

The Somerset County History Trust
Registered Charity No. 1161263

Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

CONTENTS	Page
Report of the trustees	2-4
Independent examiner's report	5
Statement of financial activity	6
Balance sheet	7
Notes forming part of the financial statements	8-9

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity registration:	1161263
Constitution:	Established by a trust deed dated 18 March 2015. Registered with the Charity Commission as a charity on 14 April 2015.
Operational address:	Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6SF
Trustees:	Lady Elizabeth Periam Acland Hood Gass Mr Desmond Paul Atkinson (treasurer) Mr Clive James Bond Mr Robert Anthony Croft Mr Thomas William Mayberry (chair) Professor David Michael Palliser Dr Janet Hilary Tall
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Structure Governance and Management

The charity is administered by the trustees named above in accordance with the trust deed dated 18 March 2015.

Objects

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in general on the subject of the history of the historic county of Somerset (including North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset) including by carrying out and promoting research for the public benefit and by publishing the useful results thereof.

Achievements and Performance

For the greater part of 2020 the activities of the Trust were greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Though a meeting of the board of trustees took place on 24 February, the meeting intended for 8 June was cancelled, and the last board meeting of the year, on 10 November, was held on-line. From March onwards no place-based events could be held, and the work of our loyal volunteers had, unfortunately, to be suspended.

Despite the many challenges to which the pandemic gave rise, including serious limitations on access to original source materials, major progress was made on drafting text relating to Taunton. By year's end our editor, Mary Siraut, had completed substantial drafts of sections relating to religious history, economic history, social history (including education and charities) and health and welfare. Less complete drafts also existed for sport and community life and for politics and political representation. Text amounting to more than 200,000 words was complete, representing more than half the intended total. Mary Siraut deserves congratulations and great praise for what, by any measure, is an extraordinary achievement. We are most grateful to her for her dedication, her scholarship and her generosity. The work of the Somerset VCH would be impossible without her outstanding voluntary contribution.

Following the completion of his work to write the history of Bradford on Tone, Scott Pettitt was commissioned to research and write the article on Wilton parish. Lockdown prevented documentary research, but he was nevertheless able to undertake extensive research online. Later in the year the demands of his substantive role forced the reluctant conclusion that he would need to give up the commission. We are most grateful to Scott for all he did to support the aims and work of the Trust and for all that he was able to achieve.

During the year we continued to await the publication of volume XII (Minehead and Dunster). It is now expected to appear in 2022.

The publication of summer and winter editions of the VCH Somerset Newsletter took place as planned. Articles focused on a wide range of subjects including the medieval history of Sampford Arundel, the former Taunton and Somerset Hospital, the story of General Gordon and his links to the town, the Black Death in Somerset, Taunton's struggle for vaccination and better public health, and the Royal Ordnance Factory in Puriton.

We were delighted on 5 November that Professor Mark Stoye from the University of Southampton was able to deliver on-line the Somerset VCH Annual Lecture. More than 100 people from across the world heard his vivid account of the war in Somerset and its desperate consequences for a populace which mostly supported Parliament. In the midst of such a difficult year as 2020 had been for so many people, it was good that we could gather virtually to be reminded of why history and its lessons are still so important.

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Independent Examiner

Patricia Marie Gardner-Harper acted as independent examiner for the year. We are very grateful to her.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mayberry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped final letter.

Tom Mayberry, Chair
On behalf of the trustees

Date: 25 October 2021

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my explanation, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Patricia Marie Gardner-Harper CIMA Dip. MA, FMAAT
Association of Accounting Technicians
28 Furnham Road, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1AE

6 October 2021

THE SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORY TRUST (charity registration number 1161263)					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020					
		2020		2019	
		General Fund	Research Fund	General Fund	Research Fund
Incoming Resources	Note				
Events (Mick Aston raffle money)		0		108	
Other donations	1	1621		1045	
Mick Aston lecture net income	2	980		722	
Gift aid		150		0	
Bequests and legacies		0		0	
Grant income	3	0	0	730	25000
Total Incoming Resources		2751	0	2605	25000
Charitable Activities					
Contractor fees	4	0	6772	-	16000
Publication costs		0		0	
MS/SP travel expenses		0		703	
New leaflets		0		0	
Book purchases and maps		0		38	
Fundraising costs	5	0		153	
Bank charges		60		60	
		60	6772	954	16000
Governance Costs					
Trustee expenses		0		0	
Professional fees		0		0	
IT costs		0		0	
Insurance	6	0		99	
Recharge costs to VCH headquarters		0		0	
		0	0	99	0
Total Resources Expended		60	6772	1053	16000
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		2691	-6772	1552	9000
Other Recognised (Losses)/Gains		0	0	0	0
Transfers between funds		0	0	-3500	3500
Net Movement in Funds		2691	-6772	-1948	12500
Total Funds Brought Forward		4110	32500	6058	20000
Total Funds Carried Forward		6801	25728	4110	32500

THE SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORY TRUST								
BALANCE SHEET								
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020								
			2020		2019		2018	
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets							0	0
Current Assets								
Cash at bank and in hand		31549		36041			25914	
Debtors		980		722			144	
		32529		36763			26058	
Current Liabilities								
Creditors and accruals		0		153			0	
Net Current Assets			32529		36610			26058
Total Net Assets			<u>32529</u>		<u>36610</u>			<u>26058</u>
Funded By								
General Fund			6801		4110			6058
Research Fund			25728		32500			20000
			<u>32529</u>		<u>36610</u>			<u>26058</u>

**THE SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The Somerset County History Trust was registered by deed on 14th April 2015. The charity registration number is 1161263.

At the meeting of the board of trustees held on 25 June 2015 it was agreed that the financial year of the trust would end on 31 December of each year.

1. Donations details

The two largest donations were £1,000 from Mary Siraut and £500 from D. and M. Bromwich.

2. Mick Aston lecture

The final net profit figure for the 2020 lecture was £980. This money was received in March 2021 and is therefore listed as a debtor in the 2020 accounts.

3. Grant income

No grant income was received in 2020.

4. Contractor fees

The sum of £6,771 represents the payment made to the SWHT for the services of Scott Pettitt.

As Scott was unable to continue his assignment, the SWHT will be repaying the sum of £2,257. This will be credited in our 2021 accounts.

5. Fundraising costs

There were no fundraising costs incurred in 2020.

6. Insurance

Zurich extended our insurance cover at no cost for an additional three months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The renewal therefore fell due in February 2021 and will feature in the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021.

7. Cash at bank

The day-to-day management of the CAF bank account is carried out by the Honorary Treasurer. All bank transactions are to be reconciled with the Paxton accounting software by one of the other trustees.

8. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

They have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

(b) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(c) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

9. South West Heritage Trust

The activities of the Somerset County History Trust (SCHT) take place at the premises of the South West Heritage Trust (SWHT). At present no charge is made by the SWHT for those facilities. The SCHT is extremely grateful to the SWHT for that provision.

The day-to-day work of the SCHT is managed on a voluntary basis by Mary Siraut. The SCHT is most grateful to her for that essential work.