collection in 2017. Particular thanks are due to Adrian Fordham, who has spent many Monday mornings in the last few years working on the Society's collection of Roman coins. This part of the work is now complete, and Adrian has now started to work on the Chinese and Japanese coins. The Roman coins may well be the oldest part of the collection, as Maurice Johnson himself proposed a classification and storage system in the early eighteenth century. However, there are no records of which coins were collected at what times, so any attributions must be hypothetical.

Much work remains to be done. We need to establish a modern computerised database of the collection, including detailed photographs and proper descriptions of each item. This promises to take many years.

**Tom Grimes**

## Philatelist's Report

As with previous years, stamp issues for 2017 have been plentiful. In total, thirteen 'special stamp' sets were released, excluding 'post and go' sets.

The first issue of the year celebrated 'Ancient Britain'. Eight first class stamps depict artistic impressions of prehistoric people, objects and buildings. A particular highlight of this set was a striking illustration of a Dorset hill fort. In March the life and works of David Bowie were celebrated with the release of ten stamps. *Frankel*, *Red Rum*, *Shergar*, *Kauto Star*, *Desert Orchid*, *Brigadier Gerard*, *Arkle*, and *Estimate* - famous British racehorses - were delightfully commemorated this year by renowned artist Michael Heslop. In May, songbirds followed the racehorses. Some of the country's favourite and most familiar birds appeared on stamps: great tit, wren, willow warbler, goldcrest, skylark, blackcap, song thrush, nightingale, cuckoo and yellowhammer. According to Royal Mail, this set was released to coincide with International Dawn Chorus Day.

Sir Arnold Machin's iconic definitive stamp was celebrated in June. His masterpiece in design was first released in 1967. Although his work might be regarded as emblematic of 1960s minimalism, Machin was actually inspired by the world's oldest stamp: the Penny Black. As Machin's design is still the most common feature on our postage stamps, gracing our red first- and blue second class stamps, perhaps his design might well have become, to use Douglas Muir's words, 'a timeless classic'.

Despite Royal Mail claiming that windmills were developed in the east and south-east, only one of its six 'watermills and windmills' stamps features a windmill from one of those regions; sadly none of Lincolnshire and Norfolk's windmills appear on any of the stamps. Nonetheless, this set depicts outstanding examples of post- and tower windmills. In July a set championing modern architecture was issued. The architecture associated with the following organisations was celebrated: The London Aquatics Centre, Library of Birmingham, SEC Armadillo (Glasgow), Scottish Parliament, Giant's Causeway [visitor centre], Welsh Assembly, Eden Project, Everyman Theatre (Liverpool), Imperial War Museum North (Manchester) and Tate Modern. Also in July, Royal Mail released its penultimate issue in its series marking the anniversary of The Great War. A contemporary illustration of a poppy features on the first class stamp: J Ross' *Shattered Poppy* emphasises the delicacy of nature, and by implication, man. The gallant work of nurses Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm, who treated over 23,000 casualties, is commemorated on another first class stamp. Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's Bible, which saved his life from a German shell, features on a high value stamp.

August's issue had a nostalgic theme: ten 'classic toys' were celebrated. The depiction of Hornby's Travelling Post Office Mail Van on one of the first class stamps surely appealed for philatelists and rail enthusiasts alike. Wanderings 'down memory lane' continued as in September Royal Mail issued a series celebrating Ladybird Books. Those interested in more modern entertainment might have been fascinated by Royal Mail's much heralded release of its second 'Star Wars' set.

Following recent practice, Royal Mail decided diplomatically to focus on both religious and more worldly aspects of Christmas. The results in both instances are impressive. The traditional set features a fine selection of depictions of the Madonna and Child. By contrast, and

acknowledging the Post Office's first Christmas set, two stamps, submitted by children, feature Father Christmas and snowmen.

The final set of the year celebrated the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Thanks to all those who have assisted me throughout the year, and special thanks to Tom Grimes for producing an electronic inventory of the collection.

**Gary Darley**

## **Annual Outing**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 51 members and guests of the Society visited Boughton House, the ancestral home of our Patron the Duke of Buccleuch.

This remarkable house is a blend of the intimate and the grand. Its village-like Tudor courtyards contrast with its palatial eighteenth-century additions, earning it the title 'The English Versailles'. The House is resplendent in the decorative arts, retaining vividly fresh tapestries, silver, Sèvres porcelain, sixteenth-century carpets, renowned French and English furniture, and painting masterpieces.

Our party were greeted with tea and coffee before the tour of the House and took lunch in the restaurant, followed by a guided coach tour of the surrounding parklands and a visit to the Buccleuch tombs in the Parish Church, followed by tea.

The Duke himself visited us at lunchtime and spoke to most of the party individually before making a speech of welcome. He and his staff went out of their way to make the visit most memorable, and we are most grateful.

**Tom Grimes**

## Lecture Secretary's Report

At the beginning of the Society's 2017/18 lecture programme our Lecture Secretary, Harrison Fuller, informed Council of his immediate appointment as a theatre impresario which would draw conflict with his time fulfilling his duties as the Society's Lecture Secretary. Harrison therefore felt obliged to relinquish his position. On behalf of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harrison for his dedicated work in providing a very high standard and variation of public lectures, and also for completing the Autumn and Winter 2017/18 lecture programme. We wish him much success in his new appointment.

It is not until you inherit the challenge of delivering twelve annual lectures at fortnightly intervals, working under the premise of 'Promoting & fostering public knowledge, appreciation and the study of the arts, humanities & science', that reality kicks in.

The success of our lecture programme relies on delivering interesting lectures with wide appeal to all segments of our membership and the general public. It is also very dependent on the individual support of you, our participating audience, and I would encourage everyone that enjoys the lectures to invite a friend to share your experience.

To date, the attendance for the six Autumn lectures from September through to December 2017 has totaled 411 inclusive of members and non-members, which is somewhat disappointing. If there are any members who wish to hear a lecture on a particular topic, or who would like to suggest a particular lecturer, I encourage you to contact the Lecture Secretary.

We are, as a society, indebted to all those who help voluntarily with the organisation of these evenings: Lanternist Colin Baslington and his successor, David Jacobs; Tom and Anne Grimes, front of house; Marilyn Hollanders and Ian Hoult, our Curators, who host tours of the museum for our lecturers; and Heather Violet and Lesley Eldridge, our intrepid publicity machine. Thanks are also due to Spalding Grammar School for their continued support in making available such superb facilities for our lecture venue.

I would like to conclude this report by giving special thanks to Colin Baslington for his many years of service to the Society's lectures contending with magic lanterns, slide projectors, computers, memory sticks, Microsoft PCs and Apple Macs.

**Sandy Watson**  
**Acting Lecture Secretary**

## Outreach Committee

*This is the first report from the Society's Outreach Committee, which has been added to the Annual Report to raise awareness of the Society's work to increase its public benefit.*

The Outreach Committee organised its first event at Spalding Grammar School in 2016, during which we gained valuable insight in our approach to visitors that we carried forward to the next two projects in 2017, both at Ayscoughfee Hall.

The Festival of Archaeology 2017 started as an idea to showcase our recent acquisition of the Pinchbeck Manor dig finds and developed into a two-day event at Ayscoughfee Hall. Members volunteered to run dig pits, finds washing stations and various children's activities, and promoting the Society's role in preserving historical artefacts. This was a real departure from our comfort zone, but 1000 people attended this inaugural event. Unfortunately the Society's role in the success of the archaeology event was not shown in the media coverage – lesson learned and addressed.

We also noted Ayscoughfee's previous success with the 1940's weekend, and agreed to take part in the 2017 event. An exhibition of World War II artefacts attended by volunteers allowed us to showcase our role in local history to over 10,000 visitors.

Regular contributions to the local press resumed with an excellent initial article by Martin Blake on a ticket for the hanging of Jonathan Wild in May 1725 (featured on the front cover of this Annual Report). Martin will be following this up with other articles on interesting objects from the Society's museum, library and archive collections.

Retail opportunities are being revisited. Heather Violet's inspired idea of a quality reproduction of John Grundy's 1732 map of Spalding has led to copies being on display and on sale in several local retailers. This marks the beginning of a drive to revive our merchandise sales.

Our social media presence needed attention and, thanks to volunteer efforts, Facebook is again attracting visitors and the website has moved forward. Careful management and regular improvements will be needed to make sure both of these remain effective. We would like to thank Heather Casswell and Harrison Fuller for their hard work.

2018 will see a repeat presence at the above events with a fresh approach to each one, as well as more focused, more heavily publicised displays at Ayscoughfee which will allow some interesting but less visible parts of our collections to be seen by the public, in some cases for the first time. We are also planning other projects farther afield.

Outreach is nothing without communication. This factor has been addressed by forming a larger, focused outreach team to promote the Society and dispel some long held misconceptions about it. We are striving for greater visibility and wider engagement, and thank all those volunteers who give so freely of their time to make such a difference to the life of the Society and its relations with the public.

**Ian Hoult**  
**Sharon Hoult**

## Membership Secretary's Report

In September 2017, the Trustees held an open evening to welcome new members to the Society. During the evening Alistair Goodrum kindly gave a talk on 'Old Spalding and the Surrounding Area', illustrated with photographs from the Society's archives. Afterwards new members were introduced to the history of the Society and its collections. The evening proved most enjoyable and very informative. I would like to thank my colleagues who helped to make the evening so successful.

We hope that members have enjoyed the monthly Coffee House evenings, which have included talks on various aspects of the museum, library and archive collections.

The Society has been pleased to welcome the following new members during 2017:

P J Burns	D K A Burrell	P Callow	J A Casswell
K C Casswell	J Chiappino	D M Clay	J Cox
J R Culpin	G Dayes	J A Dobbs	S J Folkard
N P George	M Gilbert	D Goodey	P A Harris
R A Hemsall	S A Hewatt-Jaboor	A J Holbrook	G Hughes
H James	K G Mann	T Morris	D Peacock
R M Picking	M J Searby	V N Soderberg	J Stanberry
B Thomson	N Wickenden	T Withyman	G M Yates

The following are no longer members of the Society:

P Buck	M Byrd	J Egleton	P A Goose
I D Hensman	S E Middleton	I A Morrison	D N Robinson
G A Stephenson	A J L Worth		

The membership currently stands at 334, including 18 Life Members.

**Susan Barsley**

## Treasurer's Report

The Society made a surplus of £10,076 during 2017. There was an increase in income from £17,638 in 2016 to £19,218 during 2017. Gift Aid in 2017 amounted to £3,878.77 including £448.39 received as a tax rebate under the small donation scheme.

Donations to the Society increased due to a one-off generous donation of over £9,000. This donation and a legacy of £2,000 have been used to start a building fund.

The Society has gratefully received grants from Museum Development East Midlands, the Association of Independent Museums and Lincoln Record Society. Grant funding provides an increasingly important source of revenue for the Society, and supports projects that span multiple years.

The public lecture programme made a substantial loss due to poor uptake of the Germaine Greer lecture. Included in the lecture income are fees for lectures given on behalf of the Society by Tom Grimes and Alistair Goodrum.

The value of the shares held by the Society increased by £4,368. There was a reduction in the number of shares held in National Grid plc and Intercontinental Hotels Group plc due to share consolidation in both companies. We now hold 1181 shares in National Grid plc and 247 shares in International Hotels Group plc. The dividend income from the Society's share holdings declined from £8,714 in 2016 to £7,614 in 2017.

These financial results are in line with the budget figures approved by Council.

The Society's shares are managed by an Investment Committee. This year, as in the recent past, the committee has maintained the policy of not undertaking any transactions as they deemed purchases and sales of shares unnecessary. Decisions were taken on responses to corporate actions (eg, rights issues, takeovers, etc.). This policy has been in place since stockbrokers became required to charge annual fees for their services, which made most trading decisions expensive. The committee believes the portfolio remains adequately spread and suitable for the Society.

I wish to thank Members on behalf of Council for their continued support of the Society. I would also like to remind members that Gift Aid income provides a significant source of revenue to support the Society's current work and future development. Any member who has not completed a Gift Aid declaration form and would like to do so will find a copy of the form on the Society's website. Forms are also available from the Membership Secretary.

**Susan Barsley**

## Investment Performance

Listed Investments	Shares	Cost £	2017 Market Value £	2016 Market Value £
Mitchells & Butlers	441	34	1,248.47	1,106.47
InterContinental Hotels Group plc	247	43	11,655.93	9,422.42
BAE Systems plc	871	110	4,990.83	5,151.97
RELX plc	1,558	2,830	27,093.62	22,575.42
Lloyds Banking Group plc	4,275	2,175	2,909.57	2,672.30
Diageo	500	5,142	13,625.00	10,550.00
Glaxo SmithKline plc	851	5,079	11,254.48	13,292.62
Johnson Matthey plc	765	4,982	23,523.75	24,342.30
Unilever	350	6,139	14,439.25	11,523.75
Banco Santander	100	0	485.25	385.25
GKN plc	636	1,496	1,692.82	1,758.01
Centrica	3,433	6,477	4,713.51	8,036.65
Legal and General Group	3,591	5,471	9,814.20	8,891.32
National Grid plc	1,181	6,183	10,334.93	12,266.12
J Sainsbury	1,071	4,293	2,585.39	2,670.00
BP plc	850	4,876	4,442.95	4,331.60
BT Group plc	1,535	4,965	4,170.60	5,631.92
Firstgroup plc	780	4,962	861.90	808.08
Scottish and Southern	450	4,964	5,940.00	6,988.50
British and American Tobacco	165	4,962	8,279.70	7,625.48
G4S plc	1,050	2,900	2,803.50	2,467.50
			<b>166,865.65</b>	<b>162,497.68</b>
<b>1 Jan 2017 – Market Value</b>	£162,497.68			
Change in Market Value	£4,367.97			
<b>31 Dec 2017 – Market Value</b>	£166,865.65			

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 543260 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 216131

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2017  
FOR  
SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

The Council of Management, who are trustees and directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present to the members their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and statements of the charity.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The Society's object is: "To promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and study" of what are now known as the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. To this end, the main current activities are: to maintain the freehold premises housing a museum, library and archives and maintaining and enhancing the holdings contained therein; and the mounting of public lectures. The Society was recognised by the Master of the Rolls, under 1926 national provisions, as a local depository for manorial documents.

##### **Public benefit**

Public benefit was provided in several ways during 2017, firstly by the maintenance and augmentation of the collections, some of which are of national and international significance. Work continues on the records, to make the holdings more readily usable. The Librarian and Curator received a considerable number of specific enquiries from members of the public; these were dealt with directly or passed to other volunteers.

The Society's collections have been augmented by donations and loans during the year. Other items offered to the Society during the past year are currently being assessed for possible accession. Further public benefit has been served by the charitable activities shown below.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

Through the year 994 members of the public visited the museum and library. The Society opened its doors to the public once a month during the winter months. Seventeen groups were shown round the premises as well as four school parties.

CCTV and other additions have allowed the Society to expand and experiment with more and varied public openings. As well as the HLF Trustees are most grateful to generous grants from The Arts Council through Museum Development East Midlands (MDEM) and from the Pilgrim Trust through The Association of Independent Museums (AIM). These funds have enabled an expansion and improvement to our public offer which have proved most beneficial in boosting security and visitor experience. The increased number of visitors generates an increase in membership. The growth in income and volunteers enables us to engage in more activities than hitherto though with an increase in administration and management requirements.

The Society lent display items to Ayscoughfee Hall throughout the year to permit enhanced public access to our collections that our own premises do not allow. Society artefacts were prominent in 'A Festival of Archaeology' held at Ayscoughfee in the summer. Finds from our Pinchbeck dig collection were in use and we supported the event with over twenty of our volunteers. One thousand visitors attended and it was gratifying to reach an audience comprising so many women and children. SGS also successfully engaged with Ayscoughfee's 'Forties' weekend which attracted ten thousand visitors.

The curators arranged the loan of our celebrated Amcotts shoe to the North Lincolnshire Museum at Scunthorpe where it was the centrepiece of an exhibition about the Amcotts Bog Body. We are proud to have contributed to an exhibition which drew sixteen thousand visitors.

Twelve public lectures were held at the Grammar School in Spalding covering the full range of topics referred to in the Society's objects. We welcome this opportunity to continue the Society's engagement in science and technology. Attendances from members and the public have held up well. The Johnson Lecture was well received but the attendance of one hundred was disappointing and the future of this event is being reconsidered.

Members of the Society continue to give talks to interested groups on our own history and related matters.

Further details of the public benefit provided may be found in the Members' Annual Report for the year.

The members of Council consider that the Society has achieved its objective during the year.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

The operating surplus for the year was £37,861.

##### **Investment policy and objectives**

The Society takes appropriate investment advice from its investment committee before amending its investment portfolio. Investments are acquired and held in accordance with the general powers given in the Trustee Act 2000.

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

Factors taken into account in deciding the level of reserves include the need to cover fluctuations in expenditure and the need to have sufficient funds available to finance any potential capital expenditure. The Society is dependent upon the income arising from its investments to fund its core activities and therefore does not consider its investments at 31 December 2017 of £168,344 to be part of free reserves. At the year end, free reserves were £113,140. This figure falls well short of estimated potential repair costs identified earlier in the year and is a necessary requirement to cover likely expenditure needed to maintain charitable status.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The immediate requirement is to match income to the running costs of the Society.

It has become apparent that to provide adequate accommodation for the future in line with the Vision Statement adopted in 2014 considerable capital expenditure will be needed. Steps have been taken and are being taken with a view to seeking major funding. In parallel, it will be necessary to consider all aspects of recurrent income and expenditure to ensure a viable future.

A report from Focus Consultants was commissioned to consider future options for the Society with respect to its premises and business plan. This report, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was delivered to trustees in November 2017. The Trustees are actively engaged with the HLF and other sector bodies to explore sources of funding.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Structure**

Spalding Gentlemen's Society is a company limited by guarantee and registered under the Companies Act 2006, registration number 543260. The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 13 January 1955, as subsequently amended. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the object of the Society, and no portion shall be paid or transferred to any member. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £2. The company has obtained the consent of the Registrar of Companies to be exempt from the requirement to use the word "limited" in its name. It is a registered charity, number 216131. Members of Council are trustees for charitable purposes. Membership of the Society is open to all aged 18 or older on payment of the annual membership fee. There are some 334 members including 18 life members; 32 new members joined during 2017.

About forty volunteers assist Council with the daily affairs of the Society.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new council members**

Members of Council are elected at an Annual General Meeting. Any casual vacancy other than the President and Vice Presidents may be filled by the Council who may also co-opt and appoint two additional Members of Council. Any member, so appointed, shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for election at that Meeting. Members of the Society may put themselves forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of Representative Members of Council and the President shall retire and are eligible for re-election.

Members of Council are mainly retired, and have acquired appropriate skills and experience. Courses and on-going updated information are available from professional, historical and heritage bodies and training is taken when considered necessary.

##### **Induction and training of new trustees**

New members of Council are advised of their statutory duties and provided with induction information. New and old Trustees are encouraged to participate in training programmes. Members of Council and other Society members have continued to participate actively in courses provided by MDEM and the HLF.

An audit of skill sets is made to identify gaps in expertise and governance requirements for the future

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Risk management and mitigation**

As part of our Insurance claim a surveyor was commissioned at the expense of RSA to report on the condition of the building. A preliminary report was received in December 2016 and the final report in April 2017. This information was reviewed within the Focus consultant's report. The report proposed a range of options for the building including partial demolition and rebuild. Action is needed to stabilise the building and a dialogue has commenced with Historic England to determine the best course of action which respects our Listed Building status yet allows for sustainable premises to deliver the charitable purpose going forward. Specialist legal advice was obtained to progress our insurance claim with RSA. The resolution of the claim will not cover the full cost of repairs, many of which are attributed to historic and inevitable causes not covered by insurance. The trustees have reviewed the insurance valuation of the premises in order to maintain continuity of cover.

The second major risk to the Society is ensuring a proper succession of Trustees. The demands of managing important heritage assets are onerous. Like many of our sector partners the governance and management of the organisation is largely unpaid and dependent on volunteers. Day to day management and strategy tasks fall on a dedicated team whose time cannot be taken for granted. Few members join the Society in order to undertake administrative duties but recognise the paramount importance of good governance in ensuring its survival and progress. Tasks are divided into working groups and there is a strong culture of mutual support and encouragement. The training and mentoring provided by Museum Development East Midlands in particular is a powerful source of practical help and motivation.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Company number**

543260 (England and Wales)

##### **Registered Charity number**

216131

##### **Registered office**

Broad Street  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 1TB

##### **Trustees**

##### **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

PRESIDENT - M D I Chisholm

VICE PRESIDENTS - C E Baslington, B P Jarvie, I Hoults

HON. TREASURER - S M Barsley

HON. SECRETARY - F N Casswell

HON. CURATOR - M Hollanders

HON. CURATOR OF COINS & TOKENS - T Grimes (Chairman of Council)

LIBRARIAN - D Frazier Wood

HON. LANTERNIST - C E Baslington

HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - S M Barsley

HON. LECTURE SECRETARY - H Fuller

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS - R C West, A B Watson, E J Sneath, H J I Violet

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Independent examiner**

Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

**Bankers**

NatWest Bank plc  
Market Place  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire

Barclays Bank plc  
10-14 Hall Place  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
F N Casswell – Hon Secretary

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Spalding Gentlemen's Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Spalding Gentlemen's Society ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2017.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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

David Gratton BSc FCA  
Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

Date: .....

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total	2017 funds	Total	2016 funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	36,834	-	36,834		24,698	
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Museum		-	56,340	56,340		2,000	
Lecture series		3,873	-	3,873		8,429	
Investment income	3	7,841	-	7,841		9,002	
Other income		<u>2,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,560</u>		<u>1,593</u>	
<b>Total</b>		51,108	56,340	107,448		45,722	
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>							
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Museum	4	33,903	29,185	63,088		36,897	
Lecture series		<u>6,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,499</u>		<u>7,801</u>	
<b>Total</b>		40,402	29,185	69,587		44,698	
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>4,368</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,368</u>		<u>13,364</u>	
<b>NET INCOME</b>		15,074	27,155	42,229		14,388	
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>							
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<u>597,649</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>599,697</u>		<u>585,309</u>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>612,723</u></u>	<u><u>29,203</u></u>	<u><u>641,926</u></u>		<u><u>599,697</u></u>	

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	2017 Total funds	2016 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	10	349,059	12,861	361,920	349,059
Investments	11	<u>166,866</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,866</u>	<u>162,498</u>
		515,925	12,861	528,786	511,557
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	655	12,600	13,255	637
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>99,241</u>	<u>4,019</u>	<u>103,260</u>	<u>90,838</u>
		99,896	16,619	116,515	91,475
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,098)	(277)	(3,375)	(3,335)
		<u>96,798</u>	<u>16,342</u>	<u>113,140</u>	<u>88,140</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		612,723	29,203	641,926	599,697
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>612,723</u>	<u>29,203</u>	<u>641,926</u>	<u>599,697</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>612,723</u>	<u>29,203</u>	<u>641,926</u>	<u>599,697</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
	15				
Unrestricted funds				612,723	597,649
Restricted funds				<u>29,203</u>	<u>2,048</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>					
				<u>641,926</u>	<u>599,697</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Professor M D I Chisholm - President

.....  
Mrs S M Barsley – Hon. Treasurer

.....  
F N Casswell – Hon. Secretary

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Subscriptions, donations and legacies**

Annual subscriptions, donations and legacies are included in the statement of financial activities at amounts receivable for the year.

Life membership subscriptions received are credited to the statement of financial activities in twelve annual instalments.

**Gifts**

Gifts of exhibits to the society are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Investment income**

Investment income and interest is accounted for when receivable.

**Grants**

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. 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**

As explained in note 7 Heritage Assets have not been capitalised or depreciated as no reliable value can be attributed.

Freehold property is periodically revalued to market value. Museum contents are not depreciated. They are considered to have high residual values so depreciation would be an immaterial amount.

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a 15% straight line basis.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation 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.

Spalding Gentlemen's Society has designated funds which are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes. They include amounts equivalent to the net book values of fixed assets and investments used to enable the Society to continue to carry out its charitable mission.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

**Investments**

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Donations	13,437	3,236
Gift aid	3,879	3,544
Subscriptions	19,218	17,638
Joining Fees	<u>300</u>	<u>280</u>
	<u><u>36,834</u></u>	<u><u>24,698</u></u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Dividends	7,614	8,714
Deposit account interest	<u>227</u>	<u>288</u>
	<u><u>7,841</u></u>	<u><u>9,002</u></u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs (See note 5)	Totals
	£	£	£
Museum	43,927	19,161	63,088
Lecture series	<u>6,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,499</u>
	<u><u>50,426</u></u>	<u><u>19,161</u></u>	<u><u>69,587</u></u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other 3	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Museum	<u>705</u>	<u>18,456</u>	<u><u>19,161</u></u>

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2017	2016
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u><u>677</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2017 nor for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Trustees' expenses

Members of council received £3581.92 (2016 £4,623) during the year as reimbursed expenses. All members of council are unpaid providing their services voluntarily.

No employees received total emolument of more than £60,000

8. STAFF COSTS

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

	2017	2016
Administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

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

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	24,698	-	24,698
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Museum	-	2,000	2,000
Lecture series	8,429	-	8,429
Investment income	9,002	-	9,002
Other income	<u>1,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,593</u>
<b>Total</b>	43,722	2,000	45,722
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Museum	27,178	9,719	36,897
Lecture series	<u>7,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,801</u>
<b>Total</b>	34,979	9,719	44,698
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>	<u>13,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,364</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	22,107	(7,719)	14,388
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>575,542</u>	<u>9,767</u>	<u>585,309</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>597,649</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>599,697</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2017	300,000	49,059	349,059
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>13,538</u>	<u>13,538</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>300,000</u>	<u>62,597</u>	<u>362,597</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>677</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2017	<u>300,000</u>	<u>61,920</u>	<u>361,920</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>300,000</u>	<u>49,059</u>	<u>349,059</u>

The historical cost of the freehold properties is £4,402. Freehold property is included in the financial statements at the Members of Council estimation of market value based on a valuation obtained from R Longstaff & Co on 28 March 2013.

The Museum collection is a Heritage Asset which has been amassed over the last 300 years mainly by way of gift and is of such extent that neither cost nor market value, are readily ascertainable. The Society has omitted the Museum collection from the balance sheet as permitted by SORP (2005) paragraph 283. The cost of additions to the museum collection has not been capitalised, being written off in the statement of financial activities as museum expenditure. Gifts of exhibits during the year to the Society are not included in the statement of financial activities. The museum collection is on exhibit in the Museum and is available for scholastic research and visits by arrangement with the curator.

No depreciation is charged because the annual depreciation and related accumulated depreciation is immaterial owing to the high estimated residual values of tangible fixed assets.

11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 January 2017	162,498
Revaluations	<u>4,368</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>166,866</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2017	<u>166,866</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>162,498</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017 £	2016 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>13,255</u>	<u>637</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017 £	2016 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 14)	277	-
Accruals and deferred income	<u>3,098</u>	<u>3,335</u>
	<u>3,375</u>	<u>3,335</u>

14. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdraft	<u>277</u>	<u>-</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/1/17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/17 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	83,725	10,706	94,431
Designated fund	<u>513,924</u>	<u>4,368</u>	<u>518,292</u>
	597,649	15,074	612,723
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Museum	<u>2,048</u>	<u>27,155</u>	<u>29,203</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>599,697</u>	<u>42,229</u>	<u>641,926</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	51,108	(40,402)	-	10,706
Designated fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,368</u>	<u>4,368</u>
	51,108	(40,402)	4,368	15,074
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Museum	<u>56,340</u>	<u>(29,185)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,155</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>107,448</u>	<u>(69,587)</u>	<u>4,368</u>	<u>42,229</u>

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2017.

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>				
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Donations	13,437	-	13,437	3,236
Gift aid	3,879	-	3,879	3,544
Subscriptions	19,218	-	19,218	17,638
Joining Fees	<u>300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>280</u>
	36,834	-	36,834	24,698
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	7,614	-	7,614	8,714
Deposit account interest	<u>227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>288</u>
	7,841	-	7,841	9,002
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Lecture receipts	3,873	-	3,873	8,429
Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>56,340</u>	<u>56,340</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	3,873	56,340	60,213	10,429
<b>Other income</b>				
Other Income	100	-	100	2
Retail sales	632	-	632	667
Society outing	<u>1,828</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,828</u>	<u>924</u>
	<u>2,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,560</u>	<u>1,593</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	51,108	56,340	107,448	45,722
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Rates	1,042	-	1,042	1,005
Insurance	4,936	-	4,936	4,921
Light, heat and water	2,979	-	2,979	2,963
Postage, stationery & printing	2,576	-	2,576	2,693
Repairs and renewals	677	4,296	4,973	3,701
Conservation and preservation of artifacts	440	-	440	8,790
Magazines and books	90	-	90	130
Conservation of books and archives	2,036	750	2,786	1,685
Cleaning	111	-	111	76
Catering	280	-	280	220
Philately and medals	167	-	167	180
Training	451	-	451	72
Subscriptions and donations	957	-	957	773
Lecture fees and expenses	6,499	-	6,499	7,801
Professional fees	-	21,462	21,462	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>-</u>
	23,241	27,185	50,426	35,010
<b>Support costs</b>				

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>Other 3</b>				
Telephone	705	-	705	712
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Wages	3,868	-	3,868	3,842
Sundries	330	-	330	461
Accountancy fees	1,071	-	1,071	612
Legal and professional	8,800	2,000	10,800	956
Outing Costs	1,806	-	1,806	1,013
Computer and office costs	<u>581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>581</u>	<u>2,092</u>
	<u>16,456</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>18,456</u>	<u>8,976</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>40,402</u>	<u>29,185</u>	<u>69,587</u>	<u>44,698</u>
<b>Net income before gains and losses</b>	10,706	27,155	37,861	1,024
<b>Realised recognised gains and losses</b>				
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	-	-	-	(2)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	<u>4,368</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,368</u>	<u>13,366</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u><u>15,074</u></u>	<u><u>27,155</u></u>	<u><u>42,229</u></u>	<u><u>14,388</u></u>