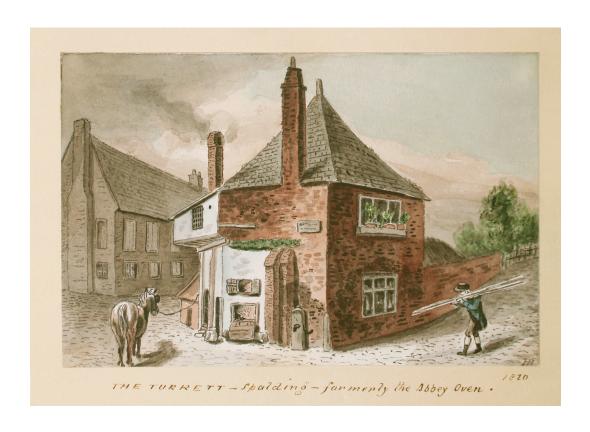
Spalding Gentlemen's Society 2021 Annual Report and Accounts





Patron

His Grace Sir Richard Walter Montagu Douglas Scott, KBE, KT, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry

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Bankers

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Solicitors

Maples Solicitors LLP 23 New Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1DH

Accountants

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

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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.

Vision Statement

Founded in 1710, the Society began as a group of gentlemen who came together to share and create knowledge. Today, membership is open to anyone aged eighteen or over, irrespective of gender.

In the eighteenth century, new members were required to donate a book or books to the value of at least £1. This provided the nucleus for the nationally and internationally important library, archive and museum collections now held.

For more than 300 years, the Society has been a beacon of Enlightenment ideals. It is Britain's oldest surviving provincial learned society and the second oldest museum collection, an early partner of The Royal Society and The Society of Antiquaries of London. Today, we aim to connect members, visitors and the wider public with the world through interactive engagement with our collections on-site, virtually and by outreach. We believe that curiosity, discovery and the search for knowledge can and should be nurtured and open to all.

Our Mission is to support the creation and sharing of knowledge by providing access to our collections by offering innovative social and educational projects for all people.

Our Aims

- To tell the unique story of the Society and its members.
- To provide opportunities for members, volunteers and visitors of all backgrounds, living locally or further afield, to enjoy and engage with our remarkable collections.

- To provide volunteers and students with opportunities to learn new skills in collections management and conservation.
- To curate, develop and store our collections in secure and versatile accommodation to ensure their continued improvement and to benefit future generations.
- To maintain and develop a range of educational programmes, including the longestablished series of public lectures.

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.

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 normally on the third Sunday of the month and is open on Wednesdays between 11:00am and 1:00pm. Non-members are welcome to visit on these days, details of which are advertised outside the Society's premises in Broad Street, on Facebook, our website and in the local media.

Public Lectures Details of upcoming lectures will be made available on the Society's website and are publicised in the local press. There is an admission charge for members and non-members at the door.

Public Benefit Details of the public benefit provided by the Society in pursuit of its charitable objectives may be found in the 'Report of Trustees' 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 2021

Ex officio Members of Council

Ex-officio members are elected at an AGM

President T Grimes

Secretary M Price

Treasurer S Barsley

Curator I Hoult

Librarian D Frazier Wood

Lecture Secretary Vacant

Representative Members of Council

Representative members are elected at an AGM

E Sneath

Chair of Council P Keeling MBE DL

M Gilbert OBE

G Dayes

C Penney

J Dobbs

Appointed officers

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

Assistant Curator P Clay

Assistant Curator M Cartwright

Assistant Librarian D Clay

Curator of Medals S Thompson

Curator of Archaeology R Buck

Philatelist G Darley

E-mail co-ordinator L Eldridge

Lanternist D Jacobs

Outreach S Hoult

Caretaker G Cupper

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society

held at Broad Street Methodist Church, Spalding on Friday, 29th October 2021 at 19:30hrs.

Agenda by order of the Council – 28th September 2021

1. Present: C Baslington; N Brooks; S Brooks; T-E Carter; F-N Casswell; P Clay; G-C Cooper; G Dayes; J

Dobbs; L Evans; M-E Evans; M Gilbert; A Grimes; T Grimes; P Harris; M Hollanders; I Hoult; S

Hoult; D Jacobs; P Keeling. A-G Keeling; C Penney; M Price; D Trawford; R West; R-S Willingham (26 members)

Proxies: S Barsley; M Blake; C J Lewis; R Lewis; S Martinelli; H J I Violett. (6 members)

2. Meeting Opened The meeting was opened by the Chairman, President T Grimes, declaring that a quorum was

present and welcoming all those attending.

3. Apologies for Absence S M Barsley, H Casswell, D Clay, Lord Cormack, C Cox, J Cox, P Dorr, D M Frazier Wood, D

Gratton, D Honeybone, M Honeybone, C J Lewis, R Lewis, The Reverend J Moon, E Sneath, Lord

Taylor of Holbeach, Lady Taylor, G Tresidder. H J I Violett, A B Watson, (20 members)

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th September 2020 at 10:30 had been circulated with the Annual Report 2020.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Decision: It was proposed by T Grimes and seconded by F N Casswell that the meeting approve

the minutes of the AGM of 30th September 2020.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

The chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the previous minutes. There were none.

6. Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2020 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.

 $\textbf{Decision:} \ It \ was \ proposed \ by \ \textbf{T} \ \textbf{Grimes} \ and \ seconded \ by \ \textbf{M} \ \textbf{Price} \ that \ the \ meeting \ approve \ the$

report.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

7. Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements.

The Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 had been previously circulated in the Annual Report 2020 and was to be received by the meeting.

The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments.

There were none.

Decision: It was proposed by **T Grimes** and seconded by **M Price** that the meeting approve the Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020. The motion was put to the vote and **carried** unanimously.

8. Election of Officers and Representative Members of Council. Before the election, the Chairman thanked the three members of Council who were not seeking reelection, namely, **C Baslington**, **F N Casswell** and **R C West**, for all the time and commitment that they had put into the Society, as Council members, over many years.

a. **President:** T Grimes had been nominated for re-election as President.

Decision: It was proposed by **P Keeling** and seconded by **M Price** that the meeting approve the re-election of **T Grimes** as **President**.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Lecture Secretary: There had been no nomination for Lecture Secretary and, therefore, the
position remained vacant.

Representative Members: J A Dobbs and C Penney had been nominated to fill the two vacancies for Representative Members.

Decision: It was proposed by **T Grimes** and seconded by **M Price** that the meeting approve the appointment of **J A Dobbs** and **C Penney** as Representative Members.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

9. Re-appointment of Independent Examiners The meeting was recommended to re-appoint **Duncan & Toplis Limited** as Independent Examiners and authorise the Council to determine their remuneration.

The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments.

There were none.

Decision: It was proposed by **T Grimes** and seconded by **M Price** that the meeting approve the reappointment of **Duncan & Toplis Limited** as **Independent Examiners** and that Council be authorised to determine their remuneration.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

10. AOB The Chairman asked if there was any other business.

There was none.

11. Meeting Closure: The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19:55.

 ${\it Minutes \ recorded \ by \ M \ Price \ and \ formatted \ by \ B \ P \ Jarvie}$

President's Letter

2021 has been dominated again by the Coronavirus, which has made it a roller coaster year for all of us, and for the Society. We were locked down at the start of the year, but were looking forward to an improving life as the vaccination programme got going. The full lock down with minimal essential visits to the Society was followed by a period of relaxation starting in March, allowing essential maintenance to restart. In April a further relaxation allowed volunteers to restart some activities. A further relaxation back to normal activities started in July. Then came the Omicron variant. The additional national restrictions meant that we had to cancel parts of the lecture programme and move the Coffeehouse meetings back to online only, but with some volunteer activities continuing. So we ended the year less restricted than at the start, but certainly not back to normal.

We have become ever more familiar with Zoom, the online communication system. Meetings of Council and subcommittees have used it. The Coffeehouse evenings restarted using it, and we have now got used to having "hybrid" meetings with some members in the Museum and others joining in at home. We have used a similar system to enable us to provide some lectures online, but lecturers have been understandably reluctant to travel to Spalding. The other officers' reports give more information about what has, and has not, been achieved.

The rented space in Broadgate House in Westlode Street has become a wonderful resource for the Society. It provides temporary storage space, making it much easier to rotate the displays in the Museum. The conservation studio enables several people to work on items from the collection at the same time, and the photographic studio is similarly being used to record the collection without overcrowding. As we moved away from lockdowns in 2022 a growing team of volunteers is making enthusiastic use of the space.

The main Museum building remains, at best, fragile. It is becoming ever clearer that we will have to redevelop significant parts of the site in the near future, but uncertainties over the adjoining site make detailed planning difficult.

The Society has continued to benefit from grant funding for conservation from public and private donors. This has enabled us to improve the care and display of the collection. It is clear that our donors are as enthusiastic about maintaining the quality of our collection and displays as we are. These donations have enabled us to maintain our finances at a healthy level as far as day-to-day running is concerned. However, we anticipate that any major developments to the property will require much more substantial support, and the Society's finances will need considerable additional support from outside bodies.

Outreach activities have remained limited during 2021, because of limitations on access to the Museum. The reversion to more normal levels of activity in 2022 lead us to hope that we will quickly get back to a more normal "lifestyle" before long. This, for us, will not just be going back to where we were, but also to continue to expand our efforts and activities even more.

Finally, we must pay tribute to my fellow officers of the Society and the volunteers who give their time so freely to different aspects of the Society's work. There was some concern that the volunteers would have found other things to do during the periods of restriction, but they have returned with their previous levels of enthusiasm. The Society depends on our volunteers for its life and, indeed, its continuing existence.

Tom Grimes

Chairman's Report

Looking back at 2021 it seems incredible that due to Lockdown we only started to use the Broadgate House facility in a low-key way in April once the premises were made secure. The Curator, Ian Holt, Librarian, Dustin Frazier- Wood, Head of Engagement, Sharon Holt, with help from member Patrick Frazier Wood assembled racking and then started the hard work of carrying items across from the museum. These items were firstly quarantined and then one by one checked, frozen, cleaned and packed for storage.

As we emerged further from Lockdown conservator Mary Evans trained a team of volunteers who arrived every Tuesday to conserve the items. One volunteer, Chris, has even created the right size boxes, from conservation grade card, to store each item. David Jacobs has photographed, digitised and created art work for mailings and social media. At the same time every item is better documented. All the equipment and storage items in use at Broadgate House have been purchased through grants.

The library has similarly been given lots of attention by Dustin and Diane Clay with her assistants. Working there is safer now new ladders have been purchased with a member's donation. The Lecture Room is far more comfortable after half the chairs have been transferred to storage and looks splendid with newly arranged bookcases, showcasing the original and parish collections.

Over the months we have been visited by various experts from Museum Development East Midlands, The Collections Trust, The Arts Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. They have all been hugely impressed by the work being done in our totally volunteer Society. On behalf of the trustees huge thanks to all our volunteers, their enthusiasm and help is making such a difference to our collection and Society.

Work towards our accreditation review has been progressing. All policies and plans needing review are now being worked on. The new committee structure implemented in 2020 has been working well despite most meetings taking place over Zoom. A number of Trustees and committee members attended online training courses for a variety of governance, collections and IT training.

With the need to become more digital, a complete review of IT equipment concluded with ARK ICT being contracted to change our server and update or purchase new computers / laptops, a scanner photocopier and link Broadgate House to the museum, under the supervision of Melvyn Price and Graham Dayes. The Society website and The Fenland Heritage websites have both been grant funded and set up on a new system by 79 Design. It is now possible to donate or pay for items in the museum by debit / credit card. The Treasurer, Sue Barsley has moved to online banking and we now have a PayPal account for our online shop. The security of the museum is monitored not only by GBSG but on the mobile phones of the caretaker and curators.

Focus Consultants have again been engaged to help envisage our future museum and towards grant applications for building work. A donation from the Aldama Trust in 2019 to engage help for our building plans has been used to part fund this work.

At the same time as all this work has been ongoing, the Society has also moved towards opening up more. An Arts Council grant has funded a variety of items along with new banners and publicity towards opening more. The post-Christmas Wednesday started our weekly opening from 11.00am – 1.00pm on Wednesdays. This grant also created good engagement activities

with the public, working with Transported Arts culminated in 2022 with the opening in the museum of an exhibition "Portraits Promenade, Engaging People Past and Present". Thanks also go to the team of stewards who come in for every public open day at the museum.

Thanks to the efforts of Press Officer Heather Violet, and articles from Martin Blake and Richard Buck the local press have been most supportive and the Bargain Hunt programme gave us good publicity. Most funders now require considerable engagement activities as an outcome of their funding. So as we work towards attracting major funders for repairing and enlarging our museum, we will need to do more and more engagement work. The current engagement team is small, so if you are tempted to involve a little more in the Society work, do come along and see what we are doing.

To all our members whether you involve actively by volunteering or attend our talks and lectures or just pay your membership fee and occasionally visit us. Thank You. The society cannot survive without you. We do need to increase our membership; we are working towards more ways for you to interact with us be it digitally or in person. We now have the new twice-yearly magazine and will be creating more preview opportunities when we create new displays, along with interesting activities on Thursday evenings. Please promote our society, bring your friends to visit.

Petronella Keeling

Curator's report

2021 saw a huge change for the Society, this came about largely due to the receipt of a grant from the Westland Trust. This has enabled us to develop a new site which allows us to do conservation, storage, and digitisation. In early 2021 we took possession of a unit in Broadgate House, which is on lease for three years and affords us the luxury of space that we have never had before. With the help of our grant coordinator, we were able to equip it with high quality racking, chairs, tables and materials vital for conservation and storage.

A new computer system has been installed along with new laptops together with a new server and backup system. Sadly, due to a water leak in the new premises we were not able to commence work straight away, but once we were in things went forward at an amazing speed. Volunteers came forward and have been the backbone of our conservation efforts and their combined efforts have made a huge difference to not only the collection but also the library and archive.

Because of lockdown we were unable to access the museum, this left the library in a vulnerable situation with mould appearing on books in certain sites of the museum. We removed the affected volumes to our new facility, there with the help and knowledge of our conservator, Mary Evans, we set about vacuuming away the mould. They were treated with denatured alcohol, then a chemical called Klucel G was applied to the leather binding followed by a leather conditioner. As you may have gathered this kind of task takes up a lot of work hours especially when you consider that we had more than a hundred volumes to work through.



Our volunteers have gained new skills from conservation grade box making, cleaning processes for a multiple variety of items and storage. They have surpassed my expectations in what they have achieved.

In the museum we have put in new exhibitions this is partially because our librarian has had the opportunity to move some of the library to Broadgate House, in turn moving the Original and Parish Libraries upstairs into the large cabinets in the Lecture room. This freed up cabinets downstairs that now have new displays in them. The museum has now instigated an open day on Wednesdays from 11.00 to 13.00. This is with the help of more volunteers who are happy to show visitors around and answer their questions. I hope more of the members take advantage of the opportunity to explore the changing exhibitions.

We had the opportunity through one of our members to exhibit some of our archive at St James Palace, this was in conjunction with Toc H. The items were from Mrs. Wiles who married her husband in March 1916, he went off to war and was killed three months later. Her archive, substantial as it is, is a microcosm of what happened to many in the Great War.

Because of Covid 19, attendances were down in 2021 with 382 non-member and 1178 member visits, this is more than one would have expected given the situation we all faced but we are hoping for better things in the future. Despite the lack of visitors, we were still receiving items from both the public and members. These included;

Archive, photographs and Japanese sword, Second World War, bequest from Mrs. M Creasey

Glass bottle seals, gift of Mr. T. Grimes

Mrs. M. Hand

Spectacles, case, and opera glasses, gift of

Christening robe, wedding dress and photograph, gift of

Mrs. S. Fapianno

Once again in conclusion I am indebted to all the volunteers and stewards for their tireless efforts and energy over the year.

Ian Hoult

Librarian's Report

The past year has witnessed significant changes to the management, cataloguing and arrangement of the library and archive.

Collections surveys after the end of lockdown revealed what we had long suspected: that the environmental conditions of the Lower Maples Gallery have become unsuitable for books and maps. Approximately 120 volumes from the Original Collection and Parish Library were damaged by mould growth due to lack of air circulation as the galleries remained empty of visitors. Mary Evans and her team of conservation volunteers undertook the herculean task of cleaning every one of these volumes, treating those that exhibited red rot (a form of leather deterioration) and leather conditioning every binding. Mary has also discovered a means of removing the unsightly and harmful black and white painted numbers from the spines of books. Over the coming year the remaining 1400+ volumes of the pre-1800 library holdings will be surveyed in order to plan for their treatment and, where possible, the repair of historic damage.

The library has been rearranged to avoid future damage. The periodicals from the lecture room have been relocated to a library storage space at Broadgate House, and the Original Collection and Parish Library have been moved to the Lecture Room. The Bird Library - which has suffered considerable physical damage due to inadequate shelving, poor handling and physical impact from visitors moving through the Upper Maples Gallery - has also been relocated to Broadgate House. All of the material at Broadgate House remains available to members and visitors upon request.

The Society's extensive map collection is also in urgent need of conservation. The storage of maps in cardboard tubes in closed cabinets has led to many becoming dehydrated and brittle; those in the Lower Maples Gallery have suffered from damp after a long period of dehydration. Following the donation of a map chest, a programme of work has begun to remove the maps from the museum and transfer them to Broadgate House where they will be condition assessed, rehydrated, flattened, cleaning, digitised and stored. Unfortunately the condition of the collection means that most untreated maps are currently unable to be consulted. All researchers wishing to consult a map should contact a member of the library or collections team in advance to make sure that it is available.

The digital library catalogue is growing quickly thanks to our Deputy Librarian, Diane Clay, and her Assistant Librarians, Celia Fitton and Cherry Jeffery. The local studies collection is now fully catalogued, and the Librarian's Office and Bailey Room are nearing completion. Deniss Martov has reorganised the pamphlet collection using a standardised subject-based arrangement that makes the holdings easier to search. On completion of this project the pamphlets will be added to the digital catalogue, which will then be made available to researchers on a reading room computer.

Thanks to several teams of volunteers, the prints and drawings collection is now more accessible than it has been for some years. Nearly all of these materials have been catalogued and cleaned, and will soon be digitised. The archives previously held in the Turner Room and various first-floor bookshelves have been relocated to Broadgate House. Plans are in place to begin cataloguing the archive using the Modes collections database currently used for objects in the museum. Bringing these two collections together into one system will enable users to discover the connections between objects, manuscripts, prints, drawings and ephemera that make the collection so rich, unique and important.

Tremendous thanks go to Mary Evans, Patrick Frazier Wood, Ian Hoult and Sharon Hoult for their help in setting up the library store at Broadgate House and moving the collections within the museum and into the new facility. Thanks also go to the many volunteers whose efforts make the Society's library and archive increasingly accessible, discoverable and useable for the increasing numbers of readers who come to consult them.

Library Accessions

Anon., 'Official Guide to Spalding' (Burrow, 1928)

John Baker and Jayne Carroll, eds, *The Place-Names of Shropshire, Part 8* (English Place-Name Society, 2020)

Charles Benson, The Dublin Book Trade 1801-1850 (Bibliographical Society, 2021)

Richard Burn, The Ecclesiastical Law, 2 vols (Cadell, 1763)

Tobias Capwell, Armour of the English Knight 1450-1500 (Thomas Del Mar, 2021)

Paul Cavill and Sarah Beach, eds, *The Place-Names of Shropshire, Part 9* (English Place-Name Society, 2020)

Michael Chisholm, Anglo-Saxon Hydraulic Engineering in the Fens (Shaun Tyas, 2021)

Andrew Clark, A Layman's History of Deeping St Nicholas and Tongue End (2021)

Kathleen Cooper and Judy Chapman, Kathleen: A 20th Century Tale (2020)

Arthur G. Credland, From Stonebow to Bullet Crossbow; and the Evolution of the English Crossbow (Society of Archer Antiquities, 2019)

Diana and Michael Honeybone, eds, *Stukeley and Stamford Part I - Cakes and Curiosity* (Lincoln Record Society, 2021)

G. Jennings, No Servants (Samuel French, 1919)

John Johnson, The Clergyman's Vade Mecum, 2 vols (R. Knaplock, 1731)

Henrietta McBurney, *Illuminating Natural History: The Art and Science of Mark Catesby* (Paul Mellon Centre, 2021)

Jeffrey Quill, Spitfire (Arrow, 1985)

David L. Roberts, Lincolnshire Houses (Shaun Tyas, 2018)

St Laurence's Church, Surfleet, 'The Fraiser Room Project' (2013)

St Mary's Church, 'A Guide to St Mary's Parish Church, Long Sutton' (2020)

Ad Stijnman, ed, The New Hollstein Dutch and Flemish Etchings, Engravings and Woodcuts 1450-1700: Jacob Le Blon and Trichromatic Printing, Parts I & II (Hollstein, 2020)

Dustin M. Frazier Wood

Lecture Report

From early on it had become apparent that there would be difficulty in organising physical inperson meetings due to pandemic regulation and understandable reluctance to mix socially. For that reason, we set up a live stream using Teams in conjunction with the Art Tickets booking facility. I am grateful to Phil Callow at the Methodist Church for helping with this operation.

We had hoped that by the autumn life would have got back to near normal, having had to cancel the spring lectures. Some disruption seemed likely and our very first lecture had to be rescheduled. I was grateful to Peter Worsley who was able to bring forward his intriguing talk on the lesser-known geological aspects of *Darwin's Beagle voyage*.

John Gandy had offered his talk on *Sir Richard Ellys' Library* way back in 2019 when he was librarian at Blickling Hall. Despite now being based in Manchester he travelled over to describe the book collection of one of our Society's early noted members.

In October renowned Egyptologist and lecturer Chris Naunton delivered a superb presentation entitled *Egyptologists Notebooks* and mentioned his talk was the first he had delivered actually in person since the start of the pandemic. This was a pointer to how things were going.

Jasper Jennings gave us a lecture on *Antiquarian prints* with an original slant on how they were used and reused to suit the political and cultural tastes of the publisher. But after that the wheels rather fell off. The pandemic ruled out the November programme and we felt obliged to cancel the January 2022 dates also.

We tentatively resumed in February and Russell Hand was kind enough to give a talk on *Waste Vitrification* via Zoom only for which we did not charge attendees.

Normality was restored by Ed Daw in March with a very high-powered lecture on *Dark Matter*. The season ended as it began with a sudden late cancellation and rescheduling. Thank you to distinguished and generous Society member Alastair Goodrum for his talk *Polar Star* describing the career of Roald Amundsen.

Earlier I alluded to the Teams livestream. This did not prove particularly popular. Our Coffeehouse Zooms were much better received. I believe the need to go through the Art Tickets booking and payment process before the lecture started was off-putting and many of our members simply preferred Zoom! As I stated last year, I firmly believe that there is no substitute for traditional lecture gatherings in a room if that is possible.

My apologies to the lecturers I have repeatedly postponed, cancelled and generally messed about over the last two years.

My sincere thanks to David Baldwin at the Methodist Church who's understanding and patience I have severely tested but who has always responded with the utmost kindness and good grace. The Methodist Church have been the most delightful and helpful hosts, thank you to Phil and Brian for technical expertise. Thanks to Tom and Ann Grimes for looking after the door.

Finally, a special mention to the retiring Dave Jacobs for his invaluable contribution as Lanternist, we are sorry to lose his services in this role and welcome his continued involvement elsewhere.

Nick Casswell

Coffeehouse Evenings

Despite the Covid restrictions we have managed to present a full programme of Coffeehouse evenings this year. At the start of the year we were still using Zoom to transmit them remotely, but later in the year the restrictions were relaxed enabling us to hold meetings in the Museum. It was decided that we would also keep using Zoom as well, so that our remote members could still take part. There were a few difficulties at the start, but by the end of the year the hybrid method was working well.

There is little doubt that the members who can get to the Museum appreciate the opportunity to view the documents and artefacts on display and to socialise over drinks and nibbles. However, the numbers of remote and local attendees have remained roughly equal, so that we intend to continue with both methods of delivery.

The evenings start with a talk at 7:30 until about 8:00. The talks have been on a wide range of topics, mostly in some way related to the Society or its collections, or to the Spalding area, but in some cases on a topic of particular interest to the speaker.

The evenings are open to members and their guests without charge.

Topics and speakers in 2021 were:

January	Paul Buckley	Georgian Glassware - lets twist again like we did last summer
February	Gillian Dooley	Matthew Flinders of Donington
March	Hannah Saunders	The Role of Women in Antiquarian Circles:
		Oral Histories, Folklore and Fiction
April	Jem Bowkett	Edison phonographs and recording cylinders
May	Michael Gilbert	People of the Fens
June	Ian Hoult	A brief history of Le Blon and his false tapestry

July Paddy Lambert How To Build a Roman Villa - The Weird and Wonderful

Roman Archaeology at Priors Hall, Corby

September Tom Grimes The Pinchbeck, Spalding and Cowbit Acre Book
October Mandy Topp "For the entertainment of the company" – the

Stukeley Memoirs

November Michael and Diana A Hawkes-eye view: Spalding in the 1790s

Honeybone from the Hawkes manuscripts

December Holt Myers The Leverton Story 1901 -1997

We are extremely grateful to the speakers, to the technical experts, and to the members who organised the food.

Tom Grimes

Engagement Committee Report

Following on from a difficult 2020, this year had other challenges and consisted of many false starts but nevertheless progress has been made in many areas. None of our activities would be possible without the support of our members who give freely both of their time and considerable skills.

Face to face engagement had its difficulties but we now have most of the original volunteer stewards back and we have also built a large team of conservation volunteers who have learnt new skills, which they have put into practice in preserving and cataloguing the collection. In the long term this means that the museum will benefit from the extra space for new displays of the collection which is needed to attract new (and old) visitors into the building.



At the end of 2021 we started a project with Transported Art; "Engaging with People Past and Present" to raise awareness of the Society locally by sharing a market stall on four Saturdays. This gave us the opportunity not only to promote our new Wednesday openings but also to produce about thirty images of local people which formed the basis of an exhibition in the Museum. The remainder of this grant also provided banners, conservation grade dummies for displays as well as opportunities for

interactive engagement inside the Museum on two new iPads.

During the chaos of setting up the new conservation area, we received, at short notice, the opportunity to feature on the BBC's Bargain Hunt programme. Having accepted the invitation we had to quickly clear the required areas. Thanks to Dustin and Petronella for being the faces of the Society, it resulted in an excellent piece of promotion for the Society and generated lots of interest and prompted many people to visit. A clip of the programme can be viewed by accessing our Twitter feed on our website and following the link.

The Society is redeveloping its website thanks to a MDEM grant. This will provide greater capacity for larger uploads of exhibitions and items of interest such as the Stukeley transcriptions. It has also allowed rationalisation of content and provided smoother access to our audience. We now face the challenge of keeping the content fresh and frequently updated. Any members who feel that they could provide musings or other content, please get in touch on the outreach email.

Social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) is a growing engagement tool and garners a lot of interest both locally and internationally. One member has also started his own twitter feed which is available in Russian. Participation in social media generates more research enquires and changes preconceived perceptions of the society.

Visits to the museum are steadily increasing, there has also been a Heritage Open day together with special preview events for members. Prearranged visits have resumed and bookings are increasing for 2022, these are valuable for raising, not only, our profile but also our income generation.

Membership dipped during the pandemic but we are now attracting more members through our increased openings and media presence, several of the new members joined before even visiting the Society. We have had the welcome addition of two full time student members who have enriched the Society through their volunteered time and provided an insight into how we might engage with a younger audience.

There is a continued need for members to engage with the ongoing activities of the Society. Although members' help/support is already making a difference, we need to maintain this momentum. Opportunities exist in many fields from digital assistance, to outreach, to conservation, or even to producing an article for either the musings section on the website or 'The Antiquary' magazine. If you want more information on any volunteering opportunities, please contact me at outreach@sgsoc.org or Jonathan Dobbs at volunteers@sgsoc.org

Sharon Hoult

Fenland Heritage Network



The Fenland Heritage Network is an informal group of organisations established by SGS in February 2020 with the common aim of promoting the history and heritage of the Fenland and surrounding region.

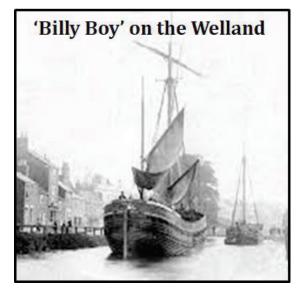
The forum provides an opportunity to promote activities and events as well as sharing information and discussing common issues.

After the initial face-to-face meeting in Spalding the pandemic intervened and the subsequent meetings have been on line. Since the last Annual Report there have been four meetings in June, September and December 2021 and March 2022. At the meetings we have had guest speakers from the Network to talk in more details about the role of their organisation. At the last meeting this was Paul McGregor from Wisbech and Fenland Museum who discussed their ongoing redevelopment work as well as their plans for the future. We were also joined by Emily Elliott from Cambridge University to discuss her MPhil project on museum engagement. Hopefully, many of the Network members will be able to support her with the research.

The Network is free and is open to all and we have representation from museums, local history groups, archaeology societies and libraries. In the last year we have been joined by several new organisations including Fascinating Fens and Chatteris Museum. As we move forward out of the covid pandemic we are planning to return to in-person meetings. These will be hybrid events with people also able to join online, particularly useful for those who would otherwise have to travel from Louth, Sleaford and beyond. The first of the new in-person meetings is planned for July 2022 in Wisbech, details to follow on the Network website.



Thanks to the support of the Society we were able to obtain a grant for the development of a Fenland Heritage Network website. This was launched in September 2021 and has been a major asset enabling the promotion of heritage events from across the region. In conjunction with the website blog, in the coming year we are hoping to progressively build-up a library of academic material that can be used by members and visitors to the website. As part of the launch we ran a series of online social media training sessions for members to show how to get the best out of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and other social media platforms. This was run by Lorena Hodgson from Redbarn Creative (http://redbarncreative.org.uk).



We have joined the Heritage Trust Network and through that body have been assigned a 'Digital Hero' to help with the development of our online presence. Hopefully she will be able to start working with the Network from July. Being part of the wider network has enabled us to assist other groups. Most recently we have worked with the University of Hull and the Blaydes Maritime Centre to help establish the Humber Maritime Heritage Network. Given the former trading links between the Humber and Wash, the nineteenth century photograph opposite shows 'billy boys' from Hull bringing coal to Spalding, it is an important connection.

To see more information on the latest heritage events across the region and the work of the Fenland Heritage Network come and see us at https://fenlandheritagenetwork.co.uk

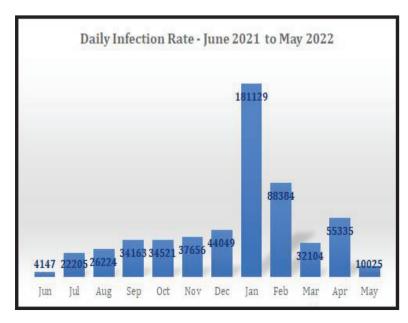
Michael Gilbert

Managing the Pandemic

As with so many other organisations across the world the Covid pandemic has been a serious challenge to the Society. Throughout the response our main aims have always been to protect our members and the public at all times. Back in April 2020 Council established a Pandemic Working Group to monitor the evolving situation and to provide guidance on actions that should be taken to ensure safety and to meet the changing government requirements. To date the Working Group has met 77 times.

With the emergence of a new wave of coronavirus, the delta variant, a second national lockdown was declared on 5th November 2020 with access to the Museum being limited to monitoring the condition of the collection, library and archive. As the situation continued to deteriorate in January 2021 the building was completely closed with the monitoring of the collection being carried out by the Caretaker. Despite Graham's excellent efforts the reduction in monitoring and conservation inevitably had an adverse impact on the collection, particularly the books in the library. Work is still continuing to put right some of the damage caused during this very difficult time.

Although there was some progressive relaxation of the government restrictions as infection levels began to fall it was not until 12th April 2021 that it was possible to plan to reopen the Museum. This was carried out in stages with initially Volunteers being allowed to return to carry out urgent conservation work. This was followed by Members and later in the year by public opening. Additional sanitation measures were put in place in the Museum and in Broadgate House and it was a requirement for everybody to continue to wear masks. Throughout the lockdown efforts were made to keep the Society alive with Council and Committee meetings being held online along with a superb series of virtual Coffeehouse talks.



Unfortunately, before we could return to fully normal activities Covid evolved into the highly transmissible omicron variant and there was a dramatic increase in infection levels nationally and locally, see opposite. On 8th December 2021 the government implemented 'Plan B' closing public buildings. As a result we had to again close the Museum to the public although we were able continue with essential maintenance and conservation work.

This situation continued until February of this year when the government lifted most of the remaining pandemic restrictions, despite infection rate remaining high, and moved to an approach of 'living with Covid' as it became endemic. This allowed us to reopen both the Museum and Broadgate House and resume Volunteer and Member events as well as opening to the public on Wednesdays.

However, the Society has continued to take a cautious approach with many of the safety recommendations staying in place. Although not compulsory, vulnerable Members and Visitors are advised to wear masks and we are continuing with our enhanced programme of cleaning and sanitisation. The Pandemic Working Group will continue to meet on a regular basis to monitor progress with Covid until infection levels have fallen to an insignificant level and special measures are no longer required to manage the situation. I would like particularly to acknowledge and thank the members of the Working Group for their considerable efforts since early 2020. I would also especially like to thank our Caretaker, Graham Cupper, for his exceptional support in helping the Society to get through this difficult period in our history.

Michael Gilbert

Grants Report

2021 has been a good year for grants.

South Holland District Council continued to support the Culture and Leisure sector for Covid closure and over the months we received £,19,003.

Museum Development East Midland has continued to support our conservation work with £2.500 towards equipment and conservation supplies and with £1,000 to purchase a conservation grade freezer. It freezes to -40deg to kill any bugs and infestation.

Leche also gave £3,000 for conservation supplies and equipment.

The Association of Independent Museums have given £5,458 which together with a £1,000 donation from Robert West is paying Hirst Conservation to restore the panel painting of Ayscoughfee Hall and Holyrood House.

£2,000 was also donated by Samuel & Patrick Mossop, this has been used to provide good library ladders, map conservation materials, and other items.

The Society website has been updated onto a more manageable system with an MDEM Recovery Grant of £4,950 and the Fenland Heritage Network has been able to create a website with a Lincolnshire County Council £4,900 Digital Grant

The President persuaded the Friends of National Libraries to give £1,250 for the purchase of: Pinchbeck, Spalding & Cowbit Acre Book − a register of land ownership in the late 16th and early 17th Century.

We received an Arts Council grant for our project, titled 'Engaging with people past & present', £9,561 grant awarded to interact with the Transported Arts / SHDC markets project 'Super Saturdays', this has created a joint exhibition with the black and white portraits created by Steve Hatton of Electric Egg which has been displayed in the Maples Gallery, alongside items from our Collection. On Saturday 19th March 2022 a private viewing for invited guests was held to enable people to collect their portraits. The exhibition was in place from March to June 2022. This grant also provided some equipment for the museum to help towards opening on Wednesdays.

The Westland Trust donated the Broadgate House Rent for 2021 & 2022 and the new IT equipment for the Society

We were unsuccessful with 5 grant applications:

The Heritage Fund # Digital 7, for digital help

The Arts Council MEND fund, for D-build of the 1960 museum building and restoration of the 1910 building

Beehive, computer software

Foulerton Trust, to repair the caretaker's cottage chimneys

AldamaTrust, for a further part payment for Focus Consultants

Petronella Keeling

Membership Secretary's Report

The Society has been pleased to welcome the following new members in 2021:

C Kelley, WT Frazer, D Halfhide, M Jones, R Sharples, G Adams, D Brooks, C Penney,

E Chadd, S Chadd, M Salter, C Moore, V Hawley, C Godderidge, P Helly, S Love, M Love,

N Burrell, A Stacey, A Figg, D Cappitt, A Maher D, Lawson, N Chapman, Pauline Sturt,

Peter Sturt, B Richardson, G Highfield.

At the end of the year 2021 total membership stood at 336.

Graham Dayes

Treasurer's Report

The activities of society have continued to be restricted by the Covid Pandemic.

The operating surplus for the year was £66,672

The Finance committee are responsible for all the monetary activities of the Society. The members are Susan Barsley (Treasurer), Tom Grimes (President), Petronella Keeling (Chairman of Council) and Melvyn Price (Secretary). They have regular meetings to review the current situation and any future developments.

We have seen an increase in donations from £2,581 to £5,082. We are grateful to the members of the public and the Society, who have given generous financial support during the year.

The value of shares held by the Society was £168,981 as at the close of business on 31 December 2021 this showed an increase £21,685 on the previous year. During the year Melrose Industries Plc did a return of capital of 15 pence per existing shareholding so the Society now holds 977 shares and received £162.90. Mitchell and Butler had a rights issue so we purchased 190 shares at a cost of £399.00 resulting in a new holding of 631 shares. G4S were subject to a takeover so we received £2,572.50 and finally First Group had a tender offer for which we received proceeds of £585.90 and our remaining shareholding is now 222 shares. These shares are managed by the Finance committee. This year, as in the recent past, the committee has maintained the policy of not undertaking any transaction that they thought was unnecessary. Decisions were taken in responses to corporate actions (rights issued, 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 that the portfolio remains adequately spread and is suitable to the Society,

There was an increase in dividend income from f,5,107 in 2020 to f,5,336 in 2021.

It is estimated that the Society's volunteers contributed a great financial benefit to the Society through all their hard work and time during the year. We are incredibly grateful for their contribution.

I would like to thank members for their continued support to the society.

Susan Barsley

INIVESTMENT DEDECORMANICE					
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE					
			2021	2020	
Listed Investments	Shares	Cost	Market value	Market value	
Listed investments	Silaies	£	f	f	
Mitchells and Butlers Plc	631	433	1,615	1,061	
Inter Continental Hotels PLc	247	43	11,809	11,584	
B A E Systems PLcc	871	110	4,789	4,257	
RELX plc	1,558	2,830	37,423	27,927	
Lloyds Banking Group Plc	4,275	2,830	2,044	1,558	
Diageo Plc	500	5,142	20,180	14,253	
Glaxo Smith Kline Plc	851	5,069	13,672	11,215	
Johnson Matthey Plc	765	4,982	15,652	18,551	
Unilever Plc	350	6,139	13,809	15,221	
Banco Santander	104	0,139	248	316	
Melrose Plc	977	1,835	1,562	1,934	
Centricia Plc	_	6,477	2,455	1,600	
Legal and General Group Plc	3,433 3,591	5,471	10,683	9,559	
National Grid Plc					
	1,181	6,183	12,516	10,216	
J Sainsbury Plc	1,071	4,293	2,954	2,383	
B P Plc	850	4,876	2,809	2,125	
B T Group Plc	1,535	4,965	2,603	2,030	
Firstgroup Plc	222	780	227	577	
Scottish and Southern Plc	450	4,964	7,421	6,646	
British American Tobacco Plc	165	4,962	4,510	4,468	
G4S Plc	0	0	0	2,665	
Total			168,981	150,146	
Change in market value			21,685		

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00543260 (England and Wales) REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 216131

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

FOR

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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 2020. 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

The Society provides public benefit by the maintenance and development of its collections, some of which are of national and international significance. Improved access, both physical and virtual, is the driver for activities across the Society. The Librarian and Curator receive a considerable number of specific enquiries from members of the public. These are dealt with directly or passed to other volunteers.

A summary of our charitable activities appears below.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

With the Covid pandemic and lockdown, 2020 has been an extraordinary year. The Museum has been closed to members and the public from March until the end of the year, with only some very limited access for essential work. In normal years the Society would open its doors to the public once a month throughout the year, with organisations and school visiting by appointment.

Although other museums have also been closed, the Society continues to have items on loan at other accredited museums and an exhibition is permanently on display at Ayscoughfee Hall.

The Society has taken a three-year rental contract in a nearby building for storage, training and to work on conservation in order to preserve the Society's collections for future generations under the guidance of a qualified conservator.

The Librarian having developed an active group of volunteers to assist with cataloguing and conserving our archives and books has made some progress during the year and, with the benefit of a successful grant application, has purchased a digitisation scanner to better document and make the collection more accessible.

Members of the Society continued, via Zoom, to give talks to members on our own history and related matters.

Regular articles are published in the local press to disseminate the results of research carried out on our archives and museum collection. Our website describes our activities to a global audience and members have contributed stories of interest from our collection.

The members of Council together with committee members have continued to meet and work online during the periods of lockdown.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The operating profit for the year was £67,762

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

To manage risk Society funds are split between interest bearing cash accounts and a portfolio of equities. The portfolio is under active review by our Finance Committee which reports value and yield to the Council throughout the year. The portfolio functions to generate a healthy income with no deduction of management fee. The Finance Committee retain the authority to manage the portfolio as necessary.

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 urgent 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 2021 of £168,981 to be part of free reserves. At the year end, free reserves were £263,350. This figure falls well short of estimated potential repair costs 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 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. The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted at the 2019 AGM, submitted to and accepted by the Charity Commission. This document is published on the Society's website. Membership of the Society is open to all aged 18 or older on payment of the annual membership fee. There are some 350 members.

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

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 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. The new constitution dictates that at the 2020 AGM all trustee positions fall vacant and a new Council of trustees must be elected. The minimum number of trustees then and thereafter will be nine and the maximum twelve.

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

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

An audit of skill sets is made to identify gaps in expertise and governance requirements for the future. 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 National Lottery Heritage Fund, previously known as the Heritage Lottery Fund (or HLF).

Risk management and mitigation

The condition of our Broad Street premises is our most serious concern. There has been historic settlement and distortion of foundation and flooring with cracks and gaps evident around the building. These defects are not covered by insurance. Historic England have grant supported a monitoring programme for the building from their Buildings at Risk department. At the end of the monitoring period a consultant will produce a report with recommendations for remedial work.

The grant of planning permission to the owners of the Business Centre next door creates a further threat. The permission as it stands would create major disturbance. We are in discussion with the owners to see if we can acquire at least part of the site in order to achieve urgent expansion of our premises, obtain access to effect repairs to the rear and control construction activity on our boundary.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00543260 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

216131

Registered office

Broad Street Spalding Lincolnshire PE11 1TB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Trustees			
MEMBERS	OF	col	JNCIL

PRESIDENT-T Grimes

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL - P G Keeling MBE DL

HON. TREASURER - S M Barsley

HON. SECRETARY - M Price

HON. CURATOR - I Hoult

HON. CURATOR OF COINS & TOKENS - T Grimes

LIBRARIAN - D Frazier Wood

HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - G Dayes

HON. LECTURE SECRETARY-

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS - M Gilbert OBE, E J Sneath, J A Dobbs, C J Penney

After the year end, but before the date the accounts were signed, D J Mossman was appointed as a trustee on 18 January 2022

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

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

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:

Melvyn Price	
M Price – Hon. Secretary	••

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 2021.

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.

Alistair Main FCA
Duncan & Toplis Limited
Enterprise Way
Pinchbeck
Spalding
Lincolnshire

PE11 3YR

23rd June 2022

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
INCOME AND ENDOMMAENTS FROM	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Donations and legacies	2	23,558	4,161	27,719	24,710
Charitable activities	4				
Museum and library		19,240	79,525	98,765	33,620
Lecture receipts		730	-	730	966
Quiz		158	-	158	797
Investment income	3	6,368	-	6,368	7,578
Other income		366		366	3,946
Total		50,420	83,686	134,106	71,617
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Museum and library		38,643	49,293	87,936	54,965
Lecture expenses		164	-	164	704
Total		38,807	49,293	88,100	55,669
Net gains/(losses) on investments		21,756	-	21,756	(23,829)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		33,369	34,393	67,762	(7,881)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		700,385	59,066	759,451	767,332
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		733,754	93,459	827,213	759,451

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	365,892	30,968	396,860	392,802
Investments	12	168,981		168,981	150,147
		534,873	30,968	565,841	542,949
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	460	-	460	2,235
Cash at bank and in hand		200,859	62,491	263,350	216,838
		201,319	62,491	263,810	219,073
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,438)	-	(2,438)	(2,571)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		198,881	62,491	261,372	216,502
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		733,754	93,459	827,213	759,451
NET ASSETS		733,754	93,459	<u>827,213</u>	759,451
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				733,754	700,385
Restricted funds				93,459	59,066
TOTAL FUNDS				827,213	759,451

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Page 7 continued...

BALANCE SHEET - continued 31 DECEMBER 2021

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

Melvyn Price	Susan Barsley	Tom Grimes
M Price – Hon. Secretary	Mrs S M Barsley	T Grimes - President

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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 2019)', 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 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

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

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

۷.	DONATIONS AND LEGACIES		
		2021	2020
		£	£
	Donations	5,082	2,581
	Gift aid	3,072	3,353
	Subscriptions	19,565	18,736
	Joining Fees		40
		27,719	24,710
3.	INVESTMENT INCOME		
		2021	2020
		£	£
	Dividends	5,336	5,107
	Deposit account interest	1,032	2,471
		<u>6,368</u>	7,578

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

4.	INCOME FROM CHARITABLE	ACTIVITIES			
	Events & activities Grants Events & activities Events & activities	Activity Museum and library Museum and library Lecture receipts Quiz		2021 £ 237 98,528 730 158	2020 £ 33,620 966 797
				99,653	<u>35,383</u>
	Grants received, included in	the above, are as follows:		2021	2020
	Museum and library			£ 98,528	£ 33,620
5.	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COS	STS		Support	
	Museum and library Lecture expenses		Direct Costs £ 58,632 164 58,796	costs (see note 6) £ 29,304	Totals £ 87,936 164 88,100
6.	SUPPORT COSTS				Governance
	Museum and library				costs £ 29,304
7.	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITUR	E)			
	Net income/(expenditure) is	stated after charging/(crediting):			
	Depreciation - owned assets			2021 £ 11,651	2020 £ 9,445
	Other operating leases			10,000	- -

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2021 nor for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees' expenses

Members of council received £2,962 (2020 £17,011) reimbursement for purchases on behalf of the Society. All members of council are unpaid providing their services voluntarily.

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

9. STAFF COSTS

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

	Administration		2021 1	2020 2
	No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.			
10.	COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	;		
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
	INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
	Donations and legacies	23,403	1,307	24,710
	Charitable activities			
	Museum and library	-	33,620	33,620
	Lecture receipts	966	-	966
	Quiz	797	-	797
	Investment income	7,578	-	7,578
	Other income	3,742	204	3,946
	Total	36,486	35,131	71,617
	EXPENDITURE ON			
	Charitable activities	27.045	47.450	54005
	Museum and library	37,815 704	17,150	54,965 704
	Lecture expenses	704		704
	Total	38,519	17,150	55,669
	Net gains/(losses) on investments	(23,829)		(23,829)
	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(25,862)	17,981	(7,881)
	RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
	Total funds brought forward	726,247	41,085	767,332
	_			

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continued...

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

10.	COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued					
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
			funds	funds	funds	
			£	£	£	
	TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		700,385	<u>59,066</u>	759,451	
11.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS					
			Fixtures			
		Freehold	and	Computer		
		property	fittings	equipment	Totals	
		£	£	£	£	
	COST					
	At 1 January 2021	300,000	93,910	18,144	412,054	
	Additions		13,941	1,768	15,709	
	At 31 December 2021	300,000	107,851	19,912	427,763	
	DEPRECIATION					
	At 1 January 2021	-	16,535	2,717	19,252	
	Charge for year	-	<u>8,664</u>	2,987	11,651	
	At 31 December 2021		25,199	5,704	30,903	
	NET BOOK VALUE					
	At 31 December 2021	300,000	<u>82,652</u>	<u>14,208</u>	396,860	
	At 31 December 2020	300,000	77,375	15,427	392,802	

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 not obtained a valuation of the Museum collection from the balance sheet, as permitted by paragraph 18.17 of the Charities SORP (FRS102). In most cases it would be impossible to place a reliable value on items in the collection and the volume of unique items mean it would not be practical or a reasonable use of society funds to obtain a valuation.

The cost of additions to the museum collection, library and archives as well as museum 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

12.	FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS			
				Listed
				investments
	MADKET VALUE			£
	MARKET VALUE At 1 January 2021			150,147
	Additions			399
	Disposals			(3,250)
	Revaluations			21,685
	At 31 December 2021			168,981
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2021			168,981
	At 31 December 2020			150,147
	There were no investment assets outside the UK.			
12	DEDTORS, ANACHINES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
13.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2021	2020
			2021 £	£
	Prepayments and accrued income		460	2,235
	Topayee			
14.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
			2021	2020
			£	£
	Accruals and deferred income		<u>2,438</u>	2,571
15.	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		•• •	
			Net	۸.
		At 1.1.21	movement in funds	At 31.12.21
		At 1.1.21 £	fi fullus £	51.12.21 £
	Unrestricted funds	ь.	L	_
	General fund	92,109	3,581	95,690
	Designated fund	505,682	29,191	534,873
	Designated Building fund	102,594	597	103,191
		700,385	33,369	733,754
	Restricted funds			
	Museum	53,351	33,882	87,233
	Library	2,120	(150)	1,970
	Building fund	3,595	661	4,256
		E0 066	24 202	02 450
		59,066	<u>34,393</u>	93,459
	TOTAL FUNDS	759,451	67,762	827,213

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

Uniconstituted founds	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds General fund	40.200	(20.007)	2 224	12.002
	49,388	(38,807)	3,321	13,902
Designated fund Designated Building fund	435 597	-	18,435	18,870
Designated Building rund		-		597
	50,420	(38,807)	21,756	33,369
Restricted funds	30,420	(30,807)	21,750	33,303
Museum	83,025	(49,143)	_	33,882
Library	-	(150)	_	(150)
Building fund	661	(133)	_	661
	83,686	(49,293)	-	34,393
				
TOTAL FUNDS	134,106	(88,100)	21,756	67,762
Comparatives for movement in funds				
			Net	
		4+1120	movement	At
		At 1.1.20 £	in funds £	31.12.20
Unrestricted funds		Ľ	Ľ	£
General fund		95,804	(3,695)	92,109
Designated fund		527,849	(22,167)	505,682
Designated Building fund		102,594	-	102,594
		726,247	(25,862)	700,385
Restricted funds				
Museum		35,132	18,219	53,351
Library		3,068	(948)	2,120
Building fund		2,885	710	3,595
		41,085	17,981	59,066
TOTAL FUNDS		767,332	(7,881)	759,451

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	34,824	(38,519)	-	(3,695)
Designated fund	1,662		(23,829)	(22,167)
	36,486	(38,519)	(23,829)	(25,862)
Restricted funds				
Museum	33,620	(15,401)	-	18,219
Library	801	(1,749)	-	(948)
Building fund	710			710
	35,131	(17,150)		17,981
TOTAL FUNDS	71,617	<u>(55,669</u>)	<u>(23,829</u>)	(7,881)

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

		Net	
		movement	At
	At 1.1.20	in funds	31.12.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	95,804	(114)	95,690
Designated fund	527,849	7,024	534,873
Designated Building fund	102,594	597	103,191
	726.247	7.507	722 754
	726,247	7,507	733,754
Restricted funds			
Museum	35,132	52,101	87,233
Library	3,068	(1,098)	1,970
Building fund	2,885	1,371	4,256
	41,085	52,374	93,459
TOTAL FUNDS	767,332	59,881	827,213

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	84,212	(77,326)	3,321	10,207
Designated fund	2,097	-	(5,394)	(3,297)
Designated Building fund	597		<u>-</u>	597
	86,906	(77,326)	(2,073)	7,507
Restricted funds				
Museum	116,645	(64,544)	-	52,101
Library	801	(1,899)	-	(1,098)
Building fund	1,371			1,371
	118,817	(66,443)		52,374
TOTAL FUNDS	205,723	<u>(143,769</u>)	(2,073)	59,881

In addition to the unrestricted fund the society has the following designated and restricted funds:

Designated fund:

The council has designated an amount equivalent to the net book value of non-restricted fund fixed assets and investments used to enable the Society to continue to carry on its charitable mission.

Designated building fund:

The council have established a separate fund to work towards the repair and renewal of the society property by designating individual gifts and insurance proceeds received on the property as a building fund.

Restricted building fund:

The council have begun fund raising to provide the reserves required to repair and renew the property from which the society operates in order to be able to provide improved access to and the environment providing suitable protection for the societies collection. Donations and gifts received as part of this fund raising are restricted for these purposes.

Restricted library fund:

Part of the societies collection is a substantial library, which requires significant conservation due to age of many of the books. The council have developed an 'adopt a book' scheme to provide the funds to undertake this work and all income received is restricted for the purposes of library conservation.

Other restricted funds:

Other restricted funds relate to grants received for various projects, which are restricted in use dependent on the terms of the grant in question.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2021.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations and legacies				
Donations C:ta aid	1,421	3,661	5,082	2,581
Gift aid Subscriptions	2,572 19,565	500	3,072 19,565	3,353 18,736
Joining Fees	19,303	-	19,505	40
Johnnig Fees				
	23,558	4,161	27,719	24,710
Investment income				
Dividends	5,336	-	5,336	5,107
Deposit account interest	1,032		1,032	2,471
	6,368	-	6,368	7,578
Charitable activities				
Events & activities	1,125	-	1,125	1,763
Grants	19,003	79,525	98,528	33,620
	20,128	79,525	99,653	35,383
Other income				
Other Income	-	-	-	100
Retail sales	366	-	366	1,001
Sundry income				2,845
	366		366	3,946
Total incoming resources	50,420	83,686	134,106	71,617
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities				
Other operating leases	-	10,000	10,000	_
Rates	1,272	-	1,272	-
Insurance	6,211	-	6,211	7,106
Light, heat and water	5,341	-	5,341	4,136
Postage, stationery & printing	2,144	165	2,309	2,402
Sundries	128	536	664	3,347
Repairs and renewals	3,198	-	3,198	3,225
Conservation and preservation of artefacts	94	8,956	9,050	2,841
Magazines and books	44	-	44	330
Conservation of books and archives	39 19 471	517 20 174	556	3,342
Carried forward	18,471	20,174	38,645	26,729

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

			2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Brought forward	18,471	20,174	38,645	26,729
Cleaning	158	-	158	174
Catering	24	-	24	118
Philately and medals	-	-	-	82
Subscriptions and donations	840	-	840	785
Lecture fees and expenses	577	-	577	704
Professional fees	4,038	2,100	6,138	3,980
Travel	-	280	280	617
Retail	483	-	483	1,264
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,075	<u>8,576</u>	11,651	9,445
	27,666	31,130	58,796	43,898
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Wages	4,004	-	4,004	4,079
Telephone	1,277	-	1,277	930
Accountancy fees	3,532	-	3,532	1,017
Computer and office costs	2,328	<u> 18,163</u>	20,491	5,745
	11,141	18,163	29,304	11,771
Total resources expended	38,807	49,293	88,100	55,669
Net income before gains and losses	11,613	34,393	46,006	15,948
Realised recognised gains and losses				
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset				
investments	71	-	71	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on fixed asset				
investments	21,685		21,685	<u>(23,829</u>)
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>33,369</u>	<u>34,393</u>	67,762	<u>(7,881</u>)

The Society maintains membership in a number of Societies and Associations related to our objectives and the contents of our collections. We currently subscribe to and receive the publications of the following organisations:

AIM

Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries
The Bibliographical Society
British Numismatic Society
British Record Association
Council for British Archaeology
English Place Name Society
Fenland Archaeological Trust
The Harleian Society
Lincoln Record Society
Lincolnshire Heritage Forum
Museum Association
The Orders and Medals Research Society
Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology
The Heritage Trust Network

The Society also receives the following publications, either by donation or subscription

The Antiquaries Journal Archaeology The Bentleian Genealogists' Magazine Lincolnshire Life Coin News

The Trustees would like to thank the following organisations, each of which has supported the Society's work to manage, conserve and display its collections and to make them more accessible to members and the public:





