

Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society: 2020

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: 2020

SANHS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

Hopefully we will soon be able to have some open-air events and committee meetings face to face. The Trustees will be guided by the government advice. Provided the team leading the Zoom meetings are prepared so to do, some presentations will continue in that format. This has the benefit of those living miles away joining with us; also, those less mobile and those with no transport can participate. Initially the webinars were by donation and, although they earned some much needed cash, it was felt it needed to be formalised and future screenings will have a charge of £5, when the system has been set up.

There are many people behind the scenes who are working away voluntarily to ensure the society continues to function and improve. We know we will never be perfect; we are human and hopefully some of you may wish to join in and help with that improvement.

Natural History, Archaeology and Historic Buildings committees have all contributed to the webinar programme over the past few months very successfully. These sessions take a lot of organising and team working. Dr Lizzie Induni has offered to train Associate Society members in the art of Zoom if they are unsure and also anyone who would like to present a talk.

Covid had totally thrown the *Proceedings* 163 completion; there were a considerable number of papers that could not be finalised and the decision was taken to wait for them to be completed rather than have a copy with half the content. The printers themselves experienced delays due to social distancing etc. Rob Webley and David Dawson, along with others, have worked very hard to ensure that the digital version for the members-only area was ready. This is now available in the members-only area of the website for those who chose to have this format. If your preference was for a hard copy, but forgot to pay the extra £10, there are a very few copies available. Please contact the office.

The members-only section of the website has been developed by Dr Harriet Induni, with support from other members. Harriet has had to update the Privacy Policy with a very short insert to ensure we are GDPR compliant. The Board agreed the changes and Harriet contributed to the newsletter with details of where you should be able to access the website if you have no computer of your own.

Martin Salzer has put together this year's newsletter with the many articles he has received from members, many contributing for the first time. He has put a considerable amount of work into this publication, very aware that this and the *Proceedings* are the only contact some may have with the society.

Sue Goodman wears many hats: Membership Secretary, Chair of the Library committee, part of the digital *Proceedings* group; she produces the e-bulletin, and has been involved with Harriet in the development of the members' area. She also proofreads any of my letters before they are sent!

Despite advertising in different forms of media, we have not been successful in recruiting a new Treasurer, a post that has to be filled. David Victor, has put together a clear job description and also the time it takes for the different components. Most of this can be carried out at home but attendance at most Board meetings is required, usually six times a year. We have had to slip in four extra meetings due to the amount of work in progress. Please contact the office, via office@sanhs.org, if you would like to discuss the role.

The aforementioned extra meetings discussed the loan of some of the SANHS collection for a period of five years to the Newt, part of the Hadsden Estate. Another was to discuss the recruitment of Holding Trustees and the relationship with the Board. We also held one meeting to purely discuss the financial situation of the society. In line with other investors, our investment income is down; the sale of books has almost dried up, and we are unable to hold the number of events we usually would, all of which we rely on for income to run the society. Another meeting was to tidy up odd pieces of work that needed to be dealt with and to look at ways of focusing on fundraising.

We are now registered on the Easyfunding website which two of our trustees were registered to for other charities. There are around 5,000 companies that contribute a percentage of any purchase that you make with them. There is no added cost to the purchaser. Please, if you are not already aware of this way of donating (at no cost to yourself) please do investigate.

We also would welcome more members to come forward as trustees. We are losing two from the

Board this year, one who has increased commitments elsewhere and David Victor our treasurer who also has other interests he wishes to follow. He announced his resignation as the treasurer two years ago but had continued in an acting capacity.

A good functioning Board will consist of a variety of people with differing skills, and the ability to work as a team. We have two members who have come forward to join the Board, both recently retired college lecturers, one being an archaeologist. We have another two who are giving it some consideration. All Board meetings will continue via Zoom until the government decides it is no longer necessary.

The Castle Hotel who held the lease for the Castle Gardens informed the society that they wished to end the lease. This has had a big impact on our finances as there is a process which has to be followed before we are able to re let the lease. We also have to employ a professional body to carry out the closing of the old lease which we are required to fund. Interest has been shown from two organisations already connected to the society and hopefully we may be clearer on the position by the time of the AGM in September which is booked for 11th September in St Andrews Church Hall. We will investigate if it is possible to also have a virtual presence. This is the second year running that the AGM has been delayed; hopefully when we get back to being able to meet face to face life will be smoother.

This will be my last chairman's report as I am standing down at the 2021 AGM, a few months early. I will remain as a trustee as I enjoy a lot of what I am involved in for the society, especially the Castle Gardens. We don't anticipate the gardening side of the

project being complete until sometime next year but, as our volunteer numbers increase, we may be pleasantly surprised. The repair to the walls and other construction work was successfully completed. Mrs Chris Webster, one of the gardening volunteers updates the progress of the work and has taken an enormous number of photographs available on the website.

The Norman Gardens have now become known as the Castle Gardens as Norman Gardens sounded very much like Northern Gardens, the area between the back of the museum and the Mill stream which the society also owns. The gardens had previously been known as the Castle Gardens, but also the Castle Keep Gardens.

The next project the society has to consider is what it wishes to do about the Wyndham Hall, which is showing serious deterioration. When it was valued 5-6 years ago, a selling price of around £70,000 was quoted. This building – once upgraded and extended – would be an ideal focal point for the Society, plus could be a regular income generation if careful thought was given. A member has already drawn some plans which included an office which could be rented out to a suitable client. It would also have a presence onsite. Another member has drawn plans for conversion to a two-bed property. This all depends on having the people prepared to commit to the project. It is a valuable asset to the Society which would save the need to hire halls for the lectures our committees provide in normal circumstances. The Board have committed to sending a questionnaire to members and hopefully we have been able to include it along with the publication of this volume.

Chris Jessop, Chair of SANHS, 11 September 2021

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY for 2020

PATRON: Lady Gass MA

HOLDING TRUSTEES: Lady Gass MA
Stephen Pugsley
Brian Murless

PRESIDENT: Julian Orbach BA Hon RSAW (retired October);
David Dawson BA FSA FMA (elected October)

VICE PRESIDENTS: Lady Gass MA; Julian Orbach BA Hon RSAW (from October)

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: *Chair:* Chris Jessop RMN SRN RMV FWT FP Cert NP Cert
Vice-chair: Rob Hutchings BA MSc
Hon. Secretary: post vacant
Hon. Treasurer pro tem: David X. Victor
Hon. Librarian: David Bromwich MA ALA
Editor: Robert Webley BA MA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Anthony Porter BA FCA

TRUSTEES (with date of retirement)

David Baker MA (retired October)
Kathy Brown
Christopher Chanter (2022)
Rob Hutchings BA MSc (2021)
Harriet Induni BA MPhil PhD (co-opted November)
Lizzie Induni PhD (elected October)
Chris Jessop (2022) RMN SRN RMV FWT FP Cert NP Cert
Mark Lidster (elected October)
David Reid (2021)
David Victor (2021)
Nathaniel Williams (served until October)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Archaeology: David Baker MA
Heritage Grants: David Dawson BA FSA FMA
Historic Buildings: Lizzie Induni PhD
Library: Sue Goodman BSc (Hons) MA DipLib
Local History: John Page
Museum Collection: David Baker MA
Natural History: David Reid
Publications: Chris Webster BTech PG Cert FSA MCIfA

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY ACCOUNTS FOR 2020

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Incoming Resources	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming Resources from generated funds						
Subscriptions	2	13,639	-	-	13,639	14,530
Gift Aid		993	-	-	993	1,329
Rent Received	4	7,799	-	-	7,799	9,049
Investment Income		1,071	2,539	7,349	10,959	13,773
Legacies and Donations	3	3,307	40,549	-	43,856	64,941
Publication Sales and Contributions		1,070	-	-	1,070	1,633
Royalties		828	-	-	828	937
Proceedings		705	-	-	705	8,671
Function Income		-	-	-	-	2,226
Group events income		896	-	-	896	1,834
Other Income		61	-	-	61	172
Total Incoming Resources		30,369	43,088	7,349	80,806	119,095
Charitable Activities						
Grants	14	606	3,465	-	4,071	14,271
Museum Exhibits & Replacements		2,166	-	-	2,166	-
Proceedings		4,447	-	-	4,447	812
Newsletter		631	-	-	631	672
Library Acquisitions		1,312	-	-	1,312	1,129
Library maintenance		35	-	-	35	165
Function Costs		14	-	-	14	1,634
Publications		44	-	-	44	1,329
Group events expenditure		867	-	-	867	534
Dunster Project		1,023	-	-	1,023	1,205
Norman Gardens Project		-	55,586	-	55,586	113
New Website		3,189	-	-	3,189	3,111
Office Costs	5	17,500	625	1,869	19,994	20,433
		31,834	59,676	1,869	93,379	45,408
Governance Costs	5	6,221	-	-	6,221	7,781
Total Resources Expended		38,055	59,676	1,869	99,600	53,189
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		(7,686)	(16,588)	5,480	(18,794)	65,906
Other Recognised (Losses)/Gains		(1,341)	(3,069)	(9,204)	(13,614)	23,300
Transfers between funds		-	5,480	(5,480)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(9,027)	(14,177)	(9,204)	(32,408)	89,206
Total Funds Brought Forward		61,019	138,172	213,031	412,222	323,016
Total Funds Carried Forward		51,992	123,995	203,827	379,814	412,222

**SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Heritage Assets	1		-		-
Office Equipment	7		452		677
Investments					
Shares at valuation	8		297,636		315,096
Intangible Assets					
Leases	9		7,284		8,147
			<u>305,372</u>		<u>323,920</u>
Current Assets					
Stocks of items for resale			-		-
Debtors	10	19,327		1,018	
Cash at bank and in hand	11	56,701		89,040	
		<u>76,028</u>		<u>90,058</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals	12	1,586		1,756	
Net Current Assets			<u>74,442</u>		<u>88,302</u>
Total Net Assets			<u><u>379,814</u></u>		<u><u>412,222</u></u>
Funded By	14				
Unrestricted Funds					
General Purposes Fund			51,992		61,019
			<u>51,992</u>		<u>61,019</u>
Restricted Funds			123,995		138,172
Endowment Funds			203,827		213,031
			<u>379,814</u>		<u>412,222</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the trustees on
(Honorary Treasurer)

and signed on their behalf by Mr