WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1080096

Details

Other names	WILTSHIRE HERITAGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03885649
Registered	2000-03-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Wiltshire Museum 41 Long Street Devizes SN10 1NS
Phone	01380727369
Email	hello@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk
Website	www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC BY PROMOTING, FOSTERING INTEREST IN EXPLORATION, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY, ART, HISTORY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF WILTSHIRE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Activities: The WANHS objects are to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit. An accredited and designated museum, library and art gallery with temporary exhibitions are open to the public throughout the year and an education service provides activities for all ages.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£637,111	£718,338	£1,378,854	13
2024-03-31	£560,646	£645,351	£1,459,547	12
2023-03-31	£361,146	£515,682	-	-
2022-03-31	£795,535	£506,987	£1,755,780	12
2021-03-31	£330,508	£397,685	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caroline Margaret Kay	Chair	2024-09-26
Adelaide Hope Longhurst		2024-11-28
Ben Reed		2025-12-04
Bethany Louise Hocking		2025-01-01
Christine Mary Gay		2021-05-13
Christopher Rayner Kelly		2019-07-25
Claire Louise Dobbin		2021-11-13
DAVID WILLIAM DAWSON		2025-01-01
DIANE ADERYN		2025-12-04
Earl of Kerry Simon Henry George Petty-Fitzmaurice		2023-11-13
Grace Payne-Kumar		2024-11-10
Katie Michelle Brown		2021-11-13
Nicola Harris		2023-11-13
PETER GRAHAM WRAGG		2024-11-10
Ruth Bridget Kerr		2021-11-13

Linked charities

- WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY COLLECTIONS TRUST (1080096-1)
- THE WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY ENDOWMENT FUND (1080096-2)

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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1080096

Accounts

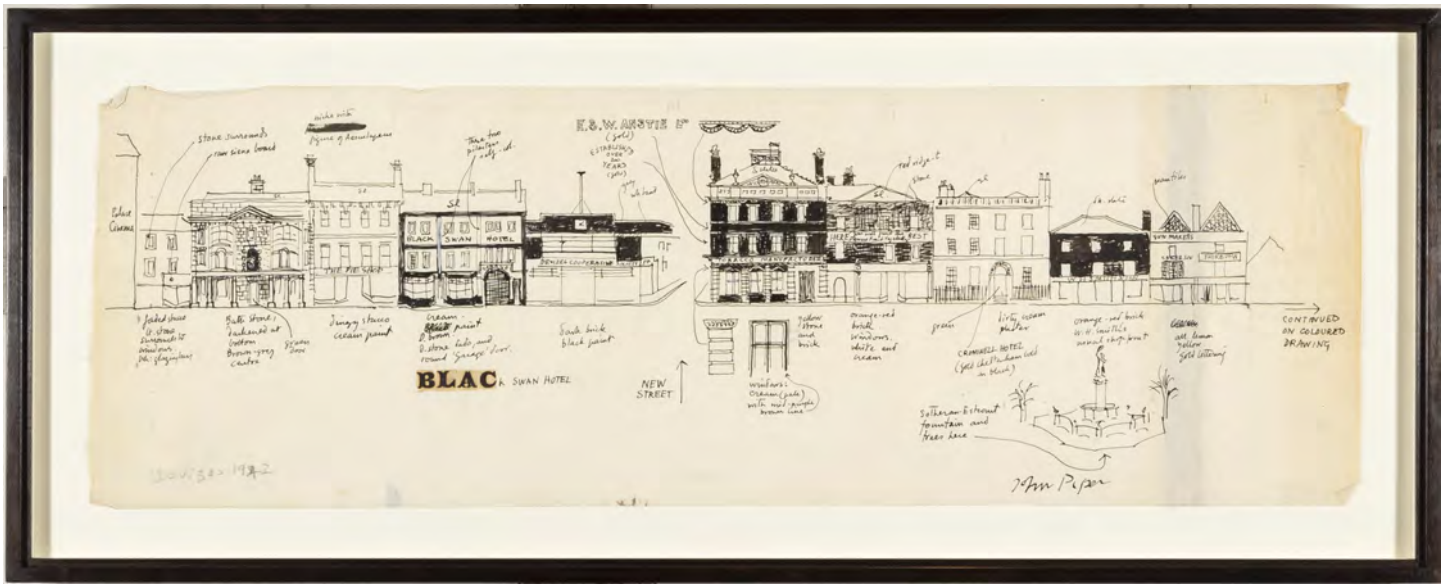
WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
01380 727369
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES



Values of the Society

We love Wiltshire!
Our mission is to inspire people to explore the archaeology, history and natural environment of Wiltshire.

Inclusive
We welcome everyone, building meaningful connections through a shared passion for our past, present and future.

Inspiring
We inspire curiosity and creativity through the discovery of our collections and stories.

Sharing
We are a collaborative space for encouraging well-being, enabling research and sharing knowledge.

Caring
We will bring joy to future generations by celebrating life in Wiltshire today and by caring for our Nationally important collections.

Trusted
We act with integrity, and we can be counted on.

Above: pen and ink drawing of Devizes Market Place, signed and dated by the artist, John Piper, 1942, see pages 12 and 17 (2024.1002)
Front Cover: The Wiltshire Thatcher, by Ernest Farmer, see page 13 (2023.7018)

SUMMARY and OBJECTS

WILTSHIRE Archaeological and Natural History Society

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

(A company limited by guarantee)

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853 and the Society's first permanent Museum opened in Long Street, Devizes in 1874.

The Society is a registered charity and governed by Articles of Association.

Objects. To educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

Mission Statement. To explore the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire.

Aims. The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum, organises a programme including conferences, lecture and events, learning and outreach for children and schools, provides access to our collections for academic and general researchers, reviews planning consents, supports the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group, promotes Industrial Archaeology and publishes the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (*WANHM*)*. Further details are included in this Annual Report.

The Collections. These have been acquired by the Society for over 170 years and their strength lies in the prehistoric material. The Early Bronze Age collection is of exceptional importance because of its size and range, the uniqueness of many of the objects, the fact that it includes many important items, its association with the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge, and its relevance to the history of archaeology. 'Gold from the Time of Stonehenge' is on permanent display.

Researchers. Every year academic researchers carry out important research on the collection. There are over 500,000 items in the collections and details can be found in our online searchable database. The collections are '**Designated**' of national importance and '**Accreditation**' status was first awarded in 2005. Overseen by the Arts Council the Accreditation Scheme *sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance, as well as supporting them to plan and develop their services*.

The **Archive & Library** contains a local studies collection of books, journals, newspapers and other printed items including photographs and maps concerned with Wiltshire, all available to researchers. The archaeology section includes a general collection of archaeology books, the principal archaeology journals, the papers of Wiltshire antiquaries and the written records of more recent excavations in the county. The natural history section similarly includes general natural history books, specialist journals and the papers of early natural historians.

Funding. The Society and Museum are funded by its members, past and present; admission charges, Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council, grants from charitable trusts, fundraising activities and income from investments.

The Society holds an Annual General Meeting each year to which all Society members are invited. At this meeting the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March are presented for approval, and Trustees elected.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society is committed to promoting the values of a just, inclusive and cohesive society and we take seriously our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. In all we do, we will seek to remove barriers to participation, create opportunities for engagement and meet the needs of all people.

Equality and diversity is being woven throughout our strategic aims. Our objectives for equality and diversity support our strategic aims and specifically focus on three key areas (governance, workforce and audiences), which will be implemented through our equality and diversity action plan.

A Policy is being developed, working with the Wessex Museums Partnership, to work towards embedding and integrating equality and diversity at every level of the organisation, through specific and regular equality and diversity policy review and strategic planning. We aim to raise awareness and actively promote the values of equality and diversity through the appointment of a board level Diversity Champion and by providing training opportunities for trustees. We are working towards ensuring that all levels of staff and volunteers are included in strategic and action planning and to develop a better and more detailed understanding of our audiences and our local demographics, in order to identify our under-represented audience groups. The Society will also ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of development planning in regards to the relocation of the Museum to the Assize Court.

Decolonising Collections

The Decolonising Collections Framework is supported by an Action Plan individual to each museum in the Wessex Museum partnership.

> *Decolonising involves creatively reimagining the way museums work, who they work with and what they value. It covers all areas of practice and creates a framework to better support people and institutions. Decolonising is a collective activity, which can be messy, thoughtful, imaginative, and emotional. It is driven by the desire for justice and equity in that it aims to rebalance power and representation away from the coloniser narrative of history and society. This work is intersectional as it challenges structural inequalities across the board to redress forms of historic and ongoing harm. Museums Association.*
>
> Decolonising Practice 2022.

The purpose of the Framework is to put the Wessex Museums firmly and consistently on the path to decolonisation, with meaningful, effective and collaborative public engagement. Through this work we want to understand the stories of those who have been oppressed and where there are connections to our collections - whether it is related to the empire or by more recent prejudices conveyed by the bias of curators and historians. We want to tell honest stories about how objects have come to be in museums - who they were given by and how and why the museums decided to accept them.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS

Values of the Society	2
Summary and Objects	3
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	4
Community Engagement	6
Letter from the Chair	7
Board of Trustees' Report	9
Objectives and Activities of the Society	9
Highlights of the Year	10
Portable Antiquities Scheme	11
Fundraising and Grants	12
Exhibitions	13
Collections - Loans	15
- Conservation	16
- Collections - Acquisitions of the year	17
- Collections - Archaeology	17
- Collections - Art and Archive & Library	18
- Natural History, Numismatics and Recent History	20
Research - Archaeology Collections	21
Researchers	22
Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group	23
Publications and Social Media	24
Activities, Events, Conferences, Lectures and Outings	25
Membership	26
Learning, Outreach and Community Engagement	27
Community Curator	28
Queer in Wiltshire: Queering Wiltshire project	29
Volunteers	30
Society Committees and Working Groups	31
Development - Working with Partners and Plans for the Future	32
- Devizes Assize Court project	33
Trustees' Financial Review	34
Structure, Governance and Management	37
Reference and Administrative Information	38
Report of the Auditors	39
Statement of Financial Activities	41
Balance Sheet	42
Statement of Cash flows	43
Notes to the financial statements	44
Collections Trust – Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	53
Collections Trust – Notes to the Financial Statements	54
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 November 2024	55

Fabric banners were designed by the Devizes Public Living Room (Camerados) and White Horse Arts and paraded as part of the 2024 Devizes Carnival.

They represent all the things that people love about Devizes, and they play on the Camerados theme - *Life is Pants, Sometimes.... But, Devizes Isn't,* see pages 17 and 19 (2024.73 and 2024.7012).

For more community activities, see page 28.











LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

This is my first year writing as Chair of the Society and I am excited to note the progress made on several fronts. Front of mind, for the Board of Trustees and the staff, has been progressing the work for the Assize Court project. Milestones within the year were the achievement of the significant progress with the lottery-funded Development work leading to a plan completed to RIBA Stage 3, much more certainty about costs, a detailed business case and perhaps most encouraging, the enthusiastic participation of over 3,000 members of the community in the outreach and activity programme related to the project. In addition we reached the substantial milestone of over £1m committed in funding to match our Round 2 lottery bid.

Part of the case for the new Museum is a recognition that Long Street, while a wonderful historic home for WANHS, can no longer offer what visitors expect on a trip to a museum. We all know that Long Street is something of a labyrinth and by no means easily accessible for the range of visitors we should like to welcome. This in turn limits our capacity to enlarge our visitor base significantly and in turn to improve the financial basis upon which we operate. Over the last few years this slip in visitor numbers has been further exacerbated by COVID, the cost of living crisis and the external reduction in the county's destination management organisation Visit Wiltshire; unsurprisingly this has resulted in a reduction of visits to the County of some 20% overall. In this context I should like to commend our staff and volunteer team, led so well by David Dawson, for the amazing depth and breadth of activity they manage to achieve within existing limitations both of space and resource. These are detailed in the Director's Highlights of the year on page 10.

Our financial turnover continued to increase, as last year, due to significant income and expenditure relating to the Assizes for Devizes project. Details are on pages 33 and 34-36. Our overall year end position is however less favourable than last year, largely due to two factors: the planned contribution from WANHS' own resources to the Assize Court Project, and the unplanned, and considerable, hit to our investment returns at the point of year-end due to its falling shortly after US President Trump's disruptive announcement of global tariffs. This only strengthens my view that we collectively have an obligation to maximise the possibilities of what we can control, by making a future museum which is the best, most accessible, most attractive venue possible, and by continuing to attract gifts and legacies which add to our assets and endowment.

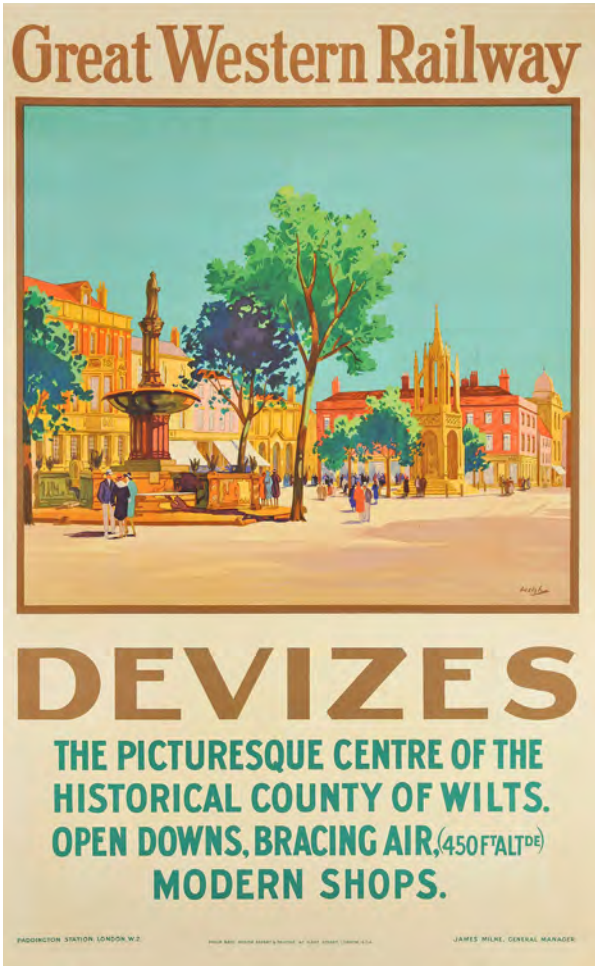
Such ambitions are only achieved through extensive partnership. As well as the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we already work closely with other Wessex Museums, supported by Arts Council England; we anticipate positive financial support for our project from Wiltshire and Devizes Town Councils; and we are building the coalition of wider funding partners. But it's not all about money. I'd like to thank my fellow volunteer Trustees, and I am delighted to welcome younger colleagues through the Kids in Museums Young Trustees' programme. Our wider cohort of volunteers, and our membership, make us who we are as an organisation and I should like to thank you all for your contribution in this and future years.

We are moving into a pivotal period of change for the Museum. We look forward to bringing you, our members, forward with us.

Caroline Kay

An eclectic mix of images of Devizes added to the collection in the year.





Clockwise from the top: a late 19th Century aerial view of Devizes, taken from St John's church tower. Included in a photograph album donated to the Museum, see page 20 (2024.7011); Great Western Railway, Devizes - Lithographic poster produced c.1930 by the Great Western Railway, see page 18 (2024.1001); digital photograph of the former Pizzeria in Northgate Street, Devizes, destroyed by fire in November 2024, see page 20 (2024.7013).



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

This Annual Report includes the reports and financial statements set out on pages 10 to 54. The Report of the Board of Trustees should be deemed to be the directors' report for the purposes of Company Law.

The reports on the following pages show how the Objects of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society ('the Society') - see below - are achieved to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Director is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chair and his report, and those of the staff, follow, on pages 10 to 33. The Society's committees and working groups provide a number of services to members and the wider public. They cover a wide range of activities from fundraising, industrial archaeology through to expert advice on planning matters. Their work helps promote the Society and its Museum and Archive and Library to a wide audience and reports are included in this report. The Society could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours provided and also the invaluable funding and support of our membership. .

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are *to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit*. To achieve this the Society:

- Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.
- Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire
- Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.
- Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
- Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.
- Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.
- Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in archaeology in the county.
- Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire. Loans objects to other organisations.

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

Highlights of the Year

This has been an incredibly busy year as we juggle work on the Assizes for Devizes project alongside the more 'normal' work of the Museum. It has been a privilege to have worked with Martin Nye, who retired as Chair at the end of last year, and to welcome Caroline Kay, our new Chair. I am also very grateful to Alison Hems, our interim Chair, for making sure that the handover worked so smoothly.

The year saw a landmark for the Museum as we marked the 150th Anniversary of its opening in September 1874. The Museum opened with a two-day celebration and a procession led by the Mayor, followed by a dinner in the Town Hall. We marked our 150th birthday with a small exhibition and a Members' tea party.

The major exhibition during the year was the *Wiltshire Thatcher*, highlighting a photograph album created by Ernest Farmer, a leading Victorian photographer, on a visit to Wiltshire. The album includes a photograph of a Wiltshire thatcher, immortalised on the cover of the Led Zeppelin IV LP that features *Stairway to Heaven*. Curated by Lisa Brown and Heather Ault, this included a busy series of talks and events, including Victorian family portrait sessions captured on glass plate negatives. Making exhibitions and events a success relies upon the support of a great team. Karen Jones designed the exhibition panels and organised the events, Emma Sykes developed stock for the shop and coordinated bookings.

In the Autumn we again held our popular Oexmann Art Competition, where the judging panel had the mammoth task of selecting winners from amongst 200 adult and 300 children's entries, all coordinated by Heather Ault. We are grateful to the Oexmann family for their continuing support for the competition, inspired by Theophila Oexmann.

We continue to run a busy learning and engagement programme. Ali Rushent, our Learning Officer, welcomed early years classes, primary schools from across the County, A-level groups and special needs classes. She has also continued our successful home schooling programme, as well as holding children's activities throughout the year.

Amy Hammett, our Community Curator, has continued to develop our work with our wider community, including working with Spurgeons Children's Centres and the Wiltshire Youth Justice Service Team. In 2025 Amy's work has been recognised with her Street Art project being shortlisted for a national award in the Social Justice category by Kids in Museums.

At the heart of the Society are the collections. We are grateful to the many donors who have added to our collection, highlights including a hoard from near Marlborough. This has been a good example of the importance of detectorists reporting their discoveries to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, as members of our Archaeology Field Group were able to undertake research at the site, uncovering valuable archaeological information. However, a particular favourite of Lisa Brown, our Curator, are children's shoes concealed in a house in Rowde, examples of folk traditions highlighted in the *Un/Common People* exhibition developed with our Wessex Museums colleagues.

We continue to add to our important Library and Archive, managed by Jane Schön and her team of volunteers. An important donation was the Cunnington family Bible, which contains the names and birthdates of several generations of the family, including the archaeologist William Cunnington I (born 1754).

We continue to welcome researchers to the Museum, working on topics ranging from the creation of a post-Roman pottery type series, to leading-edge AncientDNA to topics such as the botanical drawings of Stella Craig-Ross and Wiltshire brickworks. Our collections database continues to be an important way of helping researchers, and in September we were one of 12 collections that contributed data to the launch of the Museum Data Service, an initiative aiming to include data from all UK museums.

An important role of the Society is the annual publication of *WANHM*, the journal of record for archaeological and historical research in the County. We are grateful to Stuart Brookes, Honorary Editor, and to Peter Saunders and Stuart Raymond for all their work behind the scenes on this well-respected publication.

A special thanks goes to all those who make the work of the Museum possible, including Mandy Dixon, who keeps a close eye on our finances and Carol Johnson, who keeps the building spotless. We are also hugely grateful to our fantastic team of volunteers, whether welcoming visitors, supporting researchers in the library or helping children with their learning. Their help is vital to our work.

In this busy year, much time and energy has also been invested in the Assizes for Devizes project. The Project Team achieved a huge amount during the year, engaging 3,000 people in contributing towards design development. The work culminated in submitting a planning application in December 2024 and in preparing for a Mid-Term Review by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in March 2025. The Review included presentations from staff and specialist consultants and the National Lottery Team reviewed some 600 pages of documentation. These reports were prepared by working groups of staff, volunteers, external specialists and Trustees of both WANHS and the Devizes Assize Court Trust. It is a huge tribute to all those involved that the Review was successful, with no adverse comments. We can now move forward towards submitting the Heritage Fund application in August. Particular thanks are due to Nicola Trowell (Programme Manager), Claire Slack (Engagement Officer) and Helen Meikle (Support Officer). I am very grateful also for the support and challenge of the members of the Project Board, which includes Trustees from both the Society and the Devizes Assize Court Trust as well as their consultant architect, Colin Johns.

We are well placed as we submit our Delivery Stage application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in August 2025 and keep our fingers crossed for good news in early 2026!

David Dawson

TRAINING

The Collections Officer: Archive and Library (Jane Schön*)* attended several online lectures by The National Archives and the Society of Genealogists, covering topics ranging from researching family history, how to use Military Records, Rapid Response Collecting and using English Education Records, plus an online international conference about 'Decolonisation' delivered by the International Council of Museums, and an online session about using archival research in the heritage sector, delivered by the Institute of Historical Research and two online Show & Tell sessions on 'Contemporary Collecting' delivered by the Contemporary Collecting Network.

A number of online lectures run by the Research Libraries UK have also been viewed, on the theme of *Inclusive Collections: Inclusive Libraries* and several have been attended. The lectures provide useful background knowledge and will assist with the Decolonisation work being undertaken for the Wessex Museums Partnership NPO.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Finds Liaison Officers, Finds Liaison Assistants, PAS volunteers and self-recorders recorded 1,725 objects found in Wiltshire in 1,548 records from April 2024 to March 2025. The majority of these finds were made by metal detectorists who reported them to Portable Antiquities Scheme (*www.finds.org.uk*).

Funding has continued via the British Museum/ PAS to finance a part-time (2.5 days per week) Finds Liaison Assistant to support the FLO, and the role continues to be split between Alix Smith and Alyson Tanner, in addition to their volunteering with PAS. We have recently lost one of our regular PAS volunteers who was successful in gaining a full-time post at The Salisbury Museum, but we have a new PAS volunteer starting with us shortly.

The in-situ Bronze age hoard Treasure case reported to PAS in early 2024 and block lifted by Alix and Alyson, together with Neil Adam, Assistant County Archaeologist and Dan Greenaway, the finder, was one of four finds showcased at the British Museum/ PAS Annual Treasure report launch in February 2025. The hoard had been micro-excavated by British Museum's Conservation Team and proved to be of great interest as it contained a rare copper alloy anvil, together with a hammer, both of which showed traces of goldworking. Other finds within the hoard included a tanged chisel, palstave and copper alloy vessel fragments - *Record ID: WILT-C97E23 - BRONZE AGE hoard*. Thanks to the finder contacting PAS, rather than digging the hoard up himself, it was possible for Conservation to see in which order the objects had been deposited in the ground and glean other valuable information. Wiltshire Museum hopes to acquire the hoard.

Sophie Hawke
Finds Liaison Officer for Wiltshire
Portable Antiquities Scheme



Bronze Age anvil (WILT-C97E23_672e089728396)

Fundraising is essential to ensure the Society can continue to achieve its aims and ambitions and to work with the local community. The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community through subscriptions, donations and being advocates of our work. Corporate Members include Wansbroughs Solicitors, Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology.

This report highlights some of the work undertaken to fund new interactives, conserve the collection and hold high profile exhibitions. There is more detail elsewhere in the Annual Report.

In addition to annual grants from Devizes Town Council (£4,000) and Wiltshire Council (£12,780) we received funds for specific projects.

Arts Council England/Wessex Museums (NPO)
These funds enable us to employ and support an Exhibitions Officer and Community Curator. The NPO also funded a Street Art project in 2024, to work with a group of young people to work on their confidence and creative skills, aiming to divert them from criminal or anti-social behaviours

Assizes for Devizes Project
£65,000 of grants were received during the year towards the Development Phase of this project (see page 33). This included funds from the Pilgrim Trust, Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council and from the Devizes Assize Court Trust. We also received a number of individual donations, all of which are much appreciated.

Cardiff University: FeastNet project.
£3,000 received from this project would be used towards displays in the Assizes for Devizes.

Community Curator activity
£3,000 was received from the Wiltshire Community Foundation to fund the Explore It project during 2024/25, and £3,270 in March 2025 to continue the work into 2025/26. Working with Spurgeon's, and for families struggling with the cost of living and registered with Devizes Sure Start (Spurgeons), a workshop and hot meal are offered once a month.

£4,453 was received in March 2025 from the Wiltshire Police & Crime commissioner fund towards a Street Art (Graffiti) project to run in 2025/26, working with young people at risk of offending.

Donations.
Donations were received in memory of Jeremy Cross, who was particularly interested in the environment and the development of the Devizes Assize Court and in memory of Dr Kate Fielden, in addition to a painting *(illustrated rear cover)*. A donation was also received from Omnes ad Unum, a local charity, which supports Wiltshire Museum and St John's Church, Devizes.

Exhibition: *John Piper in the South Country*
Funds were received from the Wessex Museums NPO towards this exhibition which is scheduled to open in March 2026. The Guest Curator is Andrew Lambrith.

John Piper artwork: pen and ink drawing of Devizes Market Place, signed and dated by the artist, 1942 *(DZSWS: 2024.1002)*. This artwork was purchased with funding from ArtFund_/Arts Council (£3,150), the Victoria & Albert Purchase Grant Fund (£3,150) and the Miss J E Smith legacy *(illustrated inside front cover).*

Legacies
In April 2024 a legacy was received from the estate of Miss Jennifer Elizabeth Smith. It was split between the WANHS Endowment Fund and general funds, with a small contribution towards the purchase of the Piper drawing (see above).

Projects: Queer in Wiltshire 2024-2025
This project was funded by a grant of £3,050 from ACE NPO/Wessex Museums and £16,574 from the National Lottery Community Fund. The grants enabled us to employ a Project Officer (Friday Schoemaker), fund artists for LGBTQIA+ workshops and social events, and the development of a booklet exploring the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in the Wiltshire area. See report on page 29.

Association of Independent Museums
Helping Heritage Organisations Prosper
Art Fund_
Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Wessex Museums
Made possible with Heritage Fund
Wiltshire Community Foundation
COMMUNITY FUND

Our two special exhibition galleries - the Oexmann Gallery and the Piper Gallery - enables us to offer either two small exhibitions or one large exhibition.

The Exhibitions Officer post is funded by the Arts Council and Wessex Museums Project.

The main exhibition for spring/summer 2024 was *A Wiltshire Thatcher – a Photographic Journey through Victorian Wessex* (6 April – 1 September 2024), curated by Lisa Brown and celebrating the work of Ernest Farmer.

The exhibition featured an album of photographs created by Farmer and documented how he captured the spirit of people, villages and landscape of rural Wiltshire and Dorset during the Victorian period.

The exhibition featured the image immortalised on the Led Zepplin IV album cover, and celebrated the work of Ernest Farmer, who today is little-known but was a leading figure in the development of photography as an art form. The original of the photograph made famous by the band was discovered in a late Victorian photograph album, found by Brian Edwards, WANHS Member and Visiting Research Fellow with the Regional History Centre at the University of the West of England. The album features exceptional photographs from Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, and contains over 100 architectural views and street scenes together with several portraits of rural workers. Most of the photographs are titled and beneath the photograph made famous by Led Zeppelin is written 'A Wiltshire Thatcher'. The Victorian photograph album, 'Reminiscences of a Visit to Shaftesbury. Whitsuntide 1892. A present to Auntie from Ernest' is now part of the museum collections.



The acquisition of the photograph album and subsequent exhibition was supported by Brian Edwards, WANHS Member Tim Daw, as well as Frank Menger and Andew Glester, from the University of the West England Bristol. With permission from English Heritage, Frank Menger, Senior Lecturer in Photography, went to Stonehenge at Sunrise, to recreate the three images taken by Ernest Farmer, which feature in the photo album. Andrew Glester, Lecturer in Science Communication, made a short film documenting the process *(still from film above).*

A number of events took place related to the exhibtion, including a camera amnesty and Victorian portrait photography workshops, led by Frank Menger and a lecture 'Exploring photography's history up to 1939', by Dr Michael Pritchard.

See also page 32 and the 2023/24 Annual Report (pages 15 and 20).







Above: Example from the Victorian photography workshop; Led Zeppelin IV Album Cover; Tollard Royal village, by Ernest Farmer (DZSWS:2023.7019).

A Wiltshire Thatcher was followed by the *Assize Court Ideas Station* exhibition, developed and curated by Friday Shoemaker, and Bath Spa University students Cynthia Ganabadhi and Anita Sala (September 2024). This interactive exhibition was designed to involve a wide range of people in the crucial planning stage of the Assizes for Devizes project to ensure the new site is developed to be inclusive and accessible to current and new audiences. The Ideas Station travelled to various venues around the county and was finally displayed in the Museum exhibition galleries.

In autumn 2024 we held the *Oexmann Art Award Competition and Exhibition* (19 October – 23 November), with picture collection taking place in late September and judging on 2 October. The judges were Anna Dillon, Mitch Griffiths and Rob Pountney, who had the very difficult job of selecting prize winners and works for exhibition from over 200 adult and 300 children's entries. All children's work was displayed in the exhibition and a purchase prize selected from amongst the artworks for the Museum's collections.

In winter 2024 came *Megalithic Connections – Drawings & Etchings by Dave Gunning* (14 December 2024 – 1 March 2025), an exhibition of artwork inspired by the prehistoric heritage of the UK. Dave has had a long career as an artist capturing prehistoric sites across the UK and the world, with artwork accepted into the Royal collections. He works continuously to promote and remind people of the wonder of our megalithic heritage and has a long association with Wiltshire Museum having exhibited here a number of times previously.



Exhibition highlights to look forward to in 2025/2026 are *UnCommon People: Folk culture in Wessex*, curated by Simon Costin, Amy de la Haye and Mellany Robinson, *Downland: Art and the Archaeological Imagination*, by Dr Rose Ferraby and also *John Piper in the South Country*' curated by Andrew Lambirth, an exhibition which will tour to Museum & Art Swindon.

Heather Ault and Lisa Brown

Above: Etchilhampton Hill', collograph etching by Helen o'Sullivan (DZSWS:2024.1005)

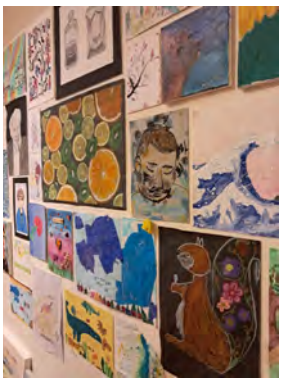
Exhibitions - Library Long Room

A number of small displays have been put on in the Long Room display cases during the last twelve months. The aim is to highlight unknown items within the collections but also to compliment the main temporary exhibition where possible. This year we focused on three key anniversaries, highlighted some LGBTQIA+ discoveries within the museums collections and showcased Wessex Archaeology's community archaeology project Digging for Erlestoke.

- Display highlighting the 80th Anniversary of the evacuation of Imber, Nov/Dec 1943, (13 November 2023 – 13 April 2024)
- Display about the World War Two POW Camp in Devizes and the German POW Diary to coincide with the 'Great Escapes: Remarkable Second World War Captives' exhibition at the National Archives, Kew, (13 April 2024 – 4 July 2024)







From the left: 'West Kennet I', donated by Dave Gunning (DZSWS:2025.1002); Gunning exhibition in the Piper gallery; under 18s entries in the Oexmann Exhibition.

- Display commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, June 1944, (4 June 2024 – 4 July 2024)
- Display highlighting some LGBTQIA+ discoveries from the museum's collections including Siegfried Sassoon, Cecil Beaton, Queen Anne and Thomas Lawrence. Curated by Friday Schoemaker, A4D Projects Assistant., (4 July 2024 – 3 Sept 2024)
- Display commemorating the 150th anniversary of Wiltshire Museum featuring the WANHS Rev. A.C. Smith Presentation Volume and research about four female members included in the volume, (3 Sept 2024 – 1 Oct 2024) and (from 14 Jan 2025)
- Digging for Erlestoke by Wessex Archaeology a community archaeology project by men from HMP Erlestoke, a category C prison in Erlestoke, Wiltshire. The exhibition celebrated the journey, outputs and impact of the project, showcasing the role archaeology can play in improving the wellbeing of people in unconventional settings. The exhibition included documentary evidence of the research process, artefacts uncovered during the recent dig, artistic interpretation of the discoveries and first-hand accounts and interpretations of what it was like to take part in the project, believed to be the first of its kind, (1 Oct 2024 – 14 Jan 2025)

Jane Schön

Loans

Loans to and from the Museum remain important in making the collections accessible to as many people as possible. The Museum lends items from its collections for display and research, subject to the proper security and environmental conditions being met. We are particularly pleased to lend objects for special exhibitions at other museums across Wiltshire.

In September 2024, the Wiltshire Keystone Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Devizes, borrowed an 'Albert Medal' dating to 1881, awarded to William Henry Burt, who managed the hardware shop in the Market Place. William was a former member of the Masons Lodge. The loan was for a special meeting to celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary (2024.76.1), *see also page 20, image below.*

In March 2025, Swindon Museums borrowed a framed colour lithograph by Paul Nash, *Landscape of the Megaliths*, c.1937. The picture featured in the exhibition, *A Very British Art Revolution: Rebellion and Reaction in the Early 20th Century*. The exhibition explored the period between about 1910 and 1945, looking at abstraction, pastoralism, representation of conflict and of ordinary life, and changes in the way art was taught and consumed at that time. *Image below.*

TO THE MUSEUM - None to report this year.

ARCHIVE & LIBRARY

The Avebury Papers Team at Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury led by Professor Mark Gillings, Principal Investigator and Dr Fran Allfrey, Research Assistant borrowed a further eight WEV Young diaries and six WEV Young journals in March 2025 which cover WEV Young's archaeological work at Avebury during the 1930s. (Eleven diaries were photographed in 2023). The diaries were photographed and included in the AHRC funded project to digitise, explore and share the multimedia archive of Avebury's Neolithic origins and its subsequent life-history. The project results including the digitised diaries will eventually be made available through the *Archaeology Data Service https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk* (MSS.4269 and MSS.4270).

Lisa Brown and Jane Schön



From the left: William Henry Burt; William Burt's 'Albert Medal' (DZSWS:2024.76); 'Landscape of the Megaliths, c.1937, by Paul Nash (DZSWS:2017.1006); Cameron Christensen with his acrylic painting of the front cover of the Led Zeppelin IV album, donated to the Museum (DZSWS:2024.1003);

Our collections require constant monitoring to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Curatorial staff undertake routine preventative conservation to ensure that objects and archives are displayed and stored in the best conditions that we can achieve, and we have been able to improve the storage of several collections over the last few years

All remedial conservation is contracted in from qualified conservators from the ICON Conservation Register.

In preparation for the Wessex Museums touring exhibition, *Un/Common People: Folk Culture in Wessex*, two small children's shoes, found concealed inside the chimney of a late 18th century house in Rowde were conserved for display by the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre conservation team.

When renovating old houses, people often find objects hidden in walls, up chimneys, in roofs and under floors. These range from items of clothing and other personal belongings to bottles, and even small animals, and are often in places they couldn't accidentally have fallen. These objects are known as 'concealed objects' – things which have been deliberately hidden in the belief that they will protect the building and the people inside from evil spirits. People believed that the personal nature of these objects would attract and trap these evil influences. The location of the hiding place was important too. The objects were left on boundaries (under floorboards, in roofs and between walls) as these places were thought to be more vulnerable to supernatural activity. Shoes are one of the most popular concealed objects, with over a thousand concealed shoes discovered throughout Britain alone (2024.42). See also page 17, and for more concealed shoes acquired in the year see page 20.

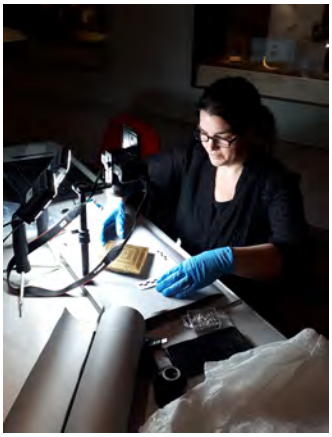
For the same exhibition, an iron cello, acquired by the museum in 1916, was treated for corrosion, before being put on display. The cello was made in about 1800 by the Milton Lilbourne village blacksmith. The body of the instrument was created using sheet iron and the neck is built from wood. It has been painted black. Beautifully made, this cello was played by the choir-band of St Peter's Church. It has unusual corners and the wooden scroll and pegbox are hand carved. In places like Milton Lilbourne, church singing was led by the people who lived in the village. They picked their own tunes, devised the harmonies, and fitted them to various psalms - a technique known as metrical psalmody. This cello was last played in 1970, to celebrate the 700th anniversary of St Peter's Church. The strings probably date from that performance. The conservation of this piece was undertaken by Pieta Greaves, Drakon Heritage & Conservation.

No items from the Archive & Library collection received conservation work this year.

Lisa Brown



Right, from the top: concealed shoes DZSWS:2024.42; Iron Cello, Milton Lilbourne DZSWS:2005.55



Museum Conservator Pieta Greaves

It is with great sadness that we learned that our conservator, Pieta Greaves died, in April. Pieta was a good friend of the museum, and an outstanding conservator. Over the years, Pieta supported the museum with many projects, including preparing objects to go to the British Museum for the Stonehenge exhibition, in 2022 (*pictured left*). Pieta's knowledge and experience were second to none, and she was always happy to help us in any way she could. Her visits to the museum were always fun, with lots of laughs, and we miss her very much.

Lisa Brown

We continue to actively collect objects, through our Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections.

There were many interesting additions made to the collections during the year. A full list can be found in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (volume 118, 2025).

All Collections are available to search on our new and improved online collections database, which launched in December 2023 *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/search-the-collections*. One of our principal aims is to make collections data accessible in the widest possible terms. To date there are 130,000 records of catalogued items on the database, across all collections, along with 24,000 digital images. Our collections can also be searched on the Museums Data Service *https://museumdata.uk/*

Acquisition highlights are noted below.

Acquisitions of the Year

Dispersed Iron Age axe hoard consisting of 436 items, including complete axe heads, fragments of axes, and three pieces of casting waste. 402 items were discovered by metal detectorists in July 2019 near Marlborough, and an additional 28 items were later recovered during a magnetometer survey carried out by WANHS, working with the finders. The total weight of the hoard is 10.7kg. PAS Treasure find - the reward was waived by both the finder and landowner. The hoard will go on display at the new Assize Court museum (2024.74), *image below.*

*Three Devizes Carnival fabric banners, two with designs of the town, and the other, a pair of bright yellow underpants, with the Camerados logo. The banners were designed by the Devizes Public Living Room (Camerados) and White Horse Arts. The banners were made and paraded through the town in 2024. They represent all the things that people love about Devizes, and they play on the Camerados theme - *Life is Pants, Sometimes.... But, Devizes Isn't* (2024.73), *image page 6.*

Pen and ink drawing of Devizes Market Place by John Piper, 1942. It is the sketch for the lithograph used in the *Cornhill Magazine,* to accompany an article about Devizes and later reworked for Piper's book, *Buildings and Prospects*, published in 1948. Purchased from the Jenna Burlingham Gallery with grants from Art Fund and Arts Council/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and from the Miss Jennifer Smith legacy (2024.1002), *image inside front cover.*

Two small children's shoes, not a pair and well-worn, found concealed inside the chimney of a late 18th century house in Rowde. Also found close by was a clay pipe fragment and a trade token dating to 1796, issued by 'I. Baster' of the White Hart public house, Devizes. The items were donated by the former owner of the house, Philip Hale, who discovered them during building renovations (2024.42). The shoes would be displayed during the Wessex Museums '*Un/Common People: Folk Culture in Wessex*' exhibition, April 2025, *image page 16.*

Archaeology

Wiltshire Museum closed to the deposition of archaeological archives in January 2013, as the stores were full. In December 2019, a new off-site store at Amesbury was purchased, and in October 2022 it opened to deposition. The museum is continuing to accept the backlog of material being held by various archaeological units who undertake work in our collecting area.

Late Bronze Age copper-alloy socketed and looped axe head, c.1000-800BC. The axe has a dark brown glossy patina, and the cutting edge shows no sign of wear. On the under edge there is a small oval hole close to the casting seam, a fault in manufacture. Found in Milton Lilbourne in the 1990s by John Brown (now deceased). The axe was donated to the museum by the finder's widow, in his memory (2024.72), *image below.*







From the left: Iron Age axe hoard (2024.74); leather shoes (2024.81) - see page 20; Late Bronze Age copper-alloy socketed and looped axe head, Milton (2024.72);

Trowbridge Museum ceased to collect archaeological archives in 2020. Their collecting area was subsequently absorbed by Wiltshire Museum, and their historic archaeological archives were transferred to Wiltshire Museum in 2024. Most notably, this includes the Trowbridge Castle excavation, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology,1988 (2024.4–35)

Art

Great Western Railway. Devizes. The Picturesque Centre of the Historical County of Wilts. Open Downs, Bracing Air, Modern Shops. Lithographic poster produced c.1930 by the Great Western Railway (GWR). Purchased at auction. Lyon & Turnbull, Edinburgh (2024.1001), *image page 8.*

*Acrylic painting of the front cover of the music album Led Zeppelin IV, by Cameron Christensen, aged thirteen, from Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Student of the Sydney Bowman Art Class of 2024. The painting featured in the exhibition, *A Wiltshire Thatcher - a Photographic Journey Through Victorian Wessex*, April - September 2024. Donated by the artist (2024.1003), *image page 13.*

Stonehenge Landscape – a Favourite Walk of Kate Fielden, oil on canvas by Mark Wickham, 2024. It was painted in Kate's memory and donated by members of the Stonehenge Alliance (2025.1001), *image rear cover*

Pen and ink drawing of the Assize Court by Sidney G. Smith, 1947. The drawing shows the cast iron railings fronting the Assize Court in Northgate Street, erected by William Rendell at their foundry, in 1847. These railings were removed during the Second World War, as part of the nationwide effort to salvage metal for the war effort. Donated by John Girvan (2024.1004), *image page 33.*

*Etchilhampton Hill, c*ollagraph etching by Helen O'Sullivan, winner of the Oexmann Art Competition Purchase Prize, 2024. Purchased by the Museum (2024.1005), *image page 14.*

West Kennet Avenue 1, pencil drawing completed in 2024 and donated by the artist, Dave Gunning. Featured in the exhibition, '*Megalithic Connections*', December 2024 – February 2025 (2025.1002), *image page 14.*

Archive and Library *(23/24 figures in brackets)*

The Archive and Library collection continues to grow. During the last year nine (12) books were purchased and 64 (101) were donated, of which seven were donated by the authors themselves, contributing to the 78 new acquisitions to the library. Four book acquisitions were volumes published by the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments about historical monuments in Dorset. These will assist future research of the photos in the Ernest Howard Farmer photo album (2023.7018) which was featured in the Wiltshire Thatcher exhibition in April – Oct 2024. Book purchases are still low due to financial constraints imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

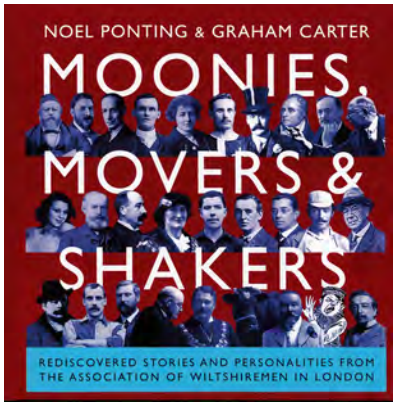
There were 48 (88) new additions to the Archive collection and all but three were donations. They include leaflets and programmes listing events taking place during 2024 and several articles from Devizes Edition of the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald newspaper. There were over 270 new acquisitions to the photographic collection (all were donations), including two photo albums one of which was compiled by Minnie Reed documenting the year she was Mayor of Devizes, 1951-52.

Highlights include:

BOOKS

As mentioned in previous annual reports, in December 2021 we received a gift of approximately 500 archaeological books, some of which were signed by the author or previous owner. A further two books have been accessioned into the library this year bringing the total accessioned so far to 92 books, with approximately another 20 books to check through. The books that were not accessioned are being sold to raise library funds. Donated by John S.S. Stewart (Book.18874-18875)

Moonies, Movers and Shakers: rediscovered stories and personalities from the Association of Wiltshiremen London by Noel Ponting and Graham Carte (2024). The authors contacted the Archive & Library requesting information about early Freemasonry in Devizes and H.H. Perkins, which has been included in the book. Donated to by the authors (Book.18878), *image below.*







"Moonies, Movers and Shakers: rediscovered stories and personalities from the Association of Wiltshiremen London', by Noel Ponting and Graham Carte (Book.18878); The Cunnington Family Bible (Book.18879); Welcome Home' invitation and program (MSS.4796.5). Not to scale.

The Cunnington Family Bible with metal book clasp and storage box with gold lettering 'Blackletter Bible 1588'. The earliest person recorded is Nathaniel Cooper, born 1616, whose great-granddaughter married John Cunnington in 1751. The Bible's faceplates have the names and dates of birth of their children, including William Cunnington I (born 1754), of Colt-Hoare association. Presumably it was owned by him and passed on to his son and then grandson, William (born 1813), of Devizes and the microscope, and then to his son and then to the donors grandfather. Donated by Francina Cunnington & John Cunnington, the 8x great grandchildren of Nathaniel Cooper and 4x great grandchildren of William Cunnington I (Book.18879), *image page 18.*

The Kingtons: A History of the Ancient Parish of Kington St Michael with Kington Langley by Louise Ryland-Epton (2024), who consulted the Archive & Library collection. The book features several key figures who lived in these villages, including John Britton and John Aubrey. It was researched in parallel with the Chippenham volume of the Victoria County History of Wiltshire. Donated by the author (Book.18945), *image page 21.*

JOURNALS

Each year the Archive and Library receives a large number of journals and newsletters via subscriptions, journal exchanges or gifts. These include the *Devon Archaeological Society Journal*, *Antiquities Nationales*, *Hampshire Studies*, *Richard Jefferies Society Journal*, *Goddard Association of Europe* and *Jot & Tittle*, to name a few. The number of journals acquired continues to decrease, this year from 160 to 157, due to societies having caught up with their publications following the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We also downloaded a series of digital newsletters, including T*he Jot and Tittle: snippets from Salisbury Cathedral Archives* (158 issues), The *Wiltshire Buildings Record* newsletters (8) and *Victoria County History Wiltshire* newsletters (24). These are excluded from the overall figure.

DOCUMENTS

Two booklets about menstruation given to female pupils at Devizes Grammar School, 1950s. Includes self-addressed envelope by pupil to keep the booklets private. Donated by Sandra Cook, nee Green, a former pupil at the Grammar School (MSS.4775), *image page 21.*

History of Freemasons Keystone Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.178 Devizes and lecture script delivered by donor at lodge sesquicentennial [150th] anniversary meeting, 13 September 2024. Donated by John Merrett, author of sesquicentennial booklet (MSS.4793)

Invitation and program for Devizes and Roundway "Welcome Home" celebrations held on 1 April 1947 for returning servicemen and women following the end of WW2. Donated by local resident in Avon Road, Devizes (MSS.4796.5), *image page 18.*

Three copies of the Devizes Grammar School Magazines signed by the fellow students of C.S.F. Hooker, 1964 - 1966. Donated by Chris Hooker's family (MSS.4803), *image page 21.*

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Three black and white photographs of Stonehenge taken in 2024 recreating the three photographs taken by Ernest Farmer in 1892. Matt Pike, English Heritage Stonehenge Custodian, modelled the modern-day photograph of the man wearing a bowler hat, leaning against the 'Great Trilithon'. Donated by Frank Menger (2024.7008), *image page 32.*

Photograph album belonging to Mrs Minnie Gertrude Reed, recording her year as Mayor of Devizes in 1950s. Also donated was a Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal dated 2 June 1953 worn by Minnie during her time in office. Minnie was awarded an MBE in the 1955 New Years Honours list for political and public services in Devizes. Donated by Shirley Heppenstall. Minne Reed was her husband's great aunt (2024.7009), *image below.*

*Collection of 43 colour digital photographs of the Devizes Carnival, held on 31 August 2024. Many of these photographs feature the banners (DZSWS:2024.73). Donated by Helen Meikle, Project Officer (2024.7012), *see pages 6 and 17.*



From the left: Minnie Gertrude Reed (DZSWS:2024.7009); Silver Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, belonging to Minnie Reed (2024.75); Wine glass baluster and penny of Queen Anne (2024.39); Electro-magnetic wooden telephone handset from Southgate House, Devizes (2024.43) snd gallery display. Not to scale.

A late 19th century photo album containing black and white photos of Devizes and the surrounding area. The collection of 19 photographs include Drews Pond, St John's Church, the Kennet and Avon Canal, Potterne, Spye Park and an aerial view of Devizes taken from St Johns Church Tower. Donated by Peter Hellier (2024.7011), i*mage page 8.*

*Eleven digital colour photographs of the Northgate Street fire in the Pizzeria that happened in November 2024. Donated by Jane Schön, Collections Officer (2024.7013), *image page 8.*

Natural History - No acquisitions this year.

Numismatics

Silver Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, with ribbon and presentation box. Once belonging to Minnie Gertrude Reed, first lady Mayor of Devizes, in the 1950s. Donated by Shirley Heppenstall (2024.75), i*mage page 19.*

'Albert Medal' awarded to William Henry Burt, who ran Burt's Ironmongers, 41 Market Place, Devizes (now Superdrug). William was awarded the medal for bravery in 1881. A nearby premises caught on fire and he rescued the gunpowder stored inside before the building exploded. William was also a former Master of the Devizes Masons, Keystone Lodge, Morris Lane. Donated by family descendant Ken Burt, Nova Scotia, Canada (2024.76.1), i*mage page 15.*

Recent History

Wine glass baluster and penny of Queen Anne. The baluster is the hollow bulb between broken mereses. The bulb is applied with four raspberry prunts and contains a Queen Anne silver 1d. dated 1706. Raspberry prunts were popular in 17th century Dutch glassmaking and this 18th century glass is likely a throwback to those traditions. Found in Potterne, 2018. PAS Treasure find. Purchased by the Museum (2024.39), *image page 19.*

*Fabric Rainbow cape made by the Young People at Devizes Youth Centre, to spread awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community as part of an anti-homophobia project, led by Nicola Sage, Wiltshire Council. Worn at the Devizes Carnival in 2011 (2024.79.1)

Three well-worn adult sized leather shoes, two women's (not a pair) and one man. Found built into the stonework of a chimney, inside a cottage dating to the early 17th century. The cottage is in Bray Street, Avebury, and the shoes were discovered during renovation work. The women's heeled shoes have been dated to c.1650 by Northampton Museum and added to the Concealed Shoe Index. Donated by Mrs Diane Gater (2024.81), *image page 17.*

Electro-magnetic wooden telephone handset from Southgate House, Devizes. Southgate House was the home of Alfred Cunnington, who assembled the first commercial telephone in the UK, in 1877, based on the Alexander Bell invention. It was used at Cunnington's wine business in St John's Street, with an over the roof top wire to his home at Southgate House. This wooden unit is thought to be the receiving end of the telephone connection from the wine business. The headset etc in the background of the photograph were already part of the museum's collections. Donated by John Girvan (2024.43), *image page 8.*

Archaeology Archives and Off-site store

For projects notified after 1 April 2025, a flat fee of £125 (+ VAT) per standard size box is now charged.

This aligns Wiltshire Museum with the rate now charged by Swindon Museum. It is an increase of £15 per box. Archaeological contractors were notified about the proposed increase at the end of 2024, so they can build the additional cost into future client projects.

Accreditation

The Curator submitted the museums Accreditation Return to Arts Council England in January 2025. In August 2025 we received confirmation from Arts Council England that we had been awarded Full Accreditation status. The Accreditation panel agreed two areas for development, which we have to progress before the next Return in approximately five years.

Lisa Brown, Jane Schön and David Dawson

Items marked with an * were collected as part of the Wessex Museums Contemporary Collecting Strategy and Action Plan, 2025-29.

Contemporary Collecting is the collecting of objects and stories that reflect the recent past and what is happening today. Usually covering the past 50 years from the date collecting is being undertaken, there are two main ways that contemporary material can be acquired.

Passive collecting through offers of donations is one way, but to get a more comprehensive understanding of modern-day life, active and collaborative types of collecting in the form of coordinated projects are usually more effective.

Contemporary collecting means acquiring new material, to fill the gaps identified in existing collections. It also helps to future-proof collections for as-yet-unknown exhibitions and research projects, therefore ensuring that museums remain relevant to and representative of their audiences. A great benefit of contemporary collecting is that the histories fall within living memory, so can be documented with insights from those who experienced them first-hand. This provides museums with the opportunity to work in partnership with other people and communities, to be creative, dynamic, and inclusive.

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

We communicate the outputs of research through our online collections database, a programme of conferences and lectures, through publications such as our annual 'Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine', and by updating gallery displays.

Museum Data Service and Wessex Museums Virtual Collections

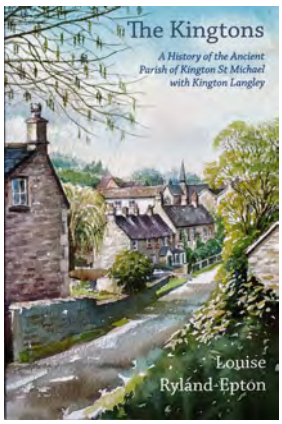
The Director attended the launch of the Museum Data Service in September 2024. Wiltshire Museum is one of 12 'Early Adopter' museums, alongside museums as diverse as the National Gallery, National Museums of Northern Ireland and Tenby Museum. The Museum was specifically mentioned at the launch event and the Jadeite axe was featured in the press release and launch presentation. The platform brings together over 100 million object records from 1,750 museums and collections across the UK, unlocking an invaluable resource for researchers, educators, curators, and content developers. It launched with initial collection of 3,129,798 records from 21 museums. Wiltshire Museum was involved in helping look at the organisational issues in the project to ensure that other museums would find it easy to contribute their data. Our Wessex Museums partners are currently loading their data and in due course the platform will host the data from the Wessex Virtual Museum. The MDS is a collaboration between Art UK, Collections Trust, and the University of Leicester, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

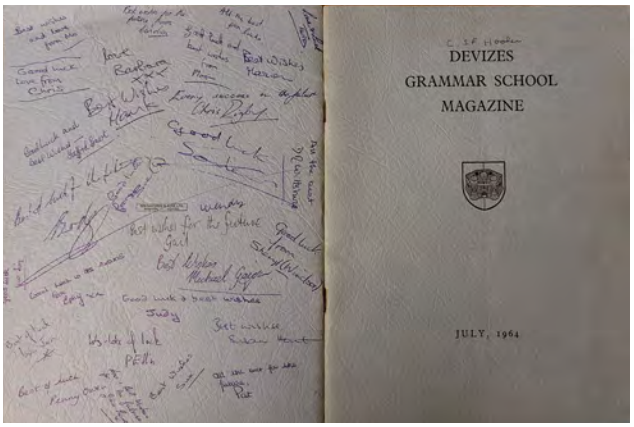
Wessex Museums Decolonising Collections Framework

The Decolonising Collections Framework (approved September 2023), is supported by an Action Plan individual to each museum in the Wessex Museum partnership.

Decolonising involves creatively reimagining the way museums work, who they work with and what they value. It covers all areas of practice and creates a framework to better support people and institutions. Decolonising is a collective activity, which can be messy, thoughtful, imaginative, and emotional. It is driven by the desire for justice and equity in that it aims to rebalance power and representation away from the coloniser narrative of history and society. This work is intersectional as it challenges structural inequalities across the board to redress forms of historic and ongoing harm. *Museums Association. Decolonising Practice 2022*.

The purpose of the Framework is to put the Wessex Museums firmly and consistently on the path to decolonisation, with meaningful, effective and collaborative public engagement. Through this work we want to understand the stories of those who have been oppressed and where there are connections to our collections - whether it is related to the empire or by more recent prejudices conveyed by the bias of curators and historians. We want to tell honest stories about how objects have come to be in museums - who they were given by and how and why the museums decided to accept them.







'The Kingtons: A History of the Ancient Parish of Kington St Michael with Kington Langley', by Louise Ryland-Epton (Book.18945); Devizes Grammar School Magazine signed by the fellow students of C.S.F. Hooker (MSS.4803); Booklets about menstruation, Devizes Grammar School (MSS.4775).

Researchers

Project to construct a post-Roman pottery type series for Wiltshire, funded by Historic England and managed by Cotswold Archaeology. This is one of several similar type series projects across England funded by HE. The project supports practitioners in post-Roman pottery studies, increases accessibility to archive collections, and provides decision-makers with valuable tools to promote and protect the historic environment. This pottery series includes all types found within the county and is in both physical and digital form, via a dataset submitted to the Archaeology Data Service. The physical type series will eventually be held by Wiltshire Museum.

Dr Thomas Booth (the Francis Crick Institute) analysed prehistoric human bones and teeth from the museum collections for DNA analysis, as part of the Wellcome Trust-funded *aGB:1000 ancient genomes from Great Britain*. The project is run by the Skoglund Ancient Genomics Laboratory at the Crick Institute. The study aims to sequence whole genome data from at least 1,000 people who lived in Britain over the last 10,000 years, to investigate how migration and natural selection have shaped the genetics of human populations in Britain. For each individual (where preservation is adequate) the sampling is expected to reveal information on genetic sex, ancestry and close relationships with other sampled individuals. In certain cases there will be DNA from pathogens infecting the individual when they died, potentially providing insight into cause of death or biography of individuals as well as more general information on the dynamics of health and disease in the past.

Dr Andrew Lawson, studying Middle Bronze Age ornament hoards in Wiltshire, examined the Heywood hoard, discovered in 2019 by metal detectorists (WILT-3C2142). The hoard comprises a palstave axe, an incomplete copper alloy twisted bar torc, incomplete copper alloy twisted bar bracelet, copper alloy Liss-type annular bracelet and an incomplete copper alloy quoit pin. Publication is near completion

Ollie Line (PhD researcher at University College Dublin) spent a month studying worked animal bone from the Bronze Age collections. The aim of the work is to understand how bone tools were manufactured and used and how this might have changed over time. Microscopic analyses on the objects were undertaken, to identify evidence for use-wear and for manufacturing traces such as polishing, impact fractures, striations, edge damage, and metal residues. This work will continue into next year.

Dr Ed McSloy (Finds Manager from Cotswold Archaeology), and Dr Peter Warry, examined the Roman ceramic building material and pottery from Park Parm, Oaksey excavations, to make comparisons with brick and tile from recent excavations at Brandier Farm, Minety, which Dr Warry led. After three seasons of fieldwork, the excavations at Brandier Farm finished and work to publish the site began. As part of this work Dr Warry initiated a selective programme of fabrics analysis, using petrological (thin section) and chemical (ICPS) techniques. The primary aim was to characterise the fabrics used for the various brick/tile types from the Brandier Farm site. The analysis identified differences in the fabrics between Brandier and Oaksey Park and/or confirm a common clay source.

Professor Sarah Semple (Durham University) carried out XRF analysis on the finds associated with the early medieval bed burial discovered on Roundway Down in 1840. The university re-excavated the site in 2000, and full publication is underway (preliminary note published in the Wiltshire Archaeology Magazine, 2001).

Professor Ellen Swift (University of Kent) carried out analysis of silver artefacts from the Bishops Cannings late Roman hoard (aka 'Blagan Hill'), as part of the AHRC-funded project *Britain's Last Roman Hoards*. Work will continue into 2026.

Lisa Brown

Research: Archive & Library

All visits to the Archive& Library are pre-booked and this year has seen an increase in both the number of visiting researchers by 8% and the number of enquiries by1% compared to last year.

There were 399 enquiries this year: 112 visiting researchers and 287 email enquiries. Of the 112 visiting researchers 55 were members and 35 were non-members, an increase of 6% and a decrease of 29% respectively. The majority of these visiting researchers were undertaking local history research (52%) mainly in and around Devizes and the surrounding villages, 33% carried out archaeological research and 9% undertook family history research.

There is still a backlog of acquisitions to process but the Collections Officer: Archive and Library and five volunteers have continued to answer enquiries and provide scans of documents or photographs, where possible to the researcher. Donations have been received from some researchers. Research topics have included: Roundway Hospital, Old Park House, Chancel End House in Devizes, mileposts, the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal, the villages of All Cannings, Little Somerford and Great Bedwyn; the Avebury Great Barn, Aldbourne in 1945, Conholt Park, W.E.V. Young, William Cunnington, William Smith, Philip Crocker, Sir Francis Child, Joseph Burt, Heddington Church, Wilcot Church, Wiltshire crimes, the botanical drawings of Stella Craig-Ross, the Sheriffs of Wiltshire. milestones, Vale of Pewsey Home guard, traction engines and Wiltshire brickworks, 1918 newspapers, LGBTQIA+ history, and assisting with numerous family history requests including the Yerbury family of Trowbridge, The Strattons of Wiltshire, and The Sadlers of Wroughton.

Jane Schön

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county.

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group (WAFG) is a community archaeology group, working to professional standards. It carries out excavations and fieldwork in Wiltshire including geophysical survey, ground survey and field-walking and organises the annual Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference, held each year in Devizes. Anyone can get involved in WAFG projects, which range from researching prehistoric sites to 20th century archaeology, from desk-based research, field walking and excavation.

Membership is open to members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Regular reports appear in our Trilithon newsletter, and on the WAFG Facebook page.

Over the past year WAFG members have been very active, both in running and supporting WAFG projects and supporting broader research projects across Wiltshire.

Seend Excavations

WAFG's initial excavations in 2022 revealed the base of an early 18th century brick kiln, one of the earliest excavated in Wiltshire and one of very few to be fully excavated nationally.

In 2023, to the west of the brick kiln, a number of test pits were excavated on areas where geophysics had indicated more areas of intense magnetic response. In one of these, large quantities of broken tiles, including roof tiles, ridge tiles, floor tiles and even malting floor tiles were recovered. These all seemed to be of a similar date to the brick kiln. As excavations progressed, substantial brick walls, were revealed. In 2024 we fully excavated the feature to confirm that it was a large tile kiln.

The excavation proved that it was of a later 17th century date, so it is therefore one of the earliest tile kilns found in Wiltshire.

In amongst the tiles, a number of pieces of what appeared to be pottery wasters were retrieved. These had a distinctive design similar, but not the same as Crockerton Ware, potentially making it a new pottery type. The pottery assemblage comprised of kiln misfires/wasters suggests there is also a post-medieval pottery kiln nearby, producing Crokerton-like pottery to be used in the local area.

WAFG hope to reveal the possible late 17th century pottery kiln when we return for a further season of excavations in August 2025.

In 2022 and 2023 in another part of the field our excavations had found a quite substantial Roman workshop in which there was a central roofed area with a hardened clay floor and on either side were a number of iron ore roasting ovens. The Romans roasted the ore to remove impurities before it was smelted. Although these are known from other parts of the country those at Seend are considered to be unique in Wiltshire.

In 2024 we were given permission to excavate in the field to the east. The geophysics again showed areas of intense magnetic response, particularly at the top of the field and also in a large area part way down. Running down the slope, probably dragged down by later ridge & furrow ploughing there appeared to be spreads of slag debris. A number of test pits were placed on these features to see if we could find what had caused them. In the centre of one of the test pits we found the base of a Roman bloomery tapping furnace and there was another in the side wall.

The fact that it was a bloomery tapping furnace was proven by the presence of large amounts of tapping slag. In another of the test pits there were no furnace bases but there was more tapping slag and also there were a lot of large pieces of curving slabs of fire hardened clay, with slag embedded on one side, which would have come from the sides of furnaces.

Therefore in the three years of digging we had found evidence of a considerable level of Roman industrial activity related to iron roasting and iron smelting in the area. We are planning to return to the field again in 2025 to see if we can get a fuller understanding of the scale of this operation in terms of level of output and the period over which they were producing iron.

Post Excavation

The WAFG have continued to run post-excavation sessions at Wiltshire Museum in which all WAFG members are invited to participate. This has attracted many who have never done any form of 'hands-on' archaeological activities before, across a broad age range. The sessions have involved the cleaning, recording and cataloguing of archaeological finds assemblages from excavations. Our most recent activities focussed on preparing the animal bone and other bulk-finds from the major WAFG excavation of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site at Mothers Anthony's Well for final deposition with the Museum and the cleaning, sorting and cataloguing of finds from the 2022-2023 WAFG excavations at Seend.

A huge thank you must be extended to all WAFG volunteers who supported our 'Post-Ex Sunday' sessions. We look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn of 2025!

Wendy Bishop, Phil Andrews and Mike McQueen

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (WANHM)

Our annual magazine continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire. Members receive a free copy and it is available to non-members for a modest charge. The 2024 volume (no. 117) included the following articles:

Pinning down the serpent's tail: confirming the course of the Beckhampton Avenue, Avebury by Mark Gillings, Paul Cheetham and Jayme Lewis; *Peterborough Ware from West Amesbury Farm, Wiltshire* by Michael Russell, Julie Dunne, Richard Evershed, Patrick Quinn, Judith Dobie, Peter Marshall and David Roberts; *Middle Bronze Age cremation burials from East Farm, Fovant* by Jaqueline I. McKinley; *Before Melksham – Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval settlement, excavation at Melksham Campus, 2021* by Liam Wilson, Jonathon Hart and Clare Randall; *A Roman Villa and Well near Melksham* by Louis Stafford; *Archaeological Investigations at Willis Way, Purton, 1987-9 and 2016-18* by Andrew Hood; *Edward Seymour's House at The Brails, Wiltshire: The House in Context* by Graham Bathe; *The Inns of Avebury, c. 1600-1800* by Stuart Raymond; *Wardour Castle, the sale of its contents and Sir Edward Hungerford, 1643* by Adrian James Webb; *Grandfather's Stone: the Lake House meteorite, Britain's largest and earliest extraterrestrial sample* by C. T. Pillinger and J. M. Pillinger

Notes and shorter contributions included:

Old Salisbury, St Martin's Church and the Hundred Meeting-place of Underditch by Christopher Daniell; *New Evidence for the Possible Location of the Dead Buried after the Battle of Roundway Down, July 1643* by Norman Beale; *William Walter Wheatley, topographical artist* by Pamela Slocombe.

Reviews were edited by Stuart Raymond; Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire 2023 compiled by Will Baker and Elizabeth Darlington; Highlights from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Wiltshire in 2023 (Sophie Hawke) and Additions to the Collections, 2023.

The volume (illustrated page 26) was edited and indexed by Dr Stuart Brookes, with editorial assistance from Peter Saunders (who also coordinated the publication for the Society), plus Graham Bathe, Simon Draper, Stuart A. Raymond, Will Baker, Elizabeth Darlington and Sophie Hawke. Thanks are due to all involved in producing such a well-respected journal, and especially to the many authors for their contributions.

Trilithon

This newsletter is a mixture of articles, items of interest and news about events and is sent to members annually. It also contains a summary of the Annual Report, the Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Activity.

Engaging audiences online

Our e-newsletter is sent regularly and is our main source of engagement for events. We also use the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram to engage and develop our audiences, recently joining Tik Tok and Bluesky, which have gained over 1,000 followers each in their first year of use. Social media is a great way to publicise upcoming events and news at the Museum and is an opportunity to reach new audiences, as well as sharing details about our collections in a more immediate way. We can also engage with audiences unable to physically access the Museum or collections





From the left: base of the brick kiln at Seend; base of a Roman bloomery tapping furnace. Photographs © Mike McQueen

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

During 2024/25, 410 (387) events, school visits and talks took place, including the Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference and Industrial Archaeology Conference, talks in the community, walks in the Wiltshire landscape, courses and use of the Museum lecture hall by external organisations. Over 80 non-school activities for under 18s were held and we also participated in local community events such as the Heritage Open Day and the lantern making workshops.

Thank you to our speakers and walk leaders for their contributions to the Society as most do not charge a fee or claim expenses, and to everyone who helps with organising and running all our activities.

April 2024
Curious Kids: Springtime
Easter Holiday Activities: Easter themed; Fossils and nature
Home Education Sessions: Archaeology themed
Museum Explorers Club: Animals in the Museum
Online Talk: *The Story of Clouds House: From a Palace of Art to a Home for Waifs and Strays* (VCH)*
Talk: *Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire*
Walk: Drawn to Oare - Eric Ravilious landscapes in the Vale of Pewsey
Young Curators Club: Animals in the Museum

May 2024
Curious Kids: Pirates!
Walk: Fonthill Estate, with Hidden Wiltshire
Walk: Honey Street and Woodborough, with Hidden Wiltshire
Holiday Activities: Building, landscapes and nature
Walk: Lacock and the Wilts & Berks Canal, with Hidden Wiltshire
Museum Explorers Club: Tudor Portraits
Walk: Folklore of Canalside Plants
Young Curators Club: Tudor Portraits

June 2024
Conversation Cafe: for Loneliness Awareness Week
Curious Kids: Under the sea
Home Education Sessions: Archaeology and Roman themed
Lecture: *Who made Avebury? Exploring the 1930s-1940s diaries of William Young*
LGBTQIA+: Zine Workshop
Walk: Milk Hill and Wansdyke, with Hidden Wiltshire
Museum Explorers Club: Rural Crafts
Online Talk: *From Milan to Draycot Cerne. The Funerary Helmet of Sir Thomas Long*
Online Talk: *Recent Research on Clarendon Park* (VCH)*
Walks: Ranscombe Bottom & Morgan's Hill, with Hidden Wiltshire
Walk: Drawn to Oare - Eric Ravilious landscapes in the Vale of Pewsey
Young Curators Club: Rural Crafts

July 2024
Curious Kids: Stone Age animals
Workshops: Victorian Portrait Photography brought to life!
Talk: *Archaeology revealed on the North Wessex Downs VIP Project*
Lecture: *Exploring photography's history up to 1939*
Museum Explorers Club: Ancient Greek Olympics
Online Talk: *Show and Tell – a look at some new acquisitions*
Walk: The Deverills, with Hidden Wiltshire
Young Curators Club: Ancient Greek Olympics

August 2024
Online Talk: *Assizes for Devizes – reaching a milestone*
Camera Amnesty
Curious Kids: the Circus
Summer Crafts 4 Kids – run by the Youth Panel
Summer Holiday Activities: Prehistoric sea creatures; Saxons vs Vikings; Summer Crafts; Woodland Animals

September 2024
Curious Kids: Dinosaurs
Day course: Stone Carving with Andrew Ziminski
Heritage Open Day
Online Talk: *Wiltshire Pastimes: An Historical Look at Sport and Recreation in Wiltshire*, by Ally McConnell, (VCH)*
Stonehenge Landscape Walk
Talk: *Devizes Through Time*
Young Curators Club: Mini Museums

October 2024
Conference: Industrial Archaeology 2024
Curious Kids: Bugs
Day course: Wood Engraving with Robin Mackenzie
Family Halloween Session: organised by the Youth Panel
Holiday Activities
Lecture: *New DNA analytical techniques: migration, genetic change and social organisation in the Neolithic and Bronze Age*, by Tom Booth (The Francis Crick Institute)
Online Talk: Murder by Witchcraft (VCH)*
Tour: Behind the Scenes at Wiltshire Museum
Young Curators Club: Crime and Punishment

November 2024
Conference: *White Horses, Badges & Giants: Hill figures of Southern England*
Curious Kids: Party Time
Graffiti Workshop, led by Nick Halahan of Olas Art
Lecture: *Church-going*, by Andrew Ziminski
LGBTQIA+ : Badge & Collage Workshop
Online Talk: *The Country House Gate Lodge* (VCH)*
WANHS AGM
Young Curators Club: Ancient Egyptians and the Osiris myth

December 2024
A Saturnalia Celebration
Curious Kids: Winter Fun
Lecture: *Digging for Erlestoke,* by Leigh Chalmers and Dr Phil Harding
LGBTQIA+ Workshop: Crafts and Chats
Young Curators Club: Mid-Winter Celebrations

January 2025
Curious Kids: Vikings!
Lecture: *The dark, the light and the weird: a brief history of Wiltshire*, by Tom Holland
Young Curators Club: January – Journey to the Palaeolithic

February 2025
Curious Kids: Egyptians
Holiday Activities: Henges and Ancient monuments
Home Education Sessions: Palaeolithic Discoveries
Lecture: *Eat Like a Viking*, by Craig Brooks
Lecture: *The Mystery of Wansdyke Revealed, by Andrew Reynolds*
Online Talk: *Assizes for Devizes – online briefing*

March 2025
Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference 2025
Home Education Sessions: Fossils and Prehistoric Sea Creatures
Lecture: *Boles Barrow,*by Richard Osgood
Museum Explorers Club: Amazing Artefacts
Online Talk: *Wiltshire Museum – A Science Research hub*, by David Dawson
Queer in Wiltshire: LGBTQIA+ Heritage Booklet Launch; Crafts and Chats
Young Curators Club: March – Amazing Artefacts

* VCH - all proceeds to the Victoria County History Wiltshire Trust, who organised the lecture.

Members are very important to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and in addition to free entry to our award-winning Museum and special exhibitions, they receive other benefits:

- ◊ Free welcome tour of museum and library
- ◊ Discounted events
- ◊ Regular newsletter with the latest news and events
- ◊ Free entry to our Wessex Museum partners: Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and, from 1 April 2024, the Swindon museums (Lydiard House, Museum and Art Swindon and STEAM
- ◊ Free entry to English Heritage's Stonehenge Visitor Centre
- ◊ Helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.
- ◊ Opportunities to:
  - find out more about Wiltshire's story by meeting fellow members and subject experts
  - make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
  - get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
  - read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal
  - find out about the local area with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive.

There were 75 new (or re-joining) memberships in the year (103 members); 65 (82) in 2023/2024.

NEW MEMBERS 2024/25

Ms Joy Ackland, Melksham
Mr Keith & Mrs Melanie Allsop, Swindon
Anais Barros, Swindon
Mrs Annie Batchelor-Watkins, Nottingham
Ms Charlotte Bell, Trowbridge
Mr Damon Berrelly, Trowbridge
Mr Christopher & Mrs Jan Bird, Frome
Mr William Bostock, Derby
Mr Alan & Mrs Linda Brawn, Chinnor
Ms Elizabeth Browne & Mr Colin Green, Calne
Ms Sophie Clark & Mr Liam Traveller, Devizes
Mr Mark Clarke, Swindon
Ms Mary Connorton, Pewsey
Miss Rebecca Cort, Devizes
Ms Heather Cross, Devizes
Mr William & Mrs Belinda Cutler, Havant
Mr Paul Deeman & Ms Angela Cromwell, Salisbury
Mr Ian Diddams & Ms Tracey Lawrence, Rowde
Mr George & Mrs Sarah Dixon, Devizes
Mr Richard Domas, Horsham
Dr Michael Earle, Poole
Mr Brendan & Mrs Helen Fletcher, Salisbury
Mrs Freda Fowle, Melksham
Mr Richard Fox & Mrs Natalia Gordina, Calne
Ms Teresa Garraud, Devizes
Mr Michael Gilbert & Ms Anna Lloyd, Salisbury
Mr Barry & Mrs Stephanie Green, Devizes
Ms Tabby Grist Parker, Bath
Ms Alejandra Gutierrez, Andover
Ms Emma Hodgson, Devizes
Ms Susan & Mr Thomas Holden, Warminster
Mr Alastair Holloway & Ms Barbara Trotman, Devizes
Ms Lucinda Hughes, Chippenham
Ms Rachel Humphries & Mr James Bird, Chippenham
Mr Clyde & Mrs Katherine Hunter, Devizes
Ms Catherine Ireland, Kintbury
Ms Kay Johnson, Sherborne
Mr Simon, Mrs Helena & Mr Ben King, Trowbridge
Mr Steve Laister, Devizes
Mrs Wendy Lawrence, Pewsey
Ms Judith Lindfield, Poole
Mr Bernie Maltby
Mr Raymond & Mrs Susan Martin, Salisbury
Dr Richard Massey, Frome
Mrs Heather McCombie, Warminster
Sam McDonald, Malmesbury
Ms Henrietta McNeile, Devizes
Ms Julie Mettyear, Salisbury
Ms Fiona & Ms Diana Miller, Haxton
Mr Andy & Mrs Carol Mortimer, Pewsey
Mr Kim Mulji & Mr Martin Hetherington, Pewsey
Ms Amanda Mullins, Salisbury
Mr Tony Painter, Cranleigh
Mrs Pricilla & Mr Iain Park-Weir, Salisbury
Mrs Anne Reddan, Swindon
Mr Andrew & Mrs Pippa Reis, Salisbury
Mr Hugo Reis, Salisbury
Miss Kathryn Rogers, Potterne
Dr P J Sammes, Devizes
Ms Joan Schwann, British Colombia
Mrs Pamela Scroop, Salisbury
Mr Stephen Sharp, Salisbury
Ms Lucy Smeddle, Frome
Ms Catharine Symington, Devizes
Mr Andrew & Mr Gregory Taylor, Devizes
Mr Billy & Mrs Heather Thompson, Devizes
Mr Mark Thomson, NSW
Prof Andria Tidmarsh-Hackett, Pewsey
Mr & Mrs Graham Twidale, Salisbury
Mr Timothy Venton, Warminster
Ms Diana Wethered, Marlborough
Mr Ian Williams, Torpoint
Ms Joanna Williams, Chippenham
Mr Mark Woodlands, Calne
Mr David Young, Wellington

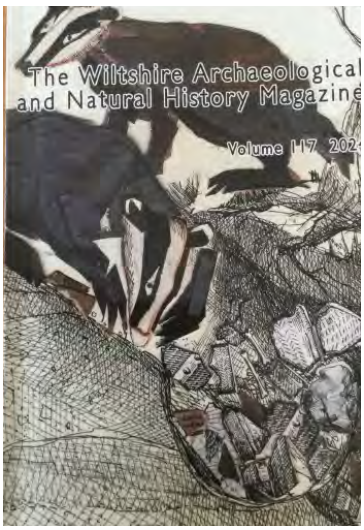
2024 SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Bronze:
Individual - £46.50
Joint/Family - £59.50
Student* - £20.00
Member Organisation - £60.00
Amber Donor - £72.50
Gold Donor - £135.50
Corporate membership - £125 and £325
Jadeite - £275
Life (over 50) - £1,000
Life (under 50) - £1,500

Subscriptions run for 12 months from the first day of the month of joining.

A variety of subscription and payment options are available, including monthly payments.

* Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study, or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interests.



Right: The cover of the 2024 edition of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine showed a rather unorthodox excavation team discovering Neolithic pottery buried in pits at West Amesbury Farm. Michael Russell's report on the sherds gathered through subsequent formal archaeological investigation appears in the volume. Attribution: Judith Dobie/Historic England.

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools). Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

This year, we have welcomed a wide range of audiences to the Museum through our education programmes for young people. The overall numbers visiting and taking part in museum-run activities have been lower than in recent years, perhaps due to the financial constraints schools and parents have been facing. However, there has still been a great interest and enthusiasm for the activities we run, with many schools and clubs making repeat visits, a lot of regular familiar faces attending our holiday activities and clubs, as well as lots of first-time visitors the Museum.

We have had school visits from early years classes, primary schools from all over the county, A level groups and schools for those with special educational needs.

Particular highlights this year have included a visit from an alternative educational pathway provider, where the teachers said that *for some it was their first ever school trip, everyone loved it, and it meant so much to be able to enhance their learning*.

It was also great to see the excited faces of a year 2 class in a local Devizes based school, who took part in a hands-on session, linked to the Battle of Roundway Down and the English Civil War, an event that took place very close to their school.

Our home education sessions have continued this year and it has been rewarding to be able to provide a comfortable and welcoming space for these young people to learn. There have been sessions on the Romans, prehistoric sea creatures and the Palaeolithic. The groups have explored the collections, handled artefacts, discovered facts and made some amazing creations, including their own mosaics, cave art and woolly mammoths made from milk cartons!

During the holidays and weekends the Museum welcomes families. There are a good number of local families who come to activities we run throughout the year, as well as visitors from further afield, on holiday or visiting friends or relatives in the area.

We started the year with rural crafts linked to our Wiltshire Thatcher Exhibition and also ran activities for families alongside Dave Gunning's 'Megalithic Connections' exhibition, where the children created artwork themed around prehistoric landmarks and heritage sites. There have also been sessions linked to popular historic themes and seasonal events. We love our holiday activities as it is great to see grandparents, parents and children all enjoying taking part and engaging with the Museum collections. Sometimes our adult attendees seem to enjoy themselves even more than the children!

Our weekend clubs have covered a range of popular topics this year. Our 'Amazing Artefacts' and 'Mini Museum' sessions have given the children the chance to explore our wonderful collections, as well as to have the chance to think about plans and ideas for the Devizes Assize Court Project. It is always great to get the opinions of our younger audiences as to what they would like to see in the new Wiltshire Museum. With more sessions for our Museum Explorers (aged 5-7) planned , alongside our popular Young Curators (8-13) and a new teen craft club, we aim to increase opportunities for young people to engage with our museum and collections.

We are looking forward to next year where we will hopefully have chance to test some of ideas and activities for the new Museum with our existing and new audiences, whilst making sure we are still offering a wide range of activities and opportunities for children and young people at our existing site. It is certainly going to be a busy year for us all!

Ali Rushent







Taking part in planned activities; Woolly Mammoths created during a Home Ed session

The Community Curator post is funded by the Art's Council NPO via Wessex Museum.

This year we have continued our relationships with local community partners, including the local Wiltshire libraries and with Spurgeons, who run the Sure Start Centres. We achieved 3 years of funding to continue with our Explore it! Program which gives families a chance to learn about the museum collections through handling objects, doing fun crafts, and having a meal. In March they were treated to a session with Zoolab (funded by Wessex Inspirational Learning Limited) and had the opportunity to touch and see up close, critters from around the world.

We have also continued working with the Youth Justice Service through our Street Art project, which works with young people at risk of offending to give them artistic skills, a chance to express themselves, and a chance to build up their confidence. In 2024 they created art displays for the Boxing Club in Devizes and for a food truck in Bradford on Avon. In 2025 we will continue working with youths identified by the service and will even be offering a placement for to a young person previously engaged with the service to provide them with work experience.

In 2025, as part of the Folk Exhibition, we engaged with the Nepali ladies craft group again, who during our last project together (Lest we Forget) were eager to have the opportunity to see their culture reflected in the museum. They wished to learn how to make a nanglo, a flat basket used for a wide range of purposes in Nepal. During the project the ladies commented how they had taken for granted the level of skill needed to make a nanglo and would even offer the weavers at home more money when they purchase their next one. In May we will be taking the ladies to Avebury to teach them more about Wessex folk and bringing them to the museum to see their creations displayed.



Aside from the projects already mentioned other community projects on the horizon for 2025-2026 are working with the Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living (Wilts CIL) team to help build the confidence of survivors of domestic violence to help them rebuild social circles and support them in their journey away from their old lives. We will do this through a range of craft activities that will promote wellness. After this pilot we will be seeking to expand this and have the group work on a group project that could be displayed at the museum.

As part of our partnership with Wessex Museums we will be part of a project with Girlguiding SouthWest to launch a resource pack for guides to work on at their centres based on the museums' collection. We will also be hosting an activity day for guides in late 2025. If the guides take part in either of these events then they will be able to achieve their very own Wessex Museums badge.

Further to this we hope to, in the near future, launch new regular programs to attract and engage teens and those living with dementia or are socially isolated.

Amy Hammett







Top Right: the Girls Guides Wessex Museum badge
From the left: Zoolab session; a member of the Nepali ladies craft group; Street Art project.

Community activities including LGBTQIA+ workshops, queer events and activities.

In November 2024, £3,050 was received from Wessex Museums for the 'Queer in Wiltshire: Queering Wiltshire'pilot LGBTQIA+ heritage project'. The project, funded by Wessex Museums and The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Assizes for Devizes project, resulted in a 56-page LGBTQIA+ heritage booklet. An anthology of oral history interviews with LGBTQIA+ people, queer stories from our archive and collections and artwork created at LGBTQIA+ events, the *Queer in Wiltshire: Queering Wiltshire* booklet captures a wide range of queer identities and experiences, and contemporary and historical LGBTQIA+ stories from across the Wiltshire area. The project and booklet were met with an overwhelmingly positive response.

In early 2025, the Museum received £16,574 from The National Lottery Community Fund for a 'Queer in Wiltshire community project'. As part of this project a free 5-month programme of LGBTQIA+ artist-led workshops, and other queer events and activities was created. A queer exhibition is also being co-produced with a small LGBTQIA+ advisory group.

In April and May 2025, the Museum hosted a Queer Nature Walk led by artist James Aldridge, a fabric banner making workshop led by artists Al Hill and E L West, queer evening events and coffee mornings. During Pride Month, the Queer in Wiltshire programme will include three LGBTQIA+ artist-led workshops, and the monthly evening event and coffee morning. The Museum will also have its first booth at Devizes Pride on 28 June 2025. This will be followed by more events and the launch of the LGBTQIA+ exhibition in July.

Friday Schoemaker



Using the word 'Queer'

Wiltshire Museum recognises that the word "queer" has a complex, painful history and can be uncomfortable and divisive. We have decided to use the word "queer" as it has been reclaimed in recent years and is now widely used within the LGBTQIA+ community and academia as an umbrella term for non-heterosexual/cisgender and gender nonconforming people. For us, "queer" is the most inclusive term we can use, and we use it as a positive word, not seeking to erase or disregard anyone's identity and history but instead aiming to reflect the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Wiltshire Museum is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and we take seriously our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2025.

Wiltshire Museum thank the following for funding the projects:

Queer in Wiltshire: Queering Wiltshire: Wessex Museums and The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Queer in Wiltshire: The National Lottery Community Fund







From the left: A Queer in Wiltshire walk, Friday receiving funds from the Community Foundation; the 'Queer in Wiltshire: Queering Wiltshire' booklet

Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society would not be able to offer the scale and variety of activities.

It has been another busy year for our volunteer team and we were delighted to welcome many new faces, including new members to our youth panel, front of house and maintenance teams.

Over 4,000 hours of volunteer time was logged between April 2024 and March 2025. This equates to a financial value of approximately £88,000, calculated using National Lottery Heritage Fund methodology. Hours are slightly up compared to the 3,213 logged in 2023/24.

Volunteers play a vital role in all aspects of running the Museum and Society. They welcome visitors, look after researchers in our Library and Archive, assist with school groups and family activity days, help with maintenance and decorating, gardening, administration, mailings and events. We have a growing student volunteer programme, focusing on skills development through creative projects. Trustees are also volunteers and we are thankful for the time and expertise they continue to dedicate.

Archive & Library

A team of 19 Library volunteers usually catalogue the Archive and Library collections, adding to the online catalogue and scanning the photograph collection. Five Reader Services volunteers are currently assisting the Collections Officer with cataloguing the backlog of acquisitions that arrived during the lockdowns and since. The remaining volunteers are yet to return but many have continued to undertake their own research whilst at home and answer the occasional enquiry.

The Reader Services volunteers have been answering enquiries and assisting with some visiting researchers and their requests. We could not provide the service we deliver without our excellent team of volunteers and hopefully we can welcome some of the team back soon.

Community

Every month a volunteer, Graham Lever, has assisted with our Explore it! Sessions where the museum hosts handling sessions, craft activities and a meal for families with additional needs or from low income families. The volunteer will help set up and close down, assist with serving meals, and take the children around the museum for an activity or quiz. In addition, Graham gallantly agreed to play the role of Father Christmas and give out gifts to the children present.

Our Youth Panel are particularly keen to work with young children and have hosted a variety of events including a Summer event and a Halloween event. They were also the judging panel for a U3A photography competition, where they selected the winners for the U3A celebration display in April. The beginning of 2025 also saw the Youth Panel planning for the year and they are very eager to explore the environment as a theme for their work.

A recent project linked with our Folk Exhibition, saw one volunteer, Louise, using her experience travelling in Nepal and studying their local fabric art to assist with the teaching of a group of older Nepali women associated with the British army on how to make the traditional Nanglos (a flat woven basket).

Looking ahead

We are looking forward to another year working alongside our enthusiastic team. Areas of focus will be to develop an exciting training programme for volunteers and 'growing' our gardening and community teams! Our thanks to every individual who has offered their time in supporting the Museum.

Amy Hammett, Jane Schön, Emma Sykes and Helen Meikle





From the left: Louise working with a local Nepali ladies; publicity for the Halloween Party, created by the Youth Panel..

Thank you to our volunteers:

Phil Andrews
Robin Ault
Geraldine Bateman
Eliza Bates
John Baumber
Judith Bishop
Wendy Bishop
Mike Borro
Dave Brown
Jane Brunning
Jan Bryant
Bliss Burnett
Sandy Corbyn
Michael Cornwell
Jean Covington
Dave Coward
Michael Cox
Carol Creed
Jan Dando
Tim Daw
Catherine Dawson
Dylan Deloughery
Phil Edwards
Amy Ellis
Paula Evans
Pauline Ferguson
Remi Ferreira Pike
David Field
Helen Fishlock
Michael Fletcher
James Flood
Alexandria Fraser Curran
Cynthia Ganabadhi
Jackie Gardiner
Jeff Goatman
Jill Goatman
Sandy Haynes
Abigail Hooper
Jonathan Hurwitt
Mary Kane
James Kay
Alexandra Kelly
Dallas Kendall
Ann King
Xander King
Wendy Lansdown
Madeline Lestrange
Graham Lever
Ralph Lewis
Stella Maddock
Ella Marsden
Christina McClean
Mike McQueen
Peter Melsom
Susan Miles
Philippa Morgan
Sara Morgan
Jo Noble
Philip Nokes
Sonny O'Sullivan
Kaz Page
Bill Perry
Ivan Philips
Sue Power
Penelope Price Jones
Amanda Ralfe
Stuart Raymond
Mary Rennie
Sue Roderick
Doug Roseaman
Anita Sala
Jonathan Sanigar
Jessamy Saunders
Peter Saunders
Harvey Skinner
Emerson Smith
Mike Stone
John Surowiec
Louise Surowiec
Michael Teale
Alistair Thompson
Esme Thompson
Peter Tolhurst
Christine Tucker
Laura Turner
Elspeth Wales
Wendy Weller
David Weston
Jirina Wheatley
Mike Williams
Heather Wilson
Paul Wilson

Committees and Working Groups follow up on specific issues

We are always looking for more people to be involved in our work, a great way to meet people and to develop skills and experience.

A303 Working Group
In July 2024 the new Government cancelled the A303 Tunnel scheme at Stonehenge. The Working Group has not met, but remains as there may be other issues for it consider, including issues relating to byways at Stonehenge.

David Dawson, Director

Buildings and Monuments
This working group no longer meets, but if a significant case arises in Wiltshire, then the Working Group will be reformed.

Industrial Archaeology
The 2024 conference was a success with many people from all over the South West attending. Plans are in hand for the 2025 conference.
The committee continues to act as a focus for Industrial Archaeology matters in the County and liaises with other interested bodies

Doug Roseaman, Committee Secretary

Finance Committee
This committee ensures that the assets of the Society are managed in compliance with the various rules and guidelines pertinent to the WANHS status as a registered charity and limited liability company, and promulgates appropriate policies and procedures.

The routine and day-to-day monitoring and management of approved budgets is delegated to the Review & Development Committee.

The Finance Committee meet when events demand it.

Rathbone Investment Management provide regular reports on the investment situation.

DEVELOPMENT

Working with Partners and Plans for the Future

Stonehenge Museums Partnership

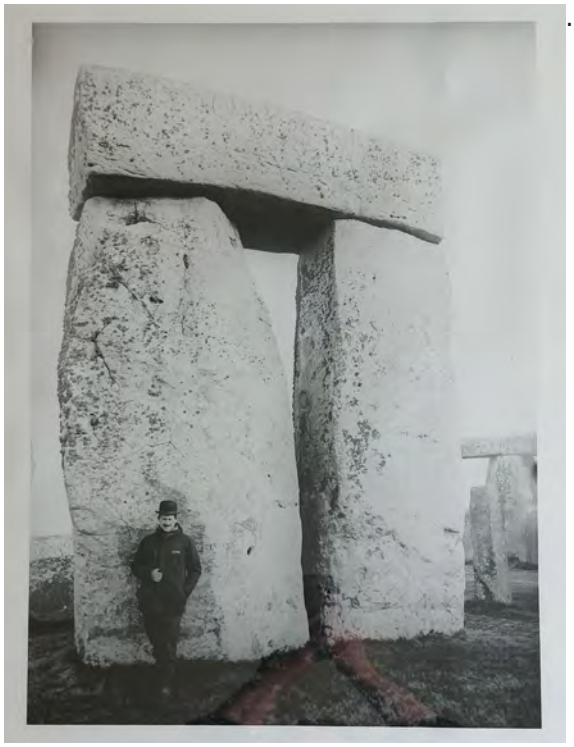
We have kept in regular contact during the year, developing joint marketing initiatives through social media. English Heritage has been implementing a new ticketing system, which significantly improve the purchase of tickets for both Wiltshire and Salisbury Museums alongside entry to Stonehenge. We hope that this will increase our ticket sales in 2025/26.

Strategic and Forward Plans

We are continuing to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Society and Museum to continue to thrive as the Assize Court project proceeds following the delays from the COVID pandemic. An Interim Strategic Plan was adopted in July 2024, extending the ambition of the 2019 Strategic Plan for a further two years, up to the point when we hope to be awarded Delivery funding for the Assize Court Project.

The Forward Plan for 2024-2025 detailed priorities for the year ahead, including the implementation of the Development Phase of the Assizes for Devizes Project, the exhibition programme (Wiltshire Thatcher, Oexmann and Dave Gunning) in addition to our usual wide range of activities. The Plan has monthly objectives and is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis.

The majority of the targets set at the beginning of the year were achieved.



Black and white photograph of Stonehenge, 2024, recreating photographs taken by Ernest Farmer in 1892 (2024.7008), see pages 13 and 19).

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership brings together Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museums and the Wiltshire Museum.

During the year the Wessex Museums Partnership progressed delivering the four year, Arts Council supported National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), project to improve collections care, enhance the exhibitions programme and work with new audiences. Our Community Curator built links with community groups and our Exhibitions Officer supported the exhibitions programme and developed plans for future joint exhibitions, including a John Piper exhibition planned for 2026. A wide range of staff were involved in the development of the *Un/Common People* exhibition, which celebrates folk culture in Wiltshire and Dorset. This highlights many objects and stories from our collections and opened in Swindon in November, before touring to Wiltshire Museum and the other museums in the partnership.

The Partnership is supported by the Wessex Museums Trust, a charity that aims to support museums in Wiltshire and Dorset. The Trust fundraises to enable the delivery of projects that the individual museums are not able to undertake on their own and take a more active role in the management of the NPO. The Society is represented on the Board by the Director.

In 2024 Arts Council England announced that the Wessex Museums National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status would be extended for a further year, ending in March 2026, and in 2025 that, pending the Spending Review, that the status would continue for another year until 2027.

David Dawson

Wessex Museums

In June 2023, the Museum was awarded development funding of £300,748 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for our ambitious project to revitalise the Devizes Assize Court as a new home for Wiltshire Museum and its internationally important collections. This funding supports a two-year planning period to develop architectural plans; gallery designs and the creation of an exciting programme of community activities and events.

Over this past year, the Project has made huge leaps forward, working towards its goal of submitting a NLHF Delivery funding application in Summer 2025. The Museum have worked closely with the Devizes Assize Court Trust, Project Consultants and the Community in order to create a shared vision for the new site as a cultural and community destination at the Heart of Wiltshire. The plans include two large, designated learning and event spaces, new interactive galleries, a special display space capable of hosting national-standard exhibitions, and a café that makes use of the new open space behind the Assize Court.

The Assize Court Project has now engaged with over 3,000 people through a mix of community outreach and projects. Most notably in August 2024, we worked with Devizes Public Living room and White Horse Arts in order to create a set of carnival banners for Devizes Carnival that were then accessioned into the Museum's collections (see pages 6, 17 and 19). It is the hope that these will then go on display in the new Museum's Devizes gallery, to showcase both Devizes town tradition and the amazing community work that takes place within it.

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Claire Slack, our engagement officer, has consulted with a wide range of audiences to create a plan of activities and events we want to run during the project and after we open the new site. Several advisory groups have been set up to help guide and bring discussion surrounding the project, such as interpretation, activities and access. In September 2024, our Project Intern Friday Schoemaker created a small exhibition on the History of the Assize Court and our vision for the site. Over 600 people visited to see our plans for the future and vote on what they wanted to see in the new building.

In December 2024, we submitted a planning application to Wiltshire Council. Our plans to restore the 'at risk' Grade II* listed Assize Court has been met with great enthusiasm at the public consultation stage, and we now await the final response from Wiltshire Council.

Over the next few months, we are preparing funding applications to Trusts and Foundations as well as seeking support from philanthropists and benefactors to provide match funding for our National Lottery application. In early 2025 we received pledges from The Rothschild Foundation and the Julia Rausing Trust, both of £500,000. A major public appeal will be launched one the major commitment from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been secured.

The application to the National Lottery Heritage fund will be submitted in August 2025 for the major funding needed to make the project a reality. If successful, work on the building will begin during 2026, with the aim to open the building in 2030.

Helen Meikle







Pen and ink drawing of the Assize Court by Sidney G. Smith, 1947 (DZSWS: 2024.1004, see page 18); artist's impression of the planned new galleries, (c) Image Makers

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the Law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate.
- Presume that the company will continue to operate.

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

Internal risks are minimised by the establishment, documentation and regular review of a robust system of internal controls. Procedures have been implemented for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and monitored on a regular basis.

The Board continued to employ Rathbone Investment Management Limited to manage both the investment portfolio and the endowment fund with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side, a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully and reported to the Trustees on a quarterly basis.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market which affect the investment portfolios, long-term staff or Trustee absence, inadequate staffing with dependence on a small team of full-time employees, physical risks to the collections or buildings from fire, theft or floods and reductions in grants from local authorities. The Trustees manage these risks by having an investment policy at the low end of medium risk with regular reviews from the investment managers, by having processes for trustee succession, by conducting reviews of staff availability and development and by regular reviews of security.

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Society should have unrestricted funds (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves) equivalent to at least one year's core costs, that is some £400,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be greater than £400,000 to provide a measure of security since unrestricted funds are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities.

The Unrestricted Funds balance at 31 March 2025 was £437,629 (£571,833 at 31 March 2024).

The balance of Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) was £404,092 at 31 March 2025 (£415,223 at 31 March 2024). The purpose of Designated Funds can be changed by the Board of Trustees. However, it must be borne in mind that the Designated Funds are and have been used to meet expenditure not charged to core activities such as the running costs of the Hopton Store, the Librarian's salary, the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group and the depreciation charge on the Art Gallery and high security cases. Therefore, Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities.

Restricted Funds at 31 March 2025 of £415,878 (£376,241 at 31 March 2024) must be used for a specific purpose. The capital at 31 March 2025 of £525,347 (£511,473 at 31 March 2024) in the Endowment Fund is not distributable.

Included within the net book value of tangible fixed assets of £298,284 is the land and buildings of the Museum. These assets are carried in the accounts at a net book value of £277,412 (£283,426 at 31 March 2024). The net book value of this property is substantially smaller than its actual market value. There is provision in the Charity Accounting rules for tangible assets like the Museum land and buildings to be shown at market value in the accounts. However, the Trustees have decided that, for the moment, the property should be shown at net book value. This property is now used for the purposes of charitable activities but, if the Museum were to move, it may be available to generate funds to support the new opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society continued from last year to be operating at full capacity with an extensive programme of activities associated with the museum and library. In addition, the work on the development stage of the Devizes Assize Court Project took a considerable amount of resource. Total revenue for the year was significantly higher at £637,111 (£560,646 at 31 March 2024). Income associated with museum, library, outreach and other charitable activities was the main contributor to this increase at £391,061 (£331,070 at 31 March 2024). Grants and contributions associated with the Devizes Assize Court Trust Project also increased, but to a lesser extent at, £214,160 (£153,895 at 31 March 2024).

The total expenditure for the Society increased to £718,338 from £645,351 last year. This increase was due to expenditure incurred in the development phase of the Devizes Assize Court Project. Expenditure on core activities fell by 6.1% to £439,855 mainly driven by a focus of resources on the Devizes Assize Court Project.

The Society's investment portfolio managed a very modest gain of £534 compared to last year's gain of £57,710. This result reflects the disruption in the capital markets following the presidential elections in the United States and the incoming administration's approach to world trade. The overall deficit for the year was £80,693 compared to the previous year of £26,995. As referenced above the underperformance of the Society's investments was a significant element in the negative movement. However, it should also be noted that the Society contributed £59,785 to the funding of the Devizes Assize Court Project.

Unrestricted reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Designated Funds) decreased in the year by £123,074.

Designated Funds decreased during the year by £11,130 reflecting the lack of legacy revenue or investment gains in the year, resulting in the brought forward reserves being consumed by the costs associated with the activities for which these funds were established.

The Society continues to receive support from Wiltshire Council with a grant of £12,780 and Devizes Town Council of £4,000. Both grants will be maintained in 2025/26 but their continuation at this level or at all is not certain for future years. These funds are very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and the Society is extremely grateful for all the grants it receives.

Restricted Funds increased by £39,637 due to the receipt of a legacy of £55,847.

Investment income from the Society's main portfolio and from the Sandell Trust was £38,300 which was a increase on the previous year of £5,361. The overall return on investments on the combined main and endowment portfolios and including income and revaluation and trading losses was a gain of 2.83% compared with a gain of 7.58% the previous year. This deterioration in the value of the Society's investments reflects the general uncertainty seen in the world's capital markets referred to above. The overall income return before investment management expenses was 2.79% compared with 2.90% the previous year.

The Society does not have a specific policy on social, environmental or ethical considerations. However, its investment managers have a corporate strategy that means that these are taken into account in all aspects of their business activities.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund's portfolio is managed at the low end of a medium risk mandate. The Endowment Fund balance increased during the year by £13,874 due to receipt of a £10,000 legacy, gains on securities and the gain resulting from the year end revaluation.

Under the terms of the Endowment Trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the Society at some future date to be decided by the Trustees. The Trustees have reserved the right to transfer income received by the Fund to unrestricted reserves from the year ended 31 March 2010. Net investment income of £14,540 after investment expenses of £3,152 was transferred to the unrestricted reserves during the year ended 31 March 2025.

COLLECTIONS TRUST

There are over 500,000 items in the Collections Trust of which 2,500 are displayed in the Museum. There are also some 30,000 items in the Archive and Library collections. Most of these items are assets which were acquired before 1 April 2005 and have no value placed on them in the accounts. These continue to be catalogued and conserved with some items on loan elsewhere as described on page 15. More recent items costing over £1,000 each and totalling £48,741 are included in the balance sheet at cost. During the year donations and grants of £9,189 were received by the Trust and acquisitions of £9,998 of items costing less than £1,000 were made. These acquisitions are described on pages 17 to 20.

INCOMING RESOURCES AND LEGACIES RECEIVED

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised, the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to the unrestricted fund and restricted funds respectively. The accounts include £415,878 for restricted funds and £525,347 for the Endowment Fund. These funds are not available to the Society for general use and must, therefore, be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position.

FORWARD PLAN

Each year the Board approves a Forward Plan that contains objectives and targets for the year. The 2024/25 Forward Plan contained targets within the following categories: exhibitions and displays; collections; development; projects; Assize Court; learning and outreach; and governance and core activities. Within the context of management resources good progress was made in most of these areas - see page 32.

PARTNERSHIPS

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and co-operation on exhibitions. Although, by mutual consent, the Directors have ceased to be nominees on the other's Board, good communication is maintained through the Wessex Museums Partnership. Supported by Arts Council England and led by Poole Museum Service, the partnership also includes The Salisbury Museum and Dorset Museum.

The support of Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council in providing revenue grants to the Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their nominated Trustees. We are pleased to continue working in partnership with English Heritage and Salisbury Museum through the Stonehenge Museums Partnership.

The Board is aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to build strong partnerships.

AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting on 10 November 2024 and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on 25 September 2025, and signed on their behalf by:

Caroline M Kay
Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The latest Articles of Association were agreed by the members at the October 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Objects of the Society are detailed on the inner cover. The members of the Society are subscribing members; in the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

The Society is the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. The Collections Trust holds all the heritage assets in its collections. The Society does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property.

The Society is also the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Society's accounts but as a separate charity its funds do not form part of the Society's assets.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its Trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the Trustees".

The Society can have a maximum of 20 trustees. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer (the Officers) and nine Trustees are elected by the membership, with re-election after three years. Trustees, excluding the Officers, can serve a maximum of six years. Officers are elected annually from amongst the Trustees but can serve for no more than six years in any one role. As nominating bodies, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, can each appoint one Trustee, and Wiltshire Council can appoint two Trustees. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust no longer appoint a Trustee to the WANHS Board. The Trustees have the power to co-opt additional Trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they may be nominated and elected.

The Society is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets regularly throughout the year. It determines the general policy direction of the Society and discusses matters of importance to the Society. It approves and monitors budgets, Forward and Strategic Plans, all developments, the prioritisation and allocation of resources and approves trustee appointments. Trustees bring outside experience and knowledge which supports that of our small staff.

There is a Review and Development Committee which meets regularly to review the management and financial affairs of the Museum delegated to the Director and his staff. Standing committees and working groups are formed as needed to deal with specific issues.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed including those related to the operations and finances of the Society and Museum, Archive & Library, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Investment Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The Trustees have engaged Rathbone Investment Management as investment managers and a Finance Committee reviews the portfolio and investment strategy.

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The skills and experience of existing Trustees is reviewed annually and, together with future needs, taken into account when seeking new trustees. The Board has a succession plan and has drawn up a trustee role description. Vacancies are advertised to members and through archaeological and voluntary media. Prospective Trustees are invited to visit the Museum to discuss the role prior to a formal interview. A panel, including the Chair and Director, reviews applications and interviews candidates. References are obtained and checks on eligibility to be a trustee and company director made. Those who are considered suitable are recommended to the Board to go forward to the Society's AGM for election by members.

There is an induction process to help Trustees understand their new role. An induction pack includes information on governance, accounts for recent years, forward plans, minutes of recent Board meetings, policies and other relevant information. New Trustees receive copies of Charity Commission advice (e.g. *The Essential Trustee*), are signed up for their e-mail updates and receive a personal tour of the Museum, Archive & Library buildings. From time to time Trustees are offered training courses.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

LEGAL INFORMATION

Names and registration numbers

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649 and a charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

PATRONS

Phil Harding, DUniv, FSA, MIFA
David Inshaw
Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, CSt.J, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
Alison Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA (*from 28/3/24 to 26/9/24*)

Caroline M Kay, BA, MA, MSc (*co-opted 26/9/24*)

Deputy Chair:
Vacant

Hon. Treasurer:
Chris R Kelly, BSc, FCA, FloD

Elected Trustees:
Richard Cardiff
Claire Dobbin, MA, BA (Hons)
Nicola Harris, BSc (Hons)
Bethany Hocking, BA (Hons) (*co-opted 1/1/25*)
Ruth B. Kerr, MA, BA (Hons)
Earl Kerry, PhD, MA, MBA, MSc
Adelaide Longhurst, BA (Hons) (*co-opted 28/11/24*)
Katie Marsden, BSc (Hons)
Martin Nye (*to 11/11/24)*
Grace Payne-Kumar, BA (Hons) (*elected 11/11/24*)
Lachlan Robertson, MA, BSc (*to 11/11/24*)
Peter Wragg, DMS (*elected 11/11/24*)

Nominated Trustees:
Director, Wiltshire Museum (Trustee *from 1/1/25*):
David Dawson, BA (Hons), AMA, FSA
Member, Devizes Town Council (*from May 2021*):
Cllr. Mrs C Gay, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, FPS
Members, Wiltshire Council:
Cllr Iain Wallis *(from 26/9/2024)*

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF AS AT 31.3.2025

Director: David Dawson, BA, FSA, AMA
Curator*: Lisa Brown, BA (Hons), MA
Marketing & Administration Manager:
Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Museum Assistant: Administration:
Emma Sykes, BA
Collections Officer: Archive & Library*:
Jane Schön, BA (Hons), MA
Community Curator*:
Amy Hammett, MPhil, MA,BA (Hons)
Exhibitions Officer*: Heather Ault, BA
Finds Liaison Officer: Sophie Hawke (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the British Museum and other partners)
Finance Officer*: Mandy Dixon
Learning & Outreach Officer*: Ali Rushent, BA, MA
Museum Assistant*: Carol Johnston
Project Officer*: Friday Schoemaker
Assizes for Devizes Project Staff:
Programme Manager: Nicola Trowell, BA (Hons)
Engagement Officer: Claire Slack, BA (Hons), MA
Support Officer: Helen Meikle, BA (Hons), MA
*[*part-time]*

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors:
David Owen & Co., 17 The Market Place,
Devizes, SN10 1BA
Bankers:
Lloyds TSB plc, 38 Market Place,
Devizes, SN10 1JD
Investment Managers:
Rathbone Investment Management,
8 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7AZ
Company Secretary:
Mrs K P Jones, BA (Hons)
Hon. Solicitors:
Wansbroughs, Northgate House,
Devizes, SN10 1JX
Editor - Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine:
Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1NS

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concerns
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustee's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 34), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company or the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a

true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees' are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee's either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the UK Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, tax legislation, data protection legislation and regulations imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with regards to the provision of insurance policies.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence with HMRC and reviewed meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- We enquired of the trustees about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets, undisclosed related party transactions outside the normal course of business.
- We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud and revenue recognition of legacies, grants and investment income.
- We critically reviewed judgements and provisions included within the financial statements and examined the associated cut-off issues. Prior period forecasts were compared to actual results to ensure past judgements made were reasonable in comparison with eventual outcomes.
- We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We obtained independent confirmations from your bank regarding balances at the year-end in addition to any outstanding charges.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Use of our Report

The report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Joseph Bunton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For an on behalf of David Owen & Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 The Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1BA
Date: 25 September 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	1	123,697	55,847	10,000	189,544	118,466
Charitable activities	2	357,966	-	-	357,966	344,104
Other trading activities	5	56,919	792	-	57,711	62,395
Investments	7	10,015	7,335	14,540	31,890	35,681
Total		548,597	63,974	24,540	637,111	560,646
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	59,978	1,670	3,152	64,800	66,566
Charitable activities	9	632,283	21,255	-	653,538	578,785
Total		692,261	22,925	3,152	718,338	645,351
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	(1,928)	(1,412)	3,874	534	57,710
Net income/(expenditure)		(145,592)	39,637	25,262	(80,693)	(26,995)
Transfers between funds		11,388	-	(11,388)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(134,204)	39,637	13,874	(80,693)	(26,995)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		571,833	376,241	511,473	1,459,547	1,486,542
Total funds carried forward		437,629	415,878	525,347	1,378,854	1,459,547

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	*2024 £*	*2024 £*
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15		298,284		*315,125*
Managed Investments					
Securities	16	528,262		*707,615*	
Cash		5,046		*12,556*	
			533,308		*720,171*
Managed Endowment Investments					
Securities	16	514,822		*495,486*	
Cash		10,075		*15,537*	
			524,897		*511,023*
Total Fixed Assets			1,356,489		*1,546,319*
Current Assets					
Stock		16,808		*14,467*	
Debtors	17	85,921		*123,175*	
Cash at Bank		156,930		*60,036*	
Total current Assets		259,659		*197,678*	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	137,638		*170,197*	
Net Current Assets			122,021		*27,481*
Total assets less current liabilities			1,478,510		*1,573,800*
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		99,656		*114,253*
			1,378,854		*1,459,547*
The funds of the Society					
Endowment Funds	22		525,347		*511,473*
Restricted income funds	23		415,878		*376,241*
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)	24		437,629		*571,833*
			1,378,854		*1,459,547*

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The notes on pages 44 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

Caroline M Kay, Chair

Chris R Kelly, Honorary Treasurer

25 September 2025

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

		Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(a)	(104,450)	*(159,727)*
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		31,890	*35,681*
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(4,070)	*(6,212)*
Proceeds from sale of investments		268,461	*253,731*
Purchase of investments		(107,909)	*(206,682)*
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		188,372	*76,518*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		83,922	*(83,209)*
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	(b)	88,129	*171,338*
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	(b)	172,051	*88,129*

(a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per the Statement of Activities	(80,693)	*(26,995)*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	20,911	*20,626*
(Gains)/losses on investments	(535)	*(57,710)*
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(31,890)	*(35,681)*
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(2,341)	*(1,538)*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	37,254	*(84,467)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(47,155)	*26,037*
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(104,450)	*(159,727)*

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand (incl. investment cash)	172,051	*88,129*
	172,051	*88,129*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

(a) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2005), and

(b) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company qualifies as a small company under the Companies Act 2006 and under SORP. However, the Company has continued to comply with the requirements of large charities and to this end has produced a cash flow statement for the accounting period and comparative figures for the previous accounting period.

The Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except for the discounting of the liability for the pension deficit or unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition unless capitalisation is required as a condition of the grant. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 5 years

Investments

Net gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed between realised gains and losses and unrealised gains and losses in note 14 to the financial statements. Investment income has been accounted for on the basis of the due date of payment. Investment income and gains and losses in the Main Fund are allocated between Unrestricted Funds (including Designated Funds) and Restricted Funds on the basis of the average net assets of those funds.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Incoming Resources

- Legacies are normally accounted for when received and, if not given for specific purposes as a condition of the will, are utilised either for general expenditure or for the purposes which the Trustees believe the Testator would have approved.
- Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.
- Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received.
- All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.
- Grants. Where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year, the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. In the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum Services, Library Services, Educational Services, etc.) this has been done on the assessment of the Director.

Pensions

During the year to 31 March 2025 pension provision was made for 11 employees by membership of a Pension Trust Scheme which is principally a defined contribution pension scheme. All employees who are not in the scheme are offered pension auto-enrolment into the scheme where applicable. Employer's contributions of £13,863 have been charged to staff costs as incurred. The Scheme has a limited guarantee on losses under the scheme for those members of staff who transferred to it. This has led to small additional amounts in respect of a deficit being recovered from the Society.

Some years prior to the year ended on 31 March 2017 the Society ceased to be a scheme employer in the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, as stated in the 2012 report, entered into an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse the deficit by payment of £21,000 for each year up to and including December 2031. Full provision of the liability was originally made in the accounts to 31 March 2016 for the amounts payable to December 2031, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period. An amount of £6,403 was charged in the accounts to 31 March 2025 (£7,114 (2024) and £7,790 (2023).

Reserves

The reserves at 31 March 2025 are allocated to Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds. Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting appropriate as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a charity established to raise and hold capital, the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but, as a separate charity, these funds do not form part of the Company's assets. The investment income from the Endowment Fund is credited to the Unrestricted Funds.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which own the Collections. On 3 March 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96(5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However, *"the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and hold the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company".*

Accounts for the Collections Trust have been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
1	**Income from Donations and Legacies**						
	Membership Subscriptions		46,687	-	-	46,687	*45,781*
	Donations and Tax Refunds		38,709	-	-	38,709	*34,745*
	Legacies		-	55,847	10,000	65,847	*5,000*
	Income transferred by Old Society						
	Sandell Trust		38,301	-	-	38,301	*32,940*
			123,697	55,847	10,000	189,544	*118,466*

Income from Donations and Legacies for Unrestricted Funds includes £50 (2024 £50) for Designated Funds.

2	**Income from Charitable Activities**						
	Grants and Contributions	3	304,173	-	-	304,173	*288,626*
	Admissions		35,692	-	-	35,692	*39,676*
	Exhibitions Commissions		11,032	-	-	11,032	*5,237*
	Education Receipts		7,069	-	-	7,069	*10,565*
			357,966	-	-	357,966	*344,104*

3	**Income from Grants and Contributions**						
	AIM/HF Lest we Forget		-	-	-	-	*13,890*
	Cardiff University		-	-	-	-	-
	Cauldrons - Broomsgrove		556	-	-	556	-
	Community Curator Projects		13,345	-	-	13,345	1,750
	Community Kick Start Project		-	-	-	-	*1,500*
	Devizes Assize Court Trust		214,160	-	-	214,160	*153,895*
	Devizes Area Tourism		1,257	-	-	1,257	-
	Devizes Town Council		8,000	-	-	8,000	*29,000*
	National Heritage - Walround		-	-	-	-	*6,998*
	National Lottery Community		-	-	-	-	-
	Police & Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon		4,453	-	-	4,453	-
	Stonehenge Avebury Bus		5,153	-	-	5,153	-
	Swire Foundation		-	-	-	-	*20,000*
	Wessex Museum Partnership		30,787	-	-	30,787	43,600
	Wessex Museum Partnership - Piper Exhibition		6,000	-	-	6,000	-
	Wessex Museum Partnership - Queer in Wiltshire		3,050	-	-	3,050	-
	Wiltshire Community Foundation		3,000	-	-	3,000	-
	Wiltshire Council		12,780	-	-	12,780	*12,780*
	Sundry Contributions for Projects		1,632	-	-	1,632	*5,213*
			304,173	-	-	304,173	*288,626*

		2025 £
4	**Grants carried forward**	
	Cardiff University	3,000
	National Lottery Community	16,574
	Wessex Museum Partnership - Piper Exhibition	30,000
	Wessex Museum Partnership	-
	Wiltshire Community Foundation	3,270
	Sundry Contributions for Projects	-
		52,844

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
5	Income from Other Trading Activities		**£**	**£**	**£**	£	*£*
	Shop Sales	6	27,376	-	-	27,376	*32,904*
	Other Sales		-	-	-	-	-
	Museum Income		29,496	792	-	30,288	*27,326*
	Fund-raising Events		47	-	-	47	*2,165*
			56,919	792	-	57,711	*62,395*
6	Shop Sales						
	Shop sales		27,376	-	-	27,376	*32,904*
	Less Purchase cost		12,341	-	-	12,341	*22,732*
	Gross Profit		15,035	-	-	15,035	*10,172*
	Gross Profit % on sales					**54.92%**	*30.91%*
7	Investment Income						
	Income from Investments		10,015	7,335	14,540	31,890	*35,681*
			10,015	7,335	14,540	31,890	*35,681*
8	Expenditure on Raising Funds						
	Cost of Sales						
	Shop		12,341	-	-	12,341	*22,732*
	Salaries		17,565	-	-	17,565	*10,668*
	Members' services		3,535	-	-	3,535	*3,444*
	Marketing		765	-	-	765	*5,436*
	Fundraising costs		20,307	-	-	20,307	*11,926*
	Investment management costs		2,281	1,670	3,152	7,103	*7,188*
	Support costs		3,184	-	-	3,184	*5,172*
			59,978	1,670	3,152	64,800	*66,566*
9	Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
	Museum Services		302,421	2,400	-	304,821	*236,443*
	Library Services		46,028	-	-	46,028	*38,381*
	Educational work		37,505	-	-	37,505	*39,991*
	WANHM		6,584	-	-	6,584	*16,547*
	Support and governance costs		239,745	18,855	-	258,600	*247,423*
			632,283	21,255	-	653,538	*578,785*

Expenditure on Charitable Activities for Unrestricted Funds includes £15,966 (2024 £16,455) for Designated Funds.

Support and governance costs include audit fees of £8,000 (2024 - £7,200)

		Total 2025	*Total 2024*
10	Staff costs	**£**	*£*
	Wages and Salaries	316,367	*259,497*
	Social Security costs	21,798	*15,102*
	Pension costs	23,520	*21,427*
		361,685	*296,026*

Staff costs attributable to activities :	2025 £	*2024 £*
Cost of raising funds	17,565	*10,668*
Charitable activities:		
Museum	233,056	*175,603*
Library	31,398	*29,720*
Education	31,300	*31,717*
Governance	48,366	*48,318*
	361,685	*296,026*

In 2025 £163,973 of staff costs were funded from grants for projects (2024: £77,998).

Pension costs include £6,403 (2024: £7,113) relating to charges for deficits in previous years.

During the year £21,000 (2024: £21,000) was paid towards the liability for the Wiltshire Council Pension deficit (see note 20).

One employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000.

Key management personnel which consist of the Trustees and the Director were paid a total of £61,633 (2024: £61,633).

This amount is gross of employer's contributions towards pension and National Insurance.

The average number of employees in 2024/25 was 6 full time and 7 part time (2024: 4 full time and 7 part time), including staff employed on the Assizes for Devizes project..

11 Trustees' Expenses

No trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year.
Trustees' expenses totalling £0 (2024 £0) were paid during the year

12 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year 2025 (2024 - £0).

13 Operating Leases

Payments for operating leases for a telephone system and for a photocopier amounted to £4,094 (2024 £3,850) during the year. Minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than one year	4,094	4,094
Later than one year and not later than five years	8,424	12,518
	12,518	16,612

14 Gains/(losses) on investment assets

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Main Portfolio £	Endowment Portfolio £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Realised gains/(losses)	(697)	(511)	(1,208)	(1,820)	(3,028)	*(11,218)*
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(1,231)	(901)	(2,132)	5,694	3,562	*68,928*
	(1,928)	(1,412)	(3,340)	3,874	534	*57,710*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
	£	£	£	£	*£*
Opening Cost at 1st April	72,750	298,487	97,701	468,938	*462,726*
Addition - Amesbury Storage Facility	-	-	4,069	4,069	*6,212*
Closing Cost at 31st March	72,750	298,487	101,770	473,007	*468,938*
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st April	-	87,810	66,002	153,812	*133,187*
Charge in year	-	6,015	14,896	20,911	*20,626*
Accumulated Depr. at 31st March	-	93,825	80,898	174,723	*153,813*
Closing Net Book Value at 31st March	72,750	204,662	20,872	298,284	*315,125*

The freehold land and buildings transferred from the original unincorporated Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Charity no. 309534) in November 2003 were included in the balance sheet at book values. Other tangible fixed assets acquired or created since have been included at cost. The Trustees have decided not to apply a valuation to the property.

16 Quoted Fixed Asset Investments	Main Portfolio 2025	Endowment Portfolio 2025	*Main Portfolio 2024*	*Endowment Portfolio 2024*
	£	**£**	*£*	*£*
Opening Market Value at 1st April	707,615	495,486	*731,781*	*460,659*
Purchases	22,624	85,286	*110,653*	*96,028*
	730,239	580,772	*842,434*	*556,687*
Sales	198,637	69,824	*171,064*	*82,667*
	531,602	510,948	*671,370*	*474,020*
Net profits/(losses) :				
Realised	(1,208)	(1,820)	*(5,042)*	*(6,176)*
Unrealised	(2,132)	5,694	*41,287*	*27,642*
Closing Market value at 31st March	528,262	514,822	*707,615*	*495,486*

17 Debtors	Total 2025	*Total 2024*
	£	*£*
Trade Debtors	32,410	*79,166*
Prepayments	9,380	*5,427*
Grants and Donations receivable	34,092	*25,341*
Gift Aid refund receivable	-	-
VAT recoverable	7,299	*10,501*
Monies owed by the Collections Trust	-	-
Monies owed by the Old Society	2,740	*2,740*
	85,921	*123,175*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Grants received in advance	52,844	*18,116*
Trade Creditors	18,230	*69,154*
Accruals	14,256	*9,381*
Taxes including NIC	5,792	*4,967*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	20,442	*20,442*
Prepaid membership subscriptions	-	*121*
Other income in advance	22,518	*24,284*
Monies owed to the Collections Trust	3,556	*23,732*
	137,638	*170,197*

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	99,656	*114,253*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	99,656	*114,253*

20 Pension Deficit

The Society has an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse a deficit with the Wiltshire Pension Fund in relation to two former employees by payment of £21,000 for each year up and including December 2031. Full provision, subject to discounting at 5% over time from 31 March 2018 has been made in creditors. The charge for the year to 31 March 2025 for the discounted part of the provision was £6,403 (2024 £7,714).

21 Analysis of net assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Fund values at 31 March are represented by:					
Tangible Fixed Assets	119,301	178,983	-	298,284	*347,224*
Managed Investments	422,797	110,511	524,897	1,058,205	*1,506,489*
Current Assets	132,825	126,384	450	259,659	*155,230*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(137,638)	-	-	(137,638)	*(111,814)*
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(99,656)	-	-	(99,656)	*(141,349)*
	437,629	415,878	525,347	1,378,854	*1,755,780*

22 Endowment Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Investment expenses	Gain on investments	Inter-Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Trust Fund	511,473	24,540	(3,152)	3,874	(11,388)	525,347

Income in the Endowment Trust Fund includes:	£
Legacies	10,000
Investment Income	14,540
	24,540

The Endowment Trust Fund is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee. It is established to raise capital, the income from which will be paid to the Company for its general use. The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets.

23 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Investment income £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
English Heritage Fund	7,728	-	142	(32)	(27)	-	7,811
Legacies and Donations	143,504	55,847	3,244	(739)	(624)	-	201,232
Oexmann Fund	15,689	792	274	(2,463)	(53)	-	14,239
Amesbury Storage Facility	195,850	-	3,427	(19,635)	(660)	-	178,982
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	13,470	-	248	(56)	(48)	-	13,614
	376,241	56,639	7,335	(22,925)	(1,412)	-	415,878

Income in the restricted funds includes:	£
Legacies	55,847
Grants	-
Other trading activities	792
	56,639

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes :

Amesbury Storage Facility	Storage facility for archaeology archives deposited after 2021.
English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects.
Legacies and Donations	Legacies and donations received for use in future projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition.
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	This fund was originally set up to cover the cost of Museum refurbishments to create a new Environmental Gallery. Discussions are proceeding to enable the Society to use some or all this money for the refurbishment of the office suite and the purchase of essential equipment.

These fund balances at 31 March 2025 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2025.

24 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Donations and Legacies £	Other Income (incl. investment income) £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds:							
Improvement Fund	14,594	-	268	(61)	(52)	-	14,749
Library Fund	3,880	151	70	(344)	(13)	-	3,744
Archaeological Field Group	2,975	-	826	(232)	-	-	3,569
Programme Committee	18,181	-	334	(76)	(64)	-	18,375
Publications Fund	25,958	-	477	(109)	(92)	-	26,234
Ready to Borrow Applied	38,347	-	-	-	-	-	38,347
Shearing Library Fund	87,825	-	1,524	(10,297)	(293)	-	78,759
The Crofton Story	429	-	8	(2)	(2)	-	433
Wiltshire Life	223,034	-	4,050	(6,422)	(780)	-	219,882
	415,223	151	7,557	(17,543)	(1,296)	-	404,092
Other unrestricted funds	156,610	76,860	464,029	(674,718)	(632)	11,388	33,537
	571,833	77,011	471,586	(692,261)	(1,928)	11,388	437,629

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees and which remain part of the unrestricted funds) is currently:

Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity.
The Crofton Story	Income from the sale of this publication.
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Museum.
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management.
Programme Committee	To finance members' events.
Publications Fund	To finance publications (the expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks).
Ready to Borrow Applied	The balance represents capital expenditure funded by Ready to Borrow Grant and contributions used to defray the depreciation costs of new tangible fixed assets over their useful life.
Shearing Library Fund	To finance the cost of employing a part-time Librarian and small library equipment purchases.
Wiltshire Life	To finance the care and development of the Wiltshire Life Society Collections. The expenditure consists of direct costs and does not include curatorial charges.

Allocation of expenditure from Designated Funds is reviewed regularly. The timing of expenditure is over a period which matches requirements of each purpose, potentially over a number of years. These fund balances at 31 March 2025 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2025.

COLLECTIONS TRUST - Linked Charity Number 1080096
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	*2024 Total*
Income and Endowments from:	£	£	£	*£*
Donations and legacies	2,889	-	2,889	*8,879*
Charitable activities:				
Grants	6,300	-	6,300	-
Sale	-	-	-	-
	9,189	-	9,189	*8,879*
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Acquisitions costing less than £1,000				
Museum	9,998	-	9,998	*3,233*
Library	-	-	-	*8,355*
	9,998	-	9,998	*11,588*
Costs				
Sundry	-	-	-	-
	9,998	-	9,998	*11,588*
Net income/(expenditure)	(809)	-	(809)	*(2,709)*
Balance at 1 April 2024 brought forward	62,074	4,252	66,326	*69,035*
Balance at 31 March 2025 carried forward	*61,265*	*4,252*	*65,517*	*66,326*

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 March 2025

		2024
Heritage Assets		
Opening Balance at 1 April	48,741	*48,741*
Acquisitions over £1,000	-	-
Closing Balance at 31 March	48,741	*48,741*
Current Assets		
Cash in Bank	16,776	*17,465*
Intercompany Debtors	-	*120*
	16,776	17,585
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	-
Net current assets	16,776	*17,585*
Total assets less current liabilities	65,517	66,326

The Funds of the Trust	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income, Grants & Donations	Inter Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds - Museum and Art	62,074	9,189	-	9,998	61,265
Restricted Funds	4,252	-	-	-	4,252
	66,326	9,189	-	9,998	65,517

Museum and Art Collections: The collections fall within the definition of heritage assets for the purposes of the Charities SORP.

Accounting Policies:

1. No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1 April 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by the users of the financial statements.
2. The Trustees have adopted a policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of purchase.
3. Acquisitions costing in excess of £1,000 are capitalised and stated at cost as heritage assets.
4. No depreciation is provided on heritage assets as all are deemed to have indefinite lives.

Policies for acquisition, disposal and conservation of heritage assets meet Accreditation Standard, which has been awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Summary of Transactions:	**Year to:**				
	31.03.2025	**31.03.2024**	**31.03.2023**	**31.03.2022**	**31.03.2021**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost of acquisitions of heritage assets	-	-	-	-	2,470
Value of assets acquired by donation and not reported in the Balance Sheet					
Carrying amount of heritage assets disposed of and proceeds received					
Cost of assets written off in year of purchase as per accounting policy	9,998	11,588	1,848	3,530	1,370

MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY

held on Sunday 12 November 2024, commencing at 3.00 pm
at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

01/24 Present

Trustees: Ms Caroline Kay (Chair), Mr Chris R Kelly (Hon Treasurer), Ms Claire Dobbin, Mrs Chris Gay, Mrs Nicola Harris, Dr Alison Hems, Mrs Ruth Kerr, Ms Katie Marsden, Ms Grace Payne-Kumar, Mr Iain Wallis, Mr Peter Wragg and 31 members of the Society.

In Attendance

David Dawson (Director) and Karen P Jones (Minute Taker and Company Secretary).

02/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Richard Cardiff (Trustee), Peter Henden, Earl Kerry and Martin Nye.

03/24 Chair's Welcome

The Chair, Caroline Kay, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Company limited by Guarantee). She had been elected Chair by the Board of Trustees in September 2024, as Martin Nye stepped down at the end of his term of office in March 2024. Dr Alison Hems, Deputy Chair had stepped into the role between March and September. The new Chair thanked both Martin and Alison for their service to the Board. Caroline outlined her background, which included fundraising and delivering major capital projects for cultural organisations. She was CEO of Bath Preservation Trust, for whom she worked for 14 years and latterly has been busy on various committees for the National Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. She has spent much of her spare time and interest exploring archaeological sites as both a visitor and occasionally as a participant in excavations. As she said in her application letter 'I believe that I can add value to this important and already well-led institution at a time of significant change. I am passionate about the significance and interest of your collections and the need to ensure their maximum appreciation by the widest public'.

The meeting acknowledged those members of the Society who had died since the last AGM,

Mr Les Antrobus, Mr Ewart Baldwin, Mr John Bush (WANHS Patron), Mr Michael Darby, Prof Timothy Darvill, Mr Chris Gingell, Mr J M Graham, Ms Brigid Harpham, Mr R W Knight, Mr Michael Smith, Mr Anthony Thombs. In addition, Mr Michael Corfield, Mr Jeff Ody (a former Trustees) and Mrs Marianne Walker were remembered.

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/24 Minutes of meeting held Sunday 12 November 2023

Proposed by Peter Saunders and seconded by John Baumber, the minutes of the AGM held on 12 November 2023 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed (one abstention).

05/24 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

i) Report by the Chair

As the Chair had not been in office for any part of the financial year under review the new Chair paraphrased the overview in the Annual Report from the previous Chair, Martin Nye.

The most momentous event in the year was the grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund of a large Development Grant to allow the Museum to develop in more detail and depth both the capital project at the Assize Court and the accompanying activity programme that would bring the project to life. The project had been under discussion for some time and the grant provided external affirmation of the project, as well as a cash injection!

She highlighted that one of the challenges for a small organisation taking on a large project was not to be derailed by it and that it was clear from the Annual Report that the 'day-job' of the Museum had continued with many activities across research, education, exhibitions, our collections and digital access.

Financially the accounts were in a better position. The Chair remarked that the members continued to be a vital and significant part of our income stream and donations and legacies also made their essential and generous role in continuing to underpin the Society. We are most grateful to members, donors and legators for their generous and valued support.

ii) Report by the Treasurer

Chris Kelly presented his report highlighting the financial situation with a series of slides.

As in previous years the Hon Treasurer highlighted the finances of the Society in a series of charts, highlighting the financial results for 2024, a review of investments and challenges. Members were invited to contact him if they required more information.

The Society had generated income of £561,000, and expenses had totalled £646.000. However, with gains on investments there had been a modest 'loss' of £27,000 in the financial year. The Treasurer had analysed income streams, which showed that in most areas income had remained similar to previous years, but, excluding expenditure on the Assizes for Devizes Project, the increase in expenditure was mostly due to inflation, including in the payroll budget, which accounted for approximately 50% of costs.

The investments, managed by Rathbones, continued to meet expectations, and also to provide income to the Society when required.

The challenges remained the same as in previous years: to overcome constrained resources, to continue to maximise existing revenue streams, to develop and grow new revenue opportunities, to reduce reliance on revenue that we can not influence and to leverage the Society's assets – people, collections and facilities. It was envisaged that the potential would come with the completion of the Assizes for Devizes project.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 are available from the Museum's website or Museum Office.

iii) Report by the Director

The Director highlighted the many activities undertaken in 2023/24 and looked forward to activities taking place during the 2024/25 financial year, particularly the people involved.

A Halloween event has been organised and run by the Youth Panel and the Wiltshire Archaeological and natural History magazine, published annually, highlighted local archaeology and historic research. Dr Stuart Brookes and Peter Saunders were thanked for all their work in ensuring the publication was printed and continued to be a well regarding volume. The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group had been busy at Seend excavating a brick kiln.

Exhibitions in the year included *A Love Letter to Wiltshire: an exhibition of paintings by Joanna May*, *Wessex – Landscapes of Association – an exhibition of works by Rob Pountney*, *Eric Walrond: a Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire* and *Lest We Forget: the Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire*.

Eric Walrond was born in the Caribbean, but was part of the Harlem renaissance in 1920s New York. He moved to England before World War II, lived in Bradford on Avon during the 1940s and also spent a few years in Roundway Hospital, Devizes. A portrait was commissioned from Clifton Powell, funded by the Art Fund. The exhibition was also shown in Bradford on Avon. The *Lest We Forget* exhibition highlighted the service of Black people from the Commonwealth and was also displayed at Lydiard House, Swindon. A small element of the exhibition, with a connection to Marlborough, would be displayed at the Merchant's House, Marlborough. A banner in the exhibition, telling the story of Albert Jarrett who had fought in the war and then founded a charity, had been created by the Nepali ladies group from Tidworth and had been taken into our collection.

In complete contrast was *Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire*, a collaborative exhibition between aerial photographer Hedley Thorne and landscape painter Anna Dillon, exploring aerial landscapes. Their respective art forms offered a complementary and contemporary take on the landscape of Wessex.

Highlights of the collections included the conservation and display of the Wilcot hoard of Roman vessels, the purchase of a scale model of Springfield House, Potterne Road, Devizes (which would be used to tell the story of the architecture of the town), and the conservation of a presentation volume, given to a former WANHS Secretary, the Rev A C Smith, by members of WANHS on the occasion of his daughter's marriage in 1884. It had been rescued from a skip, and following a fundraising campaign for its conservation, had been displayed as part of our 150 year anniversary in September. The library continued to acquire books, often donated by authors who had carried out research on the collections. Rounding off the financial year was the Archaeology in Wiltshire conference, which continued to be very popular.

Highlights of the 2024/25 year to date included the carnival procession of two banners created by local people, aimed at tackling loneliness. The new Devizes MP, Brian Mathew, had joined the procession. The banners were now in the Museum's collection. Consultation work on the Assizes for Devizes project was well underway with mini-exhibitions and events highlighting the plans and what we wanted to do. Working with Wessex Archaeology and prisoners at Erlestoke Prison, the Museum had assisted with the project and a mini-exhibition of finds - called *Digging for Erlestoke* – a community dig with a difference - had been displayed in the library Long Room. The exhibition *A Wiltshire Thatcher – a Photographic Journey through Victorian Wessex*, highlighted the album discovered by Brian Edwards containing the original image used on a Led Zeppelin album cover and the work of the photographer Ernest Farmer. The album and exhibition attracted worldwide publicity, and the T-shirts proved very popular in Japan! The 2024 volume of the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* contained many interesting articles, including one about a meteorite discovered at Lake House. The Director had recently recorded a video for the Gen Z audience, which had received thousands of views and comments about how mad we were!

Over the last couple of weeks there had been a large range of events, from holiday activities for under 11s, activities linked to the Assizes for Devizes project, to a conference about White Horses and Hill Figures of Southern England, held at the Corn Exchange. The Director thanked his colleagues, supporters, Trustees, volunteers and members for all their support, without which most of what we did would not happen!

Member, Peter Saunders also thanked the Director for being the driving force behind all this activity. Dr Colin Shell also advised that the Director's contribution on the WHS management committee had been invaluable. The Chair also thanked the Director and his team for their work too.

Proposed by Peter Saunders and seconded by Colin Thomas the meeting approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, together with the Auditors Report. The resolution was passed *nem con*.

06/24 Election of Trustees

There were three nominations for three new vacancies and three trustees to be re-elected. All candidates had been proposed and seconded by the Board of Trustees and the meeting duly elected Caroline Kay, Grace Payne-Kumar and Peter Wragg and re-elected Claire Dobbin, Ruth Kerry and Katie Marsden, to the Board of Trustees

07/24 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Alan Sims and seconded by Colin Thomas, the meeting re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration.

08/24 Special Business

Following agreement by the Charity Commission it was proposed that the WANHS Article of Association by updated, principally to allow the senior member of staff (currently the Director, David Dawson), to be appointed to the WANHS Board of Trustees. Details of the change had been circulated to all members and the proposed new Articles published on the Wiltshire Museum website prior to the AGM.

Proposed by John Surowiez and seconded by John Baumber the Articles of Association of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS - Charity no. 1080086/Company no. 3885649) were approved and adopted as the new Articles of Association, in substitution for and to the entire exclusion of any articles of association for WANHS previously registered with the Charity Commission or the Registrar of Companies.

The resolution was passed by a majority. There had been one vote against and two abstentions received by proxy vote.

09/24 Any Other Business

The meeting was opened to members but no items were raised.

In closing the Chair awarded Honorary Life Membership to Brian Edwards who had been actively involved in research and fundraising for the Museum over many years.

She also thanked the Board of Trustees, Director and his staff and members for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 3.52 pm.

The meeting was followed by an update on the Assizes for Devizes project by the Director, David Dawson

Date of next Meeting: 16 November 2025, at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire



Above: 'Stonehenge Landscape – a Favourite Walk of Kate Fielden', by Mark Wickham, 2024.
Painted in Kate's memory and donated by members of the Stonehenge Alliance (2025.1001), see page 18

Below: 'Stonehenge from the East' by Ernest Farmer, see page 13



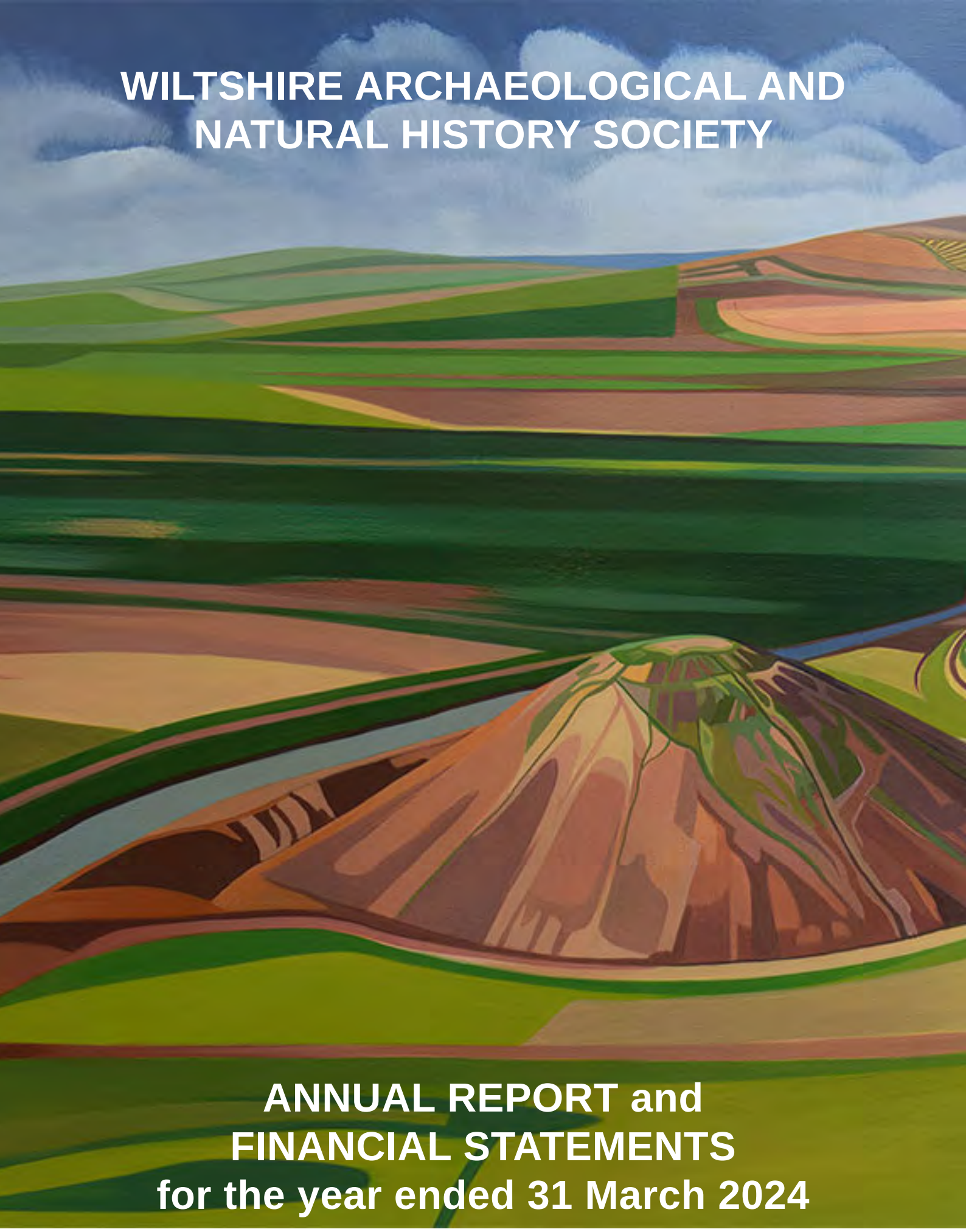
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
Tel: 01380 727369
Company No - 3885649
Registered Charity No - 1080096
VAT Registration No - 140 2791 91

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1080096

Accounts

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
01380 727369
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES

Values of the Society

We love Wiltshire!
Our mission is to inspire people to explore the archaeology, history and natural environment of Wiltshire.

Inclusive
We welcome everyone, building meaningful connections through a shared passion for our past, present and future.

Inspiring
We inspire curiosity and creativity through the discovery of our collections and stories.

Sharing
We are a collaborative space for encouraging well-being, enabling research and sharing knowledge.

Caring
We will bring joy to future generations by celebrating life in Wiltshire today and by caring for our Nationally important collections.

Trusted
We act with integrity, and we can be counted on.



Front Cover and Above: Eve. Silbury Hill, by Anna Dillon (see pages 13 and 16)

SUMMARY and OBJECTS

WILTSHIRE Archaeological and Natural History Society

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

(A company limited by guarantee)

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853 and the Society's first permanent Museum opened in Long Street, Devizes in 1874.

The Society is a registered charity and governed by Articles of Association.

Objects. To educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

Mission Statement. To explore the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire.

Aims. The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum, organises a programme including conferences, lecture and events, learning and outreach for children and schools, provides access to our collections for academic and general researchers, reviews planning consents, supports the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group, promotes Industrial Archaeology and publishes the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (*WANHM*)*. Further details are included in this Annual Report.

The Collections. These have been acquired by the Society for 170 years and their strength lies in the prehistoric material. The Early Bronze Age collection is of exceptional importance because of its size and range, the uniqueness of many of the objects, the fact that it includes many important items, its association with the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge, and its relevance to the history of archaeology. 'Gold from the Time of Stonehenge' is on permanent display.

Researchers. Every year academic researchers carry out important research on the collection. There are over 500,000 items in the collections and details can be found in our online searchable database. The collections are '**Designated**' of national importance and '**Accreditation**' status was first awarded in 2005. Overseen by the Arts Council the Accreditation Scheme *sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance, as well as supporting them to plan and develop their services*.

The **Archive & Library** contains a local studies collection of books, journals, newspapers and other printed items including photographs and maps concerned with Wiltshire, all available to researchers. The archaeology section includes a general collection of archaeology books, the principal archaeology journals, the papers of Wiltshire antiquaries and the written records of more recent excavations in the county. The natural history section similarly includes general natural history books, specialist journals and the papers of early natural historians.

Funding. The Society and Museum are funded by its members, past and present; admission charges, Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council, grants from charitable trusts, fundraising activities and income from investments.

The Society holds an Annual General Meeting each year to which all Society members are invited. At this meeting the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March are presented for approval and Trustees elected.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society is committed to promoting the values of a just, inclusive and cohesive society and we take seriously our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. In all we do, we will seek to remove barriers to participation, create opportunities for engagement and meet the needs of all people.

Equality and diversity is being woven throughout our strategic aims. Our objectives for equality and diversity support our strategic aims and specifically focus on three key areas (governance, workforce and audiences), which will be implemented through our equality and diversity action plan.

A Policy is being developed, working with the Wessex Museums Partnership, to work towards embedding and integrating equality and diversity at every level of the organisation, through specific and regular equality and diversity policy review and strategic planning. We aim to raise awareness and actively promote the values of equality and diversity through the appointment of a board level Diversity Champion and by providing training opportunities for trustees. We are working towards ensuring that all levels of staff and volunteers are included in strategic and action planning and to develop a better and more detailed understanding of our audiences and our local demographics, in order to identify our under-represented audience groups. The Society will also ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of development planning in regards to the relocation of the Museum to the Assize Court.



Framed oil on canvas portrait of Eric Walrond, with view of Bradford-on-Avon in the background, and the clock tower from Roundway Hospital, Devizes in the foreground.

*Commissioned by Wiltshire Museum for the Eric Walrond exhibition (see pages 16 and 29), and funded by grants from the Art Fund and NLHF (see page 12). Signed by the artist, Clifton Powell (2023.1008).**

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CONTENTS

Values of the Society	2
Summary and Objects	3
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	4
Community Engagement	6
Letter from the Chair	7
Board of Trustees' Report	9
Objectives and Activities of the Society	9
Highlights of the Year	10
Portable Antiquities Scheme	11
Fundraising and Grants	12
Exhibitions	13
Collections - Loans	14
- Conservation	15
- Collections - Acquisitions of the year	16
- Collections - Archaeology	17
- Collections - Art and Archive & Library	18
- Natural History, Numismatics	20
- Recent History	21
Research - Archaeology Collections	22
Researchers	23
Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group	24
Publications and Social Media	25
Activities, Events, Conferences, Lectures and Outings	26
Membership	27
Learning, Outreach and Community Engagement	28
Community Curator	29
Volunteers	30
Society Committees and Working Groups	31
Development - Working with Partners and Plans for the Future	32
- Devizes Assize Court project	33
Trustees' Financial Review	34
Structure, Governance and Management	37
Reference and Administrative Information	38
Report of the Auditors	39
Statement of Financial Activities	41
Balance Sheet	42
Statement of Cash flows	43
Notes to the financial statements	44
Collections Trust – Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	53
Collections Trust – Notes to the Financial Statements	54
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 November 2023	55

During 2023 we worked with local groups, producing artworks for our exhibition, *Lest We Forget: the Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire*

Forgotten Generations Banner



This banner was created by the Nepali Ladies Craft Group in Tidworth. They meet once a week to socialise and take part in a range of craft activities.

The group were inspired by the life of Albert Jarrett, who featured in the exhibition when creating the banner. They felt an affinity due to their own family links with the Armed Forces and the racism they have experienced. Using scrap fabric and donated materials, the group tried out techniques such as painting onto fabric, wax resist and appliqué.

They also used their own embroidery skills, inspired by African American story quilts, to depict Albert's story from his early life in Jamaica, his move to Wiltshire to train at RAF Melksham, his service as an RAF engineer during World War II and his journey back to the UK as part of the Windrush generation and the racism he experienced.

The large central square features the logo for the Points of Light award, which Albert received in 2022 for making change in his community, and the lower section represents aspects of his life which he and his family were particularly proud.

His family, of whom he was especially proud are also depicted, alongside representations of his War Service Medal, which he belatedly received in 2021 and the Queen's Baton which he carried on its relay prior to the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The logo of Forgotten Generations, the charity Albert founded with Warrant Officer Donald Campbell, is included and the whole banner is adorned with red and black poppies in remembrance of all service personnel, but particularly the forgotten generations who are remembered through Albert's story.

The banner, which is now in the Society's collection, is signed in thread by all the women who participated in the project.

The Crafty Club

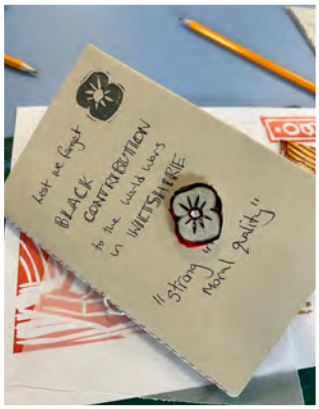
'The Crafty Club' is a Tidworth based community club supported by the Army Welfare Service. The club provides time and space for socialising, together with an opportunity to explore new crafts.

Working with artist Tamsin Loveday, they were introduced to techniques including bookbinding, monoprint, decoupage, collage and more, while supporting participants engagement with the themes in the exhibition.

Everyday objects, reflecting some of the stories in the exhibition, were transformed using fragments of original artwork created during the project and other source material. The artwork they created included paper cups decorated with collage paper (decoupage), army boots and black poppies, as a thoughtful creative response to the subjects discussed in the exhibition.

All the participants enjoyed learning new techniques and exploring the issues included in the exhibition.







Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 which highlights some of your Society's many recent achievements. As you will be aware, we and the Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) received Development Stage Funding of just over £300,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Assize Court project which has enabled us to build our team to prepare our Delivery Phase application in 2025. Tremendous progress has been made, with a detailed planning application recently submitted, and there have been some encouraging early fund-raising successes with major charitable foundations and philanthropists.

Whilst we progress the Assize Court project the Museum has very pleasingly maintained real momentum across all of its activities. There have been a series of vibrant exhibitions, which have been highly popular, bringing in many new visitors. The childrens' and educational programmes have been consistently excellent and well attended, and as usual we have supported a fascinating number of research projects, on subjects as diverse as trepanning and prehistoric environments. The programme of members' events and lectures – online and in real life - has been stimulating and well received. The collections continue to grow with our active contemporary collections strategy, and a number of generous donations of significant items described later on in this report. Digital access has been enhanced through our new Collections Search database and in the future through participation in the pioneering Museum Data Service. Our greatly valued volunteers have given us 3,300 volunteer hours this year – a vital part of keeping the Society functioning effectively.

You will see an improved position in the financial statements below which form part of this report, with revenue increasing from £361,146 to £560,646. The principal driver for this was grants received to support the Assize Court project. Other revenue streams remained in line with the Museum plan and previous years. Prudent cost control and some helpful recovery in the value of our investments meant that this year's loss was just £27,000, compared to last year's loss of £269,000. The Trustees and management continue to focus on minimising the gap between costs and revenue.

I stepped down as Chair in March this year having completed six years. It has been a real privilege to be involved over this time, and I thank all members, trustees, volunteers and especially staff for their support. The Society is a remarkable organisation that punches well above its weight, sharing its treasures and stories in a highly engaging way with a wide variety of audiences. We will be able to achieve even more when suitably relocated to the Assize Court building. I am pleased to be able to continue to support that project as a trustee of DACT.

I am also very pleased that Caroline Kay has been appointed as Chair of the Society, starting in September 2024. Caroline has extensive and highly relevant experience of the heritage sector and of major cultural projects. In the interim Alison Hems has kindly been chairing the Society most ably and attentively.

I hope you enjoy reading the annual report – it will give you a good flavour of a truly impressive year.

Martin Nye



With the generosity of our members and contributors we were able to fund the conservation of this important hoard of Roman bronze vessels, discovered in Wilcot, near Pewsey.

The four vessels were probably buried at the end of Roman Britain, about 1,600 years ago. The vessels were carefully nested inside each other, perhaps using heather, bracken and sedge grasses as 'bubblewrap'. Although buried at the same time the vessels are of different dates. The largest is a bronze bowl that was made in around 350 AD meaning the hoard must have been hidden after that date. The smallest, a wine strainer, was already over 200 years old, and one of the bowls over 100 years old, when buried.

Before conservation they were so fragile they could not be removed from their packing! However, they were cleaned by conservation experts Drakon Heritage and Conservation.

The hoard was found with the aid of a metal detector by Paul Hart, who promptly reported it to the Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer. The finder and landowner both generously agreed to donate the vessels to Wiltshire Museum.

Following the completion of the conservation and the construction of a special display mount, they went on display in the Museum's Library Long Room. There was also a talk in January 2023 by Richard Henry, who was the Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer when the hoard was discovered. Richard is a Roman expert and has published a full report on the hoard in *Britannia*, a national archaeological journal.

Top Rows: before and after images - PAS and Drakon Heritage and Conservation.
Below: Curator, Lisa Brown, carefully displaying the restored hoard



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

This Annual Report includes the reports and financial statements set out on pages 10 to 54. The Report of the Board of Trustees should be deemed to be the directors' report for the purposes of Company Law.

The reports on the following pages show how the Objects of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society ('the Society') - see below - are achieved to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Director is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chair and his report, and those of the staff, follow, on pages 10 to 33. The Society's committees and working groups provide a number of services to members and the wider public. They cover a wide range of activities from fundraising, industrial archaeology through to expert advice on planning matters. Their work helps promote the Society and its Museum and Archive and Library to a wide audience and reports are included in this report. The Society could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours provided and also the invaluable funding and support of our membership. .

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are *to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit*. To achieve this the Society:

- Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.
- Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire
- Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.
- Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
- Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.
- Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.
- Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in archaeology in the county.
- Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire. Loans objects to other organisations.

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

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Highlights of the Year

The highlight of the year was the news that our application for Development phase funding to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Assizes for Devizes project had been successful. This news has begun the transformation of the Society and the Museum, a process that we hope will build momentum as we prepare to raise the funding we need to deliver the project.

A major focus for the year was the bringing together of a wide-ranging project team, bringing together the expertise of architects, exhibition designers, consultants, volunteers, trustees, advisors and staff. By the end of the year we were well on our way to developing detailed plans for the building, ready to start looking at plans for exhibitions, displays and the activities that will mean that we can engage with new audiences. The complexity of the task has been shown through the many blocks of colour on the Gantt chart prepared by Nicola Trowell, our able Programme Manager, who is keeping the project on track. She has been supported by her new team - Claire Slack, Project Engagement Officer, Helen Meikle, Project Support Officer and Friday Schoemaker, Project Assistant. I am very grateful to them and the support and challenge of the members of the Project Board, which includes Trustees from both the Society and the Devizes Assize Court Trust as well as their consultant architect, Colin Johns.

We are now looking forward to submitting a Delivery Stage application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in August 2025, alongside bids to many other funders to reach our challenging fundraising target. Once we have raised the funds we need, we can get on with the real task of delivering this exciting project.

It is vital that the Society and Museum continues to develop and thrive without being distracted by the project. This report is full of evidence showing the breadth and depth of activity undertake during the year. The Education programme, delivered by Ali Rushent, engaged almost 1,000 children during the year. The busy exhibition programme developed by Heather Ault brought new visitors to the Museum, with the highlight being the 'Wessex Airscapes' exhibition showcasing paintings by Anna Dillon and photography by Hedley Thorne.

Our Community Curator, Amy Hammett, developed two exhibitions that looked at different aspect of diversity in Wiltshire – *Lest We Forget – the black contribution to the World Wars* and Eric Walrond – the Caribbean author at the heart of the Harlem Renaissance who lived in Wiltshire.

Making exhibitions and events a success relies upon the support of a great team. Karen Jones designed the panels for the exhibition and developed the marketing that brought in new visitors. Rachael Holtom prepared the grant applications that made the exhibition programme possible and Mandy Dixon helped us keep a close eye on the finances. Our volunteers have continued to offer the warm welcome that is so often mentioned by our visitors, supported by Emma Sykes, and the building is kept spotless by Carol Johnston.

Over the last couple of years, we have highlighted the importance of our collections for research. This takes many forms, from researchers using our library and archive collections with the guidance of Jane Schön and her team of volunteers, or our archaeology collections, supervised by Lisa Brown. It has also been a year with many important acquisitions, ranging from the personal archive of Kate Fielden to a racing car tyre made by Avon Tyres in Melksham.



During the year we also implemented a new 'collections search' feature on our website, working with our Wessex Museums colleagues and as a step towards involvement in the Museum Data Service. We published another impressive edition of the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, edited by Stuart Brookes and ably supported by Peter Saunders. This featured research by Dr Ellis-Haken on the internationally important Iron Age Marlborough Bucket, which had been featured in one of our many lectures. We are very grateful to all those who have given their time by leading walks and given talks that have engaged so many people in finding out more about Wiltshire's stories.

Society members are the bedrock of the organisation. Their support is essential for our development, and I am very grateful to them. A special thanks goes to our Trustees, who give so freely of their time and expertise to support the charity. A particular achievement this year was the development of our Society Values – crystallised as 'We love Wiltshire!'.

Lastly, I would like to give my personal thanks to Martin Nye, our Chair who stepped down at the end of his term of office. He has guided the Society through the challenges of COVID and the Assize Court legacy, and has been an exceptional support throughout the highs and lows of the last six years.

David Dawson

TRAINING

The Collections Officer: Archive and Library has attended several online lectures by The National Archives covering topics ranging from researching your family history, how to use Discovery and using POW records to assist with answering enquires. She also attended an online session in May about 'Curating Discomfort' delivered by the Institute for the Understanding of the Past and in October an online session on 'Legacies of British Slave Ownership' delivered by the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery at UCL.

The Research Libraries UK have continued to run a series of online lectures entitled Inclusive Collections: Inclusive Libraries and she has attended most lectures. The lectures are providing background knowledge and will assist her with the Decolonisation work being undertaken for the WMP NPO.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Finds Liaison Officer, volunteers and self-recorders recorded 2532 objects in 2445 records from April 2023 to March 2024. The majority of these finds were made by metal detectorists who reported them to Portable Antiquities Scheme (*www.finds.org.uk*).

Funding has continued via the British Museum/ PAS to finance a part time Finds Liaison Assistant to support the FLO, and the FLA role continues to be split between Alix Smith and Alyson Tanner, in addition to their volunteering with PAS. Our volunteer team numbers were swelled by five students from University of Cardiff during Summer 2023, as part of their placement at Teffont with Dr David Roberts, and we are grateful for their help in creating a large number of PAS database records for finds from a Roman site in Wiltshire. We were awarded Treasure funding during February and March 2024 to fund a Treasure FLA, Jane Hanbidge, to help with our Treasure work. Richard Henry has also been working on several large Roman coin hoards for us as we have had a large number of coins reported to us in over the last year.

Significance based changes to the Treasure Act 1996 came into force on 30 July 2023 as the legal definition of Treasure was changed to include the most exceptional finds of over 200 years old and regardless of the type of metal from which they are made. This new definition makes it easier for museums to acquire more finds of archaeological significance for the benefit of the nation, which are currently not classed as Treasure. However, the bar is set very high, and as yet, no finds reported to PAS Wiltshire have met the new definition.

A number of finds identified and recorded with PAS have been generously donated to Wiltshire Museum by finders and landowners over the past year. We are very grateful to them.

Work in areas where finds have been reported to PAS has included geophysical survey by Mike McQueen at a Roman site in North Wiltshire, and recent excavation/block lift of an in-situ Bronze Age copper alloy hoard found in Central Wiltshire, by the Assistant County Archaeologist, the Finds Liaison Assistants and the Finder. This hoard is now at the British Museum awaiting x-ray and micro-excavation.

Sophie Hawke
Finds Liaison Officer for Wiltshire
Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fundraising is essential to ensure the Society can continue to achieve its aims and ambitions and to work with the local community. The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community through subscriptions, donations and being advocates of our work. Corporate Members include Wansbroughs Solicitors, Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology.

This report highlights some of the work undertaken to fund new interactives, conserve the collection and hold high profile exhibitions. There is more detail elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Appeals and Donations

The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community.

Members help fund our valuable work via subscriptions, donations, engaging with the Museum and advocating our work.

Corporate Members and Sponsors during 2021-22 were Wansbroughs Solicitors; Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology.

We are also grateful for funds received to purchase specific items e.g. the scale wooden model of Springfield House, Potterne Road, Devizes (DZSWS:2023.66) or waiving fees on items acquired for the collection.

We held appeals during the year to conserve two unique items:

(1) The Rev Alfred Charles Smith Presentation Volume: over £650 was raised to fund the essential conservation on this volume, which was donated during lockdown. Originally presented to Rev Smith in 1884 by fellow WANHS members, on the occasion of his only daughter's marriage and to commemorate his nearly 30 years as honorary secretary of the Society and editor of WANHM. Smith was a pioneering archaeologist, author of "Guide to the British and Roman Antiquities of the North Wiltshire Downs in a Hundred Square Miles around Avebury". Some of his books including "Pilgrimage through Palestine" and "Attractions of the Nile" are still available online, the latter being reprinted in 2018.

(2) Ernest Farmer photograph Album. This volume contains photographs taken in 1892 in the West Country, including the Wiltshire Thatcher. The conserved album would form the centrepiece of the exhibition A Wiltshire Thatcher (see pages 15 and 18)

Art Fund: Portrait of Eric Walrond.

A contemporary portrait of Eric Walrond was created by artist Clifton Powell was funded by a grant of £2,212 from the Art Fund, £300 from the Heritage Fund, donations from 'Omnes ad unum' and Society funds *(pictured page 4)*.

Arts Council England/Wessex Museums (NPO). These funds enable us to employ and support the activities of an Exhibitions Officer and Community Curator. The NPO will also fund a Street Art project in April 2024, to work with a group of young people to work on their confidence and creative skills, with the aim to divert them from criminal or anti-social behaviours

Association of Independent Museums: 'Lest We Forget' exhibition. £14,475 from AIM's New Stories, New Audiences Fund (through the National Heritage Lottery Fund), for the exhibition *Lest We Forget: Black People's Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire* and associated school and community events. The exhibition ran at Wiltshire Museum between November 2023 and February 2024 (see pages 6, 13 and 29).

Friends of National Libraries (FML): £7,000 to purchase a signed first edition of 'Tropic Death' by Eric Walrond, printed in 1926. The remaining funds came from the Society's Collections Trust.

Heritage Fund: 'Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer in Wartime Wiltshire' exhibition. £8,515 towards an exhibition and activity programme, exploring the life of Caribbean writer Eric Walrond (see also pages 13 and 29).

Wiltshire Community Foundation: After Schools Club. £1,750 to support workshops, including a hot meal, for families struggling with the cost of living and registered with Devizes Sure Start (Spurgeons). In March 2024 further funds were awarded to continue the scheme for a further three years.

Our two special exhibition galleries - the Oexmann Gallery and the Piper Gallery - enables us to offer either two small exhibitions or one large exhibition.

The Exhibitions Officer post is funded by the Arts Council and Wessex Museums Project.

In 2023/24 the Museum delivered a busy Exhibitions Programme once again.

In spring/summer 2023, the Museum held two exhibitions simultaneously: *Wessex – Landscapes of Association: an exhibition of works by Rob Pountney* and *A Love Letter to Wiltshire: an exhibition of paintings by Joanna May*. These two shows were on display in the Oexmann and Piper galleries respectively from 18 March through to 11 June 2023.

Rob Pountney's compressed charcoal drawings are strongly influenced by the rich diversity of the Wessex landscape and in particular works of Thomas Hardy, and for this exhibition Rob created works with subtle and strong contrast of light and shade highlighting geological and archaeological features of the Wiltshire and Dorset landscapes.

Joanna May's exhibition was a celebration of her 20-year career as a wildlife artist and conservationist and featured early works as well as favourites for which Joanna is renowned. Several additional works drawing on the natural history and folklore of the County were also created especially for the show.

In summer/autumn 2023 came *Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire* – a collaborative exhibition of works by landscape artist Anna Dillon and aerial photographer Hedley Thorne exploring aerial landscapes with a Wiltshire focus (8 July – 15 October 2023). This was Anna and Hedley's second 'Airscapes' collaboration with a previous exhibition showcasing Oxfordshire and Berkshire landscapes at Radley College in 2021.

For this show, both selected sites of personal significance and offered a contemporary take on the landscape through their respective media. They were also joined by Anna's father Patrick Dillon, who contributed a display of artefacts and documents and wrote a book to accompany the exhibition.

Following on from this, came a further two exhibitions curated by Community Curator Amy Hammett – *Lest We Forget: the Black contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire* and *Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire* (both running from 11 November 2023 – 9 March 2024).

Lest We Forget aimed to respectfully tell some of the stories and experiences of the Black community living and working in the Armed Forces in Wiltshire during the two world wars and *Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire*, explored the life of Eric Walrond (1989-1966) an established writer and author of Tropic Death, who was part of the 1920s New York Harlem Renaissance and lived in Bradford on Avon in the 1940s. Both these important shows subsequently toured to other venues in the County.

Exhibition highlights to look forward to in 2024/2025 are *A Wiltshire Thatcher – a Photographic Journey through Victorian Wessex*, the Oexmann Art Award Competition and Exhibition as well as a Wessex Museums Collaboration with *UnCommon People: folk culture in Wessex* curated by Simon Costin, Amy de la Haye and Mellany Robinson.

Heather Ault



From the left: "Lest We Forget: the Black contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire"; publicity poster for the Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire exhibition; new portrait of Eric Walrond held by the artist Clifton Powell

Exhibitions - Library Long Room

A number of small displays have been on show the Long Room during the year. They highlight unknown items from the collection, but also complement the main temporary exhibition where possible.

This year however we focused on two key anniversaries and thanks to the high-security display cases we were able to display some William Stukeley items, which had not been displayed before.

- Display celebrating the work of Dr Lorna Haycock and Dr Pamela Gough and their contributions to the archive collections. Their legacies helped pay for the secure display cases in the Long Room. 2 February to 11 July 2023.
- Display of Cuttings Scrapbook and some of its contents including event invitations and a telegram from Buckingham Palace compiled by Herbert Sainsbury, Mayor of Devizes 1913-1915. Purchased by the Museum. 29 June to 11 July 2023.
- Display celebrating William Stukeley, his life and the 300th Anniversary of his drawing of Devizes, 17 July 1723. 11 July to 13 November 2023.
- Display highlighting the 80th Anniversary of the evacuation of Imber, November/December 1943. From 13 November 2023.

Jane Schön

Loans

Loans to and from the Museum remain important in making the collections accessible to as many people as possible. The Museum lends items from its collections for display and research, subject to the proper security and environmental conditions being met. We are particularly pleased to lend objects for special exhibitions at other museums across Wiltshire.

In June 2023 the Heritage Inclusion Manager at Wessex Archaeology, borrowed objects found at the Erlestoke Detention Centre in the 1960s, for a project to support prisoner rehabilitation. These included Roman and post medieval pottery, Roman metalwork, prehistoric flint, animal bone, and some stonework - Iron Age weights, and quern stone fragments.

The ongoing touring exhibition coordinated by Museums Partner and curated by Mike Parker Pearson, University College London - *Stonehenge – Ancient Mysteries and Modern Discoveries* - opened at Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, Canada on 10 May 2024. Objects from our collections are from the early Bronze Age burials: Amesbury G54 (Stonehenge flint dagger); Roundway G8 (archer Beaker burial); Wilsford G8 (high status female burial with gold and amber). Several new interactives have been added to the show to make it more family friendly.

TO THE MUSEUM

None to report this year.

ARCHIVE & LIBRARY

The Avebury Papers Team at Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury led by Professor Mark Gillings, Principal Investigator and Dr Fran Allfrey, Research Assistant borrowed eleven W E V Young diaries in 2023 which cover his archaeological work at Avebury during the 1930s. The diaries are to be photographed and included in the AHRC funded project to digitise, explore and share the multimedia archive of Avebury's Neolithic origins and its subsequent life-history.

The project results including the digitised diaries will eventually be made available through the Archaeology Data Service *https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk* (MSS.4269).

Lisa Brown and Jane Schön



From the left: Objects on display in Canada: Amesbury G54; Wilsford G8; Roundway G8

Our collections require constant monitoring to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Curatorial staff undertake routine preventative conservation to ensure that objects and archives are displayed and stored in the best conditions that we can achieve, and we have been able to improve the storage of several collections over the last few years.

All remedial conservation is carried out by qualified conservators on the ICON Conservation Register.

A C Smith Presentation Volume

This hand-written and hand-illustrated book was donated during lockdown. It dates from the 1880s and was presented to Rev A C Smith as a memorial of his exemplary and valuable labours on behalf of the Society, in 1884. At that time he had been "for nearly thirty years a most indefatigable and industrious honorary Secretary of the Society and Editor of its Magazine". The album records members who contributed to a present for his daughter, Jane Emilia Smith, on the occasion of her marriage to the Rev John Penrose (curate of Potterne) in Yatesbury on 22 April 1884, as well as photographs and signatures of many of the donors.

After a successful fundraising campaign, the presentation volume was conserved by Lancefield Conservation. They refurbished and re-backed the large volume, cleaned and repaired the pages and created a digital copy. A bespoke storage box was also made (MSS.4528).

Research into the individuals listed in the album is ongoing, and there will be a display about it in due course.

Hoard of Roman vessels

In December 2023 a hoard of four Roman copper-alloy vessels were conserved and mounted for display by Pieta Greaves, Drakon Heritage and Conservation. The hoard consists of a bowl strainer; Bassin Uni; carinated basin; and an Irchester bowl. The hoard is a 'structured deposit' with each vessel nestled within another and all contained within the Irchester bowl. This is an important find for Wiltshire and the second structured deposit found in the Pewsey area, providing further evidence for instability in the last years of Roman Britain (300-450 AD), and part of a wider pattern of hoarding in troubled times. Found in Wilcot, 2017 (2023.2) (see page 8).

Wilcot Hoard

The Wilcot hoard was not 'Treasure' as defined by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2017, and was generously donated by the finder, Paul Hart, and the Hon. Nathaniel Rothschild (the landowner). The Museum is grateful to WANHS members and friends, who supported the fundraising campaign to conserve the objects, enabling them to go on display.

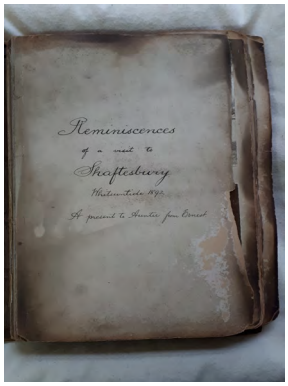
Victorian Photograph Album

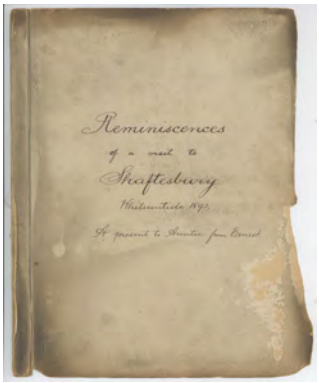
This album was purchased at auction in 2023 and contains a mixture of architectural views, street scenes and portraits of rural workers from around Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, including Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and The Wiltshire Thatcher image will feature in a major exhibition in 2024 (see also page 18).

The album, entitled *Reminiscences of a visit to Shaftesbury. Whitsuntide 1892. A present to Auntie from Ernest,* was conserved by Lancefield Conservation in early 2024. They restored the photograph album by repairing its spine, which had come away, cleaned and repaired the pages and photographs and made a digital copy of the album. A bespoke storage box was also made (2023.7018).

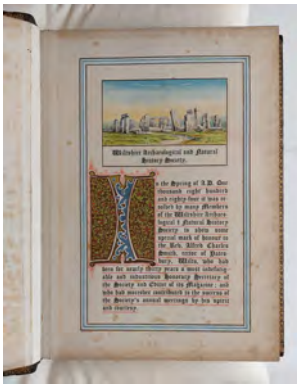
Other items have also been conserved this year thanks to the generosity of WANHS members and a fundraising appeal. Without the funds raised we could not have permitted this work to take place.

Lisa Brown and Jane Schön









Left: Before and After images of the dedication page of the Victorian photograph album; Right - Before and After images of an illuminated page in the presentation volume.

We continue to actively collect objects, through our Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections.

There were many interesting additions made to the collections during the year. A detailed list can be found in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (volume 117, 2024). Below are some of the highlights.

All Collections are available to search on our new and improved online collections database, which launched in December 2023 *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/search-the-collections*. One of our principal aims is to make collections data accessible in the widest possible terms. To date there are 127,500 records of catalogued items on the database, across all collections, along with 23,500 digital images.

Below are some of the acquisition highlights.

Acquisitions of the Year

17th century gold mourning ring. The surface is decorated with blue-black enamelling and a death's head in white, which has lost its facial features. Engraved inside the hoop is a Latin inscription *Animae Vita Mors* (The Life of the Spirit is Death). The hallmark stamp gives the date 1673-4. Found near Devizes, 2021 and purchased from the finder, Kevo Mehaan. Displayed in the Story of Devizes Gallery (2023.8).

Early medieval gold and garnet pendant, with a dark red cabochon gemstone, probably a reused Roman garnet. Such pendants typically date to the 7th century and feature in high status necklaces. Found in Hullavington, 2022 (PAS Treasure find). The reward was waived by the finder, William Barton, and the landowner, Ashton Hawker. Donated to the Museum (2023.34).

Hoard of six middle/late Bronze Age palstave axes, dating to c. 1400 - 1150 BC. Found in Wilsford, 2021 (PAS Treasure find). The landowner, Malachy Guinness, waived his half of the reward. Purchased using the Bernard Phillips legacy (2023.46).

Framed oil on canvas portrait of Eric Walrond, with view of Bradford-on-Avon in the background, and the clock tower from Roundway Hospital, Devizes in the foreground. Commissioned by the Museum for the Eric Walrond exhibition (see page 13), and funded by grants from the Art Fund and NLHF (see page 12). Signed by the artist, Clifton Powell (2023.1008) (see page 4).*

Framed oil on wood entitled *Eve*. Silbury Hill, by Anna Dillon, 2023. Created for the exhibition, *Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire (pictured front cover)*. Donated by the artist (2023.1009).

Roman copper-alloy anepigraphic nummus of Constantius II (AD 323-361). *CONSTAN/TIVS/ CAESAR* reverse type depicting the legend in three horizontal lines, a star above. Mint of Trier. A rare and important find for Wiltshire and of national significance. Found in Bremhill, 2023 and donated by the finder, Robert Daniels (2024.36).

Incomplete Roman lead curse tablet, dating to c AD 43 - 410. After the tablet was gently unfolded, the letters on the outer face read: Obverse: *X I [...] I ?F* or *?S // F I L I ?V S /* Reverse: *N*. The person's name was probably written on the inner face, and his 'filiation' (ancestry) on the outer face. A person's name was written on lead and buried, to curse them. Found in Clyffe Pypard, 2023 (PAS Treasure find) and donated by the finder and landowner (2023.67).

Items marked with an * were collected as part of the Wessex Museums Contemporary Collecting Strategy and Action Plan, 2020-24.

Contemporary Collecting is the collecting of objects and stories that reflect the recent past and what is happening today. Usually covering the past 50 years from the date collecting is being undertaken, there are two main ways that contemporary material can be acquired.

Passive collecting through offers of donations is one way, but to get a more comprehensive understanding of modern-day life, active and collaborative types of collecting in the form of coordinated projects are usually more effective.

Contemporary collecting means acquiring new material, to fill the gaps identified in existing collections. It also helps to future-proof collections for as-yet-unknown exhibitions and research projects, therefore ensuring that museums remain relevant to and representative of their audiences. A great benefit of contemporary collecting is that the histories fall within living memory, so can be documented with insights from those who experienced them first-hand. This provides museums with the opportunity to work in partnership with other people and communities, to be creative, dynamic, and inclusive.

Archaeology

Wiltshire Museum closed for the deposition of archaeological archives in January 2013, as the stores were full. An off-site store was purchased in 2019, and from October 2022 depositions from archaeological units, who undertake work in our collecting area, have resumed.

Archaeological archive associated with an excavation, following a previous trial trench evaluation undertaken by MOLA Northampton, at Malmesbury Mills. The remains of part of an Iron Age/Roman farmstead, a medieval pit and post-medieval ditches were uncovered (2023.5).

Various archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by Wessex Archaeology (2023.9 –21).

Fieldwalking finds from Hardings Farm, Purton Stoke, 2003. Includes Roman pottery and prehistoric flint. Donated by Colin Stares. In 2018-19 a geophysical survey was undertaken at Hardings Farm and Pond Farm, by the WANHS Archaeological Field Group, with results suggesting possible prehistoric and Romano-British occupation and activity, relating to the local availability of mineral and salt water (2023.22).

Early medieval cast silver sword pyramid mount, dating to the late-6th or 7th century. The decorative setting is missing. The function of pyramidal mounts is uncertain, but it is likely that they were used to help secure the sword in the scabbard. Found in Allington, 2020 (PAS Treasure find). Purchased (2023.25).

Early medieval cast silver strap-end, dating to the 9th or 10th century. It has a moulded animal-head terminal with a snubbed snout and bulbous eyes. Other decoration could be a plant motif. Small areas of niello inlay survive within the decoration. Found in Ogbourne St Andrew, 2021 (PAS Treasure find). Purchased (2023.26).

Archaeological archive associated with an excavation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at land south of Filands, Malmesbury (2023.29).

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age hammerstone and pottery sherds from the Blackberry Lane midden site at Potterne. Found next to a badger set. Donated by Thomas Sheldon (2023.32).

Polished flint axe found in the garden of Brook House, Cherhill in 1958. A sharp cutting edge is still visible and are signs of reworking down one side. Donated in memory of Mr T and Mrs D M Owen, by Mrs Mair Lewis (2023.35).

Early medieval coin brooch made from a gilded silver penny of Edward the Confessor, dating to the early 1050s. The coin has been modified by adding a hinged pin and catch plate. Coin jewellery was a popular fashion accessory in Anglo-Saxon times, particularly in the second half of the 11th century. The silver penny is a rare variant of the Expanding Cross type, and the moneyer is Godesbrand of Shrewsbury. Found in Box, in 2021 (PAS Treasure find). Purchased with funds donated by the Box Archaeological and Natural History Society, after they wound up in April 2024. (2023.38).

Various archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by John Moore Heritage Services (2023.39-41).

Archaeological archive associated with an excavation at The Pippin, Calne, 2021, by Worcestershire Archaeology (2023.42).

Various archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by Foundations Archaeology (2023.48-65).

Bronze Age sheet gold strip or ribbon, dating to c.2100 - 1150 BC. The surface is decorated with six parallel grooved lines. Its original function is unknown, but the one remaining terminal tapers with a fine hooked end, suggesting that it may have been part of a bracelet or other piece of jewellery. The strip was folded several times prior to deposition. Found in Heytesbury, 2021 (PAS Treasure find). Purchased (2023.45).

Incomplete late medieval/early post medieval cast copper alloy figurine, from the side arm of a processional cross, dating to 1400 - 1530. A standing figure, probably female, hooded and wearing a long robe and possibly holding a staff. There are traces of gilding, but corrosion products adhere to the object making accurate identification difficult, but it is likely to be the Virgin Mary. Found in Urchfont, 2023 and donated by the finder, Daniel Greenway, and the landowner, Philip Snook (2024.3)



From the left: Bronze Age palstave axe (2023.46); 17th century gold mourning ring (2023.8); Roman anepigraphic nummus of Constantius II (2024.36); Bronze Age gold strip or ribbon (2023.45); Medieval gold and garnet pendant (2023.34); Incomplete Roman lead curse tablet (2023.67); Incomplete medieval figurine (2024.3); Not to scale.

Art

St John's, Devizes, framed oil on canvas by John Wragg, RA (1937-2020), who lived in Devizes. Shows a couple embracing outside St John's Church, Devizes. Donated in his memory by his son Julian (2023.1004) - *pictured rear cover*.

Three framed watercolour and gouache paintings by the artist Jim Condell. *Portrait of an Avebury Megalith (erected 2600 BC)*, 1998; *Badgers by Moonlight, Horton, Wilts*, 1997 and *Wiltshire Landscape of Yesteryear,* Pewsey Vale, 1999. Donated by Brian Edwards (2023.1005.1-3).

Six framed prints of Devizes scenes donated after the closure of Devizes Community Hospital, in 2023. Includes the Market Place, the Crammar and St James' Church, St John's Court, St John's Alley and Church, the Kennet and Avon Canal, as well as Salisbury Cathedral (2023.1006.1-6).

Framed compressed charcoal drawing of one of the Avebury standing stones, set in the landscape of the World Heritage Site. Signed and dated, Rob Pountney, 2013. Donated by the artist (2023.1007) - *pictured rear cover*.

Archive and Library *(22/23 figures in brackets)*

The Archive and Library collection continues to grow. During the year 12 (13) books were purchased and 101 (107) were donated, of which 12 were donated by the authors, contributing to the 115 (120) new acquisitions to the library. Four books written by Eric Walrond were displayed in an exhibition about him (see page 13). Book purchases are still low due to financial constraints.

There were 88 (132) new additions to the Archive collection and all but one were donations. This included a collection of 44 diaries spanning 1928-1975, four accessions marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II and five accessions related to the Coronation of King Charles III. There were over 300 (400) new acquisitions to the photographic collection (all but one photograph album containing 111 photographs were donations), including four photograph albums, one of which was compiled in 1892 and featured the *Wiltshire Thatcher* and five postcards.

Highlights include:

DR KATE FIELDEN ARCHIVE

In February 2024 we accepted the archive of archaeologist, archivist, curator, author and campaigner, Dr Kate Fielden, who died in July 2023, aged 79. The archive consists of documents, correspondence, maps, offprints and photographs relating to her work on the Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage Sites. Also included is the archive of Lord and Lady Kennet. The archive is closed to the public and has restricted access. Donated by Rowena Winkler, Dr Fielden's sister (MSS.4766).

BOOKS

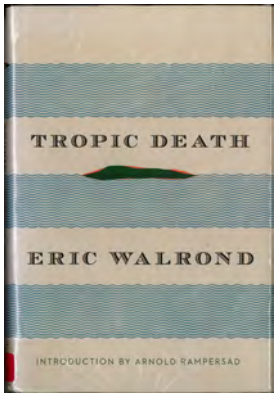
As mentioned in the 2022/23 Annual Report a gift of approximately 500 archaeological books was received in December 2021, some of which were signed by the author or previous owner. A further 58 books have now been accessioned into the Library, bringing the total accessioned to 90 books, with approximately another 20 to check! Books not accessioned are sold to raise funds for the Library. Donated by John S S Stewart (Book.18698-18700; Book.18705-18706; Book.18720-18733; Book.18759; Book.18797-18805; Book.18841-18851)

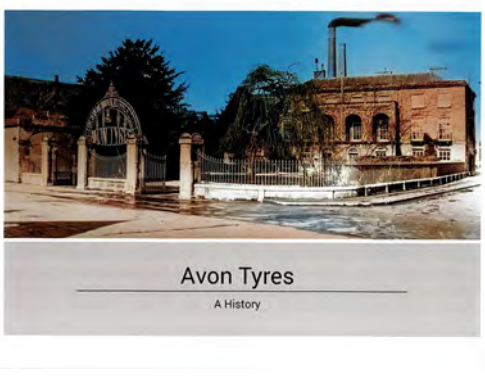
Three editions of *Tropic Death*, a collection of brilliantly impressionistic portraits of the author's native West Indies by Eric Walrond, were purchased for the Eric Walrond exhibition (see page 13). Two editions were displayed and the 2013 edition was used for research to create the displays. (Book.18745; Book.18746; Book.18861). Purchased.

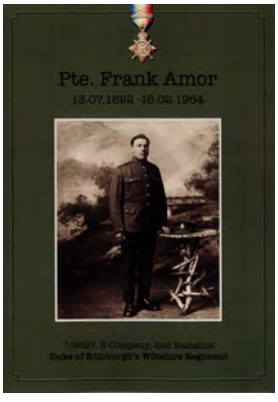
Avon Tyres. A History, compiled by Peter McNally, former Technical Director for Avon Tyres. The booklet was given to all Avon Tyres employees on the day before the closure of the Melksham site in December 2023. The booklet came with the Avon Tyres collection (2024.2). Transferred by Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Europe Ltd. (Book.18855)

Buildings and Prospects by John Piper (1948), published by The Architectural Press Ltd. The book includes the chapter '*Letter from Devizes*' (pp.124-128) (Book.18866). Purchased - *pictured rear cover*.









From the left: 'Tropic Death', by Eric Walrond (Book.18746; Book.18861); 'Avon Tyres. A History' compiled by Peter McNally (Book.18855); A biography on 3/9627 Private Frank Amor by Geoffrey Amor. (Book.18856)

A biography on 3/9627 Private Frank Amor of B Company 2nd Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment, published by Geoffrey Amor. The book is associated with Frank Amor's Wiltshire Regiment embroidery, held in the collection. Donated by Geoffrey Amor, the grandson of Frank Amor (Book.18856)

JOURNALS

Each year the Archive and Library receives a large number of journals and newsletters via subscriptions, journal exchanges or gifts from donors. These include titles such as *Britannia*, *Archaeology International*, *the Hilperton and Staverton parish magazine*, the *Wiltshire Family History Society Journal*, *Devizes The Messenger, The Journal of Roman Studies* and the J*ournal of the Prehistoric Society* to name a few. This year the number of journals acquired decreased from 170 to 160 (excluding the large collection of 81 Hilperton and Staverton Parish Newsletters). This is still higher than normal for journals and newsletters as some societies are still catching up with their publishing post Covid-19 pandemic.

DOCUMENTS

Collection of minute books, account books and subscription ledger from the Potterne and District Conservative Club, 1907- 1994. Donated by Dennis Willmott, Potterne, who had held numerous committee roles since 1989 including Chairman (MSS.4678).

Original architect plan by F W Troup, FRIBA, Architect, Grays Inn Square, London, for the Devizes War Memorial (dated 11 October 1920). Donated by Patricia Holloway, the granddaughter of war memorial builder, Ernest Edwin Davis (MSS.4679).

Collection of family history documents relating to the Burt family who ran 'Burt's Ironmongers' at 41 Market Place, Devizes. The collection spans three generations and includes wills, certificates, correspondence and photos. Donated by Ken Burt, Halifax, Canada, who is the great, great grandson of Joseph Burt (see photograph below), great grandson of William Henry Burt and grandson of Stanley Burt (MSS.4688).

Cuttings scrapbook compiled by Mayor of Devizes (1913-1915), Herbert Sainsbury. It contains telegrams from Buckingham Palace, petitions of support from town Burgesses, lists of fallen soldiers, Wiltshire Regiment ephemera, menus and invitations. Purchased (MSS.4704).

Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race information booklet, c. late 1960s/early 1970s. The booklet aimed to increase the odds of crews completing the race. Donated by Tony Hack (MSS.4714).

Collection of diaries by William Stratton Beaven (1906-1984), who lived in Woodborough. Their is virtually an entry every day from 1928 to 1975. A detailed account of the diaries is featured in *Trilithon* no.98. Donated by David Carson, a relative of William Beaven (MSS.4720).

Programme of the Devizes Town Band commemorative WWI 100th anniversary event held at St John's Church, Devizes on 11 November 2008. Donated by Colin Thomas, who attended the event (MSS.4730).

Obituaries of Ruth Goddard (daughter of Canon E H Goddard) and John Piper, both distinguished past members of WANHS. Also contains report of Downland Symposium held on 3 July 1977. Donated by Sue Teale (MSS.4738).

Leaflet produced by St James' Church, Devizes for the service held prior to Covid-19 lockdown, March 2020. The leaflet includes details about measures to protect against Covid-19. Donated by Antonia Tolhurst (MSS.4744)*.

Collection of research material relating to Sidney Douglas Kirk (1893-1918), an Australian Serviceman who served with the Australian Machine Gun Corps during the 1914-18 Great War and is buried at Sutton Veny. Donated by Peter Little, a local historian (MSS.4760).

Stonehenge car park ticket for one car, given away free with a pre-war guidebook, dated 1938. Donated by Sarah Prince (MSS.4708 & Book.18719)

Mapping Amesbury: 1726-1911. A project in local history using a modern approach, includes images from the collection. Donated by the author, Mrs Andrea Chalmers (MSS.4696).









From the left: Photograph of Joseph Burt (MSS.4688); Photograph of Herbert Sainsbury (MSS.4704); Diaries by William Stratton Beaven (MSS.4720); Devizes Town Band commemorative event programme (MSS.4730). .

National Service documents of Ronald Thomas Gray who did his National Service in the Royal Army Pay Corps and was stationed in Devizes between 1952 and 1954. Donated by relative Anne Gray (MSS.4752).

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Collection of 29 photographs of Ronald Thomas Gray (see MSS.4752). Corporal Gray is pictured in all the photographs, many are official photographs of his platoon. Donated by Anne Gray (2024.7001).

Two albums of young people's activities at the Southbroom Centre, Victoria Road, Devizes c.1960s – 2010s. Donated by John Saunders, part of the community group who set up Devizes Youth in 2014 (2023.7001).

Album of 66 black and white photographs of churches and architectural structures in and around Devizes. *Devizes, Wilts, 1914- Photographs by A. W. Hennings*', 1914. Predominantly of churches in the Devizes area but also of architectural points of interest in other buildings. The book belonged to John Goldsborough, a partner at Bateman & Bateman Architects, Birmingham, who is photographed in some of the photographs. The photographers' monogram, AWH, is on each page along with the place name. Donated by Peter Sutton, RIBA (2023.7002).

The Big Lego Brick Build at Stonehenge during May Half Term, 2023. Nine digital photographs of the finished Lego Build, and a publicity flyer by English Heritage. Donated by Jade Walker, Social and Content Executive, Stonehenge Visitor Centre (2023.7004 & MSS.4701).

Black and white photograph of the 1928 Bradford on Avon hospital carnival, identified through a social media call out. Found amongst a collection of local history items collected by the donor, Barrie Barrett of Rowde (2023.7014).

Two black and white photographs of Devizes Hospital: one of senior medical staff (early 20th century) and one of staff and patients on Lavington Ward, Christmas Day, 1927. Donated by Sussanah Long, B & NES Swindon and Wilts Integrated Care Board (NHS) (2023.7006)

Four photographs relating to Avebury including, one of a group of uniformed men in front of The Barn at Avebury, circa WW2. W E V Young is sat in the front row holding a trophy. Donated by Barbara Fuller, together with her research notes for a WANHS lunchtime talk she gave about him in January 2004 (2023.7005 & MSS.4712).

Photograph album containing over 100 black and white photographs, titled *Reminiscences of a visit to Shaftesbury, Whitsuntide, 1892. A present to Auntie from Ernest*. The photographs are of architectural views, street scenes and portraits of rural workers from around Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, as well as views of Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral. The photograph of The Wiltshire Thatcher featured on a Led Zeppelin album cover. Research about Ernest Howard Farmer and the photographs will be featured in a major exhibition opening in April 2024. Purchased at auction (2023.7018).

Collection of eight black and white stereograph photographs of Devizes, Brighton, Southsea and London (late 19th/early 20th century). The photographer, John Chivers, had a photographic studio at 25 Sidmouth Street, Devizes, from 1896 until at least 1907. Donated by local historian Barbara Fuller (2023.7019).

Natural History

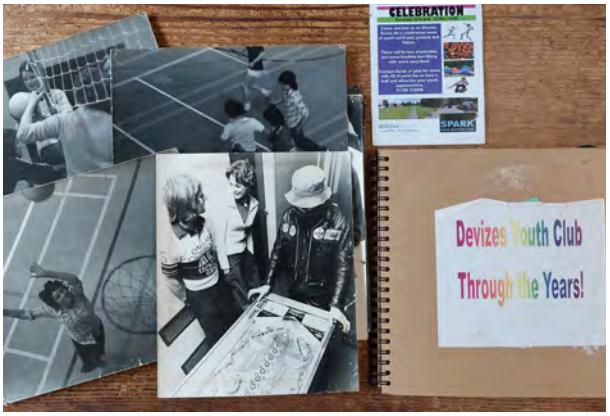
No acquisitions to report this year.

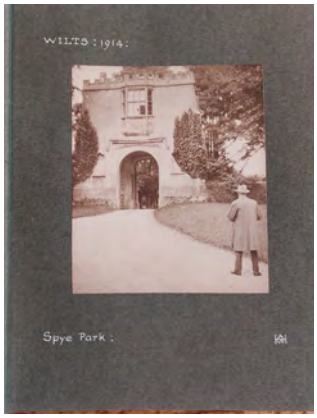
Numismatics

Early medieval silver penny or sceat, of Primary Phase Series C2ii, dating to c.AD 690-710. Mint: SE England, probably East Kent. OBVERSE: Radiate bust, facing right, runic æpa in front of face, broken A, annulet, and pellet behind head, pyramidical neck rests on curved exergual lines either side of beaded line, three annulets below, rather than two pellets either side of annulet. REVERSE: a beaded standard containing TOTII legend, crosses to sides, Ts at angles. The coin is hexagonal suggesting it has been carefully clipped.

Early silver pennies, or sceattas are relatively rare finds in Wiltshire. Found in Broughton Gifford, 2022 and donated by the finder, Stephen Olliver, and the landowners, Emma Ross and Robin Cox (2023.44).







From the left: Photograph from the collection of Ronald Thomas Gray(2024.7001); Albums of Southbroom Centre, Devizes activities c. 1960s – 2010s (2023.7001); Spye Park from the album by A. W. Hennings (2023.7002)..

Recent History

Vinyl stickers/labels for THE MOONRAKERS. Wiltshire Bowls Association. DEVIZES BOWLS CLUB. Donated by Brian Edwards (2023.23)*.

Royal Doulton teacup with THE WILTSHIRE MOONRAKERS transfer print. Donated by Ruth Gilliam Hill, who's father owned a bric-a-brac shop in Shrewton (2023.27).

Large wall hanging tapestry, made in 1991, to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the Devizes Royal Charter. The scenes depicted include an aerial view of Devizes with the Market Place, castle and white horse. The tapestry was made by pupils, staff and parents of Wansdyke School, Devizes in a project supported by Wiltshire's Arts Adviser. The artist, Julianne Worrall Hood, set up the tapestry frame in the school hall. In more recent years the tapestry hung in the stairwell of Devizes Town Hall before being transferred to the Museum in 2023 by Devizes Town Council (2023.28).

Victorian layette bag for a baby's nursery. Named (in ink) 'Mitchell'/'Salthrop'. Items include napkins, nightgowns, and pillowcases. Once belonged to a relative of the donor, who lived in Marlborough. Donated by Mrs P Joel (2023.31).

Small stoneware glazed brown jar with a cork stopper and broken handle: 40 / H G BARREY / WINE MERCHANT / DEVIZES. Found near the Town Hall, Devizes, and donated by Thomas Gaiger (2023.47).

20th century bone china teacup with transfer print. MARKET CROSS DEVIZES on the front, and the legend of Ruth Pierce, Potterne. 25th January 1753, on the reverse. Stamped TYTHERLEIGH DEVIZES on the base. Tytherleigh's was a china and glass merchants in Devizes (1861-1988). Donated by Dr H Hawthorn (2023.33).

16 medals and badges for archery and other sporting activities in Wiltshire and 12 for traditional longbow archery. Includes the WILTSHIRE AND DORSET ARCHERY ASSOCIATION medals, the DEVIZES BOWMEN and CHIPPENHAM ARCHERS. Two medals on ribbons for the WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST SARSEN TRAIL AND NEOLITHIC MARATHON. One medal for the BAG 4 SPORT 24 HOUR SPIN-A-THON, 2014. Donated by Brian Edwards and Jackie Davies (2023.36)*.

Scale wooden model of Springfield House, Potterne Road, Devizes, a 19th century Regency villa. Displayed in the Story of Devizes Gallery. Purchased at auction and funded by the current owner of the house, Paul Tumim (2023.66).

Baseball cap from Cherhill Church of England Primary School, with a White Horse logo embroidered onto the front. Donated by Brian Edwards (2023.37)*.

BlackRose of Remembrance fabric wreath made by BlackPoppyRose - a charity working for the remembrance of the African, Black Peoples, West Indian, Caribbean, Pacific Islands and Indigenous Communities contributions to Global Wars that have paved the way for the 'Cultures' we know and understand today. The wreath was featured in '*Lest We Forget: The Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire*' exhibition (November 2023 - March 2024) - see page 13. Purchased (2024.1)*.

Collection of objects from the Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Europe Ltd, Melksham (previously known as Avon Tyres/Avon Rubber Company). Following the closure of the factory in December 2023 these items were gifted to the Museum. Includes examples of the types of tyres made at the factory (historic and modern); clocking in/out machine; hand tools for tyre making; coat of arms; other items made by the factory, including a gas mask and dog toys; various trophies and cups for motoring events. (2024.2).

Lisa Brown, Jane Schön and David Dawson



From the left: Medieval silver penny or sceat (2023.44); Scale model of Springfield House, Potterne Road, Devizes (2023.66); BlackRose of Remembrance fabric wreath(2024.1); stoneware glazed brown jar (2023.47). Images not to scale

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

Due to the prolonged impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are a reduced number of research visits to the Museum again this year. We communicate the outputs of research through our online collections database, a programme of conferences and lectures, through publications such as our annual Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine, and by updating gallery displays.

Museum Data Service and Wessex Museums Virtual Collections

In November 2022 the Museum was selected as an 'early adopter' of a new MDS project, which collates millions of collections records from across the UK and makes them available online. Other museums included in the first cohort were the Ashmolean, National Museum of Wales, Science Museum Group and Norfolk Museums. In late 2022, 126,000 MODES records and 23,000 digital images were sent to Knowledge Integration and in 2023 - 24 a further 1,500 MODES records and 500 images were shared with the MDS.

Our Wessex Museums partners later shared their data and the Wessex Museums Virtual Collection website launched at the end of the year: *www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/wessex-virtual-collection/*

This collaboration between the Wessex Museums Partners (Wiltshire Museum, Poole Museum, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, and The Salisbury Museum) offers a searchable database featuring over 250,000 items. The Virtual Collection brings together nearly 30,000 images from two different collections management systems – MODESXML and MuseumIndex+. The initiative, supported by Arts Council England (ACE), is aimed at making collections more accessible and navigable through a user-friendly interface.

Working with The Museum Platform and Knowledge Integration, the database was designed to use the same digital infrastructure as the Museum Data Service (MDS), and created tools that can be used by other museums to showcase their own collections from their own websites, utilising the full potential of the MDS.

Operation Nightingale: Prehistoric Midden Pottery Fingerprint Project. Richard Osgood

In February 2023, Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist and Advisor for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, spent four days at the Museum, working with military veterans from Operation Nightingale, to search for fingerprints on pottery excavated from the late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age midden sites at Potterne and East Chisenbury. The aim of the project, in collaboration with the Military Police, is to create a prehistoric 'potters database'. Work is set to continue on this project in 2024-5.

Wessex Museums Decolonising Collections Framework

The Decolonising Collections Framework (approved September 2023), is supported by an Action Plan individual to each museum in the Wessex Museum partnership.

> *Decolonising involves creatively reimagining the way museums work, who they work with and what they value. It covers all areas of practice and creates a framework to better support people and institutions. Decolonising is a collective activity, which can be messy, thoughtful, imaginative, and emotional. It is driven by the desire for justice and equity in that it aims to rebalance power and representation away from the coloniser narrative of history and society. This work is intersectional as it challenges structural inequalities across the board to redress forms of historic and ongoing harm*. Museums Association. Decolonising Practice 2022.

The purpose of the Framework is to put the Wessex Museums firmly and consistently on the path to decolonisation, with meaningful, effective and collaborative public engagement. Through this work we want to understand the stories of those who have been oppressed and where there are connections to our collections - whether it is related to the empire or by more recent prejudices conveyed by the bias of curators and historians. We want to tell honest stories about how objects have come to be in museums - who they were given by and how and why the museums decided to accept them.

Our first research project is the reinterpretation of the John Britton 'Celtic' Cabinet, through a decolonial lens. The cabinet was owned by George Watson-Taylor of Erlestoke Park, who was the MP for Devizes from 1826 to 1832. He was the son-in-law of a slave trader and his fortune came from sugar produced on extensive estates in Jamaica, which held an enslaved population of more than 2,000 men, women, and children. The results of the project will be showcased at the Museum.





Operation Nightingale Fingerprint project

Researchers

Abigail George, PhD candidate, Southampton University: researching the Mesolithic of the Upper Kennet Valley, Oliver's Hill Field, Cherhill. Smith and Evans on behalf of WANHS,1967

Emma van der Velden, PhD candidate, Southampton University: assessment of Roman inhumation burials across the South of England through isotope analysis, to establish patterns of diet and migration. Romano-British burial from Bratton, BRA495.

Jack Rose, MSc Bioarchaeology, Bournemouth University: researching the cause and survival rate of Neolithic and Bronze Age trepanations. Snail Down barrow cemetery trepanned cranial disc, Nicholas Thomas, 1953-7.

Anna Reeve, independent researcher, Ancient Cypriot collections in UK museums: Late Bronze Age Cypriot base ring juglets said to be found in Pans Lane, Devizes in 1861.

Ed McSloy, Finds Manager, Cotswold Archaeology. Peter Warry, Director of the Brandiers Farm excavation, 2022-3 excavation of the tile kiln at Brandiers Farm, Minety: Examined comparable material from Park Farm, Oaksey, Anthony J Scammel, 1973-4.

Gywain Jones, MSc Bioarchaeology, Southampton University: understanding the diet of the community who used Millbarrow Neolithic long barrow as a funerary monument, in combination with the osteological analysis to provide information on subsistence practices, and further commentary on pastoral and/or agricultural patterns of the area during the middle Neolithic. The barrow was excavated in 1855 by Mr Eyles and Alistair Whittle in 1989.

Dr Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology, UKRI funded project between Oxford Archaeology and the universities of Oxford and Exeter, the Archaeology Data Service and Historic England, *Rewilding Later Prehistory*. The period from 2500 BC to AD 43 is a key tipping point in the transition from wild to farmed landscapes in Britain. *Rewilding Later Prehistory* (*https://rewilding.oxfordarchaeology.com)* examines the full makeup of Bronze and Iron Age plants and animals in diverse study areas to create an original methodological and interpretative toolkit for investigating archaeological wildlife. Accessed horse bone and teeth from various later prehistoric sites in the Museum collections.

Professor Robert Hosfield, Department of Archaeology, Reading University: researching the Palaeolithic flint hand axes from Knowle Farm, Little Bedwyn. The axes feature localised gloss that is highly unusual and which has been recognised as a distinctive feature of the Knowle Farm artefacts since their first discovery in the early 20th century. Varied explanations have been proposed for the gloss, but as yet there has been no consensus of opinion.

Lisa Brown

Research: Archive & Library

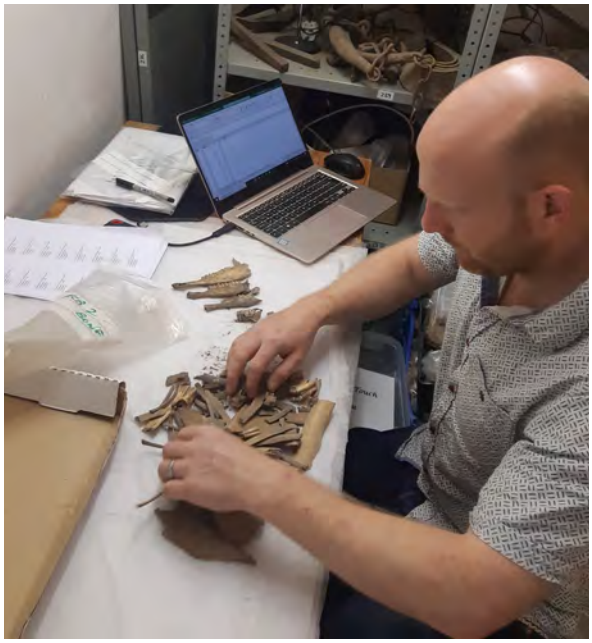
All visits to the Archive and Library are pre-booked and this year has seen an increase in both the number of visiting researchers by 70% and the number of enquiries by 41% compared to last year.

There were 386 enquiries this year: 104 visiting researchers and 282 email enquiries. Of the 104 visiting researchers 52 were members and 49 were non-members, an increase of 53% and 145% respectively. The majority of these visiting researchers were undertaking local history research (61%) mainly in and around Devizes and the surrounding villages, 23% carried out archaeological research and 11% undertook family history research.

The Archive & Library is not fully open to volunteers as there is still a backlog of acquisitions to process, however, five volunteers have continued to answer enquiries and provide scans of documents or photographs, where possible to the researcher. Donations were received from some of the researchers.

Research topics included: the Battle of Roundway, Stonehenge, Imber village, Erlestoke, Devizes Castle, Caen Hill Locks, Roundway Hospital, Violet Charlesworth, W. E. V. Young, John Aubrey, Richard Colt Hoare, Rev. A.C. Smith, maps of Salisbury, 18th century informers, pylons in Pewsey, lost footpaths, the winter of 1962/3, as well as numerous family history requests including the Offer family of Devizes, the Cloud family of Devizes (an early Quaker Family), the Hungerford family and information about individual family members including Ethel Sandell. Several Victoria County History authors have visited to research Clarendon, Kington St Michael and Swindon.

Jane Schön



Researcher at Work
Dr Richard Madgwick of Cardiff University

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county.

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group (WAFG) is a community archaeology group, working to professional standards. It carries out excavations and fieldwork in Wiltshire including geophysical survey, ground survey and field-walking and organises the annual Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference, held each year in Devizes. Anyone can get involved in WAFG projects, which range from researching prehistoric sites to 20th century archaeology, from desk-based research, field walking and excavation.

Membership is open to members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Regular reports appear in our Trilithon newsletter, and on the WAFG Facebook page.

Over the past year WAFG members have been very active, both in running and supporting WAFG projects and supporting broader research projects across Wiltshire. These have included participation in the Cardiff University project investigating the Roman site at Teffont and the Cotswold Archaeology led excavation investigating Roman tile kilns at Brandiers Farm near Minety.

Seend Excavations

WAFG's initial excavations in 2022 revealed the base of a 17th century brick kiln, one of the earliest excavated in Wiltshire and one of very few to be excavated nationally. In another part of the site a series of shallow trenches, which contained a large amount of burnt charcoal and some pieces of burnt iron ore, were excavated, dating evidence pointing to the Roman period. These have been interpreted as evidence of iron roasting, a step taken before the ore was smelted, and those dating to the Roman period are a rare find, with those at Seend considered to be unique in Wiltshire.

WAFG returned to Seend in September 2023. A new larger evaluation trench was opened close to the previous trench. Further evidence of Roman iron roasting was uncovered, along with a flattened area considered to be a working surface contemporary to the roasting activity. All the evidence is pointing to a considerable level of Roman industrial activity related to iron roasting at the site. To the west of the brick kiln, a number of test pits targeting areas where geophysics had indicated potential areas of intense magnetic response, were also excavated. In one of these, large quantities of broken tiles, including roof tiles, ridge tiles, floor tiles and even malting floor tiles were recovered. These all seemed to be of a similar date to the brick kiln. As excavations progressed, substantial brick walls, which may form part of an earlier tile kiln, were revealed. If proven to be of early 17th century date, it will be one of the earliest tile kilns found in Wiltshire.

In amongst the tiles, a number of pieces of what appeared to be pottery wasters were retrieved. These had a distinctive design similar, but not the same as, Crokerton Ware, potentially making it a new pottery type. The pottery assemblage comprised of kiln misfires/wasters suggests there is also a post-medieval pottery kiln nearby, producing Crokerton-like pottery to be used in the local area.

WAFG hope to explore the tile kiln site further and hunt for the possible 17th century pottery kiln when we return for a further season of excavations in September 2024.

Teffont

Some 40 WAFG members took part in a very successful dig at Teffont in July, 2023. The large excavation and post-excavation training project was directed by David Roberts with Cardiff University. The excavations focused on a multi-phase complex Roman site to the west of Teffont Evias, which probably functioned as an ancillary site to the main temple complex on the ridge above. The most significant feature excavated was a pool building, which held a >2.5m deep stone-lined pool beneath a vaulted ceiling in one end of an elaborate structure. It is likely to have been built around the end of the 1st or first half of the 2nd century AD, and was deliberately demolished and infilled in the early 4th century AD. Several other structures were excavated and the site as a whole showed activity from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD.

WAFG members also very much appreciated being taught the essentials of assessing pottery and animal bone remains by Drs Clare Rainsford and Rachel Seager Smith, using freshly excavated assemblages from Teffont, on the two-day courses which were available to members.

Despite several days when conditions nearly resembled the Somme, the mixture of students and WAFG members proved very successful as both groups brought different talents to bear and benefitted from wide ranges of expertise.



Image from the possible tile kiln trench at Seend (Photo: Mike McQueen)

Post Excavation

Using different approaches to encourage and broaden access to archaeological activities, the WAFG have continued to run post-excavation sessions at Wiltshire Museum in which all WAFG members are invited to participate. This has attracted many who have never done any form of 'hands-on' archaeological activities before, across a broad age range. The sessions have involved the cleaning, recording and cataloguing of archaeological finds assemblages from excavations – both those undertaken by WAFG and other collections of material that, for any number of reasons, have become 'orphaned' and not adequately prepared for accession to Museum collections. Our most recent activities have focussed on preparing the animal bone and other bulk-finds from the major WAFG excavation of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site at Mothers Anthony's Well for final deposition with the Museum and the cleaning, sorting and cataloguing of finds from the 2022-2023 WAFG excavations at Seend. As part of the most recent series of sessions, the WAFG also worked with a pottery specialist to run a training workshop for our members looking at how to identify prehistoric and Roman pottery. Further training workshops are planned.

A huge thank you must be extended to all WAFG volunteers who supported our 'Post-Ex Sunday' sessions. We look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn of 2024!

Alistair Thomson, Wendy Bishop and Mike McQueen

Publications and Social Media

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (WANHM)

Our annual magazine continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire. Members receive a free copy and it is available to non-members for a modest charge. The 2023 volume (no. 116) included the following articles:

Treasures in the Attic: Testing Cunnington's assertion that Stone 32c is the 'type' sample of Andesite Group A (Rob A. Ixer, Richard E. Bevins, Duncan Pirrie and Matthew Power); *Middle Neolithic mortuary activity, a ring ditch and late prehistoric re-use and occupation at Hunter's Moon, Chippenham* (Tom Wells); Avebury's Waterscape (Steve Marshall); *Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age and Romano-British Settlements at Black Furlong, Blackland, Calne Without* (Bernard Phillips); *Iron Age and Romano British Occupation at Drummond Park, Ludgershall, Wiltshire* (Adam Howard and Clare Randell); *The Marlborough Bucket: A new analysis of imagery within the artistic context of Late Iron Age Southern Britain* (Rebecca L. Ellis-Haken); *Picking up the Pieces: A re-evaluation of Romano-British pewter tablewares in Wiltshire* (Wil Partridge); *Products of the Clay Country: aspects of tile, brick and pottery making in Roman and medieval Minety, North Wiltshire* (Richard Moore-Colyer); *Excavation of later prehistoric and medieval features at Pound Farm, Lyneham, Wiltshire* (Clare Randall and Steven Bush); *The re-use of Budbury hillfort and the development of Bradford-on-Avon in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries* (Jeremy Haslam); *Lend Me Your Ears: the poem 'Longleat' of 1575* (Graham Bathe, Ian Purvis and Sally Thomson); *The Rediscovery of St Thomas's Medieval Doom in the Nineteenth Century: Elizabeth Wickens, Henry Moses and the Restoration by Clayton and Bell* (Christopher Daniell); *Medieval Settlement at Marsh Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire* (Andy Taylor); *Downton College of Agriculture 1880-1906: early agricultural education on the Wiltshire-Hampshire border* (Tony Pratt); *Wiltshire and the 1902 Education Act* (Ivor Slocombe).

Notes and shorter contributions included: *Drew's Pond, Devizes. From fishpond to pleasure ground: an analysis of its origins and function* (Wendy Bishop); *Dracontia: William Stukeley's unacknowledged debt to Thomas Twining* (Steve Allen); *A 1699 Quaker Marriage Certificate* (Kate Macdonald); Reviews (edited by Stuart Raymond); Excavation and Fieldwork in Wiltshire 2022 (compiled by Will Baker, Elizabeth Darlington and Bob Clarke); Highlights from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Wiltshire in 2022 (recorded by Sophie Hawke); Additions to the Collections, 2022.

The volume was edited and indexed by Dr Stuart Brookes, with editorial assistance from Peter Saunders (Peter also coordinated the publication for the Society), plus Graham Bathe, Simon Draper, Stuart A. Raymond, Will Baker, Elizabeth Darlington and Sophie Hawke. Thanks are due to all involved in producing such a well-respected journal, and especially to the many authors for their contributions.

Trilithon

This newsletter is a mixture of articles, items of interest and news about events and is sent to members annually.

Engaging audiences online

Our e-newsletter is sent regularly and is our main source of engagement for events. We also use social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to engage and develop our audience. Social media is a great way to publicise upcoming events and news at the Museum and is an opportunity to reach new audiences, as well as sharing details about our collections in a more immediate way. We can also engage with audiences unable to physically access the Museum or collections.

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

During 2023/24, 387 (318) events, courses, school visits and talks took place, including the acclaimed Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference and Industrial Archaeology Conference, talks at the Museum and in the community, walks in the Wiltshire landscape, wood engraving, stone carving and writing for wellness courses and use of the Museum lecture hall by external organisations. Over 70 non-school activities for under 18s were held and we also participated in local community events such as Heritage Open Day and the popular lantern making workshops..

Thank you to our speakers and walk leaders for their contributions to the Society as most do not charge a fee or claim expenses, and to everyone who helps with organising and running all our activities.

April 2023
Curious Kids: *Kings and Queens*
Easter Holiday Activities: *Easter themed*
Holiday Activities: *Spring wildlife*
Lecture: *What lies beneath – new light on Roman Cunetio, Mildenhall*, by Mark Corney, held in Marlborough
Museum Explorers Club: *Iron Age*
Walk: *Drawn to Oare: Eric Ravilious landscapes in the Vale of Pewsey,* led by David Dawson
Young Curators Club: *Iron Age*

May 2023
Day course: Stone Carving with Andrew Ziminski
Family Heritage Days: *Lest we Forget*
Holiday Activities: *Medieval Crafts*
Lecture: *Stonehenge: A Brief History*, by Mike Parker Pearson
Museum Explorers Club: *Hare and wildlife art*
Online Talk: *Human Henge 2016 – 2023: Walking with intent in ancient landscapes*, by Laura Drysdale, Director of the Restoration Trust and colleagues, Melanie Rogers, Danny O'Donoghue and Martin Allfrey (English Heritage)
Online Talk: *The houses of Fonthill: lost, recovered, rebuilt,* by Dr Caroline Dakers (University of Arts London) for the VCH*
Young Curators Club: *Hare and wildlife art*

June 2023
Curious Kids: *Tudors*
Day course: *Wood Engraving* with Robin Mackenzie
Museum Explorers Club: *Roman Themed*
Online Talk: *The William Cunnington Letter Books, 1799-1810*, by Jane Schön (Collections Officer: Archive & Library)
Online Talk: *The Wiltshire Traveller*, by John Chandler for the VCH*
Walk: *Drawn to Oare: Eric Ravilious landscapes in the Vale of Pewsey*, led by David Dawson
Young Curators Club: *Roman Feast*

July 2023
Curious Kids: *Romans*
Home Education Session: *Fossils, dinosaurs & prehistoric sea creatures*
Museum Explorers Club: *Archaeological Investigations*
Online Lecture: *Richard Colt Hoare and the discovery of Stourton Castle, the House before Stourhead*, by Martin Papworth (National Trust), with David Dawson
Online Talk: *Roman Trade & Industry in North Wiltshire*, by Mike Stone for VCH*
Outing: *Stonehenge Landscape Walk*, led by David Dawson
Walk: *Pewsey Downs*, led by Isobel Geddes
Young Curators Club: *Archaeological Investigations*

August 2023
Curious Kids: *Dinosaurs and Fossils*
Summer Holiday Activities: *Dinosaurs and Underwater Sea Creatures*
Summer Holiday Activities: *Prehistoric Discoveries*
Summer Holiday Activities: *Summer Textiles and Crafts*
Summer Holiday Activities: *Viking Explorers*
Walk: *Uffington Castle, the white horse and Wayland's Smithy*, led by Isobel Geddes.
Wessex Airscapes WALK: *Pewsey Downs*, led by Glyn Coy (Hidden Wiltshire), with Anna Dillon and Hedley Thorne.
Wessex Airscapes WALK: *Westbury White Horse,* led by Glyn Coy, with Anna Dillon and Hedley Thorne.

September 2023
Curious Kids: *Egyptians*
Day course: *Stone Carving,* with Andrew Ziminski
Day course: *Wood Engraving,* with Robin Mackenzie
Heritage Open Day and family craft activities
Lecture: *The Mystery of Wansdyke*, by Dr Alex Langlands
Museum Explorers Club: *Rock Detectives – fossils and rocks*
Online Lecture: *Boles Barrow: excavations old and new*, by Richard Osgood, MBE (Defence Infrastructure Organisation)
Online Talk: *New to the Museum: Wiltshire's stories through our collections*, with David Dawson
Online Talk: *Wiltshire manors and manorial documents*, by Dr Mark Forrest for the VCH*
Wessex Airscapes Walk: *Avebury and surrounding area*, led by Glyn Coy, with Anna Dillon and Hedley Thorne.
Young Curators Club: *Rock Detectives – fossils and rocks*

October 2023
Conference: *Industrial Archaeology 2023*
Curious Kids: *Toys from the past*
Family Activity Session: *Eerie-on-Sea*
Family Activity Session: *Trick or Treat!*
Holiday Activities: *Halloween and Autumn themed*
Lecture: *Contemporary art, aerial photography and the Wiltshire landscape*, by Patrick Dillon.
Museum Explorers Club: *Greek myths and mask making*
Young Curators Club: *Greek myths and mask making*

November 2023
Curious Kids: *Victorian Homes*
Day course: *Wood Engraving,* with Robin Mackenzie
Lecture: *The Hunt for Stourton Castle*, by Martin Papworth
Museum Explorers Club: *Prehistoric Monuments*
Online Talk: *Francis Kilvert and tales of Langley Burrell*, by Dr Louise Ryland-Epton, Contributing Editor, Wiltshire VCH*
Young Curators Club: *Prehistoric Monuments*

December 2023
Book Launch and Talk: *Walking the White Horses*, by David Clensy
Curious Kids: *A Tudor Christmas*
Fun Quiz Night
Lecture: *Flint and fire: the first half million years of early humans in Britain*, by Dr Rob Davis (Pathways to Ancient Britain project).
Museum Explorers Club: *Winter traditions and Christmas past*
Young Curators Club: *Winter traditions and Christmas past*

January 2024
Curious Kids: *Woodland Creatures*
Lecture: *Roman Hoards from Wiltshire*, by Richard Henry
Museum Explorers Club: *Romans vs Celts*
Online Lecture: *Eric Walrond: A Caribbean American Writer in Exile in Wiltshire*, by James Davis (City Uni. of New York)
Young Curators Club: *Romans vs Celts*

February 2024
Book Club: *Eric Walrond*
Curious Kids: *Dinosaurs and fossils*
Holiday Activities: *Valentines and spring themed art*
Museum Explorers Club: *Discover Ancient Egypt*
Online Lecture: *Lest we Forget,* by Selena Carty, founder of BlackPoppyRose
Young Curators Club: *Discover Ancient Egypt*

Members are very important to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and in addition to free entry to our award-winning Museum and special exhibitions, they receive other benefits:

- ◊ Free welcome tour of museum and library
- ◊ Discounted events
- ◊ Regular newsletter with the latest news and events
- ◊ Free entry to our Wessex Museum partners: Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and, from 1 April 2024, the Swindon museums (Lydiard House, Museum and Art Swindon and STEAM
- ◊ Free entry to English Heritage's Stonehenge Visitor Centre
- ◊ Helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.
- ◊ Opportunities to:
  - find out more about Wiltshire's story by meeting fellow members and subject experts
  - make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
  - get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
  - read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal
  - find out about the local area with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive.

2024 SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Bronze:
Individual - £46.50
Joint/Family - £59.50
Student - £20.00
Member Organisation - £60.00
Amber Donor - £72.50
Gold Donor - £135.50
Corporate membership - £125 and £325
Jadeite - £275
Life (over 50) - £1,000
Life (under 50) - £1,500

Subscriptions run for 12 months from the first day of the month of joining.

Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study, or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interests.

A variety of subscription and payment options are available, including monthly payments.

There were 65 new (or re-joining) memberships in the year (82 members); 98 (104) in 2022/2023.

NEW MEMBERS 2023/24

Mr James Allen, Market Harborough
Mr Simon Allum, Princes Risborough
Ms Chloe Arbury, Laverstock
Ms Bridie Baines, Marlborough
Ms Josephine Bestoni, Salisbury
Mrs Teri Brewer & Mr Michael Wilcox, Wells
Mrs Margaret Broomfield, Devizes
Ms Kamara Buchanan, Tetbury
Mr Stephen Bull, Devizes
Mr Ben Chambers, Braunton
Ms Donna Clark, Warminster
Dr Martin Clarke, London
Mr Andy & Mrs Alice Clarke-Greening, Devizes
Ms Heather Cochrane, Pewsey
Dr Vanessa Coote, Marlborough
Ms Christine Cox, Poulshot
Mr David Coxon, Nottingham
Mr Ralph Dicker, Salisbury
Ms Annie Fiducia, Devizes
Mr James Flanagan, Axbridge
Mr Brian & Mrs Judith Flynn, Melksham
Mr Wayne & Mrs Janet Ford, Swindon
Mr Nicholas & Mrs Lesley Gainey, Devizes
Mrs Stella Genever, Devizes
Mr Ian Glennie, Calne
Ms Celia Godfrey, Llantwit Major
Dr Michael Gooding, Romsey
Ms Anne Graham, Devizes
Mrs Nicola Harris, Devizes
Ms Ann Holman, Devizes
Ms Kimberley Hulse, Devizes
Mr Leslie & Mrs Vivienne Ibbotson, Devizes
Mr Michael Jarvis, Calne
Mr Ray Josey, Devizes
Mrs Caroline Kay & Dr James Heffer, Bradford On Avon
Mr Wolfgang & Mrs Susan Kettler, Bromham
Xander King, Devizes
Mr Brian Kingham, Marlborough
Mr David & Mrs Toni Knapp, Swindon
Ms Maria Kneafsey, Salisbury
Mrs Anita & Mr Graeme Livermore, Calne
Ms Yvonne Loth, Swindon
Ms Anabel Loyd, Marlborough
Ms Rose MacDonald & Mr Shawn Smith, Salisbury
Mr Michael May, Devizes
Mrs Tracy McPhail, Devizes
Mrs Margaret Moles, Devizes
Devon Nance, Prestwich
Mrs Amanda Nicholson & Mr Steve Douglas, Trowbridge
Mr Nigel & Mrs Angela Norman, Marlborough
Mr Peter & Mrs Sarah Orr, Marlborough
Mr Alexander Rae, Fovant
Ms Rachel Reed, Castle Cary
Ms Catherine Roberts, Melksham
Mr David Sabin & Ms Kerry Donaldson, Calne
Dr Ian Selby, Winchester
Ms Alison Sewell, Sutton Benger
Mr Alan Sims, Devizes
Mr Christopher & Mrs Roisin Southwood, Salisbury
Ms Alyson Stott, Pewsey
Ms Patricia Sullivan, Bath
Mr Stephen & Ms Jane Thatcher, Stonehouse
Mrs Noella Thomas, Devizes
Ms Helen Thomson, Bristol
Ms Louise Watson, Chippenham

March 2024
Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference 2024
Curious Kids: *Farmyard Fun*
Lecture and Book Launch: *St Giles Imber: In a Different Light*, by Tony Hack MA FSA
Museum Explorers Club: *Medieval castle and banquets*
Online Talk: *Assizes for Devizes – an Update*, by David Dawson
Young Curators Club: *Medieval castle and banquets*

* VCH - all proceeds to the Victoria County History Wiltshire Trust, who organised the lecture.

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

This year has seen a large variety of activities taking place at the Museum, to engage children and young people and encourage them to become lifelong museum visitors. The Museum galleries are regularly filled with the sound of excited children exploring the collections. This can be through our popular school sessions during term time, children visiting with their families at the weekends the holidays, and even groups during the evening and overnight with our out of hours sessions.

Schools

Over 950 children have visited with their schools this year. Many of these have been repeat visits from schools who value our sessions as part of their school learning programme. School groups can learn about their local area though our displays and handling collections. They can find out about Prehistoric Wiltshire, the Anglo-Saxons, Romans, or more recent topics like the local history of Devizes. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we can lead interactive, multi-sensory days which use artefacts, give the groups the chance to explore the Museum, and to take part in hands on activities such as dressing in costume, role play, craft activities and games.

We also visit schools all over the county, taking collections and linked activities to groups that may not find it easy to visit, perhaps due to the costs involved, or sometimes because it is logistically difficult to make a visit to the Museum. A lot of our outreach visits are to pre-school and infant age children and special Education schools and groups.

Families

We continued to offer two or more days of activities during each school holiday week. With popular themes and sessions linked to our exhibitions where possible, these craft based activities are often over-subscribed with waiting lists. Families enjoy taking part in activities with a mix of ages, and parents seem to enjoy getting involved too (Perhaps sometimes they enjoy the crafts even more than their children do!)

We also continued to run our three museum clubs for different age groups this year. Our long-established Young Curators Club is particularly well attended, with some of our members having participated for 6 or 7 years! Sessions this year sessions included a Roman Feast, an Egyptian escape room, Greek myths and Roman vs Celts.

We hosted sessions for the Devizes Lions Arts Weekend, took part in The Salisbury Museum's Archaeology Festival and continued to offer a programme of events for home-educated children to meet demand.

We look forward to the coming year, with plans to engage local families and school children with the Assize Court Project. It is exciting to be involved in this project, but also important to continue to make full use of our existing galleries and displays. With many groups already booking for sessions in the new academic year and next year's temporary exhibition programme, including the Oexmann Art Competition and the Un/Common People folk exhibition, it is already looking to be a busy year for schools and families visiting the Museum.

Ali Rushent



Colourful creations at the holiday activity workshops

The Community Curator post is funded by the Art's Council NPO via Wessex Museum.

Amy Hammett was on maternity leave from September 2023, and welcomed Alexander in October. Zoe Lay temporarily covered her maternity cover alongside existing staff.

Activities undertaken during the year included:

After School Club. Held on the third Thursday of the month, we host, in collaboration with the The Family Hub (Wiltshire Council) and Spurgeons, a free after school club for 6-11 year olds (with younger and older siblings welcome) offering activities and a free healthy meal for them and their parents. The scheme is funded by the Wiltshire Community Foundation.

Curious Kids. Held monthly on Saturday morning it provides activities for children aged 2 to 4 years old. Themes ranged from Dinosaurs to Egyptians to Farmyard Fun!

Eric Walrond - The Heritage Funded exhibition, which ran concurrently with the *Lest we Forget* exhibition, told the story of Eric Walrond (1898-1966), a Caribbean writer who made his name in the USA before moving to England, and then eventually to Wiltshire. Here he lived a quiet life in Bradford upon Avon and worked at the Melksham rubber factory. Behind the scenes his writing continued reflecting on his views on the second world war and the racism experienced by black soldiers whilst in the UK. He committed himself to Roundway Hospital in Devizes for poor mental health in the 1950s, before returning to London, where he died in 1966.

The funding (see page 12) enabled community work to be undertaken, including writing workshops for those struggling with mental health, led by creative writer and illustrator Flis Tattersall, using sections of text from the life and works of Eric Walrond. A book club session was held in February 2024 at the Museum discussing his writing and a talk took place at Melksham Library in April 2024. The exhibition was also displayed in The West Barn, Bradford on Avon from 16 March to 7 April 2024.

Lest we Forget This Aim funded project (page 12) enabled us to host an exhibition on the Black contribution to the world wars in Wiltshire, and workshops to create commemorative pieces of art included in the exhibition.

The community activities included a Paper Project with the Tidworth Craft Group and a 'Forgotten Generations' banner created by the Nepali Ladies Craft Group in Tidworth. The group were inspired by the life of Albert Jarrett, who featured in the exhibition, and using fabric and their own embroidery skills, they created a banner to represent aspects of Albert's life (see page 6).

The exhibition later transferred to Lydiard House, Swindon, with a few panels also replicated for display at the Merchant's House, Marlborough.

Youth Panel The Youth Panel's accessible "Roman Smells" interactive was installed in the Roman Gallery. This sensory interactive is installed at a height which can be accessed by most children and wheelchair users, with simple language in the explanation panels to ensure it can be engaged in by a wide range of people. They also ran a successful family day in October.

During the year, and in preparation for Activity in the autumn of 2024 we are working with the Wessex partnership on their provisionally titled exhibition 'We are Wessex'. This includes conducting focus groups with staff, volunteers, the youth panel and different community groups, in order to determine the level of interest and enthusiasm for a Trust-wide exhibition on Folk. These conversations explored what the word folk meant to these groups and what they might expect to see in the exhibition.

In 2024/25, in addition to continuing to work on ongoing projects, there will be a 10-week project with artist facilitator Nick Halahan working with young people via Wiltshire Council's Youth Justice Service, to explore and develop ideas to create street art style artworks.

on behalf of Amy Hammett



From the left: Puppets made at a Curious Kids session, creativity at the Halloween themed Youth Panel event.

Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.

It has been another busy year for our volunteer team and were delighted to welcome many new faces, including new members to our youth panel, front of house and maintenance teams.

Over 3,300 hours of volunteer time was logged between April 2023 and March 2024. This equates to a financial value of nearly £50,000, calculated using National Lottery Heritage Fund methodology. Hours are slightly up compared to the 2,978 logged in 2022/23.

Volunteers play a vital role in all aspects of running the Museum and Society. They welcome visitors, look after researchers in our Library and Archive, assist with school groups and family activity days, help with maintenance and decorating, gardening, administration, mailings and events. We have a growing student volunteer programme, focusing on skills development through creative projects. Trustees are also volunteers and we are thankful for the time and expertise they continue to dedicate.

Bath Spa University placements

This year two placement students worked on a project linked to the Devizes Assize Court. Anita Sala and Cynthia Ganabadhi, created a travelling exhibition to showcase plans for our National Lottery Heritage funded project to turn Devizes Assize court into a new museum. During the summer of 2024 they will go out into the community to gather public views on the project. People will be able to vote on what they would like to see in the new museum space, handle objects from our collection and share our vision for the future of Wiltshire Museum. The travelling exhibition will culminate in a month long, interactive exhibition at the Museum.

Archive & Library

A team of 18 Library volunteers usually catalogue the Archive and Library collections, adding to the online catalogue and scanning the photograph collection. Five Reader Services volunteers have returned and are still assisting the Collections Officer with cataloguing the backlog of acquisitions that arrived during the lockdowns. The remaining volunteers are yet to return but many have continued to undertake their own research whilst at home, answer the occasional enquiry and transcribe oral history recordings.

The returning volunteers have been answering enquiries and assisting with visiting researchers and their requests. We could not provide the service we deliver without our excellent team of volunteers and hopefully we can welcome the rest of the team back soon when we fully reopen.

Helen Meikle, an MA student who did her placement in the Archive & Library during 2022, continued to volunteer remotely and transcribed a number of oral history testimonies. She also continued to research the William Cunnington letter book correspondents in her spare time, before rejoining the Museum in the autumn of 2023 to assist with the Assizes for Devizes project.

Looking ahead

We are looking forward to another year working alongside our enthusiastic team. Areas of focus will be to develop an exciting training programme for volunteers and ‘growing’ our gardening and community teams.

Our continuing thanks to every individual who has offered their time in supporting the Museum.

Nicola Trowell, Jane Schön, Emma Sykes and Helen Meikle

In Memory of Astrid Bleich

Until Spring 2023, Astrid was a regular member of our Front of House team greeting our visitors with a style and wit all of her own – there was no messing with Astrid!

A German national Astrid was a teacher and social worker in Dusseldorf and a PA for English/Dutch Journalists in Holland, which led to a 14 year post at the Hague as an international secretary. A one year experience in England resulted in her decision to stay and she completed her Teaching English as a Foreign language qualification, acquired a certain level of French and taught Dutch and German at Liunguarama International Language School. Astrid was also recruited by an international tour company to guide tours to Holland, Germany, Belgium and Paris.

Additionally she worked on freelance basis for the Wiltshire Constabulary as an interpreter/translator in magistrate/crown courts and HM prisons. Astrid discovered her love of culture and history during her years working at the Bowood House estate and at Wiltshire Museum. She certainly had a very colourful life and enjoyed her time here at the Museum. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you to our volunteers:

Phil Andrews
Geraldine Bateman
Eliza Bates
Judith Bishop
Wendy Bishop
Mike Borro
Jane Brunning
Jan Bryant
Sandy Corbyn
Michael Cornwell
Jean Covington
Dave Coward
Carol Creed
Jan Dando
Catherine Dawson
Dylan Deloughery
Phil Edwards
Amy Ellis
Paula Evans
Pauline Ferguson
Remi Ferreira-Pike
Helen Fishlock
Michael Fletcher
James Flood
Alexandria Fraser Curran
Jackie Gardiner
Jeff Goatman
Jill Goatman
Lisa Harding
Sandy Haynes
Netta Hemmins
Malcolm Holland
Abigail Hooper
Mary Kane
James Kay
Dallas Kendall
Ann King
Wendy Lansdown
Graham Lever
Maggie Lewis
Ralph Lewis
Sarah Longbotham
Stella Maddock
Ella Marsden
Christina McClean
Mike McQueen
Helen Meikle
Peter Melsom
Susan Miles
Philippa Morgan
Sara Morgan
Jo Noble
Philip Nokes
Sonny O'Sullivan
Bill Perry
Ivan Philips
Ann Phillips
Sue Power
Penelope Price Jones
Angela Prophet
Amanda Ralfe
Stuart Raymond
Jo Redding
Mary Rennie
Kahlen Robinson
Sue Roderick
Doug Roseaman
Anita Sala
Jonathan Sanigar
Jessamy Saunders
Peter Saunders
Harvey Skinner
Peter Small
Emerson Smith
Mike Stone
John Surowiec
Michael Teale
Alistair Thompson
Esme Thompson
Peter Tolhurst
Christine Tucker
Laura Turner
John Watts
Maggie Watts
Wendy Weller
David Weston
Jirina Wheatley
Mike Williams
Heather Wilson
Paul Wilson

Committees and Working Groups follow up on specific issues

We are always looking for more people to be involved in our work, a great way to meet people and to develop skills and experience.

A303 Working Group
The Working Group continued to monitor developments, including court cases, on decisions concerning the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel, but has not needed to meet.

In July 2024 the new Government decided to cancel the scheme.

David Dawson, Director

Buildings and Monuments
This working group no longer meets, but if a significant case arises in Wiltshire, then the Working Group will be reformed.

Industrial Archaeology
The 2023 conference was a great success with nearly 100 people from all over the South West attending. Plans are in hand for the 2024 conference. The committee continues to act as a focus for Industrial Archaeology matters in the County and liaises with other interested bodies

Doug Roseaman, Committee Secretary

Finance Committee
This committee ensures that the assets of the Society are managed in compliance with the various rules and guidelines pertinent to the WANHS status as a registered charity and limited liability company, and promulgates appropriate policies and procedures.

The routine and day-to-day monitoring and management of approved budgets is delegated to the Review & Development Committee.

The Finance Committee meet when events demand it.

Rathbone Investment Management provide regular reports on the investment situation.

DEVELOPMENT

Working with Partners and Plans for the Future

Archaeology Archives and Off-site store

After nine years of closure to the deposition of archaeological material from commercial fieldwork, the Off-site store opened to the deposition of archaeological archives in October 2022. A phased delivery of the backlog is underway extending into 2024-5.

For projects notified to us after 1 April 2024 a flat fee of £110 (+ VAT) per standard size box has been implemented, an increase of £20 per box from the previous level.

Stonehenge Museums Partnership

We have kept in regular contact during the year, developing joint marketing where this has been possible.

Strategic and Forward Plans

We are continuing to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Society and Museum to continue to thrive as the Assize Court project proceeds. An Interim Strategic Plan will be completed in 2024 to identify priorities up to the point when we hope to be awarded Delivery funding for the Assize Court Project.

The Forward Plan for 2023-2024 detailed priorities for the year ahead, including the implementation of the Development Phase of the Assizes for Devizes Project, the exhibition programme (Wessex Airscapes, Lest We Forget and Eric Walrond) in addition to our usual wide range of activities. The Plan has monthly objectives and is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis.

The majority of the targets set at the beginning of the year were achieved.



Depositions at the archaeology store.

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership brings together Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum, Swindon Museums and the Wiltshire Museum.

During the year the Wessex Museums Partnership progressed delivering the four year, Arts Council supported National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), project to improve collections care, enhance the exhibitions programme and work with new audiences. Our Community Curator built links with community groups and developed the Lest We Forget and Eric Walrond exhibitions. Our Exhibitions Officer supported the exhibitions programme and developed plans for future joint exhibitions, including a John Piper exhibition planned for 2026.

The Partnership is supported by the Wessex Museums Trust, a charity that aims to support museums in Wiltshire and Dorset. The Trust fundraises to enable the delivery of projects that the individual museums are not able to undertake on their own and take a more active role in the management of the NPO. The Society is represented on the Board by the Director.

As of April 2024 the existing partnership of Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum was joined by Swindon Museum,, which comprises Museum and Art Swindon (due to open in 2024), STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, and Lydiard House Museum.

In 2024 Arts Council England announced that the Wessex Museums National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status would be extended for a further year, ending in March 2026.

Lisa Brown and David Dawson

In June 2023 the Museum was awarded development funding of £300,748 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for our ambitious project to revitalise the Devizes Assize Court as a new home for the Museum and its internationally important collections. The project 'Assizes for Devizes: Unlocking Wiltshire's Stories' aims to transform the much-loved Grade II* listed but derelict Devizes Assize Court into a world-class cultural destination, enabling us to truly fulfil our Mission to care for, celebrate, and share the extraordinary story of Wiltshire's past.

This initial funding supports the 'Development Phase' of our project – a two-year planning period to develop architectural plans, alongside designs for the Museum's new galleries and an exciting programme of community activities and events.

The project has made huge leaps forward since June 2023. We now have an appointed staff project team, who are working closely with a range of expert consultants to develop our plans for the building. To help us in progressing our plans, we have been joined by new members of staff – Claire Slack and Helen Meikle. They joined us in November 2023, working alongside Nicola Trowell, our Programme Manager.

Nicola has worked at the Museum for 7 years and worked closely with the Director on developing the Round 1 application to the NLHF.

Claire is our Project Engagement Officer. Claire's role is to develop an 'Activity Plan' for the project. This involves consulting a wide range of audiences to create a plan of the activities and events we want to run during the project and after we open the new site.

Helen is our Project Support Officer. Helen supports the day to day running of the project, including marketing and volunteer management. Before joining us, she undertook a placement with the Museum working on collecting memories from local people for our Voices of the Devizes Assize Court project.

In the middle of 2024, we will be appointing a Project Intern to the team. This role will focus on skills development and providing the needed experience to kickstart their heritage career.

The project's architects, Purcell, and their experienced design team have been working closely with the Museum, the Devizes Assize Court Trust and local organisations, to bring to life a shared vision for the new site as a cultural and community destination at the heart of Wiltshire. The plans include two large, designated learning and event spaces, new galleries, a special display space capable of hosting national-standard exhibitions, and a café that makes use of the new open space behind the Assize Court.

Claire and Helen have been hosting a wide range of consultation events, advisory groups and pilot project in the local community. Over 1,000 people have been involved in the project so far!

We are aiming to submit a planning application to Wiltshire Council in August 2024. An application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund will then be submitted in summer 2025 for the major funding that is needed to make the project a reality.

Over the next year, the Museum will be preparing applications to Trusts and Foundations, as well as seeking support from philanthropists and benefactors. If successful, work on the building will begin during 2026, with the aim to open the building in 2030. A major public fundraising appeal will be launched once the major commitment from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been secured.

Nicola Trowell

Made possible with Heritage Fund



Artist's impression of the front building, Richard Carman.

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the Law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate
- Presume that the company will continue to operate.

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

Internal risks are minimised by the establishment, documentation and regular review of a robust system of internal controls. Procedures have been implemented for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and monitored on a regular basis.

The Board continued to employ Rathbone Investment Management Limited to manage both the investment portfolio and the endowment fund with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side, a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully and reported to the Trustees on a quarterly basis.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market which affect the investment portfolios, long-term staff or Trustee absence, inadequate staffing with dependence on a small team of full-time employees, physical risks to the collections or buildings from fire, theft or floods and reductions in grants from local authorities. The Trustees manage these risks by having an investment policy at the low end of medium risk with regular reviews from the investment managers, by having processes for trustee succession, by conducting reviews of staff availability and development and by regular reviews of security.

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Society should have unrestricted funds (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves) equivalent to at least one year's core costs, that is some £400,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be substantially greater than £400,000 to provide a measure of security since unrestricted funds are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities.

The Unrestricted Funds balance at 31 March 2024 was £571,833 (£634,511 at 31 March 2023).

The balance of Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) was £415,223 at 31 March 2024 (£409,601 at 31 March 2023). The purpose of Designated Funds can be changed by the Board of Trustees. However, it must be borne in mind that the Designated Funds are and have been used to meet expenditure not charged to core activities such as the running costs of the Hopton Store, the Librarian's salary, the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group and the depreciation charge on the Art Gallery and high security cases. Therefore, Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities.

Restricted Funds at 31 March 2024 of £376,241 (£362,024 at 31 March 2023) must be used for a specific purpose. The capital at 31 March 2024 of £511,473 (£490,007 at 31 March 2023) in the Endowment Fund is not distributable.

Included within the net book value of tangible fixed assets of £315,215 is the land and buildings of the Museum. These assets are carried in the accounts at a net book value of £283,426 (£289,441 at 31 March 2023). The net book value of this property is substantially smaller than its actual market value. There is provision in the Charity Accounting rules for tangible assets like the Museum land and buildings to be shown at market value in the accounts. However, the Trustees have decided that, for the moment, the property should be shown at net book value. This property is now used for the purposes of charitable activities but, if the Museum were to move, it may be available to generate funds to support the new opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society had a busy year with a similar level of activity to that of 2023. Income associated with museum, library, outreach and other charitable activities was slightly below the previous year. However, due to grants and contributions associated with the Devizes Assize Court Trust Project total revenue was £536,344 compared to £361,147 in the year ended 31 March 2023. After adjusting for the costs associated with this additional include, overall expenditure was down by 5%. The recovery of the capital markets meant that gains on the Society's investment were £57,710 against a loss of £114,703 last year.

Unrestricted reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Designated Funds) decreased in the year by £68,300. This was due to a deficit on operating activities of £79,385 and gains on investments of £11,085.

The operating deficit of £79,385 represents a £44,703 improvement on the adjusted budget deficit. This was mainly due to unplanned rates rebates relating to the current and previous years.

Designated Funds increased during the year by £5,622 mainly because of gains on investments (£12,566) and expenses allocations.

The Society continues to receive support from Wiltshire Council with a grant of £12,780 and Devizes Town Council of £4,000. Both grants will be maintained at this level in 2023/24 but their continuation at this level or at all is not certain for future years. These funds are very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and the Society is extremely grateful for all the grants it receives.

Restricted Funds increased by £14,217 due to the gains on investments allocated to these funds (£12,593) and a legacy of £2,000.

Investment income from the Society's main portfolio and from the Sandell Trust was £68,621 which was a decrease on the previous year (£2,929). The overall return on investments on the combined main and endowment portfolios and including income and revaluation and trading losses was a gain of 7.58% compared with a loss of 5.56% the previous year. This improvement in the value of the Society's investments reflects the general recovery seen in the world's capital markets as inflation rates have come under control and economies stabilised. The overall income return before investment management expenses was 2.90% compared with 2.82% the previous year.

The Society does not have a specific policy on social, environmental or ethical considerations. However, its investment managers have a corporate strategy that means that these are taken into account in all aspects of their business activities.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund's portfolio is managed at the low end of a medium risk mandate. The Endowment Fund balance increased during the year by £21,466 due to gains on securities and the gain resulting from the year end revaluation.

Under the terms of the Endowment Trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the Society at some future date to be decided by the Trustees. The Trustees have reserved the right to transfer income received by the Fund to unrestricted reserves from the year ended 31 March 2010. Net investment income of £12,262 after investment expenses of £2,917 was transferred to the unrestricted reserves during the year ended 31 March 2024.

COLLECTIONS TRUST

There are over 500,000 items in the Collections Trust of which 2,500 are displayed in the Museum. There are also some 30,000 items in the Archive and Library collections. Most of these items are assets which were acquired before 1 April 2005 and have no value placed on them in the accounts. These continue to be catalogued and conserved with some items on loan elsewhere as described on page 14. More recent items costing over £1,000 each and totalling £48,741 are included in the balance sheet at cost. During the year donations of £8.879 were received by the Trust and acquisitions of £11,558 of items costing less than £1,000 were made. These acquisitions are described on pages 16 to 21.

INCOMING RESOURCES AND LEGACIES RECEIVED

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised, the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to the unrestricted fund and restricted funds respectively. The accounts include £376,241 for restricted funds and £511,473 for the Endowment Fund. These funds are not available to the Society for general use and must, therefore, be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position.

FORWARD PLAN

Each year the Board approves a Forward Plan that contains objectives and targets for the year. The 2023/24 Forward Plan contained targets within the following categories: exhibitions and displays; collections; development; projects; Assize Court; learning and outreach; and governance and core activities. Within the context of management resources good progress was made in most of these areas - see page 32.

PARTNERSHIPS

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and co-operation on exhibitions. Although, by mutual consent, the Directors have ceased to be nominees on the other's Board, good communication is maintained through the Wessex Museums Partnership. Supported by Arts Council England and led by Poole Museum Service, the partnership also includes The Salisbury Museum and Dorset Museum.

The support of Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council in providing revenue grants to the Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their nominated Trustees. We are pleased to continue working in partnership with English Heritage and Salisbury Museum through the Stonehenge Museums Partnership.

The Board is aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to build strong partnerships.

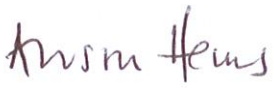
AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2023 and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2024, and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Alison Hems
Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The latest Articles of Association were agreed by the members at the October 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Objects of the Society are detailed on the inner cover. The members of the Society are subscribing members; in the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

The Society is the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. The Collections Trust holds all the heritage assets in its collections. The Society does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property.

The Society is also the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Society's accounts but as a separate charity its funds do not form part of the Society's assets.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its Trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the Trustees".

The Society can have a maximum of 20 trustees. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer (the Officers) and nine Trustees are elected by the membership, with re-election after three years. Trustees, excluding the Officers, can serve a maximum of six years. Officers are elected annually from amongst the Trustees but can serve for no more than six years in any one role. As nominating bodies, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, can each appoint one Trustee, and Wiltshire Council can appoint two Trustees. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust no longer appoint a Trustee to the WANHS Board. The Trustees have the power to co-opt additional Trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they may be nominated and elected.

The Society is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets regularly throughout the year. It determines the general policy direction of the Society and discusses matters of importance to the Society. It approves and monitors budgets, Forward and Strategic Plans, all developments, the prioritisation and allocation of resources and approves trustee appointments. Trustees bring outside experience and knowledge which supports that of our small staff.

There is a Review and Development Committee which meets regularly to review the management and financial affairs of the Museum delegated to the Director and his staff. Standing committees and working groups are formed as needed to deal with specific issues.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed including those related to the operations and finances of the Society and Museum, Archive & Library, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Investment Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The Trustees have engaged Rathbone Investment Management as investment managers and a Finance Committee reviews the portfolio and investment strategy.

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The skills and experience of existing Trustees is reviewed annually and, together with future needs, taken into account when seeking new trustees. The Board has a succession plan and has drawn up a trustee role description. Vacancies are advertised to members and through archaeological and voluntary media. Prospective Trustees are invited to visit the Museum to discuss the role prior to a formal interview. A panel, including the Chair and Director, reviews applications and interviews candidates. References are obtained and checks on eligibility to be a trustee and company director made. Those who are considered suitable are recommended to the Board to go forward to the Society's AGM for election by members.

There is an induction process to help Trustees understand their new role. An induction pack includes information on governance, accounts for recent years, forward plans, minutes of recent Board meetings, policies and other relevant information. New Trustees receive copies of Charity Commission advice (e.g. *The Essential Trustee*), are signed up for their e-mail updates and receive a personal tour of the Museum, Archive & Library buildings. From time to time Trustees are offered training courses.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

LEGAL INFORMATION

Names and registration numbers

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649 and a charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

PATRONS

J B Bush, CVO, OBE, CSt.J, JP (died May 2024)
P Harding, DUniv, FSA, MIFA
D Inshaw
Mrs S R Troughton, CSt.J, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
Martin J Nye, MA (Cantab) to 28 March 2024
Alison Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA - from 28 March 2024

Deputy Chair:
Alison Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA

Hon. Treasurer:
Chris R Kelly, BSc, FCA, FloD

Elected Trustees:
Richard Cardiff
Clare Dobbin, MA, BA (Hons)
Nicola Harris - elected 12 Nov 2023
Gillian Kenny, MA, PhD - resigned 23 May 2023
Ruth B. Kerr, MA, BA (Hons)
Earl Kerry - elected12 Nov 2023
Alfred La Vardera, FCPFA, MSc - to 12 Nov 2023
Katie Marsden, BSc (Hons)
Daniel S Miles, BA, MA, MIfA - to 12 Nov 2023
Lachlan Robertson, MA, BSc

Nominated Trustees:
Member, Devizes Town Council (from May 2021):
Cllr. Mrs C Gay, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, FPS
Members, Wiltshire Council: vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF AS AT 31.3.2024

Director: David Dawson, BA, FSA, AMA
Curator*: Lisa Brown, BA (Hons), MA
Marketing & Administration Manager:
Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Museum Assistant: Administration:
Emma Sykes, BA
Collections Officer: Archive & Library*:
Jane Schön, BA (Hons), MA
Community Curator*: Amy Hammett, BA
Exhibitions Officer*: Heather Ault, BA
Finds Liaison Officer: Sophie Hawke (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the British Museum and other partners)
Finance Officer*: Mandy Dixon
Learning & Outreach Officer*: Ali Rushent, BA, MA
Museum Assistant*: Carol Johnston
Assizes for Devizes Project Staff:
Programme Manager: Nicola Trowell, BA (Hons)
Engagement Officer: Claire Slack, BA (Hons), MA
Support Officer: Helen Miekle, BA (Hons), MA
*[*part-time]*

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors:
David Owen & Co., 17 The Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1BA
Bankers:
Lloyds TSB plc, 38 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1JD
Investment Managers:
Rathbone Investment Management, 8 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7AZ
Company Secretary:
Mrs K P Jones, BA (Hons)
Hon. Solicitors:
Wansbroughs, Northgate House, Devizes, SN10 1JX
Editor - Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine:
Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1NS

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concerns
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustee's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 34), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company or the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a

true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees' are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee's either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the UK Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, tax legislation, data protection legislation and regulations imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with regards to the provision of insurance policies.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence with HMRC and reviewed meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- We enquired of the trustees about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets, undisclosed related party transactions outside the normal course of business.
- We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud and revenue recognition of legacies, grants and investment income.
- We critically reviewed judgements and provisions included within the financial statements and examined the associated cut-off issues. Prior period forecasts were compared to actual results to ensure past judgements made were reasonable in comparison with eventual outcomes.
- We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We obtained independent confirmations from your bank regarding balances at the year-end in addition to any outstanding charges.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Use of our Report

The report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mr Joseph Bunton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For an on behalf of David Owen & Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 The Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1BA
Date: 26 September 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	*Total Funds 2023*
		£	£	£	£	*£*
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	1	116,466	2,000	-	118,466	108,425
Charitable activities	2	344,104	-	-	344,104	138,945
Other trading activities	5	62,395	-	-	62,395	75,166
Investments	7	13,379	7,123	15,179	35,681	38,610
Total		536,344	9,123	15,179	560,646	361,146
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	62,165	1,484	2,917	66,566	61,321
Charitable activities	9	572,770	6,015	-	578,785	454,361
Total		634,935	7,499	2,917	645,351	515,682
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	23,651	12,593	21,466	57,710	(114,702)
Net income/(expenditure)		(74,940)	14,217	33,728	(26,995)	(269,238)
Transfers between funds		12,262	-	(12,262)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(62,678)	14,217	21,466	(26,995)	(269,238)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		634,511	362,024	490,007	1,486,542	1,755,780
Total funds carried forward		571,833	376,241	511,473	1,459,547	1,486,542

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15		315,125		*329,539*
Managed Investments					
Securities	16	707,615		*731,781*	
Cash		12,556		*10,771*	
			720,171		*742,552*
Managed Endowment Investments					
Securities	16	495,486		*460,659*	
Cash		15,537		*28,898*	
			511,023		*489,557*
Total Fixed Assets			1,546,319		*1,561,648*
Current Assets					
Stock		14,467		*12,929*	
Debtors	17	123,175		*38,708*	
Cash at Bank		60,036		*131,669*	
Total current Assets		197,678		*183,306*	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	170,197		*130,273*	
Net Current Assets			27,481		*53,033*
Total assets less current liabilities			1,573,800		*1,614,681*
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		114,253		*128,139*
			1,459,547		***1,486,542***
The funds of the Society					
Endowment Funds	22		511,473		*490,007*
Restricted income funds	23		376,241		*362,024*
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)	24		571,833		*634,511*
			1,459,547		**1,486,542**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The notes on pages 44 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

Dr A Hems, Chair

C R Kelly, Honorary Treasurer

26 September 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(a)	(159,727)	(158,096)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		35,681	38,610
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(6,212)	(5,248)
Proceeds from sale of investments		253,731	203,292
Purchase of investments		(206,682)	(64,901)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		76,518	171,753
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(83,209)	13,657
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	(b)	171,338	157,681
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	(b)	88,129	171,338

(a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per the Statement of Activities	(26,995)	(269,238)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	20,626	22,932
(Gains)/losses on investments	(57,710)	114,703
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(35,681)	(38,610)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(1,538)	2,804
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(84,467)	4,064
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	26,038	5,249
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(159,727)	(158,096)

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand (incl. investment cash)	88,129	171,338
	88,129	171,338

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

(a) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2005), and

(b) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company qualifies as a small company under the Companies Act 2006 and under SORP. However, the Company has continued to comply with the requirements of large charities and to this end has produced a cash flow statement for the accounting period and comparative figures for the previous accounting period.

The Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except for the discounting of the liability for the pension deficit or unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition unless capitalisation is required as a condition of the grant. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 5 years

Investments

Net gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed between realised gains and losses and unrealised gains and losses in note 14 to the financial statements. Investment income has been accounted for on the basis of the due date of payment. Investment income and gains and losses in the Main Fund are allocated between Unrestricted Funds (including Designated Funds) and Restricted Funds on the basis of the average net assets of those funds.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Incoming Resources

- Legacies are normally accounted for when received and, if not given for specific purposes as a condition of the will, are utilised either for general expenditure or for the purposes which the Trustees believe the Testator would have approved.
- Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.
- Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received.
- All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.
- Grants. Where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year, the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. In the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum Services, Library Services, Educational Services, etc.) this has been done on the assessment of the Director.

Pensions

During the year to 31 March 2024 pension provision was made for 11 employees by membership of a Pension Trust Scheme which is principally a defined contribution pension scheme. All employees who are not in the scheme are offered pension auto-enrolment into the scheme where applicable. Employer's contributions of £13,863 have been charged to staff costs as incurred. The Scheme has a limited guarantee on losses under the scheme for those members of staff who transferred to it. This has led to small additional amounts in respect of a deficit being recovered from the Society.

Some years prior to the year ended on 31 March 2017 the Society ceased to be a scheme employer in the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, as stated in the 2012 report, entered into an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse the deficit by payment of £21,000 for each year up to and including December 2031. Full provision of the liability was originally made in the accounts to 31 March 2016 for the amounts payable to December 2031, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period. An amount of £7,114 was charged in the accounts to 31 March 2024 ((£7,790 (2023) and £8,432 (2022)).

Reserves

The reserves at 31 March 2024 are located to Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds. Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting appropriate as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a charity established to raise and hold capital, the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but, as a separate charity, these funds do not form part of the Company's assets. The investment income from the Endowment Fund is credited to the Unrestricted Funds.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which own the Collections. On 3 March 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96(5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However, *"the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and hold the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company".*

Accounts for the Collections Trust have been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
1	**Income from Donations and Legacies**					
	Membership Subscriptions	45,781	-	-	45,781	*42,535*
	Donations and Tax Refunds	34,745	-	-	34,745	*26,854*
	Legacies	3,000	2,000	-	5,000	*6,096*
	Income transferred by Old Society					
	Sandell Trust	32,940	-	-	32,940	*32,940*
		116,466	2,000	-	118,466	*108,425*

Income from Donations and Legacies for Unrestricted Funds includes £50 (2023 £247) for Designated Funds.

2	**Income from Charitable Activities**					
	Grants and Contributions	3	288,626	-	-	288,626	*81,776*
	Admissions		39,676	-	-	39,676	*35,657*
	Exhibitions Commissions		5,237	-	-	5,237	*13,001*
	Education Receipts		10,565	-	-	10,565	*8,511*
			344,104	-	-	344,104	*138,945*

3	**Income from Grants and Contributions**					
	AIM/HF Lest we Forget	13,890	-	-	13,890	-
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	*25,984*
	Cunnington Letters Books	-	-	-	-	1,182
	Community Curator Projects	1,750	-	-	1,750	2,797
	Community Kick Start Project	1,500	-	-	1,500	*3,030*
	Devizes Assize Court Trust	153,895	-	-	153,895	-
	Devizes Town Council	29,000	-	-	29,000	*4,000*
	Ernest Cook Trust	-	-	-	-	*31*
	Hardy's Wessex Exhibition	-	-	-	-	3,170
	National Heritage - Eric Walrond Exhibition	6,998	-	-	6,998	-
	Swire Foundation	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
	Wessex Museum Partnership	43,600	-	-	43,600	*22,100*
	Wiltshire Council	12,780	-	-	12,780	*17,280*
	Sundry Contributions for Projects	5,213	-	-	5,213	*2,202*
		288,626	-	-	288,626	*81,776*

		2024 £
4	**Grants carried forward**	
	Cauldrons - Broomsgrove	556
	Devizes Area Tourism	1,257
	Stonehenge - Avebury Bus	5,153
	Wessex Museum Partnership	7,970
	Wiltshire Community Foundation	3,000
	Sundry Contributions for Projects	180
		18,116

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	*Total 2023*
5	Income from Other Trading Activities		**£**	**£**	**£**	£	*£*
	Shop Sales	6	32,904	-	-	32,904	*38,599*
	Other Sales		-	-	-	-	-
	Museum Income		27,326	-	-	27,326	*35,662*
	Fundraising Events		2,165	-	-	2,165	*905*
			62,395	-	-	62,395	*75,166*
6	Shop Sales						
	Shop sales		32,904	-	-	32,904	*38,599*
	Less Purchase cost		22,732	-	-	22,732	*21,641*
	Gross Profit		10,172	-	-	10,172	*16,958*
	Gross Profit % on sales					**30.91%**	*43.93%*
7	Investment Income						
	Income from Investments		13,379	7,123	15,179	35,681	*38,610*
			13,379	7,123	15,179	35,681	*38,610*
8	Expenditure on Raising Funds						
	Cost of Sales						
	Shop		22,732	-	-	22,732	*21,642*
	Salaries		10,668	-	-	10,668	*10,061*
	Members' services		3,444	-	-	3,444	*2,791*
	Marketing		5,436	-	-	5,436	*2,297*
	Fundraising costs		11,926	-	-	11,926	*11,673*
	Investment management costs		2,787	1,484	2,917	7,188	*8,064*
	Support costs		5,172	-	-	5,172	*4,793*
			62,165	1,484	2,917	66,566	*61,321*
9	Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
	Museum Services		236,443	-	-	236,443	*258,726*
	Library Services		38,381	-	-	38,381	*47,024*
	Educational work		39,991	-	-	39,991	*34,142*
	WANHM		16,547	-	-	16,547	*15,127*
	Support and governance costs		241,408	6,015	-	247,423	*99,342*
			572,770	6,015	-	578,785	*454,361*

Expenditure on Charitable Activities for Unrestricted Funds includes £18,081 (2023 £13,865) for Designated Funds.

Support and governance costs include audit fees of £7,200 (2023 - £6,800)

		Total 2024	*Total 2023*
10	Staff costs	**£**	*£*
	Wages and Salaries	259,497	*221,728*
	Social Security costs	15,102	*11,705*
	Pension costs	21,427	*19,935*
		296,026	*253,368*

Staff costs attributable to activities :	2024 £	*2023 £*
Cost of raising funds	10,668	*10,061*
Charitable activities:		
Museum	175,603	*149,922*
Library	29,720	*27,802*
Education	31,717	*25,133*
Governance	48,318	*40,450*
	296,026	*253,368*

In 2024 £77,998 (2023 £10,825) of staff costs were funded from grants for projects.

Pension costs include £7,114 (2023: £7,790) relating to charges for deficits in previous years.

During the year £21,000 (2023: £21,000) was paid towards the liability for the Wiltshire Council Pension deficit (see note 20).

No employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000.

Key management personnel which consist of the Trustees and the Director were paid a total of £61,633 (2023 £58,368).

This amount is gross of employer's contributions towards pension and National Insurance.

The average number of employees in 2024 was 4 full time and 9 part time (2023: 4 full time and 8 part time)..

11 Trustees' Expenses

No trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year.
Trustees' expenses totalling £0 (2023 £0) were paid during the year

12 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year 2024 (2023 - £0).

13 Operating Leases

Payments for operating leases for a telephone system and for a photocopier amounted to £3,850 (2023 £2,842) during the year. Minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than one year	4,094	4,602
Later than one year and not later than five years	12,518	2,794
	16,612	7,396

14 Gains/(losses) on investment assets

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Main Portfolio £	Endowment Portfolio £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Realised gains/(losses)	(3,290)	(1,752)	(5,042)	(6,176)	(11,218)	*(12,702)*
Unrealised gains/(losses)	26,941	14,345	41,286	27,642	68,928	*(102,000)*
	23,651	12,593	36,244	21,466	57,710	*(114,702)*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Opening Cost at 1st April	72,750	298,487	91,489	462,726	*457,478*
Addition - Amesbury Storage Facility	-	-	6,212	6,212	*5,248*
Closing Cost at 31st March	72,750	298,487	97,701	468,938	*462,726*
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st April	-	81,796	51,391	133,187	*110,255*
Charge in year	-	6,015	14,611	20,626	*22,932*
Accumulated Depr. at 31st March	-	87,811	66,002	153,813	*133,187*
Closing Net Book Value at 31st March	72,750	210,676	31,699	315,125	*329,539*

The freehold land and buildings transferred from the original unincorporated Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Charity no. 309534) in November 2003 were included in the balance sheet at book values. Other tangible fixed assets acquired or created since have been included at cost. The Trustees have decided not to apply a valuation to the property.

16 Quoted Fixed Asset Investments	Main Portfolio 2024 **£**	Endowment Portfolio 2024 **£**	*Main Portfolio 2023 £*	*Endowment Portfolio 2023 £*
Opening Market Value at 1st April	731,781	460,659	*978,823*	*466,711*
Purchases	110,653	96,028	-	*64,901*
	842,434	556,687	*978,823*	*531,612*
Sales	171,064	82,667	*166,939*	*36,352*
	671,370	474,020	*811,884*	*495,260*
Net profits/(losses) :				
Realised	(5,042)	(6,176)	*(7,412)*	*(5,291)*
Unrealised	41,287	27,642	*(72,691)*	*(29,310)*
Closing Market value at 31st March	707,615	495,486	731,781	460,659

17 Debtors	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Trade Debtors	5,427	5,635
Prepayments	25,341	16,397
Grants and Donations receivable	74,022	7,138
Gift Aid refund receivable	5,144	6,601
VAT recoverable	10,501	197
Monies owed by the Collections Trust	-	-
Monies owed by the Old Society	2,740	2,740
	123,175	38,708

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Grants received in advance	18,116	*46,476*
Trade Creditors	68,854	*11,863*
Accruals	27,798	*15,732*
Taxes including NIC	4,968	*3,431*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	20,442	*20,442*
Prepaid membership subscriptions	24,284	*23,596*
Other income in advance	5,615	*8,733*
Monies owed to the Collections Trust	120	-
	170,197	*130,273*

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	114,253	*128,139*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	114,253	*128,139*

20 Pension Deficit

The Society has an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse a deficit with the Wiltshire Pension Fund in relation to two former employees by payment of £21,000 for each year up and including December 2031. Full provision, subject to discounting at 5% over time from 31 March 2018 has been made in creditors. The charge for the year to 31 March 2024 for the discounted part of the provision was £7,714 (2023 £7,790).

21 Analysis of net assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Fund values at 31 March are represented by:					
Tangible Fixed Assets	119,275	195,850	-	315,125	*329,539*
Managed Investments	618,134	102,037	511,023	1,231,194	*1,232,109*
Current Assets	118,874	78,354	450	197,678	*183,306*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(170,197)	-	-	(170,197)	*(130,273)*
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(114,253)	-	-	(114,253)	*(128,139)*
	571,833	376,241	511,473	1,459,547	*1,486,542*

22 Endowment Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Investment expenses	Gain on investments	Inter-Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Trust Fund	490,007	15,179	(2,917)	21,466	(12,262)	511,473

Income in the Endowment Trust Fund includes:	£
Legacies	-
Investment Income	15,179
	15,179

The Endowment Trust Fund is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee. It is established to raise capital, the income from which will be paid to the Company for its general use. The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets.

23 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Investment income £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
English Heritage Fund	7,359	-	144	(30)	255	-	7,728
Legacies and Donations	134,692	2,000	2,661	(554)	4,705	-	143,504
Oexmann Fund	14,937	-	294	(61)	519	-	15,689
Amesbury Storage Facility	192,210	-	3,772	(6,801)	6,669	-	195,850
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	12,826	-	252	(53)	445	-	13,470
	362,024	2,000	7,123	(7,499)	12,593	-	376,241

Income in the restricted funds includes:	£
Legacies	2,000
Grants	-
Other trading activities	-
	2,000

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes :

Amesbury Storage Facility	Storage facility for archaeology archives deposited after 2021.
English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects.
Legacies and Donations	Legacies and donations received for use in future projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition.
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	This fund was originally set up to cover the cost of Museum refurbishments to create a new Environmental Gallery. Discussions are proceeding to enable the Society to use some or all this money for the refurbishment of the office suite and the purchase of essential equipment.

These fund balances at 31 March 2024 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2024.

24 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Donations and Legacies £	Other Income (incl. investment income) £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds:							
Improvement Fund	13,896	-	273	(57)	482	-	14,594
Library Fund	999	3,178	46	(424)	81	-	3,880
Archaeological Field Group	3,231	-	850	(1,106)	-	-	2,975
Programme Committee	17,311	-	340	(71)	601	-	18,181
Publications Fund	24,717	-	485	(101)	857	-	25,958
Ready to Borrow Applied	38,347	-	-	-	-	-	38,347
Shearing Library Fund	92,854	-	1,734	(9,829)	3,066	-	87,825
The Crofton Story	409	-	8	(2)	14	-	429
Wiltshire Life	217,837	-	4,223	(6,491)	7,465	-	223,034
	409,601	3,178	7,959	(18,081)	12,566	-	415,223
Other unrestricted funds	224,910	67,507	457,700	(616,854)	11,085	12,262	156,610
	634,511	70,685	465,659	(634,935)	23,651	12,262	571,833

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees and which remain part of the unrestricted funds) is currently:

Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity.
The Crofton Story	Income from the sale of this publication.
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Museum.
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management.
Programme Committee	To finance members' events.
Publications Fund	To finance publications (the expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks).
Ready to Borrow Applied	The balance represents capital expenditure funded by Ready to Borrow Grant and contributions used to defray the depreciation costs of new tangible fixed assets over their useful life.
Shearing Library Fund	To finance the cost of employing a part-time Librarian and small library equipment purchases.
Wiltshire Life	To finance the care and development of the Wiltshire Life Society Collections. The expenditure consists of direct costs and does not include curatorial charges.

Allocation of expenditure from Designated Funds is reviewed regularly. The timing of expenditure is over a period which matches requirements of each purpose, potentially over a number of years. These fund balances at 31 March 2024 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2024.

COLLECTIONS TRUST - Linked Charity Number 1080096
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	*2023 Total*
Income and Endowments from:	£	£	£	*£*
Donations and legacies	8,879	-	8,879	-
Charitable activities:				
Grants	-	-	-	-
Sale	-	-	-	-
	8,879	-	8,879	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Acquisitions costing less than £1,000				
Museum	3,233	-	3,233	*1,685*
Library	8,355	-	8,355	*163*
	11,588	-	11,588	*1,848*
Costs				
Sundry	-	-	-	-
	11,588	-	11,588	*1,848*
Net income/(expenditure)	(2,709)	-	(2,709)	*(1,848)*
Balance at 1 April 2023 brought forward	64,783	4,252	69,035	*70,883*
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	*62,074*	*4,252*	*66,326*	*69,035*

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2023
Heritage Assets		
Opening Balance at 1 April	48,741	*48,741*
Acquisitions over £1,000	-	-
Closing Balance at 31 March	48,741	*48,741*
Current Assets		
Cash in Bank	17,465	*20,294*
Intercompany Debtors	120	-
	17,585	*20,294*
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	-
Net current assets	17,585	*20,294*
Total assets less current liabilities	66,326	*69,035*

The Funds of the Trust	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income, Grants & Donations	Inter Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds - Museum and Art	64,783	8,879	-	11,588	62,074
Restricted Funds	4,252	-	-	-	4,252
	69,035	8,879	-	11,588	66,326

Museum and Art Collections: The collections fall within the definition of heritage assets for the purposes of the Charities SORP.

Accounting Policies:

1. No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1 April 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by the users of the financial statements.
2. The Trustees have adopted a policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of purchase.
3. Acquisitions costing in excess of £1,000 are capitalised and stated at cost as heritage assets.
   No depreciation is provided on heritage assets as all are deemed to have indefinite lives.
4. Policies for acquisition, disposal and conservation of heritage assets meet Accreditation Standard, which has been awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Summary of Transactions:	**Year to:**				
	31.03.2024	**31.03.2023**	**31.03.2022**	**31.03.2021**	**31.03.2020**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost of acquisitions of heritage assets	-	-	-	2,470	2,325
Value of assets acquired by donation and not reported in the Balance Sheet					
Carrying amount of heritage assets disposed of and proceeds received					
Cost of assets written off in year of purchase as per accounting policy	11,588	1,848	3,530	1,379	2,054

MINUTES OF THE 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY

held on Sunday 12 November 2023, commencing at 3.00 pm
at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

01/23 Present

Trustees: Mr Martin J Nye (Chair), Mr Chris R Kelly (Hon Treasurer), Ms Ruth Kerr, Mr Alfred la Vardera, Mr Lachlan Robertson and 29 members of the Society.

In Attendance

Mr David Dawson (Director) and Mrs Karen P Jones (Minute Taker and Company Secretary).

02/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Mr Richard Cardiff (Trustee), Mrs Barbara Clauson, Mrs Chris Gay (WANHS Trustee – Devizes Town Council nominee), Dr Phil Harding, Dr Alison Hems (Trustee), Lord Kerry (Trustee elect), Mrs Val Knowles, Mr Christopher Joseph, Ann and Andrew Walker.

03/23 Chair's Welcome

The Chair, Martin Nye, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Company limited by Guarantee).

The meeting acknowledged those members of the Society who had died since the last AGM,

Barrie C Barrett, Astrid Bleich (a front of house volunteer), Lt Col Colvin Chamberlain (a former WANHS Chairman), Nicky Clarke (a library volunteer), Joan Davies, Lynda Dyson, Michael Hunt, Christopher Miles, Tony Morton, Joy Northey, Margaret Oram, Mark Prescott, Dorothy Robertson, Rick Rowland (a former WANHS Trustee), Tim Schadla-Hall and Gwendoline Wayne

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/23 Minutes of meeting held Sunday 13 November 2022

Proposed by Mr Peter Saunders and seconded by Mr John Surowiec, the minutes of the AGM held on 13 November 2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed nem con.

05/23 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

i) Report by the Chair

The Chair reminded the meeting of the charitable objectives of the Society and that it had been another busy and productive year. He highlighted the conservation of the Piper window, how working with academic researchers helped us look with fresh eyes at the collection and the addition of Swindon Museums to the Wessex Museums Partnership. The Annual Report highlighted the range of talks, events, walks and activities for children that had been undertaken in the year.

Work was ongoing with the Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) on the joint bid for the Assizes for Devizes Project. An application had been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in February 2023 for the Development Phase of the project. The application had been successful and work was now underway in developing the project and an application for the Delivery Phase to be submitted in 2025. Additional staff had been recruited to work on the project, alongside a fundraising consultant to advise on raising match funding.

The accounts for 2021/22 had showed revenue of £750,000 due to the receipt of legacies and the success of the Eric Ravilious: Downland Man exhibition, but this was not repeated in the 2022/23 financial year, which showed a loss of £269,000, due not only to lower revenue, but also the turbulence in the stock market. The situation was obviously not sustainable and was being kept under review.

The Chair thanked the staff, who worked extremely hard with limited resources, the volunteers, who gave many hours to ensure the Society and Museum could operate, and also to his fellow Trustees. He thanked Dan Miles and Alfred La Vardera for their support over the years, both retiring from the Board this year, by rotation.

ii) Report by the Treasurer

Mr Chris Kelly presented his report highlighting the financial situation with a series of slides.

The main message was that the finances had not repeated the success of 2021/22, and in fact there had been lost on investments in the year of £115,000, resulting in a negative movement in funds. The major difference was in donations, legacies and charitable activities (admissions and shop income) which were lower than the previous year. The Treasurer had analysed the various income streams and all the controllable activities were on or above the five year average.

Costs were increasing but controlled where possible. £150,000 had been withdrawn from investments to support the activities of the Society within the year, and the value of investments had also declined due to the turbulence of the stock market in late 2022. Investment performance continued to be monitored and in the Treasurer's opinion was not unrealistic in the light of market conditions, with Rathbones taking a defensive strategy, as requested by the Trustees.

The challenges facing the Society were much the same as last year: Overcoming constrained resources, continuing to maximise existing revenue streams, developing and growing new revenue opportunities, reducing reliance on revenue that we cannot influence and leveraging the Society's assets – people, collections and facilities. All of these it was hoped it could be met by moving the Museum to the Devizes Assize Court. As the project developed the accounts would be separated and reported on separately with cost controls and fundraising an important element of the project. It was anticipated that the move to the Assize Court would take place in 2030, before which it may be necessary for the Society to commit some of it's funds to the project.

The Treasurer advised that there was no need to panic as 2021/22 had not been a typical year, unlike 2022/23 where a deficit budget of £100,000 was usual, but with gains on investments and legacies usually offsetting the operating deficit. Cost control and revenue generation were under constant review and in the short term we would need to do as much as we could with what we had, before the move to the Assize Court and longer term financial security could be achieved. A former Treasurer noted that the Society had more investments than in 2016/17, with the receipt or legacies an important aspect of achieving financial security. The strategy of Rathbones was probably right and should be continued.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 are available from the Museum's website or the Museum Office.

iii) Report by the Director

The Director noted that the Society was in a better financial position than many similar organisations as a result of legacies received over the years and budget controls. The previous two years – one good – one bad – were exceptional.

He highlighted the many activities undertaken in the year including school visits and costumes made by the Devizes Fine Arts Society for the use of school groups. Holiday Activities continued to be popular and community activities were expanding; with funding from Wessex Museums it was possible employ staff to develop this aspect of the Museum's work. The Youth Panel continued to be busy and their Halloween event had been attended by 150 people, in just 2 hours. They had also built confidence and technical skills by producing podcasts. The Community Curator had worked with Fairfield College and the Wiltshire Youth Offending Team to work with disadvantaged young people.

Research continued to be important and the Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Magazine (WANHM), continued to be appreciated by members and other county societies. Dr Stuart Brookes, Peter Saunders and Stuart Raymond were all thanked for their continuing involvement in producing the annual volume, which was an important part of what we do. The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group were resuming activities after the Covid-19 pandemic and had been busy over the summer at All Cannings and Seend. Research had been undertaken on the Upton Lovell Shaman burial and an oral history project recorded memories of people who had worked in the Devizes Assize Court. Research findings were shared with a wider audience, through talks, the Wiltshire Archaeology Conference and publications such as WANHM.

Exhibitions were an important part of the Museum's work. Two new display cases in the Library Long Room had been funded by legacies from Dr Pamela Gough and Dr Lorna Haycock. The entries in the Oexmann Art Competition and Exhibition had been as eclectic as ever and the Hardy's Wessex: The landscapes that inspired a writer exhibition, a joint project with our Wessex Museum partners, had showed that we visitors travelled from Dorset to visit it.

Additions had been made to the Collections during the year – again as varied as ever. The Director highlighted a few of them (a full list is recorded in WANHM each year): a model of Stonehenge, the Lacock Irchester Bowl, a Barge-wear teapot recording the marriage of Elizabeth Bennet, an embroidered toy lamb from the County Asylum, a cuttings book reflecting events of the 1986 Stonehenge solstice, photographs recording the death of Queen Elizabeth II and journals and books received in the library.

During 2023/24 work continued as usual, despite the work involved in applying for NLHF funds for the Assizes for Devizes project. There had been a number of well-received exhibitions - Wessex – Landscapes of Association: an exhibition of works by Rob Pountney; A Love Letter to Wiltshire: an Exhibition of Paintings by Joanna May and Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire - A collaborative exhibition between aerial photographer Hedley Thorne and landscape painter Anna Dillon, exploring aerial landscapes – which had all been very popular and provided income in the form of commissions on sales and the sale of shop stock. Trails had been developed for Wiltshire Council's Discover Wiltshire app, including the Battle of Roundway Trail which was now out of print. The Wilcot Hoard of Roman bowls had been conserved thanks to a fundraising appeal and would be going in display in late 2023. A Presentation Volume given to the Rev A C Smith had been rescued from a skip during lockdown and would be conserved once sufficient funds had been raised.

The week before this AGM had been particularly busy, particularly with the issue of a press release about the discovery of the original image of the Wiltshire Thatcher used on the Led Zeppelin IV album in 1973. The photograph was by Ernest Farmer who toured Wiltshire and Dorset and will feature in an exhibition at Wiltshire Museum in 2024.

The Director concluded by thanking colleagues, members, volunteers and Trustees, without whom it would not be possible to do as much as we do.

Proposed by Mr Alfred La Vardera and seconded by Mr Clare Conybeare, the meeting received the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, together with the Auditors Report. The resolution was passed nem con.

06/23 Election of Trustees

There were two nominations for the two vacancies this year. Both candidates had been proposed and seconded by the Board of Trustees and Proposed by Mr Alfred La Vardera and Seconded by Katie Marsden, the meeting duly elected Nicola Harris and Simon Kerry to the Board of Trustees nem con.

07/23 Values of the Society

Ms Ruth Kerr briefed the meeting on how the values came together and that they had been developed with volunteers, staff and trustees, to reflect what we feel and what we do. These values apply to our current location and will change as the Assizes for Devizes Project progresses. The meeting noted the new values:

- We love Wiltshire! Our mission is to inspire people to explore the archaeology, history and natural environment of Wiltshire.
- Inclusive: We welcome everyone, building meaningful connections through a shared passion for our past, present and future.
- Inspiring: We inspire curiosity and creativity through the discovery of our collections and stories.
- Sharing: We are a collaborative space for encouraging well-being, enabling research and sharing knowledge.
- Caring: We will bring joy to future generations by celebrating life in Wiltshire today and by caring for our Nationally important collections.
- Trusted: We act with integrity, and we can be counted on.

08/23 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mr Lachlan Robertson and seconded by Mr Peter Saunders, the meeting re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration. Nem. con.

09/23 Any Other Business

The meeting was opened to members but no items were raised.

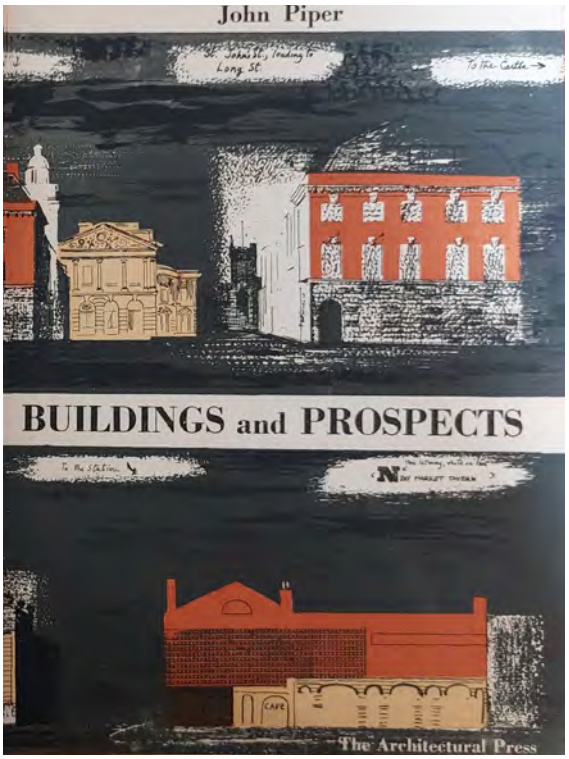
In closing the Chair advised the meeting that this was his last AGM as Chair as he would be standing down in March, as required by our Articles of Association, having served six years in the role. It had been a privilege to Chair such a great organisation. He would continue to tell people about the collections, events and good work carried out by WANHS.

He thanked the Board of Trustees, Director and his staff and members for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4.15 pm.

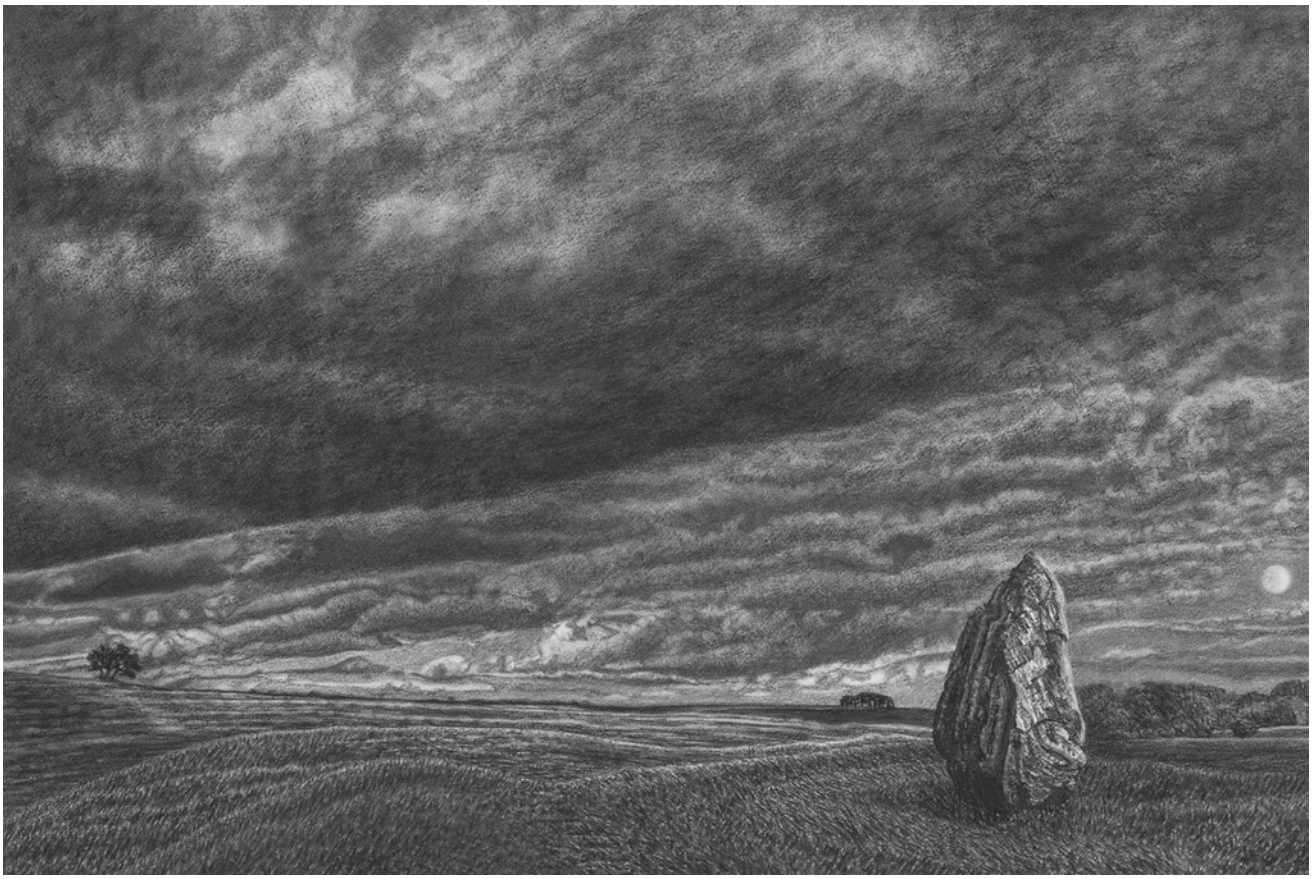
The meeting was followed by an opportunity to visit the two new exhibitions and hear a talk about them by the Director: Lest We Forget: the Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire and Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer living in Wiltshire

Date of next Meeting: November 2024, at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire





Above: Buildings and Prospects by John Piper, includes 'Letter from Devizes' (Book.18866); St John's, Devizes, framed oil on canvas by John Wragg, RA (1937-2020) (2023.1004);
Below: Framed compressed charcoal drawing of one of the Avebury standing stones, set in the landscape of the World Heritage Site, by Rob Pountney. (2023.1007). More details of these acquisitions on page 18.



Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
Tel: 01380 727369
Company No - 3885649
Registered Charity No - 1080096
VAT Registration No - 140 2791 91

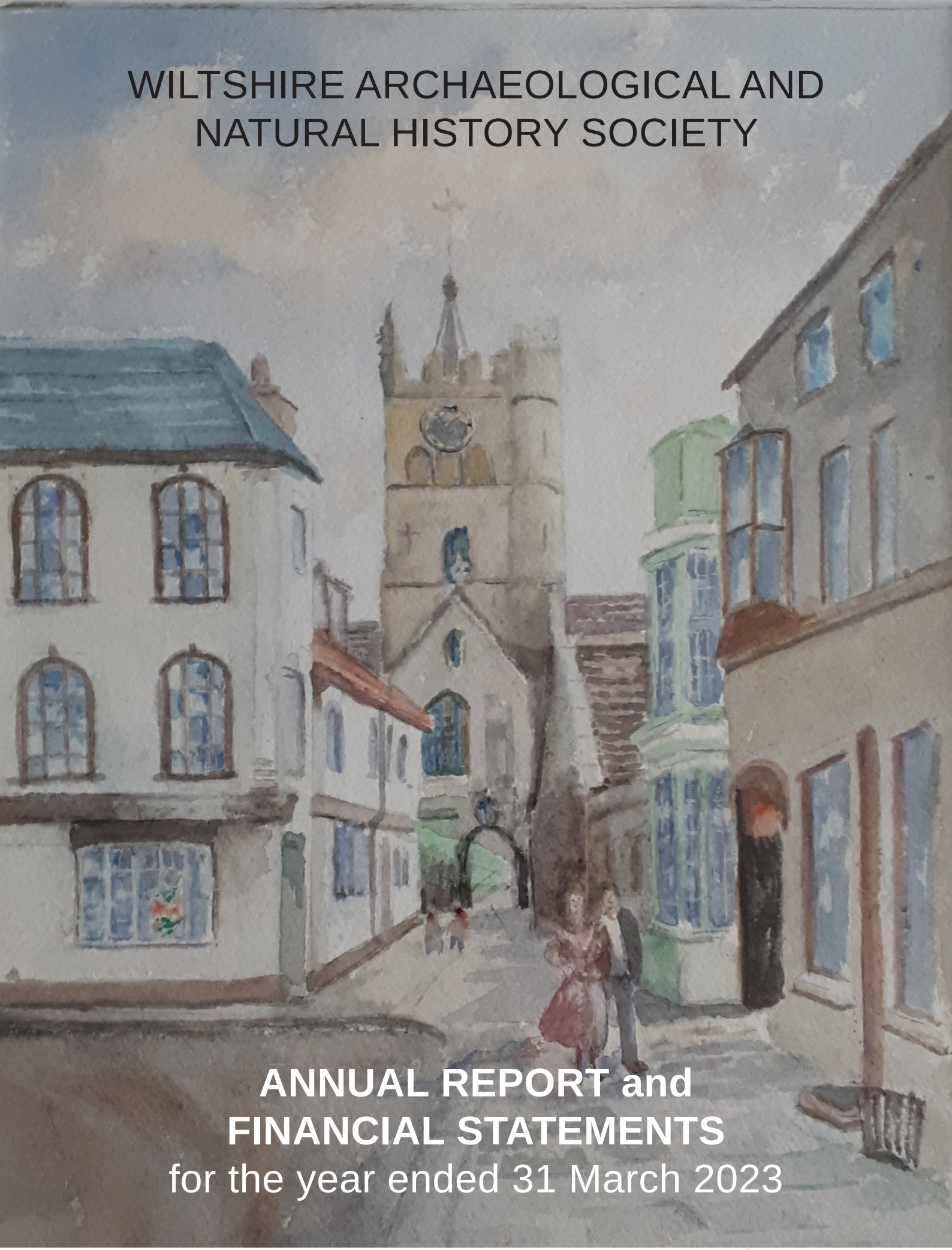
WILTSHIRE MUSEUM DEVIZES

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1080096

Accounts

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
01380 727369
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES

DEVIZES HOME GUARD, 1940s



The Devizes Home Guard were formed on 16 May 1940 and stood down on 3 December 1944 (2022.7011). *See page 20.*

OTC, TIDWORTH, c.1911



Photograph of OTC (Officers' Training Corps) training at Tidworth, circa 1911 (2022.5003). *See page 19.*

Cover: Watercolour drawing of St John's Church, Devizes. Signed by local artist W. R. Newman and dated 1967 and 1968. Donated by Christine Naish, Seend. The paintings belonged to her brother David Woodruff, a Devizes postman for 45 years (2022.1005.2)

WILTSHIRE Archaeological and Natural History Society

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

SUMMARY and OBJECTS

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853 and the Society's first permanent Museum opened in Long Street, Devizes in 1874.

The Society is a registered charity and governed by Articles of Association.

Objects. To educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

Mission Statement. To explore the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire.

Aims. The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum, organises a programme including conferences, lecture and events, learning and outreach for children and schools, provides access to our collections for academic and general researchers, reviews planning consents, supports the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group, promotes Industrial Archaeology and publishes the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (*WANHM*)*. Further details are included in this Annual Report.

The Collections. These have been acquired by the Society for 170 years and their strength lies in the prehistoric material. The Early Bronze Age collection is of exceptional importance because of its size and range, the uniqueness of many of the objects, the fact that it includes many important items, its association with the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge, and its relevance to the history of archaeology. 'Gold from the Time of Stonehenge' is on permanent display.

Researchers. Every year academic researchers carry out important research on the collection. There are over 500,000 items in the collections and details can be found in our online searchable database. The collections are '**Designated**' of national importance and '**Accreditation**' status was first awarded in 2005. Overseen by the Arts Council the Accreditation Scheme *sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance, as well as supporting them to plan and develop their services*.

The **Archive & Library** contains a local studies collection of books, journals, newspapers and other printed items including photographs and maps concerned with Wiltshire, all available to researchers. The archaeology section includes a general collection of archaeology books, the principal archaeology journals, the papers of Wiltshire antiquaries and the written records of more recent excavations in the county. The natural history section similarly includes general natural history books, specialist journals and the papers of early natural historians.

Funding. The Society and Museum are funded by its members, past and present; admission charges, Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council, grants from charitable trusts, fundraising activities and income from investments.

The Society holds an Annual General Meeting each year to which all Society members are invited. At this meeting the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March are presented for approval and Trustees elected.



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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CONTENTS

Summary and Objects	3
Letter from the Chair	7
Board of Trustees' Report	9
Objectives and Activities of the Society	9
Highlights of the Year	10
Finds Liaison Officer	11
Fundraising	12
Exhibitions	13
Collections - Loans	14
- Conservation	15
- Acquisitions of the year	16
- Collections - Archaeology, Art	17
- Collections - Archive and Library	18
- Natural History, Numismatics	20
- Recent History	21
Activities, Events, Lectures and Outings	22
Membership; Publications and Social Media	23
Research	25
Learning, Outreach and Community Engagement	27
Community Curator	28
Volunteers	29
Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group	31
Society Committees and Working Groups	32
Development - Working with Partners and Plans for the Future	33
- Devizes Assize Court; Oral History Project	34
Trustees' Financial Review	35
Structure, Governance and Management	38
Reference and Administrative Information	39
Report of the Auditors	40
Statement of Financial Activities	42
Balance Sheet	43
Statement of Cash flows	44
Notes to the financial statements	45
Collections Trust – Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	54
Collections Trust – Notes to the Financial Statements	55
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2022	56













From the top:

Untitled (2023.1001.9)

Woodman's shop, old road (2023.1001.14)

View at Upper Stanton St Quintin (2023.1001.10)

See page 17.

From the top:

The church at Stanton St Quintin before the alterations in 1851 (1833)

Stanton St Quintin church from the chancel (1833) (2023.1001.2)

Barn given to the Rev Cotes for site of school (1833) (2023.1001.6)

See page 17.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the WANHS Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2023. It has been an exceptionally busy and productive year, with a wide range of activities carried out by your Society in pursuit of our charitable objectives.

We have secured some fascinating new items to add to the 500,000 items in our collection, including the late Roman vessels found at Wilcot. We continue our active programme of conservation, a highlight of which has been the restoration of the stained-glass window created for us by John Piper which after its re-installation looks even more vibrant and stunning than ever. Our Wealth of Knowledge initiative places us at the forefront of museums in the UK in making detailed and up-to-date information about our collections available online. We have worked with researchers to learn more about our objects, using the latest technology to conduct wear and compositional analyses on some of our early Bronze Age gold artefacts, giving new insights into their origin and usage. We continue to lend some of our collection to other museums and touring exhibitions, further widening our audiences, raising our profile and generating income.

In conjunction with the other three members of the Wessex Museums Partnership, we hosted one of the four *Hardy's Wessex: Landscapes that Inspired a Writer* exhibitions, attracting visitors from across the South-West and beyond. This partnership has been further strengthened by welcoming the three Swindon museums into the group.

We reached even wider audiences with a full series of talks – both in person and online - and by organising a number of walks and activities in the Wiltshire landscape. The Archaeology Field Group have returned to a full programme of activities post-pandemic. There has been a packed series of activities for children and schools, with more engagement and interaction encouraged by innovations, such as the Iron Age costumes made for us by the Devizes Fine Arts Society. The Street Art project, working in conjunction with the Youth Justice Service and a group of young offenders (or those at risk of offending), produced some attractive public art. The Voices from the Assize Court Project created an oral history archive and a fascinating publication which has sold well.

A major focus has been working closely with the Devizes Assize Court Trust on our joint project. In February 2023 we submitted our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Development Stage of the project. This was an extensive programme of work, led by Nicola Trowell and the Director, with input from many members of staff, volunteers, members, trustees and other people from a wide range of community organisations. The Application included 26 different supporting documents, with over 500 pages of documentation.

We were delighted to hear in June 2023 that the application was successful in getting Development Stage Funding for just over £300,000, a crucial step in getting the full £5 million from the NLHF for which we have applied. Work will be starting shortly on this next stage.

Last year, due to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition and some very generous bequests, the Society generated an unprecedented £795,000 in revenue. Not unsurprisingly this could not be repeated this year with revenue falling to £361,000. Whilst expenditure remained tightly controlled, only increasing by £9,000 to £516,000, the turbulence in the financial markets resulted in losses on investments of £115,000. The net effect of these factors is that the Society recorded a loss of £269,000. The Trustees and management recognise the importance of maximising new and existing income sources to ensure that the gap between costs and revenue is narrowed. We will keep you updated on progress.

My thanks as always to our hard working staff – and also to our dedicated volunteers who provided over 3,000 hours of volunteer time in the year. Trustees are also volunteers of course, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their extensive and significant contributions.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all our members for the vital ongoing support, generous gifts and legacies, and enthusiastic participation in the Society's activities. We simply could not do what we do without you.

Martin Nye

19th CENTURY CIDER MUG



Early 19th Century two-handled cider mug from Roundway Hill Farm, near Devizes.
(2002.168 - see page 21 for details)

BARGE WARE TEAPOT, 1890s



19th Century Barge Ware teapot. WILLIAM & ELIZ BENNETT / CHRISTMAS 1893.
(2022.13.2 - see page 21 for details)

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

This Annual Report includes the reports and financial statements set out on pages 10 to 55. The Report of the Board of Trustees should be deemed to be the directors' report for the purposes of Company Law.

The reports on the following pages show how the Objects of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society ('the Society') - see below - are achieved to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Director is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chair and his report, and those of the staff, follow, on pages 10 to 34. The Society's committees and working groups provide a number of services to members and the wider public. They cover a wide range of activities from fundraising, industrial archaeology through to expert advice on planning matters. Their work helps promote the Society and its Museum and Archive and Library to a wide audience and reports are included in this report. The Society could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours provided and also the invaluable funding and support of our membership. .

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are *to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit*. To achieve this the Society:

- Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.
- Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire
- Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.
- Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
- Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.
- Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.
- Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in archaeology in the county.
- Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.



Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire. Loans objects to other organisations.

MISSION STATEMENT
Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

Highlights of the Year

The highlight of the year was the *Hardy's Wessex: Landscapes that Inspired a Writer* exhibition. The exhibition was developed with our Wessex Museums partners – Salisbury, Poole and Dorset Museums. Planned as a single exhibition, spread across four venues, we focussed upon the ways in which Rural Life featured in his work, including our loan from the British Library of the original manuscript of *Tess of the d'Urbevilles*.

Alongside the exhibition we ran a busy programmes of events – talks, tours and workshops. A special feature was the filming of the 1967 version of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, which starred Alan Bates, Julie Christie and Terence Stamp. The exhibition featured the uniform worn by Sergeant Troy, we hosted walks exploring the locations filmed in Devizes and hosted a special screening of the film on the 55th anniversary of its première in London. The exhibition was successful in bringing visitors to Devizes, and to the Museum, with a particularly noticeable increase in people coming from Dorset, many completing their tour of the four exhibitions.

We were able to benefit from the lessons of our hugely successful *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, as every member of staff contributed to the success, led by Heather Ault, our Exhibitions Officer. We are also grateful to our fantastic team of volunteer stewards.

This achievement by our Wessex Museums Partnership was crowned by news in November 2022 that we were successful in being awarded National Portfolio Organisation status by Arts Council England. Our partnership has been further strengthened by welcoming Swindon Museums (including Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, STEAM and Lydiard House Museum).

The year also saw the completion of our Wealth of Knowledge project, which has embedded the results of 10 years of active post-graduate research back into our collections management system, ready for showcasing in a new search portal on our website. A new mechanism was created to make it simple for researchers and archaeological contractors to use an Excel spreadsheet to prepare data for our systems.

During the year we opened our new Archaeology Store for the deposition of archives from archaeological excavations after being closed due to lack of storage space. The income generated from the depositions funds the running costs of the store and will contribute towards the costs of future storage, beyond the expected 25-year capacity of our new store.

The Archaeology Field Group have rebounded after the pandemic, undertaking new projects with enthusiasm, particularly in undertaking post-excavation work to tie up the loose ends of excavations undertaken in previous years.

We have continued to actively develop our collections – of particular interest is a hoard of late Roman Bronze vessels from Wilcot *(see page 15)*. We are very grateful to those who contributed to an appeal to enable them to be conserved, and we hope to put them on display in late 2023. We are also grateful for the sponsorship of a painting of a well-house at Stonehenge in memory of Andy Knight *(see page 15)*. We are grateful also to Dr Pamela Gough and Dr Lorna Haycock, whose legacies allowed us to purchase new display cases for the Library and Archive *(see page 14)*, displaying some of the wealth of material in that collection.

From the left: Oexmann Gallery during the Hardy's Wessex exhibition; promotional postcard for the Hardy's Wessex exhibition; promotional website banner for the Oexmann Art Exhibition.







The Assize Court has continued to be an important element of our work. The *Voices from the Assize Court* Project has created an oral history archive and fantastic publication, and in February 2023 we submitted our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Development Stage of the project. We were delighted to hear in June 2023 that the application was successful *(see page 34).*

We have been working towards new exciting exhibitions, including *Lest We Forget* – commemorating the involvement of Black People to the World Wars in Wiltshire and *Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer living in Wiltshire*. Our team have achieved fund-raising success as well as developing the exhibition ideas and community activities *(see pages 12 and 28)*.

There is so much more to celebrate, made possible by the hard work of my colleagues. Much of what they do is unseen, by making sure that we are ready to welcome visitors each day making sure that everything behind the scenes functions smoothly and effectively. We are grateful to our supporters, volunteers and Members, who make the organisation such a success.

David Dawson

TRAINING

The Collections Officer: Archive and Library attended an online session during November about caring for Mixed Collections: Museums and Archive delivered by the South West Museum Skills programme. She also attended an online session during January about how to look after collections during the Winter and how to save money delivered by The Museum of London Collection care team.

The Research Libraries UK have been running a series of online lectures entitled Inclusive Collections: Inclusive Libraries and she has attended most lectures. The lectures are providing background knowledge and will assist her with the Decolonisation work being undertaken for the WMP NPO.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO), volunteers and self-recorders recorded 1,596 objects in 1,468 records from April 2022 to March 2023. The majority of these finds were made by metal detectorists who reported them to Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).

Following a successful application, funding was made available via the British Museum/PAS to finance a full time Finds Liaison Assistant (FLA) to support the FLO from October 2022 to March 2023. The FLA role was split as a job share between Alix Smith and Alyson Tanner, who have worked hard to return many recorded but unclaimed finds, which were taking up valuable office space, to their owners. As a result several of the finds were subsequently donated, including the Wilcot Hoard: Record ID: WILT-047110 - ROMAN hoard (*finds.org.uk*). The FLAs have also been assisting with Treasure work. Their funding continues from April 2023 on a part time basis and both FLAs have had their contracts extended.

Work in areas where finds have been reported to PAS has included geophysical survey by Mike McQueen at a Bronze Age gold hoard site in North Wiltshire, as well as excavation at a Roman copper alloy vessel hoard site south of Salisbury and at a Late Iron Age/Early Roman copper alloy hoard site in the Deverill Valley, both of which were undertaken by Dr David Roberts, University of Cardiff.

A reform to the Treasure Act 1996 will come into force later in 2023 as the Government changes the legal definition of Treasure to include the most exceptional finds of over 200 years old, and regardless of the type of metal from which they are made. This new definition will make it easier for museums to acquire more finds of archaeological significance for the benefit of the nation, which are currently not classed as Treasure. The reform of the Act will also update its Code of Practice to acknowledge the fundamental role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in ensuring the successful operation of the Act.

Sophie Hawke
Finds Liaison Officer for Wiltshire
Portable Antiquities Scheme

Banner for two exhibitions held in 2023, displayed on the railings outside the Devizes Assize Court building; the Piper Gallery during the 'Love letter to Wiltshire' exhibition.





Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to ensure the Society can continue to achieve its aims and ambitions and to work with the local community. The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community through subscriptions, donations and being advocates of our work. Corporate Members include Wansbroughs Solicitors, Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology.

This report highlights some of the work undertaken to fund new interactives, conserve the collection and hold high profile exhibitions. There is more detail elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Development Report

The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community.

Members help fund our valuable work via subscriptions, donations, engaging with the Museum and advocating our work.

Corporate Members and Sponsors during 2021-22 were Wansbroughs Solicitors; Venture Chartered Accountants; AC Archaeology and Gaiger Bros.

Jadeite Members

Our patron level members enjoyed a tour of *The world of Stonehenge* exhibition at the British Museum in Summer 2022. This acclaimed exhibition showcased some of our 'Bush Barrow' artefacts. We are grateful to Jadeite members for their support.

Collections Care

Our 'sponsor an object' web page seeks private donations for artefacts in need of conservation. In 2022 an oil painting - *Shepherds' hut with Stonehenge on the horizon* - by an unknown artist, was sponsored by a group of friends in memory of Andy Knight, 1961-2022, (DZSWS:2015.1004).

In 2023, an appeal to WANHS members successfully raised £1,500 to conserve 'The Wilcot Hoard', a rare find of four late-Roman vessels found nestled within each other. The vessels urgently require cleaning and stabilisation before being displayed in the Museum later in 2023 (DZSWS:2023.2). *More about both items on page 15.*

Legacies

We are very grateful to donors of this years legacies. This year new display cases were installed in the Long Room thanks to a legacies from former Sandell Archivist & Librarian Dr Lorna Haycock and member Dr Pamela Gough.
More information on page 14.

'Graffiti': a partnership with the Devizes Youth Offending Team

Wiltshire Community Foundation awarded £1,700 for a creative project working with young people who are at risk of offending.

Community Curator Amy Hammett worked with artist Nick Halahan from 'OlasArt' to devise six creative workshops exploring the history of graffiti, decorating vinyl records and creating banners to hang from the Assize Court railings. *See page 28.*

Lest We Forget: Black People's Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire

The Association of Independent Museum (AIM), with Heritage Fund, awarded £14,475 to fund an exhibition in 2023, plus educational and community activities, commemorating the experience of black military soldiers and civilians during the World Wars and post-war period.
See page 28.

Eric Walrond: a Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire

The National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded £8,515 for an exciting project about Eric Walrond, a pioneering, award-winning, black writer who lived in Bradford on Avon and Devizes.
See page 28.

Rachael Holtom





Above left: Wilcot Hoard (DZSWS:2023.2).
Above right: Shepherd;'s Hut (DZSWS:2015.1004.

Exhibitions

Our two special exhibition galleries - the Oexmann Gallery and the Piper Gallery - enables us to offer either two small exhibitions or one large exhibition. The Exhibitions Officer post is funded by the Arts Council and Wessex Museums Project.

2022/23 continued to be a busy year for the Exhibitions Programme, with April 2022 welcoming *This and That: A Display of recent Acquisitions, Loans and community photographs* collected by the Museum during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This was a small show occupying the Oexmann gallery whilst the Piper gallery was closed pending the removal, conservation and refit of the stained-glass window by John Piper (see 2021/22 Annual Report). The exhibition highlighted both community engagement with a display of photographs by students from Wellington Academy, Ludgershall - a project which took place just as the pandemic hit - as well as an array of archaeological and recent history objects and artworks which were collected and/or loaned to the Museum during that time.

Afterwards came *Hardy's Wessex – the Landscape that inspired a Writer,* running from 28 May to 30 October 2022 and guest curated by Harriet Still. This exhibition looked at the life and literature of Thomas Hardy and the beautiful Wessex landscapes that shaped his view of the world. Using the collections of our Wessex Museums partners, and featuring period costume, personal letters, art and archaeology, the show welcomed a broad audience. Of particular note in the exhibition were the loans of the Sergeant Troy costume worn by Terence Stamp in the film of *Far From the Madding Crowd*, filmed in Devizes and released in 1967; a wax poppet figurine from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic at Boscastle and also the outstanding loan of the original handwritten manuscript of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* from the British Library.

Following on from *Hardy's Wessex* we held the 17th biennial *Oexmann Art Award Competition and Exhibition* (previously postponed due to the pandemic), which ran from 17 December 2022 to 18 February 2023. This is an Award in memory of Theophila Joan Oexmann (nee Copland-Griffiths) endowed by her husband Richard Oexmann in recognition of her love of the county's artistic heritage. The winning and selected entries were chosen from a total of 306 adult and 89 artworks submitted in the young person's categories, by our judges Mitch Griffiths and Joanna May.

Between 18 March and 11 June 2023 two exhibitions were held simultaneously: '*Wessex - Landscapes of Association*' by Rob Pountney in the Oexmann Gallery, and *A Love letter to Wiltshire* by Joanna May in the Piper Gallery.

Rob Pountney has exhibited at the Museum before and his work is heavily influenced by the novels and poems of Thomas Hardy. In this, his latest exhibition, Rob's drawings of compressed charcoal highlighted the rich diversity of the ancient geological and archaeological features of the Wessex landscape through a dramatic contrast of light and shade.

Joanna's exhibition was a celebration of 20 years of her career as a wildlife artist and recognised her commitment to the region's environment. For this show, as well as work from throughout her career, Joanna also produced an entirely new and successful series of paintings focusing on crop circles and wildlife.

The 2023/2024 programme will include *Wessex Airscapes: Elevating Wiltshire* – a collaborative exhibition featuring the artwork of artist Anna Dillon and aerial photographer Hedley Thorne (8 July to 15 October 2023) which will be followed by *Lest We Forget: the Black Contribution to Wiltshire during the World Wars* curated by Community Engagement Officer Amy Hammett and also an exhibition featuring the life and writings of Harlem Renaissance author Eric Walrond who lived and worked in Wiltshire from 1938 until 1957 (12 November 2023 to 17 February 2024).

Heather Ault



The 'Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired a writer', exhibition, featured the Sgt Troy costume from the 1966 film of 'Far From the Madding Crowd'

Exhibitions - Library Long Room

A number of small displays featured in the Long Room during the year. They aim to highlight unknown items within the collections, or to compliment the main temporary exhibition.

- Display of a creative piece designed by Devizes 4th Guides and Rangers Group in response to climate change (installed October 2021) displayed alongside photos of Drews Pond. Part of the Wessex Museums Partnership Object on Tour online exhibition, *My World, My Future,* which launched in April 2022 (15 October 2021 to 13 December 2022).
- Display to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II (19 May to June 2022).
- Display of newspaper cuttings relating to the filming of *Far from the Madding Crowd* in Devizes, 1966/7. Initially on loan to the Museum and display during the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired a writer* exhibition, but later donated to the collection, (4 August to 13 December 2022).

New Display Cases for the Long Room

Two new high-security display cases were delivered in December 2022 for the Long Room. Larger than the old wooden cases they will enable us to display more items from the Archive and Library collection. The wooden cases were donated to the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum, Calne.

The display cases were part-funded by legacies from Dr Lorna Haycock and Dr Pamela Gough. Appropriately the first displays in the cases marked their respective contributions to the archive (February to July 2023) *(pictured right)*.

To complement the new cases the Long Room lighting was updated in September 2022. The lights are low energy and will enable us to spotlight display items if required.



Jane Schön

Loans

Loans to and from the Museum remain important in making the collections accessible to as many people as possible. The Museum lends items from its collections for display and research, subject to the proper security and environmental conditions being met. We are particularly pleased to lend objects for special exhibitions at other museums across Wiltshire.

The loan agreement with English Heritage, for objects on display at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, was extended until Autumn 2025 (three years), in September 2022 (original loan document dated 2012). Objects loaned include early Bronze Age burials Wilsford G54 and G60, as well as material from Woodhenge.

The ongoing touring exhibition, coordinated by Museums Partner and curated by Mike Parker Pearson, University College London, *Stonehenge – Ancient Mysteries and Modern Discoveries*, opened at Auckland War Memorial Museum in December 2022. The objects featured are from the early Bronze Age burials: Amesbury G54 (Stonehenge flint dagger); Roundway G8 (Archer Beaker burial); Wilsford G8 (high status female burial with gold and amber).

After Auckland, there is interest from museums in China (depending on Covid restrictions), Australia, and again, the USA. The export licence has been extended for another three years (2026), to accommodate the extended tour.

In November 2022, The Salisbury Museum borrowed an early 19th century sketchbook of pen and ink drawings, made by local artist Elizabeth Wickens, *Some Houses in Salisbury Close: 1799-1832*, for the exhibition, *Her Salisbury*, focussing on women from Salisbury who made their mark on history (*1995.1114-1124*).

TO THE MUSEUM

None to report this year.

ARCHIVE & LIBRARY

None to report this year.

Lisa Brown and Jane Schön

CONSERVATION

Our collections require constant monitoring to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Curatorial staff undertake routine preventative conservation to ensure that objects and archives are displayed and stored in the best conditions that we can achieve, and we have been able to improve the storage of several collections over the last few years.

All remedial conservation is carried out by qualified conservators on the ICON Conservation Register.

An Iron Age pottery vessel from excavations by Maud Cunnington at All Cannings Cross was conserved by Wiltshire Council Museums Service in June 2022. The project was undertaken by student Sejal Goel, and the only cost was for materials. The vessel had been reconstructed using cement by Maud Cunnington in the 1920s. The vessel was taken apart, cleaned, filled, and reconstructed for display (*2006.1.126*).

A19th century oil painting of the Salisbury Plain landscape, with Stonehenge on the horizon (*pictured page 12*), was conserved in late 2022 by the International Fine Art Conservation Studio, Bristol. They cleaned the surface and treated it for paint loss and flaking. During this process they discovered that the image of Stonehenge was a later addition - the conservator cleaning around it to ensure it didn't disappear! A thatched building in the foreground, originally described as a shepherd's hut, is in fact a well house. Trustee, Tim Daw discovered the gruesome story of a body being found, possibly in this well-house, during World War I. Funded by a donation in memory of Andy Knight (1961-2022), via our 'Sponsor an Object' initiative. (*2015.1004*).

Conservation cleaning and minor repairs were undertaken on the Britton 'Celtic' Cabinet, displayed in the Story of Devizes Gallery, in late March 2023. The work was undertaken by Pieta Greaves of Drakon Conservation & Heritage and funded by Wessex Museum's NPO1 (Arts Council), as part of a Decolonising Collections project (*DZSWS:2004.297.1*).

The mahogany and pine cabinet was made for George Watson-Taylor, of the Erlestoke Estate, MP for Devizes (1826-32), under the direction of, or at the suggestion of, John Britton. When the Watson-Taylor's finances weakened Britton purchased the cabinet from him for 100 guineas. It was subsequently acquired from John Britton as part of the Society's founding collection in 1853. George Watson-Taylor was an extremely wealthy Jamaican sugar plantation owner, owning some 2,000 to 3,000 slaves. His fortune, largely derived from sugar dependent on slave labour, enabled him to throw extravagant parties for close friends, including King William IV. This information (and more) will form part of new interpretation for the cabinet in 2023-4, Wessex Museums NPO2 (*2004.297*).

Remains of a late Roman Irchester bowl, found in Lacock, in 2017, was conserved by Pieta Greaves. (*2018.6*).



Following the conservation of the second Cunnington Letter Book (Dec 2021 - March 2022) a report was written and submitted to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust to claim the remaining 50% of the grant.

A postgraduate student placement from Bath Spa University undertook a three-month placement (June - August) and was trained in how to read 18th and 19th century script. She transcribed some of the letters, recorded onto Modes all 277 letters and attached the digital letter scans. She also researched a couple of the correspondents and drafted an exhibition plan. In the future this will be used to create displays in the new Long Room display cases.

The same student, after finishing her MA, continued to volunteer remotely and entered onto Modes all 246 letters from the first Cunnington letter book, conserved in 2020. She is continuing to research the correspondents in her spare time as she starts her archive career in Court Administration.





top right: one of the Cunnington letter books;
bottom right - remains of a late Roman Irchester bowl, before and after conservation (2018.6)

Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire

Collections

We continue to actively collect objects that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections.

The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic was still evident in 2022/23, and consequently the acquisition of new objects for the collections has been lower than usual, but better than the two previous years. We were able to acquire a number of interesting objects that enable us to continue to tell the story of Wiltshire, both enhancing our displays and strengthening our research collections.

A complete list of acquisitions for the year can be found in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (volume 116, 2023). Below are some of the highlights.

All Collections are available to search online *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/collections*, making them accessible in the widest possible terms. To date there are 126,000 records of catalogued items to search on the database across all collections, along with 23,000 digital images.

Below are some of the highlights.

ARCHAEOLOGY ARCHIVES & OFF-SITE STORE

After nine years of closure to the deposition of archaeological material from commercial fieldwork, the off-site store opened in October 2022 for the deposition of archaeological archives. At the end of March 2023 five separate contractors had delivered archives to the store - Wessex Archaeology; Cotswold Archaeology; Foundations Archaeology; AC Archaeology and MOLA (Northampton). Approximately 400 boxes of archives have now been shelved and recorded on MODES.

There is a phased backlog delivery programme extending into 2023-6. As part of the Wealth of Knowledge Project, a new system was developed that allows the importing of collections data provided by archaeological contractors directly into the MODES database, using a specially designed set of Excel spreadsheets, eradicating the need to create new accession records from scratch. This will save days of curatorial time.

www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/archaeological-archives/

Acquisitions of the Year

Post-Medieval silver gilt jewellery fitting or devotional object, comprising two gilded and modified half-groats of Henry VIII. The edges of the two coins are folded together to create a hollow lozengiform bead, with the angles of the fold creating a longitudinal perforation through the bead. In both cases, the reverse of the coin faces outward.

The coins are (i) half-groat of Henry VIII, dating to 1509-1533. Episcopal issue of Archbishop William Warham, minted in Canterbury (ii) half-groat of Henry VIII, dating to 1533-1544. Episcopal issue of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, minted in Canterbury.

That the initials of both Archbishops are visible on the reverses of the coins, and that they appear to have been folded to respect these, suggests that the selection of these episcopal issues was a deliberate act, and that the artefact may have had a devotional purpose. Given that the object dates to precisely the time at which the English Church was made subservient to the Crown, and the process of breaking away from Rome had started, it is of considerable interest.

Found in Wingfield, 2020. PAS Treasure Find. Purchased (*2022.4*).



From the left: Silver gilt jewellery fitting or devotional object (2022.4); Roman sheet ornament (2022.10); Wilts County Asylum whistle (2022.5.1). Not to scale

Fragment of a Roman sheet gold leaf ornament, dating to AD 300 - 400, made from a single sheet of gold cut into a leaf shape, with six pairs of radiating veins incised into the metalwork. Similar examples, made in copper-alloy, silver and gold, have been found on votive sites (temples and shrines) in Gloucestershire, Surrey, Suffolk and Norfolk *(2022.4)*.

This ornament may have functioned as one of a series of mounts for a ritual headdress. Found in Ogbourne St Andrew, 2021. PAS Treasure Find (reward waived). Donated by the finder Robert Middleton, and the landowner, Temple Estates, Ogbourne St Andrew (*2022.10*).

WILTS COUNTY ASYLUM whistle, made from brass, with a chain and hook. THE METROPOLITAN PATENT. J. HUDSON & CO. 131 BARR ST. BIRMINGHAM. Once belonged to a Mr Archard, Devizes County Asylum Attendant, Roundway. Donated by John Underwood, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. (*2022.5.1*)

Hoard of four Roman copper-alloy vessels consisting of a bowl strainer; Bassin Uni (type of basin); carinated basin; and an Irchester bowl. Together they form a structured deposit, with each vessel nestled inside the other, and all contained within the Irchester bowl.

This is the second structured deposit found in Pewsey (the other one in 2013), providing further evidence for instability in the last years of Roman Britain, and part of a wider pattern of hoarding in troubled times.

The vessels are fragmentary and fragile and funds have been raised (*see page 12*) to conserve them prior to display in the Roman Gallery. Found in Wilcot, 2017 and donated by the finder, Paul Hart, and the landowner, The Hon. Nat Rothschild (*2023.2*).

Victorian scale model of Stonehenge, made from 125 oak and mahogany bricks of differing sizes, made c.1901. A handwritten instruction or note is glued to the underside of the lid of the wooden storage container. Donated to the Museum by Tim Daw, in memory of Neil Wiseman, an American Stonehenge enthusiast (*2022.49*).

Fourteen unframed watercolour drawings of various scenes in Stanton St Quintin, c.1830. Most are signed by the artist, G F Cotes. Donated by Joseph Valy, France (*2023.1001*). *[See page 6]*

Archaeology

Complete cast copper-alloy early medieval strap-end with silver rivets, dating to the 9th or 10th centuries AD. The strap-end is tongue-shaped with a stylised acanthus plant in relief below the silver rivets. Found near Marlborough, 2021. PAS Treasure Find. Purchased (*2022.9*)

Later Bronze Age penannular ring, consisting of a gold sheet wrapped around a copper-alloy core. Sometimes referred to as 'hair rings' or 'ring money' their exact function remains unknown. Found in Ogbourne St Andrew, 2020. PAS Treasure Find (reward waived). Donated by the finder Allen Ody and the landowner, Temple Estates, Ogbourne St Andrew (*2022.12*).

Early Medieval copper-alloy and garnet sword pyramid mount. AD 575 - 700. Their function is uncertain, but it seems likely they were used to help secure the sword in the scabbard, by means of a strap running through the transverse bar (missing on this example) on the base of the mount. Found in Bulkington, 2020. PAS Treasure Find (reward waived) by finder, Valentinas Rudejeusas (*2022.15*).

Archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by Wessex Archaeology, October 2022 (*2022.16 – 46*).

Archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by Cotswold Archaeology, October 2022 (*2022.51 – 123*).

Archaeological archive from Bradford-on-Avon Roman villa, excavated in 1976 and 2002. Transferred from the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, December 2022 (*2022.124*).

Archaeological archives (finds and paper) from developer funded projects, deposited by Foundations Archaeology, November 2022 (*2022.125 – 167*).

Archaeological archive for a sports hub built at Royal Wootton Bassett, AC Archaeology. The finds archive is mostly Romano-British, with a small amount of Prehistoric and Medieval pottery (*2023.1*).



From the left: Roman copper-alloy bowl strainer (2023.2); Victorian scale model of Stonehenge (2022.49); copper-alloy strap-end (2022.9); Bronze Age penannular ring(2022/12); Medieval sword pyramid mount (2022.15). Not to scale.

Archaeological archives from Malmesbury, Avon Mills, deposited by Northamptonshire Archaeology (MOLA Northampton) (*2023.4 & 5*).

The Museum closed to the deposition of archaeological archives in January 2013 as the stores were full. In December 2019 an off-site store was purchased and in October 2022 the Museum started to accept the backlog of material, which was being held by various archaeological units who undertake work in our collecting area. By the end of March 2023, roughly 400 boxes had been deposited at the new store (see also page 33):

Small collection of quern stones:

1. Fragment (about one half) of the upper half of a Roman stone rotary hand mill or quern. Dating to c. 43 - 410 AD. Made from a local old red sandstone.
2. Incomplete Iron Age or Roman sarsen saddle quern of grinding stone, later reused as a polishing stone or whetstone (with visible groove). Dating to 800 BC - 410 AD.
3. Fragment (about one quarter) of the upper part of a Roman stone rotary hand mill or quern. Made from the local green sandstone. Dating to 43 - 410 AD.
4. Fragment (about one half) of a Roman semi-ovoid shaped saddle or grinding quern stone. Made from sarsen. Iron staining suggests it has been used for iron working, and slag deposits from smelting have also been found in the area.

All found in Bromham, 2018. Donated by Patsy King, wife of the late finder (*2023.3.1-4*.).

Art

Framed pen, ink, and watercolour drawing of the gardens at Stourhead House. Illustrated in three sections including the Temple of Apollo; side elevation of the Pantheon; bridge over the lake. Signed by 'John Piper', but unverified and undated *(pictured back cover)*. Purchased at auction. (*2022.1002*)

Framed lino print *The Demise of Sheep Street, by* Karen Attfield, Melksham. 2022 Oexmann Art Competition Purchase Prize(*2023.1003*) (*pictured page 59*).

Two bronze cast statues by Peter Hicks, Seend. *Man on a Sandy Hill* specially created to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (1977). Signed and numbered (limited edition 150/250. *WWII RAF Pilot Scanning the Sky.* Purchased at auction (*2022.1003.1-2*).

19th century pen and ink drawing of Porch House, Potterne. Signed by the artist R H Smallridge. Donated by Amanda Housby of Poulshot - the drawing once belonged to her grandmother. The donor's grandfather was from the Johnson family and lived above the 'Johnson' shop in Devizes. He was also a Lodge Master for the town (*2022.1004*) *(pictured page 59).*

Two framed watercolour drawings of St. John's Alley and St John's Church, Devizes. Signed by local artist W. R. Newman and dated 1967 and 1968. Donated by Christine Naish, Seend. The paintings belonged to her brother David Woodruff, a Devizes postman for 45 years (*2022.1005*) *(St Johns Church pictured front cover)*.

Framed pencil and pastel drawing of St Anne's Gate, Salisbury, with a human figure standing in the archway. Signed by the artist, Christopher Hughes and dated 1913. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (*2023.1002*).

Archive and Library *(21/22 figures in brackets)*

The Archive and Library collection continues to grow, despite the Coronavirus pandemic. During the last year 13 (46) books were purchased and 107 (87) were donated, of which 29 were donated by the authors themselves, contributing to the 120 (137) new acquisitions to the library. Seven of the books purchased were included in a large social history lot bought at auction. Book purchases are still low due to financial constraints imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

There were 132 (73) new additions to the Archive collection including 17 accessions related to the Covid Pandemic, all of which were donations. This is almost double the number of new additions compared to last year which was just 73. There were over 400 new acquisitions to the photographic collection (all but 21 photographs were donations), including two photo albums compiled in the 1920s of Wiltshire Scenes including Stonehenge and 24 postcards.



From the left: finds from Bromham (2023.3.3 and 4; early Medieval penny (2022.14); bronze cast statues by Peter Hicks (2022.1003.1-2)

Highlights include:

AUBREY BURL ARCHIVE

In May 2022 we accepted the archive belonging to archaeologist, author and lecturer Aubrey Burl, who passed away in April 2020 aged 93. The archive consists of field notes, maps, reports, offprints, publisher correspondence, slides, photographs, his published books and framed prints mainly in connection with his Stone Circle research. There are also some unprovenanced non-Wiltshire objects (potentially for handling). Detailed accessioning of the collection will take place during 2023-24. Donated by Judith Burl, wife of Aubrey Burl (*MSS.4615*)

BOOKS

Ancestors: The Prehistory of Britain in Seven Burials by Alice Roberts. Highlights seven burials chosen to tell the story of British Prehistory from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age, including the Amesbury Archer, the Archer's Companion, the Boscombe Bowmen and the work of General Pitt-Rivers. Donated by a museum volunteer because it mentions Jane Schön, Collections Officer: Archive and Library *(Book.18543)*

Mary and Kate Hardy: Salisbury, Wessex and Beyond by Anne Johns and Jenny Head. Published to coincide with the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired a writer* exhibition. It traces the stories of Thomas Hardy's sisters who lived in the shadow of their famous brother, but whose experiences influenced his writing. Purchased *(Book.18546)*

Gift of approximately 500 archaeological books, some signed by the author or previous owner (arrived between lockdowns in December 2021). 32 books have been accessioned, with approximately 100 more to check through. Books not accessioned are sold to raise funds. Donated by John S S Stewart[†] *(Book.18568-18571; 18618-18621; 18628; 18631; 18646-18670).*

JOURNALS

Each year the Archive and Library receive a large number of journals and newsletters via subscriptions, journal exchanges or gifts. These include titles such as *British Archaeology* and *Current Archaeology* magazines, the *Bromham Hoot* magazine, the *Richard Jefferies Society Journal, Wiltshire Life, The Antiquaries Journal* and *Medieval Archaeology Society Journal*. This year the number of journals acquired decreased from 181 to 170. This is remains higher than normal as some societies are still catching with their publishing post Covid-19 pandemic.

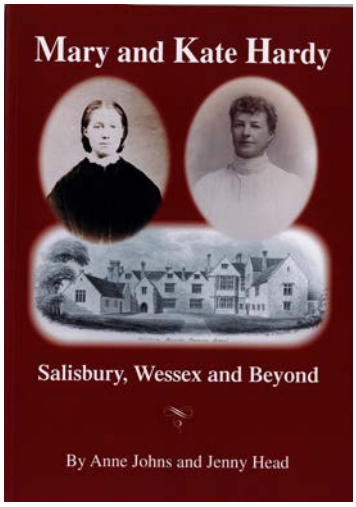
DOCUMENTS

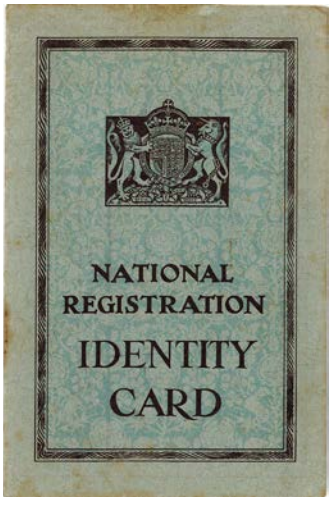
Identity card (dated 1943), passport and smallpox vaccination certificate issued to Mrs Dorothy Willis (nee Avery) of Hawkeridge Farm, Westbury, to travel to France in 1966. These documents accompany Mrs Dorothy Willis' driving licenses donated in 2021 (*MSS.4496*). Donated by Norman Willis, son of Mrs Willis (MSS.4555).

Collection of 46 completed postcards from the Crammer Postcode Petition. The postcards featured a watercolour design on the front by the donor and were left in shops in Devizes for people to sign the petition. This is possibly the first petition of its kind, which aimed to raise awareness of the Crammer to make it a haven for wildlife. Donated to the Museum by Brian Edwards (*MSS.4601*).

Wiltshire Archaeological Society Committee Meeting agenda dated 10 October 1911. On one side it is annotated with notes and train times. The postcard is addressed to the Rev. W. Symonds. Donated to the Museum by Mrs Anne Poulter, West Sussex (*MSS.4608*).

Collection of ephemera relating to OTC training at Tidworth, circa 1911. Includes operation orders, correspondence between Gregory family, camp instructions and some postcards. Purchased at auction (*MSS.4609 and 2022.5003*) (*Pictured inside front cover).*







From the left: Mary and Kate Hardy: Salisbury, Wessex and Beyond by Anne Johns and Jenny Head*(Book.18546);* Identity card (dated 1943) issued to Mrs Dorothy Willis (MSS.4555); Crammer Postcode Petition (MSS.46010) .

Family history documents relating to the Beake and Maslen families of All Cannings and Devizes. Includes family tree, newspaper cuttings reporting births and deaths of family members and a collection of photographs of Mary Elizabeth Beake (later Dunston) the donor's grandmother. Mary trained as a nurse at Devizes Hospital before emigrating to Boston Massachusetts, USA in 1902. Donated by Joyce Dunston of Canada (*MSS.4636 and 2022.7021*).

Stonehenge Summer Solstice scrapbook assembled by Mrs Margaret Couling of Westfield Farm, Upper Woodford, Salisbury. It covers the 1985 Summer Solstice and includes newspaper cuttings, photos and letters highlighting the problems farmers encountered from the influx of the 'hippy' communities' descending on Stonehenge. Donated by Dr Phil Harding, Margaret Couling's cousin (*MSS.4638*).

Newspaper cuttings relating to the filming of *Far from the Madding Crowd* in Devizes, 1966/7. Also included are signatures collected by the donor from leading cast members when she was an extra during Nov 1966. Initially a loan to the Museum during the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired a writer* exhibition, but later donated, by Carol Creed, Devizes (*MSS.4647*).

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Black and white photographs of John and Susan Harraway who ran Easton Farm, Bishop Cannings, circa 1845. Donated by John Harraway, grandson of John and Susan Harraway (*2022.7004*)

Black and white photograph of Devizes Home Guard. Seated in the front row are Ralph Jennings (first on left) and Henry Laver (last on right). Also 19 negatives depicting members of Devizes Home Guard during training exercise. The Devizes Home Guard were formed on 16 May 1940 and stood down on 3 December 1944. Donated by Frances Delaine, daughter of Henry and niece of Ralph (*2022.7011*) (*Pictured inside front cover).*

300 black and white photographs which were the author's copies published in four books during the 1980s. Donated by the author David Burnett of the Dovecote Press (*2022.7014-2022.7017*).

Colour photographs of floral tributes for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II laid on Devizes Market Cross, 12 September 2022. Donated by Bethany Hocking, Museum Assistant (*2022.7018*).

Colour photographs of tributes to Queen Elizabeth II in shop windows in Devizes, 12 September 2022. Donated by David Dawson, Museum Director (*2022.7019*).

Two black and white albums containing black and white photographs of Wiltshire Scenes, including Stonehenge, compiled in the 1920s. Donated by Brian Edwards (*2022.7022*).

Natural History

No acquisitions to report this year.

Numismatics

Small stack of four base silver early Medieval pennies which have been fused together by corrosion products, dating to AD 852-874. Only one face of one coin is legible - the reverse of a coin of the Lunettes type, probably attributed to Burgred of Mercia (852-874) and issued by the moneyer Cenred.

The remaining illegible coins are equally likely to be Mercian or West Saxon issues. There is recorded Viking activity in this area in 871, and it is possible that the deposition of the hoard may be linked to uncertainty around the presence of the Viking 'great raiding army' at this time. However, given the small size of the hoard it is also possible that they are a casual loss. Found in Collingbourne Kingston, 2019. PAS Treasure Find. Purchased (*2022.14*).

Roman hoard of 24 bronze coins and a bronze finger-ring from 'Black Field', Cunetio, Mildenhall. Dating to the 4th century AD and found by Frank Mellish, 1975. The famous Cunetio coin hoard (54,951 coins) contained inside a large pottery vessel was discovered three years later in 1978. The pot is on display in the Roman Gallery and the coins are kept at the British Museum.

The1975 hoard was identified by our former curator Dr Paul Robinson. The coins are accompanied by a letter of provenance and map with find spot. Purchased at auction (*2022.47*).







From the left: John and Susan Harraway, c.1845 (2022.7004); Mary Elizabeth Beake, who trained as a nurse at Devizes Hospital, before emigrating to the USA in 1902 (2022.7021).

Recent History

Pair of metal ice skates, c.1930. Used on the Devizes canal before World War II and on Corsham Lake in 1963, belonging to the Underwood family of Devizes and Potterne. Donated by John Underwood, Colwyn Bay. (*2022.5.2*)

Stuffed toy lamb on a red cloth covered cardboard base. Embroidered *FEED MY LAMBS. STILL THOU DOST ASK, WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR THEE. TO FEED THY LAMBS. THY SHEEP TO TEND. LORD HERE AM I. SEND ME*. Made by a patient at the Devizes County Asylum. Embroidered *MISS GIBBONS. IN MEMORY OF THE D. C*. ASYLUM. NOV 15TH 1913. Once belonged to Grace and William Blake. Donated by Maggie Goodger, Ely (*2022.6*).

Blade from a rapier, dating to late 16th or early 17th century. Under the corrosion on the fuller (the channel that runs down the centre of the blade) is probably the inscription of an Italian (?) maker. The rapier was found in the river alongside the main road in Easterton and discovered after flooding in the 1950s. Donated by Neil Townsend, Tasmania (*2022.7*).

Late 19th century clay pipe marked *RAOB* with buffalo horns, for the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes. Found in Broughton Gifford and donated by Nigel Tuck, Bromham (*2022.8*).

Late 19th or early 20th century capstan pewter ink well, engraved *COUNTY OF WILTS*, from the Devizes Assize Court. The lid is missing. Rescued from the derelict building in 2004 and donated by John Girvan, Devizes (*2022.11*).

19th century wooden farm workers coopered gallon refreshment barrel, engraved *J. H*. Previously part of the Manor Farm, Avebury collection. Purchased at auction (*2022.13.1*).

RAF Yatesbury tie belonging to Percy Cole (*2022.48.2*) and copper kettle (*2022.48.1*) made c.1943 in one of the workshops at RAF Yatesbury. Acquired by Percy Cole who worked as a radio instructor at the base during World War II and as a Civilian Ground Radar Instructor in 1947. The handle and lid knob are machined from an electrical insulating material Both items donated by Adrian Cole, Percy's son, and Rosie Watt, Secretary of the RAF Yatesbury Association.

19th century Barge Ware teapot. *WILLIAM & ELIZ BENNETT / CHRISTMAS 1893*. Elizabeth Bennett owned one of the first antique shops in Devizes, in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Previously part of the Manor Farm, Avebury collection. Purchased at auction (*2022.13.2*) *(pictured page 8)*.

Early 19th century two-handled cider mug from Roundway Hill Farm, near Devizes. A symbol of the contributions made by the local farming community, one side features an image of a farmer and his wife, alongside various farming implements, crops, and animals – with the phrases *TRUST IN GOD* and *THE HUSBANDMAN'S DILIGENCE PROVIDES BREAD*. The other side of the mug features an extract of the poem *GOD SPEED THE PLOUGH* which was written in the early 1600s and is a satirical complaint about lazy members of the clergy who demanded a share of the ploughman's harvest (*pictured page 8*).

The verse reads:

Let the wealthy and great
Dwell in splendour and state
I envy them not I declare it
I eat my own lamb
My own chickens and ham
I shear my own fleece and I wear it
I have lawns, I have rowers
I have fruit, I have flowers
The lark is my morning alarmer
So jolly boys now
Here's God speed the plough.

Donated by Maria Hoult, Devizes (*2022.168*)

Two silver-plated tankards from the Stonehenge Solstice, 1927. Associated with a contest to award the Stonehenge Flitch, in a manner similar to the Dunmow Flitch, to the happiest married couple. It seems to have run for at least three years in the 1920s and was broadcast live on the BBC. Donated by Tim Daw, Brian Edwards and Sienna / Simon Barton (*2023.6*)

Hand woven scarf inspired by the gold decorated dagger handle from Bush Barrow. This design is the first element of a much larger body of work exploring the prehistory of Wessex through the medium of weaving and textile art, centred on themes of pottery, stone, metal and landscape. Sally Parker Textile Crafts. Donated by Sally Parker (*2023.7*).

Lisa Brown, Jane Schön and David Dawson







From the left: silver plated tankard (2023.6); 19th century wooden refreshment barrel (2022.13.1); Stuffed toy lamb (2022.6). Images not to scale

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND OUTINGS

With confidence returning for 'real world' activities, we were able to return to a full programme of activities for under 18s, walks in the Wiltshire countryside, and even held film screenings linked to the recent exhibitions: *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* and *Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired an artist.* We also continued a programme of online talks.

Thank you to our speakers and walk leaders for their contributions to the Society as most do not charge a fee or claim expenses. We would also like to thank everyone who helps with organising and running our events and activities.

April 2022
Curious Kids: *Under the Sea*
Easter Holiday Activities: *Art from Ancient Civilizations*
Easter Holiday Activities: *Spring and Easter Crafts*
Museum Explorer's Club: *Bronze Age People and Artefacts*
Online Talk: *Working together: British Museum and the Wiltshire Museum*, by Lisa Brown
Young Curator's Club: *Daggers from the Bronze Age*

May 2022
Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference 2022
Curious Kids: *Kings and Queens*
Family Holiday Activity: *Medieval themed crafts*
Museum Explorer's Club: *Kings and Queens*
Young Curator's Club: *Kings and Queens*

June 2022
Day Course: *Ancient Landscapes Seen and Imagined*, with Helen Garrett
Lecture and Book Launch: *Mary and Kate Hardy*
Meet the Curator: *Hardy's Wessex exhibition*
Museum Explorer's Club: *Thomas Hardy's Wessex*
Online Talk: *King Alfred & the Origins of Chippenham (*VCH)*
Walk: Fonthill, *a Hidden Wiltshire walk*
Walk: Hippenscombe, *a Hidden Wiltshire Walk*
Walk: Urchfont, Oakfrith & Folly Wood, a *Hidden Wiltshire walk*
Young Curator's Club: *Thomas Hardy's Wessex*

July 2022
Curious Kids: *"Digging it"*
Day course: *Stone Carving* with Andrew Ziminski
Day course: *Wood Engraving* with Robin Mackenzie
Museum Explorer's Club: *Ancient Egyptians*
Online Talk: *Wiltshire's nonconformist chapels – a fine architectural heritage (*VCH)*
Outing: *Stonehenge Landscape Walk*, led by David Dawson
Walk: *Beckhampton Gallops*, a Hidden Wiltshire walk
Walk: *Castle Combe*, a Hidden Wiltshire walk
Young Curator's Club: *Ancient Egyptians*

August 2022
Curious Kids: *Dinosaurs!*
Family Holiday Activity: *Felt Crafts for under 6s*
Family Holiday Activity: *Hardy Textiles*
Filming Hardy: *tours of Devizes*
Make & Take: *Hardy's Landscape in Collage*
Outing: *Devil's Den,* a Hidden Wiltshire walk
Storytelling for all the family, with Tim Laycock
Summer Holiday Activities: *art and craft sessions*
Walk: *Seend*, led by Isobel Geddes.

September 2022
Day course: *Stone Carving* with Andrew Ziminski
Day course: *Wood Engraving* with Robin Mackenzie
Museum Explorer's Club: *Rock Detective*
Outing: *Devil's Den,* a Hidden Wiltshire walk
Outing: *Stonehenge Landscape Walk*
Walk: *Murhill, Avoncliff and Winsley*, led by Isobel Geddes
Young Curator's Club: *Rock Detective*

October 2022
Family Activity Session: *Trick or Treat!*
Family Holiday Activity: *Superstitions*
Film Screening: *Far From The Madding Crowd* (to mark the 55th anniversary of the 1966 film)
Industrial Archaeology Conference: *Building Materials*
Museum Explorers Club: *Saxons and Viking invaders*
Online Talk: *John Leland: a Tudor traveller in Wiltshire* (VCH)*
Storytelling for all the family, with Tim Laycock
Young Curator's Club: *Saxons and Viking invaders*

November 2022
Curious Kids: *Egyptians*
Day Course: *Wood Engraving* with Robin Mackenzie
Film Screenings: *Eric Ravilious: Drawn to War*
Museum Explorers Club: *Mini Museum Displays*
Online Talk: *A Wealth of Knowledge: A decade of archaeological research, unlocked*, by Wil Partridge
Online Talk: *Wiltshire Constituencies and the 1832 Reform Act*, Michael Hodges (VCH)*
Young Curators Club: *Mini Museum Displays*

December 2022
Museum Explorers Club: *Tudor Christmas*
Online Talk: *Assizes for Devizes*, by David Dawson
Silent Disco, for ages 8 to 12
Young Curators Club: *Tudor Christmas*

January 2023
Curious Kids: *Vikings*
Day Course: *Wood Engraving* with Robin Mackenzie
Museum Explorers Club: *Mythical creatures*
Online Lecture: *Upton Lovell Shaman – a Bronze Age Goldworker,* by Dr Rachel Crellin, Dr Christina Tsoraki, Dr Chris Standish
Young Curators Club: *Mythical creatures*

February 2023
Curious Kids: *Bugs*
Holiday Activities: *Toys*
Lecture: *Fractured Britannia – material culture and the end of Roman Britain*, by Richard Henry
Museum Explorers Club: *The Ice Age*
Online Talk: *Voices from Devizes Assize Court – an oral history project*, by Jane Schön
Young Curators Club: *The Ice Age*

March 2023
Curious Kids: *Books and more!*
Home Education Sessions: *Journey Through Prehistory*
Wiltshire in Archaeology Conference 2023
Online Lecture: *William Gowland: Japanese megalithic tombs and Stonehenge*, by Prof Simon Kaner

* All proceeds to the Victoria County History Wiltshire Trust, who organised the lecture.

Members are very important to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and in addition to free entry to our award-winning Museum and special exhibitions, they receive other benefits:

- ◊ Free welcome tour of museum and library
- ◊ Discounted lectures, conferences, courses and outings
- ◊ Regular newsletter with the latest news and forthcoming events
- ◊ Free entry to Salisbury Museum, Dorset Museum and Poole Museum, as part of the Wessex Museums Partnership
- ◊ Free entry to English Heritage's Stonehenge Visitor Centre
- ◊ Helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.
- ◊ Opportunities to:
  - find out more about Wiltshire's story by meeting fellow members and subject experts
  - make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
  - get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
  - read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal (*pictured page 23)*
  - find out about the local area with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive.

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Bronze:
Individual - £44.00
Joint/Family - £56.50
Student - £20.00
Member Organisation - £51.00
Amber Donor - £69.00
Gold Donor - £129.00
Corporate membership - £100 and £450
Jadeite - £250
Life (over 50) - £750
Life (under 50) - £1,000

Subscriptions run for 12 months from the first day of the month of joining.

Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study, or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interests.

A variety of subscription and payment options are available, including monthly payments.

There were 98 new (or re-joining) memberships in the year (125 members); 104 (139) in 2021/2022.

P.T.O.

Publications and Social Media

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (WANHM)

Our annual magazine continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire. Members receive a free copy and it is available to non-members for a modest charge. The 2022 volume (no. 115) included the following articles:

Faricius's Life of Aldhelm, Translation and Commentary (Michael Winterbottom); *Faricius, William of Malmesbury and Malmesbury Abbey in the Aftermath of the Norman Conquest* (Tony McAleavey); *Malmesbury Abbey in the Time of William* (Rodney Thomson); *Further Aspects of Romanesque Malmesbury Abbey: the relic column, south porch and west front* (Malcolm Thurlby); *The Seals of Malmesbury Abbey and Pilton Priory* (Julian Luxford); *The Royal Arms and Frieze in Malmesbury Abbey* (Barry Dent); *Bokerley Dyke and After: a tribute to the archaeological fieldwork of Colin Bowen* (Bruce Eagles†); *A Possible Anglo-Saxon 'Hanging Promontory' Assembly Site on Ethchilhampton Hill, Wiltshire* (Stella Maddock); *'Accessible to the General Reader': the Rev. W. H. Jones and his Domesday for Wiltshire* (Anne Willis); *Stonehenge Dacite Group D: fact or fiction?* (Rob A. Ixer, Richard E. Bevins, Duncan Pirrie, Matthew Power and Peter Webb); *Late Bronze Age Occupation in the Cotswold Uplands: archaeological excavation at Hullavington Airfield, 2020* (Jessica Cook and Christopher Leonard); *An Iron-Age-Romano-British Rural Landscape at Former MoD Lyneham, Wiltshire* (Phil Andrews); *Roman Coin Hoards from Wiltshire* (Richard Henry and Sam Moorhead); *Medieval Deer Parks of the Bradford Hundred* (Robert Arkell); T*he Lioness Attack on the Exeter Mail Coach at Winterslow Hut, Wiltshire,1816* (Peter Saunders).

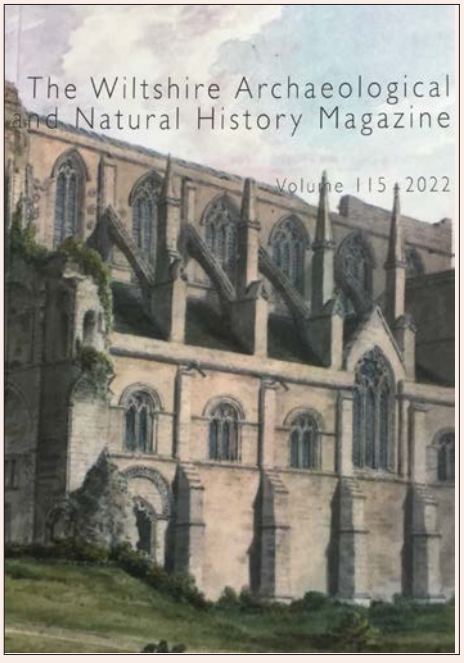
Notes and shorter contributions included: *Lead isotope analysis of a gold-wire stud from Bush Barrow* (Christopher D. Standish); *An archaeological investigation at St Andrew's Church, Castle Combe, Wiltshire* (Kristoffer Conlin, Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy, Bob Clarke and Finn Cresswell, with a contribution by Lorraine Mepham); *New insights into Middle Neolithic life from the Wiltshire Museum collections* (Jake T. Rowland, edited by Wil Partridge); *Excavation and fieldwork in Wiltshire, 2021* (compiled by Bob Clarke and Will Baker); *Highlights from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Wiltshire, 2021* (recorded by Sophie Hawke).

P.T.O.

NEW MEMBERS 2022/23

Mr Nick & Mrs Jane Amer, Patney
Ms Eleanor Amos, Devizes
Mr Stephen Best, Bath
Mr Jarek Bien, Nottingham
Mr Michael & Mrs Judith Bishop, Devizes
Ms Alice Boyd, Devizes
Mr Dave Brooks, Carlisle
Mr Martin & Mrs Anne Brown, Devizes
Miss Charlotte Browne, Bristol
Mr Christopher Burdon, Salisbury
Ms Lindsay Butterworth, Chippenham
Mr Steve & Mrs Cathy Chappell, Devizes
Ms Carrie Coles, Rowde
Ms Lynne Coombs, Trowbridge
Mr Graham & Mrs Suzie Cooper, Devizes
Mr Jack & Mrs Margaret Cooper, Chippenham
Dr Douglas Cowie, Warminster
Miss Shirley Cox, Devizes
Mr David Coxon & Ms Andree Bielecka-Bowers, Nottingham
Mr Rohan Coy, Trowbridge
Mr Richard & Mrs Katie Coyne, Devizes
Ms Anna Ditchburn, Great Bedwyn
Mr Dudley A R Dodd, London
Ms Hazel Dunning, Salisbury
Mr Stuart Earl, Chippenham
Mr Keith Elliott, Riverview
Ms Janet Enoch, Salisbury
Mrs Paula Evans, Devizes
Mrs Helen Fishlock, Devizes
Mr Lionel Ford, Launceston
Mr Graeme & Dr Megan A Fyfe, Salisbury
Mr Simon Gibbs & Ms Amanda Collins, Devizes
Mrs Penelope Goodliffe, Devizes
Mr Keith Greenfield & Ms Avis Ryder, Devizes
Mr James Gwilliam, Bristol
Mr Trevor P & Mrs Tina A Hardy, Devizes
Mr Mike & Mrs Celia Harris, Swindon
Mr Barry & Mrs Dorryta Hayward, Chippenham
Mrs Jane Hiett, Devizes
Ms Meghan Hill, Warminster
Mr Richard Hinxman, Calne
Mr David Hoyland, Calne
Miss Katie Humphreys, Swindon
Ms Lucy Ingram, Salisbury
Mr Philip Ireland & Ms Theresa Lock, Hungerford
Dr Stephen Izaatt & Mrs Judith Bence Izatt, Calne
Mr Raymond & Mrs Diana Jenkins, Marlborough
Ms Sue Jewsbury, Southampton
Ms Rosalind Johnson, Salisbury
Mr Gywain Jones, Salisbury
Ms Ruth Kerr, Stockbridge
Mr Andrew Kirby & Mrs Alison Kimber, Chippenham
Mr Oliver Lamb, Devizes
Ms Zandra Letts, Market Lavington
Ms Karen Lucas, Calne
Mrs Debbie Lungley, Salisbury
Ms Teresa Maynard, Chippenham
Mr Ian McKay, Bath
Mr Peter & Mrs Eileen Meacock, Devizes
Ms Philippa Miller, Calne
Ms Fenella Monk, Salisbury
Ms Amanda Morwood, Warminster
Ms Diana Neale, Devizes
Ms Theresa Newman, Corsham
Mr David Nicolson, Warminster
Mr Matthew Norgan, Tisbury
Ms Val Owen, Trowbridge
Miss Emily & Mr Larry Parker, Devizes
Ms Michelle Partington, Chippenham
Rev Norma Payne, Warminster
Mr Julian Piercey, Warwick
Ms Linda Pike, Frome
Mr Carlo Prinzi, Chippenham
Mr John & Mrs Jeanne Rayment, Bath
Mr Des & Mrs Pip Read, Devizes
Mr Martin & Ms Rosemary Reed, Devizes
Mr Cliff Hughes & Mrs Jane Rudd-Hughes, Netheravon
Mr Adrian Ruddle, Street
Mr John Russell, Warminster
Ms Sara Seager, Swindon
Mr Alexander & Mrs Georgina Shannon & Family, Calne
Mr David Shepherd, Newbury
Mr Douglas Simpson, Devizes
Mr Subeer Singh Suri, Ashford
Miss Jess Smith, Devizes
Mr John & Mrs Jesmary Stuart, Marlborough
Mr John & Mrs Elizabeth Surowiec, Devizes
Mr Terence & Mrs Susan Tovey, Devizes
Mr Paul Tumim, Devizes
Mr Philip Unwin, Whitchurch
Mr Jonathan Venton, Melksham
Ms Kim Wakeham, Marlborough
Mrs Wendy Weller, Devizes
Ms Deborah M White, Chippenham
Ms Joan Wilks, Cardigan
Mr Paul & Mrs Heather Wilson, Devizes
Ms Sue Wood, Devizes

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Trilithon

This newsletter is a mixture of articles, items of interest and news about events and is sent to members regularly.

Engaging audiences online

Our e-newsletter is sent regularly and is our main source of engagement for events. We also use social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to engage and develop our audience. Social media is a great way to publicise upcoming events and news at the Museum and is an opportunity to reach new audiences, as well as sharing details about our collections in a more immediate way. We can also engage with audiences unable to physically access the Museum or collections.

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

Research: Archaeology Collections

Due to the prolonged impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there were a reduced number of research visits to the Museum again this year. However it has still been a busy year reviewing the research that has been undertaken on the archaeology collections over the past decade, as part of the Arts Council Designation Development Fund, Wealth of Knowledge project, which drew to a close in November 2022.

A Wealth of Knowledge: Unlocking a Decade of Archaeological Research

Wil Partridge, Research Officer: Archaeology, ended his contract with us in November. The Designation Development funded 2½ year project has been a great success. As part of the ACE approved 6-month extension to the project, due to the impact of Covid-19 (April – October 2022), work was undertaken to update displays in the Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries, as the latest research on the collections, published after the galleries opened eight years ago, made some of the interpretation out of date. Five new interpretation panels were created, which include new research explaining DNA and Isotope analysis in Beaker ancestry and how mass spectrometry is used to identify gold sources in the early Bronze Age.

Wil has also developed some new internal processes that enable future research (beyond the life of the project) to be fed back into the collections management system in a more efficient way, requiring researchers to complete a spreadsheet of their results that can be imported into our collections management system, MODES. This element of the project was supported by Tim Burge, an independent heritage consultant and MODES specialist.

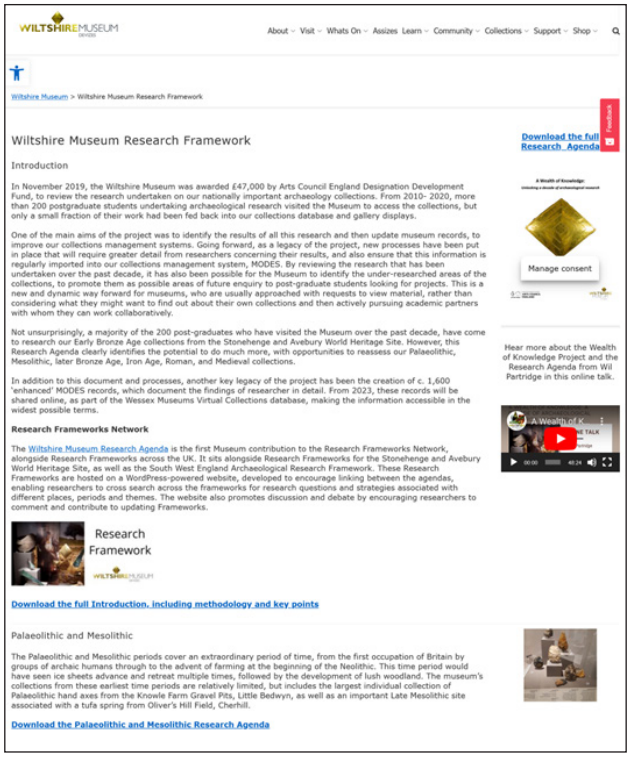
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/research/

Museum Data Service and Wessex Museums Virtual Collections

In November 2022 the Museum was selected as an 'early adopter' of a new Museum Data Service project, which will collate millions of collections records from across the UK and make them available online. Other museums included in the first cohort were the Ashmolean, National Museum of Wales, Science Museum Group and Norfolk Museums. In December 2022 126,000 MODES records and 23,000 digital images were sent to Knowledge Integration to start the process. Our colleagues from Wessex Museums will be invited to share their data in April 2023. Autumn 2023 will see the first release of the service. Work also continues developing the Wessex Museums Virtual Collections website, with Museums Platform as host.

Wiltshire Museum Research Agenda

The Museum's new Research Agenda, written by Wil Partridge as part of the Wealth of Knowledge Project, is now live on our website: *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/research-agenda/* as well as on the Historic England Research Networks site *(https://researchframeworks.org/wiltshiremuseum*), alongside national, regional and specialist Research Frameworks, including that for the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. We are the first to have a Research Framework hosted in this way, which enables research priorities to be linked and integrated to promote academic studies. The Research Agenda was informed by seminars undertaken at local universities, and identifies the under researched areas of the collections, to promote them as possible areas of future enquiry to post-graduate students looking for projects. The agenda clearly shows the potential to do much more with the collections and is vital in guiding the Museum's future research priorities. The agenda outlines in detail the opportunities to reassess the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, later Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Medieval collections.



The Wiltshire Museum Research Agenda web page

Researchers

- Anton Axelsson, PhD candidate, Cardiff University. Researching the estimation of stature for different Anglo-Saxon populations: examined human remains from Collingbourne Ducis and Blacknall Field pagan Saxon cemeteries.
- Jane Barker, PhD candidate, Manchester University. Researching equines in Iron Age Britain; examined the depiction of horses on the Marlborough Bucket.
- Dr Ben Chan, Research Fellow, Southampton University, AHRC funded project, the Avebury Papers. A four-year project run between Bournemouth University, the University of York, National Trust, and English Heritage, that will digitise and make public the entire 20th century Avebury archive, both paper and finds. Examined material from Harold St George Gray's excavation of the Avebury Henge in 1908, as well as Maud Cunnington's work at the Sanctuary, in 1930.
- Dr Rachel Crellin and Dr Oliver Harris, Associate Professors of Archaeology, Leicester University, Dr Christina Tsoraki, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Leicester University, Dr Chris Standish, Research Fellow, Southampton University. Funding from the British Academy Small Grant Scheme allowed work to continue researching the early Bronze Age gold objects in our collections. *From prestige to practice: shedding new light on Early Bronze Age gold through microwear and scanning electron microscope analyses*. 26 gold objects from Upton Lovell G2e (Golden Barrow); Wilsford G5 (Bush Barrow); Preshute G1a; Mere G6a (sun disc) were subject to wear and compositional analyses – non-destructive techniques using microscopes, X-Ray Fluorescence and a Scanning Electron Microscope, to investigate how the objects were made, used and deposited.
- Dr Mik Markham, South West Implement Petrology Group. Producing a photographic audit of Neolithic (non-flint) stone tools, examined 108 objects in our collections, created new digital images, took measurements, and updated provenance information.
- Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist. Defence Infrastructure Organisation. Examined the human remains and paper archive for Bowl's (Bole's) Barrow, prior to fieldwork undertaken at the Long Barrow in March 2023.

Lisa Brown

Research: Archive & Library

The Archive and Library partially reopened to visiting researchers on 5 May 2022. All research visits are pre-booked and those researchers on the waiting list created at the start of the pandemic are still being contacted.

There were 273 enquiries this year: 61 visiting researchers and 212 email enquiries. Of the visiting researchers 34 were members and 20 were non-members. The majority of the visiting researchers were undertaking local history research (56%) mainly in and around Devizes and the surrounding villages, and 33% carried out archaeological research.

Although the Archive & Library is not fully open to the public and volunteers the Collections Officer: Archive and Library and volunteers have continued to answer enquiries and provide scans of documents or photographs, where possible, to the researcher. Donations have been received from some researchers.

Research topics have included Devizes Castle, Stonehenge guidebooks, Stourhead, Roundway and the Devizes Asylum, Aldbourne, Imber and assisting with numerous family history requests including the Flower family of Seend, the Yerbury family of Trowbridge, the Sopp family of Westbury and information about individual family members.

Jane Schön

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

LEARNING, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Schools

The Museum has been busy with school groups this year, with almost 1,000 school children engaging with our learning programme. Our Stone Age to Iron Age workshop days continue to be our most popular, with schools visiting from all over the county and beyond to participate in these. A good number of these make repeat visits each year, and we also continue to attract new schools. We deliver sessions on many other topics as well. This year these have included fossils, old toys, the Romans, Saxons and Vikings, Tudors, Egyptians, and local studies. We often have groups of over 60 children visiting at one time, which is quite difficult to plan and organise in the small spaces available. Fortunately, we have some fantastic volunteers to help make sure that these sessions run smoothly.

There has been the opportunity to develop our gallery interactive activities this year. These have enhanced our galleries and helped to make them more engaging for schools and families. There will soon be Iron Age costumes to add, designed and created for us by the Devizes Fine Arts Society. These will be an amazing addition to our prehistory workshops, helping to bring the topic to life for school children.

Uniformed Groups

We have run a variety of activities for our uniformed groups throughout the year. Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, and Beavers have carried out evening visits and taken part in sleepovers. We seem to be getting more and more requests for sleepovers as people find out we offer them. We are not sure whether that is a good thing or not! It is not the most restful night of sleep on the office floor with a camping mat!

Families

We now have three very successful clubs taking place at the weekends for different age groups: Curious Kids, for our youngest members aged 5 and under, Museum Explorers, for 5 to 7-year-olds, and Young Curators, for 8 to 13-year-olds. Sessions cover themes in our collection, our temporary exhibitions, and popular historic topics. They are very hands-on with object and gallery work, investigative activities, cookery, and craft. Curious Kids also includes songs and stories.

The clubs are very valuable, giving an opportunity for children and families interested and passionate about history and museums, to engage further with history and archaeology, and to foster a sense of belonging to the Museum. Our holiday activities also facilitate this. These are very well attended by local families, and some have commented how they love the range of activities and the chance to participate in these with their children.

Home-Education

There has been a growing demand to expand our offer for those families choosing to home-educate their children, and we have begun to offer themed days for families this year, which have been very well received. We plan to continue and expand this offer over the coming year.

It has been fantastic this year to see things return to normal post-covid and to see the demand and enthusiasm there is for the activities we offer to children and young people at the Museum.

Ali Rushent

From the left: Costumes made by Devizes Fine Arts Society; a busy holiday activity; new interactives in the Prehistoric Wiltshire galleries.







COMMUNITY CURATOR

The Community Curator post is funded by the Art's Council NPO via Wessex Museum.

Youth Panel

This year we saw a new cohort of young people join the Youth Panel after a few of the original members moved on into the world of university or work. In the summer we hosted Wessex Archaeology for a fun session to say goodbye to some of the group as well as welcome new young people.

Throughout the year the Youth Panel have been working on an accessible "Roman Smells" interactive (to be installed in the Roman gallery) and they particularly wanted to focus on family activities, including a very successful family day in October half term which resulted in our busiest day since the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition! They also hosted our first silent disco for older children at Christmas, which was a different but successful venture! They are now working on further family days as well as new interactives.

Bridging the Gap placement

Following on from the relationship we built with Fairfield Farm college after working with a group of students on the Chalk Hills art project (part of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition's community work), we took on one of the students as our Wessex Museum's Bridging the Gap placement. Bridging the Gap was an ambitious project that set out to embed a strategic, collaborative approach towards learning and engagement across Wessex Museums. Within that each museum hosted an inclusive work placement for a disabled young person.

Whilst on his placement with us Mark advised us how to make our Museum and website more accessible for people with a range of disabilities. He also created a virtual Iron age world on the popular game of *Minecraft*, as well as creating a trail for visitors with learning disabilities to enjoy. We hope to launch these projects in the near future.

The Street Art project

During February and March 2023 we worked in conjunction with the Youth Justice Service (and the Emerald Team) to work with a group of young offenders, or those at risk of offending, to work on their confidence and creative skills with the aim to divert them from criminal or anti-social behaviours. Working alongside street artist Nick Halahan of Olas Arts, the young people learnt new creative skills, built friendships and created a piece of art which has been displayed outside the Assize court.

Lest We Forget: The Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire

In January 2023 we were awarded £14,475 From the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) New Stories, New Audiences Fund (through the National Heritage Lottery Fund), which will enable us to host an exhibition on the Black contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire, which includes community work to create commemorative pieces of art to show as part of the exhibition and with schools to help them decolonise their curriculum.

Eric Walrond: A Caribbean Writer in Wiltshire

In February/March 2023 we were awarded funding to run a parallel exhibition to *Lest we Forget* to tell the story of Eric Walrond, a Caribbean writer who made his name in the USA before moving to England. He eventually moved to Wiltshire and lived an ordinary quiet life in Bradford upon Avon in the 1940s and worked at the Melksham rubber factory. Behind the scenes his writing continued, reflecting on his views on World War Two and the racism experienced by Black soldiers whilst in the UK, before committing himself to Roundway Hospital in Devizes in the 1950s for poor mental health.

The funding for this project will cover community work for writing workshops for those struggling with mental health and poetry workshops for schools.

Amy Hammett

From the left: Youth Panel celebration; Mark outside the Museum; the Street Art group putting up one of their artworks outside the Devizes Assize Court.







Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.

Volunteers

It has been another busy year for our volunteer team, especially when it came to our Thomas Hardy exhibition: *Hardy's Wessex: The landscapes that inspired a writer*. We were delighted to welcome many new faces, including new members to our youth panel, front of house and learning teams.

Just over 3,000 hours of volunteer time was logged between April 2022 and March 2023. This equates to a financial value of nearly £50,000, calculated using National Lottery Heritage Fund methodology. Hours are slightly down compared to the 3,900 logged in 2021/22, which was extremely high due to our *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition.

Volunteers play a vital role in all aspects of running the Museum and Society. They welcome visitors, look after researchers in our Library and Archive, assist with school groups and family activity days, help with maintenance and decorating, gardening, administration, mailings and events. We have a growing student volunteer programme, focusing on skills development through creative projects. Trustees are also volunteers and we are thankful for the time and expertise they continue to dedicate.

Volunteering and *Hardy's Wessex* exhibition

We were delighted that many of the engagement volunteers who joined us during the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition stayed on to support our summer exhibition *Hardy's Wessex: The landscapes that inspired a writer*. 18 new volunteers were also welcomed to the team. After the *Hardy* exhibition a few of the volunteers became Gallery Guides, welcoming and informing visitors in the galleries.

Over the past year we have also welcomed six new Front of House volunteers (five of whom were previously exhibition stewards) taking our total number of Reception volunteers to 21.

From the left: Front of House volunteer, Phil Edwards; members of the youth panel recording a podcast; Amy Ellis receiving her volunteering award.

Volunteer Amy wins a Devizes Civic Award

In March 2023 one of our Youth Panel members, Amy Ellis, was awarded the Bear Club Foundation Young Persons award at the 2023 Devizes Civic Awards. She was nominated for her hard work as part of the Youth Panel, working with the group on projects, such as creating events for young people.

Archive & Library

A team of 20 Library volunteers usually catalogue the Archive and Library collections, adding to the online catalogue and scanning the photograph collection. Five Reader Services volunteers have returned and are assisting the Collections Officer with cataloguing the backlog of acquisitions that arrived during the lockdowns. The remaining volunteers are yet to return but many have continued to undertake their own research whilst at home and answer the occasional enquiry.

The returning volunteers have been answering enquiries and assisting with some visiting researchers and their requests. We could not provide the service we deliver without our excellent team of volunteers and hopefully we can welcome the rest of the team back soon when we fully reopen.

A small team of volunteers have also been helping with transcribing the interviews from the *Voices from the Devizes Assize Courts* oral history project (see page 34). The six volunteers, with the help of the two MA Bath Spa Students, created an oral history archive and transcribed original documents in the archive.

Looking ahead

We are looking forward to another year working alongside our enthusiastic team. Areas of focus will be to develop an exciting training programme for volunteers and 'growing' our gardening and community teams!

Our thanks to every individual who has offered their time in supporting the Museum.

Nicola Trowell, Jane Schön and Emma Sykes







Thank you to our volunteers:

Phil Andrews
Tessa Armeni
Caroline Baker
Geraldine Bateman
Eliza Bates
Sharon Benfield
Judith Bishop
Wendy Bishop
Astrid Bleich
Mike Borro
Nataliia Borysova
Catherine Brown
Jane Brunning
Jan Bryant
Ruby Butler
Dave Coward
Katie Coyne
Colvin Chamberlain
Alison Christy
Bob Clarke
Margaret Clarke
Nicky Clarke†
Sandy Corbyn
Michael Cornwell
Jean Covington
Martin Covington
Carol Creed
Jan Dando
Caroline Dalrymple
Catherine Dawson
Hilary Degnan
William Downes
Philip Edwards
Amy Ellis
Mark Evans
Paula Evans
Helen Fishlock
Michael Fletcher
James Flood
Sue Flood
Alexandira Fraser-Curran
Jackie Gardiner
Isobel Geddes
John Girvan
Jeff Goatman
Jill Goatman
Veronika Groke
Anna Hallett
Sandy Haynes
Netta Hemmins
Thomas Hisscocks
Bethany Hocking
Linda Holmshaw
Abigail Hooper
Jonathon Hurwitt
Shelagh Hurwitt
Carole Jones
Tony Jones
Mary Kane
James Kay
Dallas Kendall
Ann King
Laura La Turner
Ollie Lamb
Wendy Lansdown
Graham Lever
Jane Lever
Ralph Lewis
Denise Leaning
Yvonne Loth
Stella Maddock
Thomas McBurney
Mike McQueen
Peter Melsom
Helen Meikle
Robert Mitchell
Philippa Morgan
Sara Morgan
Jo Noble
Philip Nokes
Louise Peak
Dilys Peacock
Harry Peer
Bill Perry
Caroline Power
Sue Power
Remi Pike
Ann Phillips
Ivan Philips
Penny Price Jones
Angela Prophet
Christine Purchas
Stuart Raymond
Martin Rea
Mary Rennie
Kahlen Robson
Sue Roderick
Barbara Rogers
Doug Roseman
Judith Roseaman
Jonathan Sanigar
Peter Saunders
Peter Small
John Surowiec
Michael Teale
Pam Thomas
Alistair Thomson
Judith Thomson
Peter Tolhurst
Christine Tucker
Oliver Turney
Dawn Vernon
Maggie Watts
Wendy Weller
David Weston
Jirina Wheatley
Jamie Wright

In memory of Nicky Clarke

We were deeply saddened when Nicky Clarke, one of our Library volunteers, passed away in early 2023.

Nicky volunteered with us for a number of years, undertaking research and happily assisting visitors with archive enquiries. More recently she was an engagement volunteer during the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, where her infectious enthusiasm and love of the artists' work was wonderfully apparent to all who visited.

Rachael first met Nicky when she visited the archive when researching the Trowbridge woollen mills. She found Nicky to be friendly, genuinely interested and very helpful. They discussed the difficulties of buying trousers as a taller woman and her holiday plans (later discovering how well travelled Nicky was!). A fellow library volunteer noted that she added a touch of elegance and erudition to the Library volunteers!

She will be much missed by everyone, but we will cherish fond memories of her sitting with a cup of tea in the staff area and recounting tales of her incredible adventures.

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group (WAFG) is a community archaeology group, working to professional standards. It carries out excavations and fieldwork in Wiltshire including geophysical survey, ground survey and field-walking. Anyone can get involved in research projects, ranging from prehistoric sites to 20th century archaeology. Members have organised practical training sessions on topics including basic excavation and identifying pottery. There have been a number of social events including talks on a variety of recent discoveries and new finds.

Membership is open to members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Regular reports appear in our Trilithon newsletter, and on the WAFG Facebook page.

Over the past year WAFG have returned to a full programme of activities.

This has seen WAFG members being invited to support Research Excavations undertaken by others: the Cardiff University project investigating the Roman site at Combe Bissett and a Cotswold Archaeology led excavation investigating Roman tile kilns at Brandiers Farm near Minety. WAFG members were actively involved in these projects, both of which yielded some amazing archaeology! During summer 2023 WAFG members have once again been invited to participate in the second season of work at Brandiers Farm and at a new Cardiff University project near Teffont to the south of the county.

In addition, WAFG launched two new fieldwork projects of our own:

Seend

Following geophysics and desk-based research a Project Design was developed to undertake targeted test pitting, followed by excavation of small evaluation trenches covering c.25 sq m.

The first major discovery was a post-medieval brick clamp kiln. Dating evidence was limited but the size of the bricks suggested a late 17th-century date, corroborated by a clay pipe bowl from a layer of fragmentary bricks overlying the base of the kiln. The 17th-century date of the brick kiln makes it one of the earliest excavated in Wiltshire and one of very few to be excavated nationally!

A second area focused on further geophysical anomalies, which, below layers containing Romano-British pottery, revealed a series of shallow trenches which contained a large amount of burnt charcoal and some pieces of burnt iron ore. These trenches looked very similar to ones excavated in the Weald of Kent which are believed to represent iron roasting sites, a step taken before the ore was smelted. A Roman iron roasting site is a rare find and this site is considered unique in Wiltshire.

The team are planning to return to Seend in 2023 to undertake further excavations over both the post-medieval and Roman structures. More on this phase of work next year!

All Cannings

In late summer 2022, the opportunity arose to undertake a small project at All Cannings Cross to investigate an area of farmland where drilling had revealed a spread of chalk and sarsen stone, along with what appeared to be a spread of prehistoric flint tools. Following an initial site visit a geophysical survey was undertaken but did not reveal any obvious features. It was therefore decided to broaden engagement with the WAFG membership, adopting a micro-fieldwalking approach to assess the area by dividing it into 1-metre grid squares. This was a hugely successful exercise, with many supporting the activity never having participated in any form of archaeological fieldwork before. The material recovered included prehistoric flint tools, hammerstones and early Iron Age All Cannings ware pottery. *PTO*.



Left: Late 17th Century Brick Kiln following excavation (Photo: Mike McQueen/Phil Andrews)

Once the post-excavation data is fully analysed, plans are in place to undertake small-scale excavations to evaluate the depth and nature of the archaeological deposits, with fieldwork tentatively scheduled for September 2023.

Post Excavation

Using different approaches to encourage and broaden access to archaeological activities, the WAFG have continued to run post-excavation sessions at Devizes Museum. This has attracted many participants who have never done any form of 'hands-on' archaeological activities before.

Our major achievement over the past 12-months has been the processing, recording, marking-up and documenting the finds assemblage from a multi-period site near Malmesbury, excavated from 2006-2009. This exercise is now complete and the full site archive and finds assemblage accepted for accession to Wiltshire Museum.

A huge thank you must be extended to all WAFG volunteers who supported this initiative!

Alistair Thomson and Mike McQueen



Above: Field Walking at All Cannings Cross (Photo: Judith Thomson)

Committees and Working Groups follow up on specific issues

We are always looking for more people to be involved in our work, a great way to meet people and to develop skills and experience.

A303 Working Group

The Working Group continues to monitor developments on the decision concerning the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel, but has not needed to meet.

The current position is that a decision by the Secretary of State is awaited. In the meantime, National Highways is continuing with background work on the project.

David Dawson, Director

Buildings and Monuments

With changes to the way in which the Council for British Archaeology monitors planning applications impacting on Listed Buildings, the Buildings and Monuments is not currently meeting. If a significant case arises in Wiltshire, then the Working Group will be reformed.

Industrial Archaeology

The committee continues to act as a focus for IA matters in the County and liaises with other interested bodies. Plans are going ahead for the 2023 Conference.

Doug Roseaman, Committee Secretary

Finance Committee

This committee ensures that the assets of the Society are managed in compliance with the various rules and guidelines pertinent to the WANHS status as a registered charity and limited liability company, and promulgates appropriate policies and procedures.

The routine and day-to-day monitoring and management of approved budgets is delegated to the Review & Development Committee.

The Finance Committee meet when events demand it.

Rathbone Investment Management provided regular reports on the investment situation throughout the pandemic.

DEVELOPMENT

WORKING WITH PARTNERS and PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Archaeology Archives and Off-site store

The commissioning of the new Archaeology Store was completed in October 2022 following the installation of intruder and fire alarms, and a final inspection to ensure that it met Building Regulations. The first archaeological archives were deposited at the store by Wessex Archaeology and the backlog of archives from a number of archaeological contractors are now being deposited. These archives are from developer-funded excavations and the deposition fee is ring-fenced to pay for the on-going costs of maintaining the store and to contribute towards future costs. The store is planned to be able to accept archives for the next 20 - 25 years, depending upon the pace of development in Wiltshire.

Stonehenge Museums Partnership

We have kept in regular contact during the year, developing joint marketing where this has been possible.

Strategic and Forward Plans

We are continuing to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Society and Museum to continue to thrive as the Assize Court project proceeds.

The Forward Plan for 2022-2023 detailed priorities for the year ahead, with a particular focus on the Stage 1 bid to the NLHF for the Assize Court, the *Hardy's Wessex: landscapes that inspired a writer* exhibition and completing the commissioning of the Off-site Store. The Plan has monthly objectives and is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis.

Depositions at the archaeology store.





The majority of the targets set at the beginning of the year were achieved, including the completion of the Wealth of Knowledge Project and the successful delivery of the Hardy exhibition. The Stage 1 Application to NLHF was submitted in February 2023, following a revised timetable based on advice from the NLHF.

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership brings together Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and the Wiltshire Museum.

During the year the Wessex Museums Partnership progressed delivering the four year, Arts Council supported National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), project to improve collections care, enhance the exhibitions programme and work with new audiences. The Community Curator for Wiltshire, a shared post with Salisbury Museum, is developing links with community groups across the County.

The Partnership is supported by the Wessex Museums Trust, a charity that aims to support museums in Wiltshire and Dorset. The Trust fundraises to enable the delivery of projects that the individual museums are not able to undertake on their own and take a more active role in the management of the NPO. The Society is represented on the Board by the Director

In November 2022 Arts Council England announced that Wessex Museums had been successful in its bid to extend the partnership's current National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status until 2026, and will receive £1.3m from the Arts Council over three years from 2023 to 2026, which includes extra funding to welcome the three Swindon Museums into the partnership.

As of April 2023 the existing partnership of Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and Wiltshire Museum will be joined by Swindon Museum & Art Gallery, STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, and Lydiard House Museum.

This announcement followed on from a busy programme of support for the Wiltshire Museum, including the successful Hardy's Wessex: exhibition, with its programme of events and outreach activity.

Lisa Brown and David Dawson

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: DEVIZES ASSIZE COURT

After our Expression of Interest was accepted by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) in May 2022, work began on drafting an application for Development Stage Funding. This was extensive programme of work, led by Nicola Trowell and the Director, with input from members of staff, volunteers, Members, Trustees and people from a wide range of community organisations.

Work on the application was managed by a Programme Board of Trustees from the Museum and the Devizes Assize Court Trust, with external advisors. The Application included 26 different supporting documents, with over 500 pages of documentation.

For the Development Stage, we are seeking £300,000 from the NLHF, with an additional £400,000 in match funding committed by Devizes Town Council, Pilgrim Trust, Dulverton Trust and a variety of other funders. The Application was submitted in February 2023 and we were delighted to hear in June 2023 that the application was successful.

The overall cost of the project is £11.6m, and we are seeking £5m in total from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We will submit a second bid in 2025, and we aim to complete the project in 2030, with the timescale set largely by the NLHF bidding process.

We plan to raise significant funding from public sources as well as trusts and foundations, and will be seeking support from individuals and community fundraising initiatives of £1.75m.

David Dawson

STOP PRESS: Thanks to National Lottery Players, the Development Stage of our project will start in September 2023!

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Voices from the Devizes Assize Courts

During 2022 the "Voices from the Devizes Assize Courts" oral history project, funded by a grant from Arts Council England, took place, culminating in a book launch in November 2022.

Over 20 hours of oral testimonies were recorded from 23 individuals, all of which have been added to the Museum's existing oral history archive. Using the testimonies a 56-page illustrated booklet was written by Padmini Bromfield and Jane Schön, which included quotes, photographs and background information about the Assize Court. It provides a lasting record to those who were interviewed and all participants received a complimentary copy.

Six temporary exhibition panels were also created and displayed at the Palace Cinema in Devizes. Each panel was filled with images of the building and quotes from our interviewees. The themes were: The Courts; The Courts In Session; In The Dock; Pomp and Ceremony; The Building; The End and the Beginning?

There were dedicated pages on the Museum's website, with updates and sounds clips from the interviews. MA Heritage Management students from Bath Spa University (Helen Meikle and Linda Redden) were trained in oral history and helped with the project, undertaking interviews and creating the project archive. They also wrote blogs about their activities and what happens during an oral history interview.



Assize Court Plans Acquisition

We received a collection of plans and elevations of the Devizes Assize Court from Vernon Gibbs Architects for Davis and Dyke, dated 1987-1989 (four plans showing Survey and Scheme Designs - *MSS.4598*). A second, larger, collection of plans and elevations drawn by the Wiltshire County Architects dated 1930s to the 1980s, were passed to us by Caro and Partners Architects, who are the existing architects for Wiltshire County Council (*MSS.4599*). All the drawings help to explain some of the changes the Assize Court experienced during this 50 year period.

Jane Schön

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the Law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate
- Presume that the company will continue to operate.

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

Internal risks are minimised by the establishment, documentation and regular review of a robust system of internal controls. Procedures have been implemented for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and monitored on a regular basis.

The Board continued to employ Rathbone Brothers Plc to manage both the investment portfolio and the endowment fund with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side, a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully and reported to the Trustees on a quarterly basis.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market which affect the investment portfolios, long-term staff or Trustee absence, inadequate staffing with dependence on a small team of full-time employees, physical risks to the collections or buildings from fire, theft or floods and reductions in grants from local authorities. The Trustees manage these risks by having an investment policy at the low end of medium risk with regular reviews from the investment managers, by having processes for trustee succession, by conducting reviews of staff availability and development and by regular reviews of security.

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Society should have unrestricted funds (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves) equivalent to at least one year's core costs, that is some £400,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be substantially greater than £400,000 to provide a measure of security since unrestricted funds are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities.

The Unrestricted Funds balance at 31 March 2023 was £634,510 (£852,340 at 31 March 2022).

The balance of Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) was £409,599 at 31 March 2023 (£441,027 at 31 March 2022). The purpose of Designated Funds can be changed by the Board of Trustees. However, it must be borne in mind that the Designated Funds are and have been used to meet expenditure not charged to core activities such as the running costs of the Hopton Store, the Librarian's salary and the depreciation charge on the Art Gallery and high security cases. Therefore, Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities.

Restricted Funds at 31 March 2023 of £362,025 (£378,832 at 31 March 2022) must be used for a specific purpose. The capital at 31 March 2023 of £490,007 (£524,608 at 31 March 2022) in the Endowment Fund is not distributable.

Included within the net book value of land and buildings of £289,442 is the land and buildings of the Museum. These assets are carried in the accounts at net book value of £108,308 (£110,385 at 31 March 2022). The net book value of this property is substantially smaller than its actual market value. There is provision in the Charity Accounting rules for tangible assets like the Museum land and buildings to be shown at market value in the accounts. However, the Trustees have decided that, for the moment, the property should be shown at net book value. This property is now used for the purposes of charitable activities but, if the Museum were to move, it may be available to generate funds to support the new opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society experienced a very busy year with a significant level of activity taking place both within the Museum, off-site and via social media services. Unfortunately, it was not possible to repeat the enormous success of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* Exhibition and consequently the level of revenue from last year could not be maintained. In addition, the very generous level of legacies received last year was not repeated. Costs remained relatively stable increasing by only 1.7%. However, having posted investment gains last year, significant losses were suffered in the year ended 31 March 2023. This reflects the general performance of the capital markets with high inflation and interest rates, and general global political and economic uncertainty.

Unrestricted reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Designated Funds) decreased in the year by £186,402. This was due to a deficit on operating activities of £158,410 and losses on investments of £27,992.

The operating deficit of £158,410 represents a £38,111 deterioration on the adjusted budget deficit. This was mainly due to unplanned expenditure on tree removal (£7,700) and the off-site archaeology store (£9,600), and irrecoverable VAT of £22,018.

Designated Funds decreased during the year by £31,428 mainly because of losses on investments (£23,536) and expenses allocations.

The Society continues to receive support from Wiltshire Council with a grant of £17,280 and Devizes Town Council of £4,000. Both grants will be maintained at this level in 2022/23 but their continuation at this level or at all is not certain for future years. These funds are very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and the Society is extremely grateful for all the grants it receives.

Restricted Funds decreased by £16,807 due to the losses on investments allocated to these funds (£25,573) after offsetting investment income and the receipt of a legacy.

Investment income from the Society's main portfolio and from the Sandell Trust was £71,550 which was an improvement on the previous year (£4,645). The overall return on investments on the combined main and endowment portfolios and including income and revaluation and trading losses was a loss 5.56% compared with gain of 7.37% the previous year. As already noted, this reduction in performance of the Society's investments reflects the volatility in the worlds capital markets associated with the global geopolitical situation and economic uncertainties. The overall income return before investment management expenses was 2.82% compared with 2.44% the previous year.

The Society does not have a specific policy on social, environmental or ethical considerations. However, its investment managers have a corporate strategy that means that these are taken into account in all aspects of their business activities.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund's portfolio is managed at the low end of a medium risk mandate. The Endowment Fund balance has decreased during the year by £34,601 due to losses on securities sold during the year and the loss resulting from the year end revaluation.

Under the terms of the Endowment Trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the Society at some future date to be decided by the Trustees. The Trustees have reserved the right to transfer income received by the Fund to unrestricted reserves from the year ended 31 March 2010. Net investment income of £10,424 after investment expenses of £2,978 was transferred to the unrestricted reserves during the year ended 31 March 2023.

COLLECTIONS TRUST

There are over 500,000 items in the Collections Trust of which 2,500 are displayed in the Museum. There are also some 30,000 items in the Archive and Library collections. Most of these items are assets which were acquired before 1 April 2005 and have no value placed on them in the accounts. These continue to be catalogued and conserved with some items on loan elsewhere as described on page 14. More recent items costing over £1,000 each and totalling £48,741 are included in the balance sheet at cost. No additional funds were received by the Trust during the year, however, acquisitions of £1,848 of items costing less than £1,000 were made. These acquisitions are described on pages 16 to 21.

INCOMING RESOURCES AND LEGACIES RECEIVED

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised, the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to the unrestricted fund and restricted funds respectively. The accounts include £362,025 for restricted funds and £490,007 for the Endowment Fund. These funds are not available to the Society for general use and must, therefore, be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position.

FORWARD PLAN

Each year the Board approves a Forward Plan that contains objectives and targets for the year. The 2022/23 Forward Plan contained targets within the following categories: exhibitions and displays; collections; development; projects; Assize Court; learning and outreach; and governance and core activities. Within the context of management resources good progress was made in most of these areas - see page 33.

PARTNERSHIPS

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and co-operation on exhibitions. Although, by mutual consent, the Directors have ceased to be nominees on the other's Board, good communication is maintained through the Wessex Museums Partnership. Supported by Arts Council England and led by Poole Museum Service, the partnership also includes The Salisbury Museum and Dorset Museum.

The support of Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council in providing revenue grants to the Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their nominated Trustees. We are pleased to continue working in partnership with English Heritage and Salisbury Museum through the Stonehenge Museums Partnership.

The Board is aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to build strong partnerships.

AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2022 and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on
28 September 2023, and signed on
their behalf by:

Martin J Nye
Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The latest Articles of Association were agreed by the members at the October 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Objects of the Society are detailed on the inner cover. The members of the Society are subscribing members; in the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

The Society is the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. The Collections Trust holds all the heritage assets in its collections. The Society does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property.

The Society is also the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Society's accounts but as a separate charity its funds do not form part of the Society's assets.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its Trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the Trustees".

The Society can have a maximum of 20 trustees. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer (the Officers) and nine Trustees are elected by the membership, with re-election after three years. Trustees, excluding the Officers, can serve a maximum of six years. Officers are elected annually from amongst the Trustees but can serve for no more than six years in any one role. As nominating bodies, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, can each appoint one Trustee, and Wiltshire Council can appoint two Trustees. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust no longer appoint a Trustee to the WANHS Board. The Trustees have the power to co-opt additional Trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they may be nominated and elected.

The Society is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets regularly throughout the year. It determines the general policy direction of the Society and discusses matters of importance to the Society. It approves and monitors budgets, Forward and Strategic Plans, all developments, the prioritisation and allocation of resources and approves trustee appointments. Trustees bring outside experience and knowledge which supports that of our small staff.

There is a Review and Development Committee which meets regularly to review the management and financial affairs of the Museum delegated to the Director and his staff. Standing committees and working groups are formed as needed to deal with specific issues.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed including those related to the operations and finances of the Society and Museum, Archive & Library, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Investment Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The Trustees have engaged Rathbone Investment Management as investment managers and a Finance Committee reviews the portfolio and investment strategy.

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The skills and experience of existing Trustees is reviewed annually and, together with future needs, taken into account when seeking new trustees. The Board has a succession plan and has drawn up a trustee role description. Vacancies are advertised to members and through archaeological and voluntary media. Prospective Trustees are invited to visit the Museum to discuss the role prior to a formal interview. A panel, including the Chair and Director, reviews applications and interviews candidates. References are obtained and checks on eligibility to be a trustee and company director made. Those who are considered suitable are recommended to the Board to go forward to the Society's AGM for election by members.

There is an induction process to help Trustees understand their new role. An induction pack includes information on governance, accounts for recent years, forward plans, minutes of recent Board meetings, policies and other relevant information. New Trustees receive copies of Charity Commission advice (e.g. *The Essential Trustee*), are signed up for their e-mail updates and receive a personal tour of the Museum, Archive & Library buildings. From time to time Trustees are offered training courses.

LEGAL INFORMATION

Names and registration numbers

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649 and a charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

PATRONS

J B Bush, CVO, OBE, CSt.J, JP
P Harding, DUniv, FSA, MIFA
D Inshaw
Mrs S R Troughton, CSt.J, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
Martin J Nye, MA (Cantab)

Deputy Chair:
Alison Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA

Hon. Treasurer:
Chris R Kelly, BSc, FCA, FloD

Elected Trustees:
Richard Cardiff
Timothy Daw, MA (Oxon) (to Nov 2022)
Clare Dobbin, MA, MA, BA (Hons)
Gillian Kenny, MA, PhD
Ruth B. Kerr, MA, BA (Hons)
Alfred La Vardera, FCPFA, MSc
Katie Marsden, BSc (Hons)
Daniel S Miles, BA, MA, MIfA
Lachlan Robertson, MA, BSc

Nominated Trustees:
Member, Devizes Town Council (from May 2021):
Cllr. Mrs C Gay, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, FPS
Members, Wiltshire Council: vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF AS AT 31.3.2023

Director: David Dawson, BA, FSA, AMA
Curator*: Lisa Brown, BA (Hons), MA
Marketing & Administration Manager:
Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Museum Assistant: Administration:
Emma Sykes, BA
Collections Officer: Archive & Library*:
Jane Schön, BA (Hons), MA
Community Curator*: Amy Hammett
Development Officer*:
Rachael Holtom, BA (Hons),P.G. Dip, AMA
Exhibitions Officer*: Heather Ault, BA
Finds Liaison Officer: Sophie Hawke (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the British Museum and other partners)
Finance Officer*: Mandy Dixon
Learning & Outreach Officer*: Ali Rushent, BA, MA
Museum Assistant*: Carol Johnston
Partnerships & Digital Lead:
Nicola Trowell, BA (Hons)

*[*part-time]*

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors:
David Owen & Co., 17 The Market Place,
Devizes, SN10 1BA
Bankers:
Lloyds TSB plc, 38 Market Place,
Devizes, SN10 1JD
Investment Managers:
Rathbone Investment Management,
8 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7AZ
Company Secretary:
Mrs K P Jones, BA (Hons)
Hon. Solicitors:
Wansbroughs, Northgate House,
Devizes, SN10 1JX
Editor - Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine:
Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1NS

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concerns
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustee's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 35), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company or the purposes of company law)

are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees' are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee's either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the UK Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, tax legislation, data protection legislation and regulations imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with regards to the provision of insurance policies.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence with HMRC and reviewed meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- We enquired of the trustees about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets, undisclosed related party transactions outside the normal course of business.
- We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud and revenue recognition of legacies, grants and investment income.
- We critically reviewed judgements and provisions included within the financial statements and examined the associated cut-off issues. Prior period forecasts were compared to actual results to ensure past judgements made were reasonable in comparison with eventual outcomes.
- We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We obtained independent confirmations from your bank regarding balances at the year-end in addition to any outstanding charges.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Use of our Report

The report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Michael Buckland (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For an on behalf of David Owen & Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 The Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1BA
Date: 28 September 2023

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	*Total Funds 2022*
		£	£	£	£	*£*
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	1	103,317	5,108	-	108,425	*385,718*
Charitable activities	2	138,945	-	-	138,945	*261,571*
Other trading activities	5	74,220	946	-	75,166	*114,341*
Investments	7	17,160	8,048	13,402	38,610	*33,905*
Total		333,642	14,102	13,402	361,146	*795,535*
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	56,719	1,624	2,978	61,321	*65,141*
Charitable activities	9	450,649	3,712	-	454,361	*441,846*
Total		507,368	5,336	2,978	515,682	*506,987*
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	(54,528)	(25,573)	(34,601)	(114,702)	*68,324*
Net income/(expenditure)		(228,254)	(16,807)	(24,177)	(269,238)	*356,872*
Transfers between funds		10,424	-	(10,424)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(217,830)	(16,807)	(34,601)	(269,238)	*356,872*
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		852,340	378,832	524,608	1,755,780	*1,398,908*
Total funds carried forward		634,510	362,025	490,007	1,486,542	*1,755,780*

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	*2022 £*	*2022 £*
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15		329,539		*347,224*
Managed Investments					
Securities	16	731,781		*978,823*	
Cash		10,771		*3,508*	
			742,552		*982,331*
Managed Endowment Investments					
Securities	16	460,659		*466,711*	
Cash		28,898		*57,447*	
			489,557		*524,158*
Total Fixed Assets			1,561,648		*1,853,713*
Current Assets					
Stock		12,929		*15,733*	
Debtors	17	38,708		*42,771*	
Cash at Bank		131,669		*96,726*	
Total current Assets		183,306		*155,230*	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	130,273		*111,814*	
Net Current Assets			53,033		*43,416*
Total assets less current liabilities			1,614,681		*1,897,129*
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		128,139		*141,349*
			1,486,542		1,755,780
The funds of the Society					
Endowment Funds	22		490,007		*524,608*
Restricted income funds	23		362,025		*378,832*
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)	24		634,510		*852,340*
			1,486,542		1,755,780

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The notes on pages 44 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

M J Nye, Chair

C R Kelly, Honorary Treasurer

28 September 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(a)	(158,096)	208,226
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		38,610	33,906
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,248)	(58,951)
Proceeds from sale of investments		203,292	110,416
Purchase of investments		(64,901)	(255,183)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		171,753	(169,812)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		13,657	38,414
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	(b)	157,681	119,267
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	(b)	171,338	157,681

(a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per the Statement of Activities	(269,238)	356,872
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	22,932	21,882
Opening Balance adjustment		807
(Gains)/losses on investments	114,703	(68,324)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(38,610)	(33,906)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	2,804	(1,291)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	4,064	(21,718)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	5,249	(46,096)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(158,096)	208,226

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand (incl. investment cash)	171,338	157,681
	171,338	157,681

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

(a) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2005), and

(b) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company qualifies as a small company under the Companies Act 2006 and under SORP. However, the Company has continued to comply with the requirements of large charities and to this end has produced a cash flow statement for the accounting period and comparative figures for the previous accounting period.

The Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except for the discounting of the liability for the pension deficit or unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition unless capitalisation is required as a condition of the grant. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 5 years

Investments

Net gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed between realised gains and losses and unrealised gains and losses in note 14 to the financial statements. Investment income has been accounted for on the basis of the due date of payment. Investment income and gains and losses in the Main Fund are allocated between Unrestricted Funds (including Designated Funds) and Restricted Funds on the basis of the average net assets of those funds.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Incoming Resources

- Legacies are normally accounted for when received and, if not given for specific purposes as a condition of the will, are utilised either for general expenditure or for the purposes which the Trustees believe the Testator would have approved.
- Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.
- Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received.
- All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.
- Grants. Where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year, the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. In the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum Services, Library Services, Educational Services, etc.) this has been done on the assessment of the Director.

Pensions

During the year to 31 March 2023 pension provision was made for 11 employees by membership of a Pension Trust Scheme which is principally a defined contribution pension scheme. All employees who are not in the scheme are offered pension auto-enrolment into the scheme where applicable. Employer's contributions of £11,755 have been charged to staff costs as incurred. The Scheme has a limited guarantee on losses under the scheme for those members of staff who transferred to it. This has led to small additional amounts in respect of a deficit being recovered from the Society.

Some years prior to the year ended on 31 March 2017 the Society ceased to be a scheme employer in the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, as stated in the 2012 report, entered into an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse the deficit by payment of £21,000 for each year up to and including December 2031. Full provision of the liability was originally made in the accounts to 31 March 2016 for the amounts payable to December 2031, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period. An amount of £7,790 was charged in the accounts to 31 March 2023 ((£8,432 (2022), £9,044 (2021)).

for the adjustment to the provision for the amounts payable, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period.

Reserves

The reserves at 31 March 2023 are located to Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds. Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting appropriate as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a charity established to raise and hold capital, the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but, as a separate charity, these funds do not form part of the Company's assets. The investment income from the Endowment Fund is credited to the Unrestricted Funds.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which own the Collections. On 3 March 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96(5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However, *"the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and hold the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company".*

Accounts for the Collections Trust have been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
1	**Income from Donations and Legacies**					
	Membership Subscriptions	42,535	-	-	42,535	*42,958*
	Donations and Tax Refunds	26,842	12	-	26,854	*30,311*
	Legacies	1,000	5,096	-	6,096	*274,280*
	Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	-	*5,169*
	Income transferred by Old Society					
	Sandell Trust	32,940	-	-	32,940	*33,000*
		103,317	5,108	-	108,425	*385,718*

Income from Donations and Legacies for Unrestricted Funds includes £247 (2022 £428) for Designated Funds.

2	**Income from Charitable Activities**					
	Grants and Contributions	3	81,776	-	-	81,776	*168,951*
	Admissions		35,657	-	-	35,657	*64,439*
	Exhibitions Commissions		13,001	-	-	13,001	*23,162*
	Education Receipts		8,511	-	-	8,511	*5,019*
			138,945	-	-	138,945	*261,571*

3	**Income from Grants and Contributions**					
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge		25,984	-	-	25,984	*15,501*
	Community Curator Projects		2,797	-	-	2,797	*1,165*
	Community Kick Start Project		3,030	-	-	3,030	-
	Cunnington Lettersbook		1,182	-	-	1,182	-
	Devizes Area Board - New Boiler		-	-	-	-	*2,262*
	Devizes Town Council		4,000	-	-	4,000	*8,000*
	Eric Ravilious: Downland Man exhibition		-	-	-	-	*47,988*
	Ernest Cook Trust		31	-	-	31	*1,672*
	Hardy's Wessex Exhibition		3,170	-	-	3,170	-
	Seeing the Light of Day		-	-	-	-	*11,020*
	Sundry Contributions for Projects		2,202	-	-	2,202	*16,170*
	Vale of Pewsey		-	-	-	-	*10,174*
	Wessex Museum Partnership		22,100	-	-	22,100	*23,157*
	Wiltshire Council		17,280	-	-	17,280	*31,842*
			81,776	-	-	81,776	*168,951*

		2023 £
4	**Grants carried forward**	
	AIM/HF Lest We Forget exhibition	11,580
	Cauldrons - Broomsgrove	556
	Community Curator Projects	1,750
	Devizes Area Tourism	1,257
	Stonehenge - Avebury Bus	5,153
	Sundry Contributions for Projects	180
	Swire Foundation	20,000
	Wessex Museum Partnership	6,000
		46,476

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	*Total 2022*
5	Income from Other Trading Activities		**£**	**£**	**£**	£	*£*
	Shop Sales	6	38,599	-	-	38,599	*92,274*
	Other Sales		-	-	-	-	-
	Museum Income		34,716	946	-	35,662	*22,067*
	Fund-raising Events		905	-	-	905	-
			74,220	946	-	75,166	*114,341*
6	Shop Sales						
	Shop sales		38,599	-	-	38,599	*92,274*
	Less Purchase cost		21,641	-	-	21,641	*35,111*
	Gross Profit		16,958	-	-	16,958	*57,163*
	Gross Profit % on sales					**43.93%**	*61.95%*
7	Investment Income						
	Income from Investments		17,160	8,048	13,402	38,610	*33,905*
			17,160	8,048	13,402	38,610	*33,905*
8	Expenditure on Raising Funds						
	Cost of Sales						
	Shop		21,641	-	-	21,641	*35,111*
	Salaries		10,061	-	-	10,061	*9,573*
	Members' services		2,792	-	-	2,792	*3,296*
	Marketing		2,297	-	-	2,297	*219*
	Fundraising costs		11,673	-	-	11,673	*4,268*
	Investment management costs		3,462	1,624	2,978	8,064	*8,516*
	Support costs		4,793	-	-	4,793	*4,158*
			56,719	1,624	2,978	61,321	*65,141*
9	Expenditure on Charitable Activities						
	Museum Services		255,014	3,712	-	258,726	*275,162*
	Library Services		47,024	-	-	47,024	*43,445*
	Educational work		34,142	-	-	34,142	*34,260*
	WANHM		15,127	-	-	15,127	*12,733*
	Support and governance costs		99,342	-	-	99,342	*76,246*
			450,649	3,712	-	454,361	*441,846*

Expenditure on Charitable Activities for Unrestricted Funds includes £13,865 (2022 £15,992) for Designated Funds.

Support and governance costs include audit fees of £6,800 (2022 - £6,300)

		Total 2023	*Total 2022*
10	Staff costs	**£**	*£*
	Wages and Salaries	221,728	*216,992*
	Social Security costs	11,705	*10,791*
	Pension costs	19,935	*20,379*
		253,368	*248,162*

Staff costs attributable to activities :	2023 £	*2022 £*
Cost of raising funds	10,061	*9,573*
Charitable activities:		
Museum	149,922	*151,445*
Library	27,802	*26,206*
Education	25,133	*23,611*
Governance	40,450	*37,327*
	253,368	*248,162*

In 2023 £10,825 (2022 £15,069) of staff costs were funded from grants for projects.
Pension costs include £7,790 (2022: £8,433) relating to charges for deficits in previous years.
During the year £21,000 (2022: £21,000) was paid towards the liability for the Wiltshire Council Pension deficit (see note 20).
No employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000.
Key management personnel which consist of the Trustees and the Director were paid a total of £58,368 (2022 £55,261).
This amount is gross of employer's contributions towards pension and National Insurance.
The average number of employees in 2023 was 4 full time and 8 part time (2022: 4 full time and 8 part time).

11 Trustees' Expenses

No trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year.
Trustees' expenses totalling £0 (2022 £0) were paid during the year

12 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year 2023 (2022 - £0).

13 Operating Leases

Payments for operating leases for a telephone system and for a photocopier amounted to £2,842 (2022 £2,842) during the year.

Minimum lease payments are payable as follows:	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than one year	4,602	2,842
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,794	2,842
	7,396	5,684

14 Gains/(losses) on investment assets

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Main Portfolio £	Endowment Portfolio £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Realised gains/(losses)	(5,046)	(2,365)	(7,411)	(5,291)	(12,702)	*528*
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(49,482)	(23,208)	(72,690)	(29,310)	(102,000)	*67,796*
	(54,528)	(25,573)	(80,101)	(34,601)	(114,702)	*68,324*

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	Total 2023	*Total 2022*
	£	£	£	£	*£*
Opening Cost at 1st April	72,750	298,487	86,241	457,478	*398,527*
Addition - Amesbury Storage Facility	-	-	5,248	5,248	*58,951*
Closing Cost at 31st March	72,750	298,487	91,489	462,726	*457,478*
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st April	-	75,781	34,474	110,255	*88,372*
Charge in year	-	6,015	16,917	22,932	*21,882*
Accumulated Depr. at 31st March	-	81,796	51,391	133,187	*110,254*
Closing Net Book Value at 31st March	72,750	216,691	40,098	329,539	*347,224*

The freehold land and buildings transferred from the original unincorporated Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Charity no. 309534) in November 2003 were included in the balance sheet at book values. Other tangible fixed assets acquired or created since have been included at cost. The Trustees have decided not to apply a valuation to the property.

16 Quoted Fixed Asset Investments	Main Portfolio 2023	Endowment Portfolio 2023	*Main Portfolio 2022*	*Endowment Portfolio 2022*
	£	**£**	*£*	*£*
Opening Market Value at 1st April	978,823	466,711	*853,167*	*380,083*
Purchases	-	64,901	*113,660*	*141,523*
	978,823	531,612	*966,827*	*521,606*
Sales	166,939	36,352	*39,149*	*71,268*
	811,884	495,260	*927,678*	*450,338*
Net profits/(losses) :				
Realised	(7,412)	(5,291)	*1,541*	*(1,819)*
Unrealised	(72,691)	(29,310)	*49,604*	*18,192*
Closing Market value at 31st March	**731,781**	**460,659**	**978,823**	**466,711**

17 Debtors	Total 2023	*Total 2022*
	£	*£*
Trade Debtors	5,635	*6,758*
Prepayments	16,397	*14,620*
Gift Aid refund receivable	6,601	*11,948*
VAT recoverable	197	*6,705*
Accrued Income	7,138	-
Monies owed by the Collections Trust	-	-
Monies owed by the Old Society	2,740	*2,740*
	38,708	*42,771*

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Grants received in advance (note 4)	46,476	*33,572*
Trade Creditors	11,863	*8,916*
Accruals	15,732	*21,332*
Taxes including NIC	3,431	*3,263*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	20,442	*20,442*
VAT liability	-	-
Prepaid membership subscriptions	23,596	*22,291*
Other income in advance	8,733	*1,998*
	130,273	*111,814*

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	128,139	*141,349*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	128,139	*141,349*

20 **Pension Deficit**

The Society has an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse a deficit with the Wiltshire Pension Fund in relation to two former employees by payment of £21,000 for each year up and including December 2031. Full provision, subject to discounting at 5% over time from 31 March 2018 has been made in creditors. The charge for the year to 31 March 2023 for the discounted part of the provision was £7,790 (2022 £8,433).

21 Analysis of net assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Fund values at 31 March are represented by:					
Tangible Fixed Assets	127,129	202,410	-	329,539	*347,224*
Managed Investments	649,447	93,105	489,557	1,232,109	*1,506,489*
Current Assets	116,346	66,510	450	183,306	*155,230*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(130,273)	-	-	(130,273)	*(111,814)*
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(128,139)	-	-	(128,139)	*(141,349)*
	634,510	362,025	490,007	1,486,542	*1,755,780*

22 Endowment Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Investment expenses	Gain on investments	Inter-Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Trust Fund	524,608	13,402	(2,978)	(34,601)	(10,424)	490,007

Income in the Endowment Trust Fund includes:	£
Legacies	-
Investment Income	13,402
	13,402

The Endowment Trust Fund is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee. It is established to raise capital, the income from which will be paid to the Company for its general use. The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets.

23 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Investment income £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
English Heritage Fund	7,750	-	164	(33)	(522)	-	7,359
Legacies and Donations	136,608	5,096	2,947	(594)	(9,364)	-	134,693
Oexmann Fund	18,557	958	364	(3,786)	(1,156)	-	14,937
Amesbury Storage Facility	202,410	-	4,287	(865)	(13,622)	-	192,210
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	13,507	-	286	(58)	(909)	-	12,826
	378,832	6,054	8,048	(5,336)	(25,573)	-	362,025

Income in the restricted funds includes:	£
Legacies	5,096
Grants	-
Other trading activities	958
	6,054

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes :

Amesbury Storage Facility	Storage facility for archaeology archives deposited after 2021.
English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects.
Legacies and Donations	Legacies and donations received for use in future projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition.
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	This fund was originally set up to cover the cost of Museum refurbishments to create a new Environmental Gallery. Discussions are proceeding to enable the Society to use some or all this money for the refurbishment of the office suite and the purchase of essential equipment.

These fund balances at 31 March 2023 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2023.

24 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Donations and Legacies £	Other Income (incl. investment income) £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds:							
Archaeological Field Group	1,955	-	1,860	(584)	-	-	3,231
Improvement Fund	14,634	-	310	(63)	(985)	-	13,896
Library Fund	977	247	21	(179)	(68)	-	998
Programme Committee	18,229	-	386	(78)	(1,226)	-	17,311
Publications Fund	23,999	-	2,507	(107)	(1,682)	-	24,717
Ready to Borrow Applied	38,347	-	-	-	-	-	38,347
Shearing Library Fund	106,906	-	2,170	(9,327)	(6,895)	-	92,854
The Crofton Story	431	-	9	(2)	(29)	-	409
Wiltshire Life	235,549	-	4,925	(6,987)	(15,651)	-	217,836
	441,027	247	12,188	(17,327)	(26,536)	-	409,599
Other unrestricted funds	411,313	103,070	218,137	(490,041)	(27,992)	10,424	224,911
	852,340	103,317	230,325	(507,368)	(54,528)	10,424	634,510

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees and which remain part of the unrestricted funds) is currently:

Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity.
The Crofton Story	Income from the sale of this publication.
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Museum.
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management.
Programme Committee	To finance members' events.
Publications Fund	To finance publications (the expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks).
Ready to Borrow Applied	The balance represents capital expenditure funded by Ready to Borrow Grant and contributions used to defray the depreciation costs of new tangible fixed assets over their useful life.
Shearing Library Fund	To finance the cost of employing a part-time Librarian and small library equipment purchases.
Wiltshire Life	To finance the care and development of the Wiltshire Life Society Collections. The expenditure consists of direct costs and does not include curatorial charges.

Allocation of expenditure from Designated Funds is reviewed regularly. The timing of expenditure is over a period which matches requirements of each purpose, potentially over a number of years. These fund balances at 31 March 2023 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2023.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS TRUST - Linked Charity Number 1080096

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	*2022 Total*
Income and Endowments from:	£	£	£	*£*
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	*22,000*
Charitable activities:	-	-	-	
Grants	-	-	-	-
Sale	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	*22,000*
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Acquisitions costing less than £1,000				
Museum	1,685	-	1,685	*3,530*
Library	163	-	163	-
	1,848	-	1,848	*3,530*
Costs		-		
Sundry	-	-	-	-
	1,848	-	1,848	*3,530*
Net income/(expenditure)	(1,848)	-	(1,848)	*18,470*
Balance at 1 April 2022 brought forward	66,631	4,252	70,883	*52,413*
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	*64,783*	*4,252*	*69,035*	*70,883*

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

Heritage Assets		
Opening Balance at 1 April	48,741	*48,741*
Acquisitions over £1,000	-	-
Closing Balance at 31 March	48,741	*48,741*
Current Assets		
Cash in Bank	20,294	*22,142*
	20,294	*22,142*
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	-
Net current assets	20,294	*22,142*
Total assets less current liabilities	69,035	*70,883*

The Funds of the Trust	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income, Grants & Donations	Inter Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds - Museum and Art	66,631	-	-	1,848	64,783
Restricted Funds	4,252	-	-	-	4,252
	70,883	-	-	1,848	69,035

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Museum and Art Collections: The collections fall within the definition of heritage assets for the purposes of the Charities SORP.

Accounting Policies:

1. No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1 April 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by the users of the financial statements.
2. The Trustees have adopted a policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of purchase.
3. Acquisitions costing in excess of £1,000 are capitalised and stated at cost as heritage assets.
   No depreciation is provided on heritage assets as all are deemed to have indefinite lives.
4. Policies for acquisition, disposal and conservation of heritage assets meet Accreditation Standard, which has been awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Summary of Transactions:	**Year to:**				
	31.03.2023	**31.03.2022**	**31.03.2021**	**31.03.2020**	**31.03.2019**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost of acquisitions of heritage assets	-	-	2,470	2,325	2,200
Value of assets acquired by donation and not reported in the Balance Sheet					
Carrying amount of heritage assets disposed of and proceeds received					
Cost of assets written off in year of purchase as per accounting policy	1,848	3,530	1,379	2,054	3,835

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Charity No: 1080096 Company No. 3885649
MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
held on Sunday 13 November 2022, commencing at 3.00 pm
at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

01/22 Present

Trustees: Mr Martin J Nye (Chair), Mr Chris R Kelly (Hon Treasurer), Mr Tim Daw, Ms Claire Dobbin, Dr Alison Hems, Ms Ruth Kerr, Mr Alfred la Vardera and 32 members of the Society.

In Attendance

Mr D Dawson (Director) and Mrs K P Jones (Minute Taker and Company Secretary).

02/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Ms Jan Bryant, Mrs Margaret R Clarke, Mr Alan and Mrs Lindsey Dedden, Mr Richard Gamble, Mrs Chris Gay (WANHS Trustee – Devizes Town Council nominee), Mr Charles Jenkins, Mr Adrian Kent, Ms Katie Mardsen (WANHS Trustee), Mr Dan Miles (WANHS Trustee), Mr William & Mrs Anne Perry, Ms Mary Rennie and Mr Stephen & Mrs Pascale Stacey.

03/22 Chair's Opening Address

The Chair, Martin Nye, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Company limited by Guarantee). He thanked everyone for attending on this glorious Sunday afternoon.

The meeting acknowledged those members of the Society who had died since the last AGM, Mr D M Anderson, Mr Anthony Batchelor, Mr D J Bonney, Ms Linda Brazier, Dr Bruce Eagles, Mrs B F Hillier-Thorold, Mr Allan Keene, Mr Alan Padwick, Mrs Eileen M Parkins, Mr Bernard Phillips, Mr Rory Riordan, Mr Anthony E C Whinney, Mrs Avice Wilson, Mr Francis Wright and Miss Jeanne M Yates

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/22 Minutes of meeting held 13 November 2021

Proposed by Mr P Saunders and seconded by Mr Tim Daw, the minutes of the AGM held on 13 November 2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed *nem con.*

05/22 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022

a) Report by the Chair

The Chair noted that despite challenging headwinds the strong performance of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition had shown the Society and Museum at their best. The long range planning of the exhibition (which turned into longer range due to the Covid-pandemic!) was aided by an expert curator, a successful marketing campaign and tenacious fundraising. The events programme around the exhibition was well received as was the Arts Together project which brings together older people with a zest for life. There had been fantastic feedback and new volunteers and members had joined us. A visit to the exhibition in December 2021 by the then HRH Duchess of Cornwall (now HM the Queen Consort) had been a notable highlight.

In recent months the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer* exhibition and the award of £1.3m from the Arts Council to the Wessex Museums highlighted the continuing confidence in the Museum. A particular highlight for the Chair was the British Museum's *World of Stonehenge* exhibition, which had featured the Bush Barrow gold from our collection.

The Devizes Assize Court project continued, with close co-operation with the Devizes Assize Court Trust. The Director would speak more about this after the AGM, but the contribution of £50,000 from Devizes Town Council towards the project was a welcome vote of local support.

The finances had performed well during the Covid-pandemic, but the current economic situation meant that costs would need to be controlled and some creativity re funding considered.

The Museum team remained strong and the three new trustees had all made a significant contribution to the Society.

(b) Report by the Treasurer

Mr Chris Kelly presented his report highlighting the financial situation with a series of slides.

The main message was that we had a very successful year with the best results in the last five years. The investment environment was a challenge and there was a lot to do – but that we were good at stuff!

The summarised statement of financial activities showed a net movement of £375,000, which had been allocated across reserves, including £100,000 to the Endowment Fund and £100,000 to restricted funds. The rest were in the general fund. An analysis of income showed an increase in donations and legacies (due to legacies received) and charitable activities, due to the success of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition. Other trading activities, such as shop sales, had also increased due to the exhibition.

An analysis of expenses also reflected the success of the exhibition, with an increase in shop stock, with rates for the Amesbury Store also contributing to an increase in expenses on charitable activities.

The Treasurer had also reviewed the core performance of the Society's financial activity by taking out non-recurring income and expenses and adjusting for legacies. This showed that the cost of running the Museum and Society was £88,000 per annum, with a five year average of £83,000.

The Society's investments at 31 March 2022, were valued at £1.4m, of which £467,000 was invested in the Endowment Fund. The fund was dropping off in line with other indices due to a combination of rising interest rates, inflation and the current economic situation.

An analysis of income streams showed that where the Museum could have influence, e.g. admissions, subscriptions, shops sales, exhibitions and events income, had increased in recent years, with the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition contributing £97,000 to Society funds.

However, there were challenges to meet including constrained resources (e.g the current building limited growth in activity), being able to continue to maximise existing revenue streams, developing and growing new revenue opportunities, reducing reliance on revenue that we cannot influence (e.g. core grants) and leveraging the Society's assets such as people, collections and facilities.

The Treasurer concluded with how these challenges could be met – from progressing the Devizes Assize Court project and having vision, ambition, connections, partnerships and through hard work and commitment.

On a question from a member the Treasurer explained the differences between the Endowment Fund, restricted and general funds. *See notes to Financial Statements for details*.

c) Report by the Director

The Director thanked Trustees for their support and how the support of everyone was necessary to ensure the successful running of the Museum and Society. In a series of slides he highlighted some of the work undertaken in the year to 31 March 2022 and subsquently.

As previously mentioned, the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* had been very successful, with a positive impact on the local economy. The then HRH The Duchess of Cornwall (now HM Queen Consort) had met volunteers who had helped with the exhibition, but also expressed interest in the Devizes Assize Court project.

The Wessex Museums, working together as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), continued to have a positive impact on the society. The NPO enabled the employment of a Community Curator (Amy Hammett), who had worked on a *My World, My Future* project with young people looking at the environment and climate change.

The *Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Magazine* (WANHM) continued to be very well received and considered one of the best society journals. Dr Stuart Brookes, Mr Peter Saunders and Mr Stuart Raymond were all thanked for their continuing involvement in producing the volume each year.

The collections continue to grow, and conservation undertaken when necessary. Both volumes of letters written to and from William Cunnington 1 had now been rebound in new volumes and digital copies taken. A student from Bath Spa University had listed them all and we were now looking at hoe they could be published. An album of watercolour drawings of Wiltshire churches and houses by Robert Kemm had also been rebound, funded by a donation from member Peter Saunders. It had been hoped to put these on display today, but unfortunately our display cases were not large enough! However new cases were on order, part funded by a legacy from Dr Lorna Haycock.

It would now be possible to store new acquisitions from archaeology excavations in the Amesbury Store, which now had the necessary alarms and racking. Depositions of material would come with a 'dowry' which would help fund the costs of running the store and a reserve for a future store. The Den Shelton legacy had been used to fund new acquisitions over the last ten years or so. This fund had now been spent, but a recent legacy from Dr Pamela Gough had enabled a new fund to be created, enabling the Curator to continue to purchase important objects for the collection.

Another important item in the collection, whilst not new was found to be important. Whilst clearing the loft above the Oexmann Gallery for insulation the items of natural history stored there were removed. Amongst them were found some slides made by William Cunnington III, containing thin sections of the stones at Stonehenge. One of them was of a stone excavated in 1874 that lies below the ground surface and therefore cannot be sampled. This slide is therefore the only way of identifying the detailed geology of the stone. The slides had been sent to Rob Ixer a export on petrology for analysis (the branch of science concerned with the origin, structure, and composition of rocks) and an article has been written for *WANHM*. Also in the collection was a microscope owned by William Cunnington III donated to the Museum by the family in recent years.

Recent history is not forgotten and a collection of items owned by Mary Niblett, who had been a nurse during World War Two, had been donated. Recent items are also collected to reflect current events, which included a mosaic created as tribute to the NHS during the Covid-pandemic.

We were also able to borrow items for the display during the year. This included daggers and the Aldbourne Cup from the British Museum, during the period they had our Bush Barrow items for their World of Stonehenge exhibition.

Our collections continued to be in demand for touring exhibitions too. In addition to the aforementioned exhibition at the British Museum, items are on display at two exhibitions in Germany, including Herne, and in storage awaiting their display in New Zealand as part of the MuseumsPartner *Secrets of Stonehenge* touring exhibition. These items may in due course travel to Australia and China over the next couple of years.

The Piper window had undergone conservation work in 2022. The window had become badly bowed over the years due to the summer sun and was in danger of collapse. It was removed, reset and replaced: now backlit with an artificial light, rather than natural light.

Another area to undergo radical work was the garden, which had been destroyed by a large tree coming down in a storm early in 2022. Since the removal of the tree the garden had been cleared by our neighbour Paul Wilson and new hedging from the Woodland Trust was due to be planted. It would eventually deter intruders, but not necessarily the local badgers!

The *Hardy's Wessex: the landscape that inspired a writer* had been popular, although not reaching Ravilious heights. Wiltshire Museum had seen more redeemed loyalty cards (a card stamped at each venue, with a small gift given at the fourth venue) than the other museums put together, showing that the exhibition had brought visitors up from the south, across Salisbury Plain! In total nearly 5,500 visitors had attended, compared to 3,500 for the comparable period in 2019 (pre-Covid pandemic). A version of the exhibition will open at Swindon Museum in 2023.

The Director finished by showing the variety of activities which had taken place this week. This included: a celebration event to mark the launch of the book on the Devizes Assize Court oral history project (this project had been undertaken with help from Bath Spa University students and panels would be displayed at Devizes Cinema and a banner on the Assize Court railings); the deposition of a Victorian model of Stonehenge via Tim Daw in memory of Neil Wiseman; the final showing of *Drawn to War*, a film about Eric Ravilious, which over it's seven screenings

at the Museum had been seen by 350 people; our Young Curators making mini museums on Saturday; the Director attending a conference in memory of Bernard Phillips; the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group recording finds and this AGM. Over the next seven days schools would be attending workshops on Monday and Tuesday; Devizes Books would be using the lecture hall for their book club, the Public Living Room group would be making lanterns with DOCA (Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts) Holt Brownies were coming from a sleep over on Friday night, followed by the Museum Explorers club on Saturday morning, the Youth Panel Saturday afternoon and a members tour of the Museum. On Sunday DOCA would once again by using the lecture hall to make lanterns for the upcoming lantern parade.

Coming up was a silent disco organised by our Youth Panel, the Oexmann Art Award competition and exhibition in December and exhibitions by contrasting artists Joanna May and Rob Pountney.

The Director concluded by thanking colleagues, members and volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to do as much as we do.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 are available from the Museum's website or on request from the Museum Office.

Proposed by Mr Alfred La Vardera and seconded by Mr Tim Tatton Brown, the meeting received the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022, together with the Auditors Report. The resolution was passed *nem con*.

06/22 Election of Trustees

There was just one nomination this year with Mr Richard Cardiff standing for re-election.

Proposed by Mr Chris Kelly and seconded by Mr Martin Nye the meeting duly re-elected Mr Cardiff to the Board of Trustees *nem con*.

07/22 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mr Peter Saunders and seconded by Mr Tim Daw, the meeting re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration. *Nem. com.*

08/22 Any Other Business

The meeting was opened to members but no items were raised.

In closing the Chair thanked the Board of Trustees, the Director and his staff for all their hard work and commitment, and ongoing activity in these challenging times. He also thanked members for their support and engagement which made a difference to all that we did.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for joining the meeting. The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

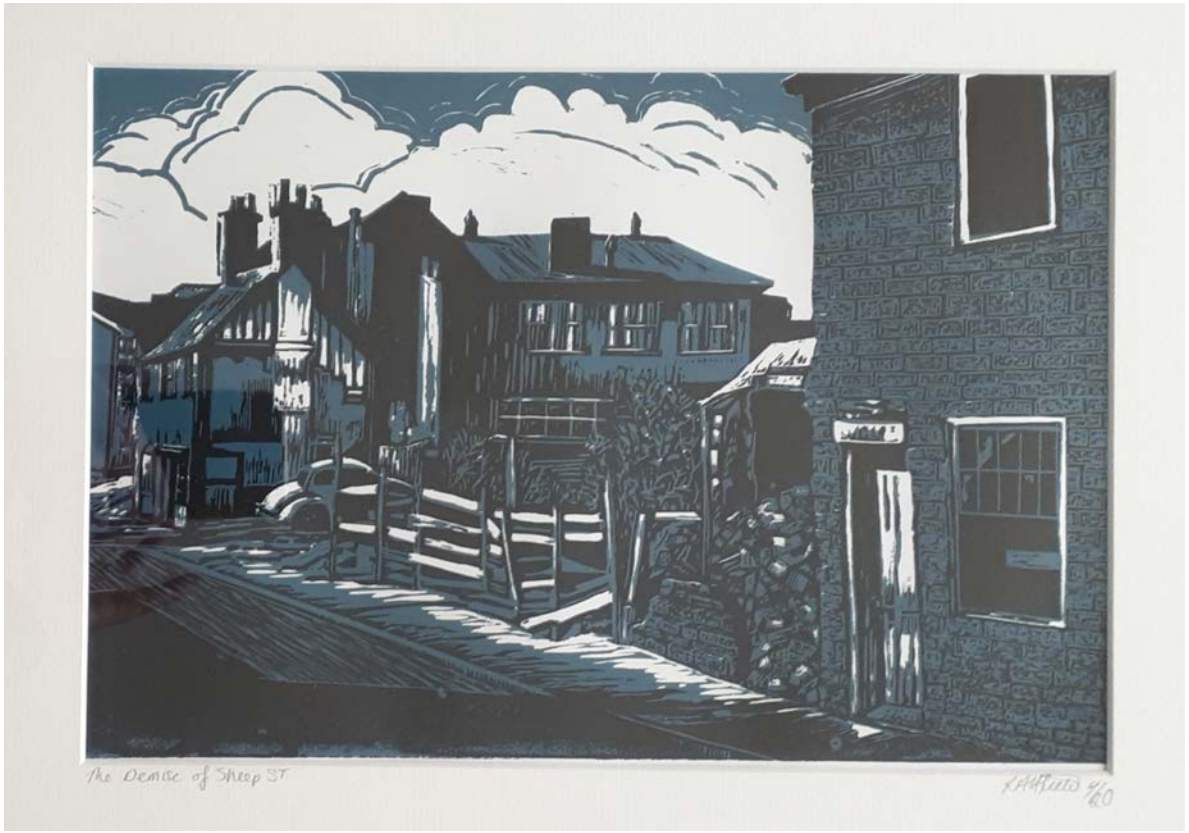
The meeting was followed by *Assizes for Devizes: unlocking Wiltshire's Stories,* a presentation by the Director David Dawson, outlining the latest on our plans as we working on our funding application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Date of next Meeting: TBC

To be held at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire



Porch House, Potterne. Pen and ink drawing signed by the artist R H Smallridge (2022.1004).



The Demise of Sheep Street, by Karen Attfield, Oexmann Art Competition Purchase Prize, 2022 (2023.1003).



Framed pen, ink, and watercolour drawing of the gardens at Stourhead House, after John Piper. (2022.1002) *See page 18.*

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
Tel: 01380 727369
Company No - 3885649
Registered Charity No - 1080096
VAT Registration No - 140 2791 91

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1080096

Accounts

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022



The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
01380 727369
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES

Eric Ravilious: Downland Man

The Final Figures

NUMBER OF DAYS OPEN:
120 DAYS

AVERAGE VISITORS PER DAY:
102 VISITORS

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS:
12211 VISITORS

TOTAL HOURS OPEN:
728 HOURS

AVERAGE VISITORS (PER HOUR):
17 VISITORS

MOST VISITORS IN ONE DAY:
338 VISITORS (29/1/2022)

NUMBER OF VISITORS IN JANUARY:
4487 VISITORS

AVERAGE VISITORS (PER DAY IN JANUARY):
166 VISITORS

CATALOGUES SOLD:
1800 CATALOGUES

Cover: HM The Queen Consort (then HRH The Duchess of Cornwall) visiting Wiltshire Museum on 2 December 2021, accompanied by HM Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton. Cadet Corporal Max Glibbery is saluting Her Royal Highness on arrival. Cadet Corporal Glibbery is a member of Wiltshire Army Cadet Force. Since July 2020 HM The Queen Consort is also the Colonel in Chief of The Rifles. Image (c) Anna Barclay

WILTSHIRE Archaeological and Natural History Society

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

SUMMARY and OBJECTS

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853. The Society's first permanent Museum opened in Long Street in 1874. The Society is a registered charity and governed by Articles of Association.

Objects. To educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

Mission Statement. To explore the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire.

Aims. The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum, organises a programme including conferences, lecture and events, learning and outreach for children and schools, provides access to our collections for academic and general researchers, reviews planning consents, supports the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group, promotes Industrial Archaeology and publishes the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (*WANHM*)*. Further details are included in this Annual Report.

The Collections. These have been acquired by the Society over nearly 170 years and their strength lies in the prehistoric material. The Early Bronze Age collection is of exceptional importance because of its size and range, the uniqueness of many of the objects, the fact that it includes many important items, its association with the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge, and its relevance to the history of archaeology. 'Gold from the Time of Stonehenge' is on permanent display.

Researchers. Every year academic researchers carry out important research on the collection. There are over 500,000 items in the collections and details can be found in our online searchable database. The collections are '**Designated**' of national importance and '**Accreditation**' status was first awarded in 2005. Overseen by the Arts Council the Accreditation Scheme *sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance, as well as supporting them to plan and develop their services*.

The **Library** contains a local studies collection of books, journals, newspapers and other printed items including photographs and maps concerned with Wiltshire, all available to researchers. The archaeology section includes a general collection of archaeology books, the principal archaeology journals, the papers of Wiltshire antiquaries and the written records of more recent excavations in the county. The natural history section similarly includes general natural history books, specialist journals and the papers of early natural historians.

Funding. The Society and Museum are funded by its members, past and present; admission charges, Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council; grants from charitable trusts, fundraising activities and income from investments.

The Society holds an Annual General Meeting each year to which all Society members are invited. At this meeting the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March are presented for approval and Trustees elected.



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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CONTENTS

Summary and Objects	3
Letter from the Chair	7
Board of Trustees' Report	9
Objectives and Activities of the Society	9
Highlights of the Year	10
Finds Liaison Officer	11
Fundraising	12
Exhibitions	13
Collections - Loans	14
Collections - Acquisitions of the year	16
- Collections - Archaeology, Art, Archive and Library	17
Collections - Natural History, Numismatics, Recent History	19
Conservation; Disposal	20
Activities, Events, Lectures and Outings	21
Membership; Publications and Social Media	22
Research	24
Learning, Outreach and Community Engagement	26
Community Curator	27
Volunteers	28
Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group	30
Society Committees and Working Groups	31
Development - Working with Partners; Plans for the Future; Forward Plans	32
Development - Devizes Assize Court	33
Trustees' Financial Review	34
Structure, Governance and Management	37
Reference and Administrative Information	38
Report of the Auditors	39
Statement of Financial Activities	41
Balance Sheet	42
Statement of Cash flows	43
Notes to the financial statements	44
Collections Trust – Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	53
Collections Trust – Notes to the Financial Statements	54
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2021	55



Clockwise from the top: the window pre-conservation; at the conservators, Holywell Glass; work in progress; being reinstalled.

Bottom the newly reinstalled window, backlit by artificial light.

See page 20 for more detail.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the WANHS Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2022. As you will see from the report, despite some headwinds including lockdowns and other restrictions, it has been a year of good progress and strong delivery against our charitable objectives.

Undoubtedly the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition was one of the highlights of the year, which from start to finish showed the Society and its Museum at our best. A clear vision about what we wanted the show to be, careful long-range planning and fund-raising, a close partnership with an expert curator and a successful marketing campaign led to a major boost to numbers with over 12,000 visitors during a four month period. Significant economic benefits to Devizes and the wider area were delivered, totalling an estimated £380,000. An extensive programme of related activities ensured we engaged with a broad range of audiences, including students with special educational needs from Fairfields Farm College and participants in the Arts Together art workshops, a group who aim to bring 'arts and zest for life to older people in Wiltshire', who all produced some moving and memorable artworks. Visitor feedback was first-rate, and helped drive another strong year of new members signing up. We recruited 32 new and 24 existing volunteers to help host the exhibition, who received widespread praise for their positive engagement with visitors. And finally we were proud to host a visit in December by HM The Queen Consort (then HRH The Duchess of Cornwall), accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant Sarah Troughton.

The *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired an artist* exhibition is ongoing at the time of writing (May to October 2022), and although it is not having as dramatic an impact on visitor numbers, it is proving popular, as are the related series of walks, talks and other events. This exhibition is being delivered in conjunction with the other three members of the Wessex Museums Partnership, one of many examples of the benefits of collaboration.

Over the last 12 months we have lent some of our collections to other museums and touring exhibitions, further widening our audiences, raising the profile of the Museum and in some cases generating much-needed revenues. The British Museum's hugely impressive exhibition *The World of Stonehenge* put our treasured Bush Barrow and Shaman burial artefacts centre-stage, whilst other parts of our collections toured Europe and North America, and we have also made loans to museums closer to home. Conservation has been another focus this year, with important work completed on the Cunnington letters and the John Piper window.

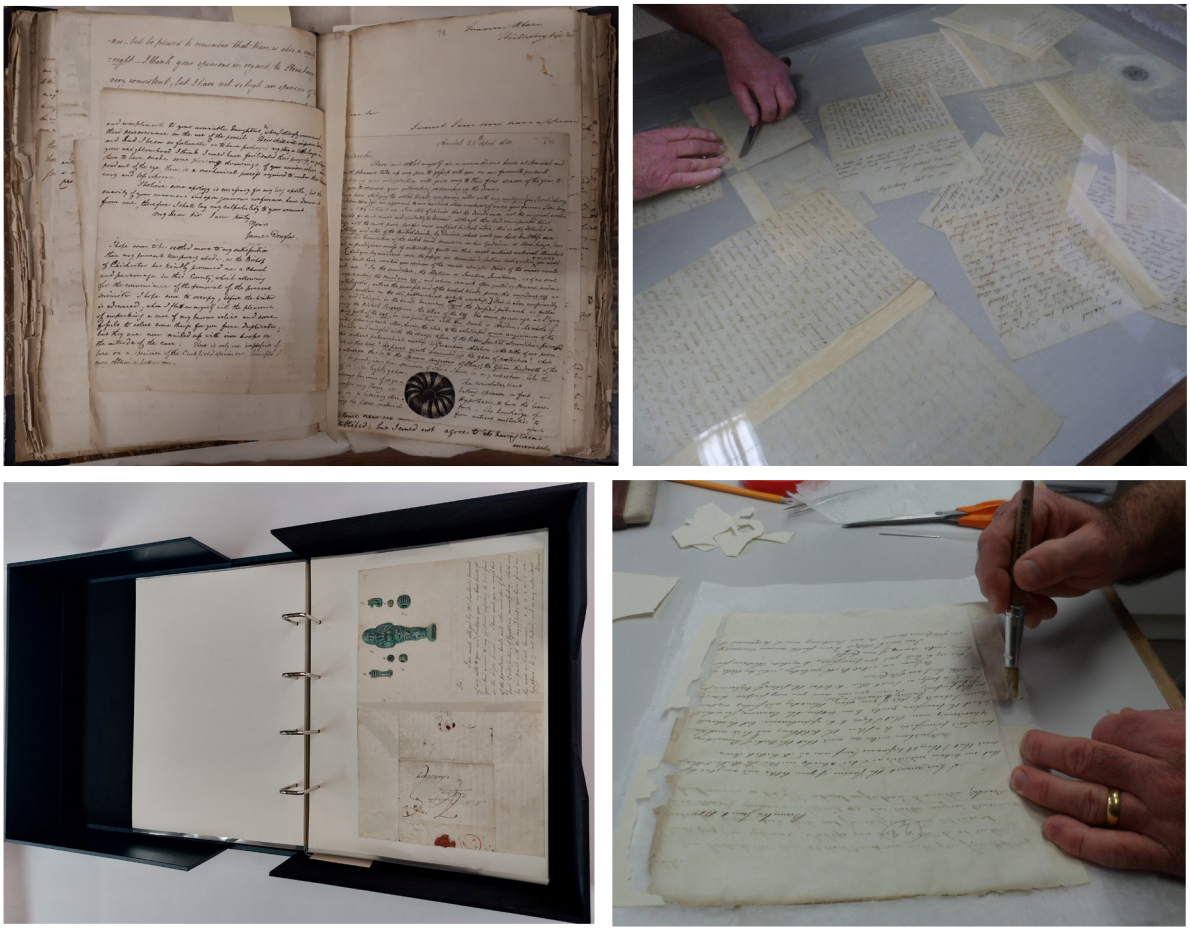
We have continued to broaden our reach by further developing our online resources and by delivering a vibrant programme of talks and events, both online and in person. We established a Youth Panel to help ensure we are listening to – and acting upon – the voices of an important part of our audience.

We continue to work closely with Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) to ensure that the restored and extended Assize Court can fulfil its full potential as a central part of the cultural, social and economic life of Devizes, for local people and for visitors. Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council are highly supportive of our aims. We are busy preparing a submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, an important plank of our fund-raising strategy.

It is pleasing that despite the severe impact of the pandemic on our income and fund-raising activities over the last couple of years, the Society is currently in a reasonably strong financial situation. However, the combination of rising cost inflation and other economic challenges means that we cannot be complacent if we want to deliver our ambitious objectives. We will need to continue to creatively generate revenue, control costs and raise funds, and I have a high level of confidence that our committed and able staff and trustees will be successful in this task. Three new trustees joined us this year, all of whom have made a significant contribution already.

My thanks to you, our members, for your continuing support, generous gifts and legacies and enthusiastic engagement with our activities – all of which makes a very real difference for which we are most grateful.

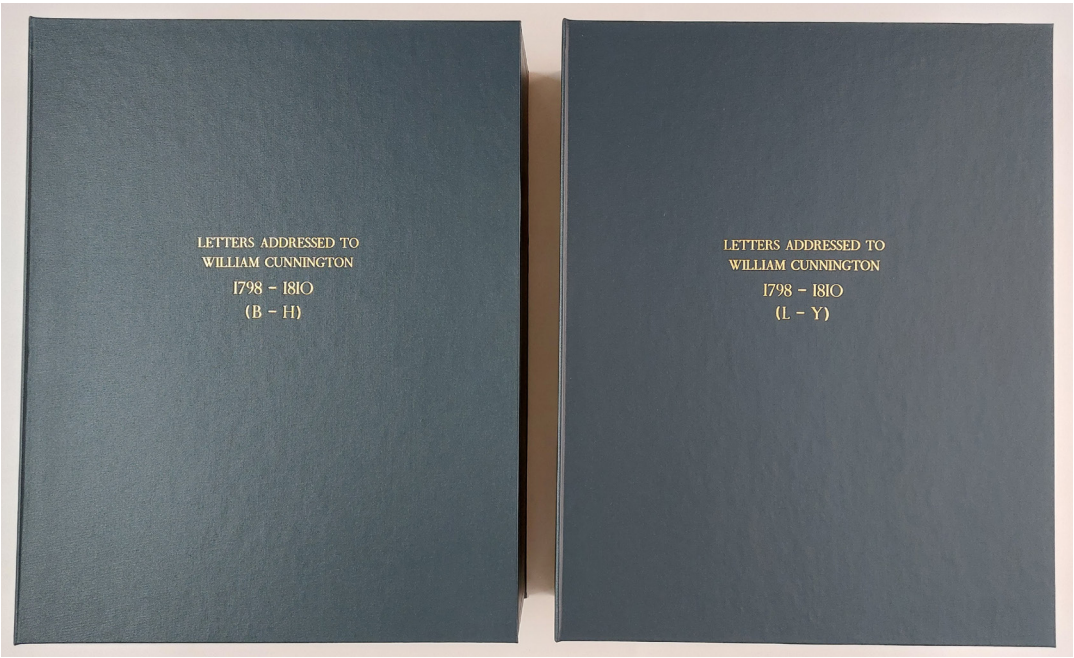
Martin Nye



Clockwise from the top: Internal view of binder showing a letter; selection of letters being washed in an alkaline solution to de-acidify and help remove remnants of the old paper guards; one of the letters being repaired; internal view of letter book showing letter 76 with an illustration and the letter guard lifting.

Below: the new archival clam-shell ring-binders.

See Page 20 for details.



WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

This Annual Report includes the reports and financial statements set out on pages 9 to 56. The Report of the Board of Trustees should be deemed to be the directors' report for the purposes of Company Law.

The reports on the following pages show how the Objects of the Society - see below - are achieved to further the charities purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Director is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chair and his report, and those of the staff, follow, on pages 10 to 33. The Society's committees and working groups provide a number of services to members and the wider public. They cover a wide range of activities from fundraising, industrial archaeology through to expert advice on planning matters. Their work helps promote the Society and its Museum and Archive and Library to a wide audience and reports are included in this report. The Society could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours provided and also the invaluable funding and support of our membership. .

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are *to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit*. To achieve this the Society:

- Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.
- Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire
- Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.
- Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
- Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.
- Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.
- Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in archaeology in the county.
- Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.



Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire. Loans objects to other organisations.

MISSION STATEMENT
Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

Highlights of the Year

The highlight of the year was our stunning *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, which was curated by James Russell, and managed by Heather Ault, our Exhibitions Officer. We welcomed over 12,000 visitors and the feedback from our visitors was extraordinary.

The exhibition ran from 29 September 2021 until 31 January 2022 and featured 21 works by Ravilious, with loans from private lenders, The British Museum, Towner Gallery, Tate, V&A and National Museums Wales. Everyone was involved in the exhibition, whether volunteer, trustee or member of staff. Tasks included managing the loans, ensuring that the works were properly cared for, security, training, marketing, promoting on social media, security, fund-raising, sourcing shop stock, evaluation or welcoming visitors. As we approached the Christmas period, increasing Covid-19 rates meant that we were constantly reviewing our procedures and January passed in a blur, with hundreds of people welcoming the chance to explore the exhibition during such challenging times. We were also delighted to welcome the HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, who remarked that Ravilious was her favourite artist.

The start of the year was anything but positive, as we were again in lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This extended period of closure was difficult for everyone and we kept going with a programme of online talks and lectures, continuing to engage new audiences online. We reopened on 20 May 2021, cautiously at first with restricted days of opening and reduced hours. Careful planning enabled us to be awarded 'Good to Go' status as a Covid-safe visitor attraction. We took advantage of the closure to introduce a new till system and an online booking system – ArtTickets provided by Art Fund. These proved to be invaluable as we were able to manage the number of people in the building and provide more efficient contact-less payments. The precautions we took during Covid proved their worth – as far as we can tell, no member of staff, volunteer or visitor has been infected with Covid while they were at the Museum.

As thoughts turned to building back after Covid, we developed closer links with the local business community, taking part in Devizes 'Indies' to help promote independent shops and cafés. The Ravilious exhibition brought trade to shops cafés, restaurants and hotels in the local area, delivering an economic impact of over £380,000. We also took part in the Government's Kickstart Scheme which provided funding to employers to create jobs for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit.

In 2021 we created a website for Museums across Wiltshire and used it as a platform to promote visits to museums as they re-opened, as well as holiday activities which were publicised by the Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Libraries. Our own welcome to visitors was recognised by VisitEngland, who awarded us an improved score of 82% in the Visitor Attraction Quality Assessment Scheme, enabling us to claim the 'Hidden Gem' status. This measures visitor experience, the warmth of the welcome and the cleanliness of the building during a 'mystery shopper' visit.

Behind the scenes, work began on fitting out the Amesbury Store, with work delayed by Covid-19 and impacted by materials cost increases and delivery delays. This will be able to accept new archaeology collections in the summer of 2022. Amongst the notable acquisitions during the year was an important medieval enamel incense boat cover, on loan from Bromham PCC. Conservation has revealed its' stunning decoration (see page 15).

Meanwhile, the Assize Court project has moved on slowly. The announcement by Wadworth Brewery that they would be moving production from their current site led to Wiltshire Council commissioning an update of the 2017 Wharf Development Strategy to ensure close working between stakeholders. Although a first Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was not successful, a second was submitted in March, which was then successful, marking an important first step towards realising the project.

David Dawson

Finds Liaison Officer/Portable Antiquities Scheme

Joining PAS in January 2021 as FLO, in a job share with Wil Partridge during lockdown went very smoothly, despite the government restrictions. Wil left PAS in March 2021 to return to university, in addition to his research work at Wiltshire Museum, offering up the opportunity for the author to become FLO full time.

By April 2021, it was possible for the FLO to meet finders with Treasure items in museum car parks, although not indoors, due to Covid-19 restrictions. This meant that finds surgeries did not start up again properly until Autumn 2021. The FLO is based at The Salisbury Museum but also visits Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham and STEAM, Swindon, (as Swindon Museum and Art Gallery is relocating). Finders had been able to detect as part of their daily exercise during lockdown in February 2021 and had accumulated large numbers of finds but they had to be limited to a maximum of ten per finder for recording, as PAS volunteers could not return to The Salisbury Museum until Autumn 2021, and this was in limited numbers.

The situation has improved in 2022, although not all the regular PAS volunteers have felt able to return. The FLO and volunteers managed to record 1333 objects in 1181 records from April 2021 to March 2022. Funding was made available from the British Museum in February 2022 to finance short term assistance in dealing with Treasure finds.

Additional work has included further magnetometer survey and ground penetrating radar survey carried out at Bowerchalke, where Romano-British buildings and Bronze Age barrows were identified in 2020, following finds reported to PAS; a magnetometer survey was carried out by Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group following the discovery of an Early Bronze Age dagger recorded by PAS, at a site east of Devizes, in the hope of finding a ring ditch, but only field drains were in evidence. It has been fruitful to work closely with many of our finders and the FLO is grateful to them for their patience whilst PAS recording at finds surgeries and metal detecting clubs resumes more regularly.

Sophie Hawke

TRAINING

The Collections Officer: Archive and Library attended three online sessions during September about Unlocking Our Sound Heritage delivered by Northwest Sound Heritage. She also attended two online sessions during November about preserving and rights clearance for sound collections delivered by Unlocking Our Sound Heritage team at The Keep, Sussex. The Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project is a country wide project run by the British Library to document sound archives and make them more accessible. The knowledge gained has been put to good use in the Voices from the Assize Court project.

Jane Schön

Poor George - the soldier in our Roman Gallery took a tumble and is seen here being carried into the Lecture Hall by Adam and David. Following a minor repair he was soon back on display.





Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to ensure the Society can continue to achieve it's aims and ambitions and to work with the local community. The Society's continued success is rooted in the support of members and the local community through subscriptions, donations and being advocates of our work. Corporate Members include Wansbroughs Solicitors, Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology.

This report highlights some of the work undertaken in the year to develop interactives, conserve the collection and hold high profile exhibitions. There may some overlap with other reports.

Antiquarian Correspondence to William Cunnington I, 1799-1810

The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust contributed £2,364 in December 2021 towards the conservation of the second letters book of William Cunnington I (see pages 8 and 20). The grant was the last piece of the 'funding jigsaw', supplementing crucial legacies from members.

***Choice and Circumstance:* A *Tess of the D'Ubervilles* Community Project**

We were awarded £615 from the Wessex Museums partnership towards a project with Arts Together, a local charity which works with isolated older people. Art inspired by Thomas Hardy's most famous heroine will be displayed during the Hardy's Wessex exhibition (May to October 2022).

Eric Ravilious: Downland Man

Evaluation of the exhibition and its associated projects was undertaken at the end of the exhibition and was provided to those Trusts and Foundations who 'made it happen':

- Weston Loan with Arts Fund
- Arts Council England
- Heritage Fund
- The Mercers' Philanthropy Committee.
- The Golsoncott Foundation,
- The Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Settlement
- The Walter Guinness Charitable Trust

We also thank our Corporate Sponsors - Gaiger Bros and Wansbroughs Solicitors - for their support, and also the private donors and supporters who helped persuade the major funders that the project would be welcomed by members and local people.

Kemm watercolours - sponsor an object

A donation was received to conserve a volume of watercolours by Robert Kemm (1837-1895), one of the items on our 'sponsor an object' web page. Painted in the 1860s they record the exterior and interiors of many Wiltshire churches prior to their restoration (*DZSWS:1982.1077- 2338*). We thank the member for the donation.

Long Room Cases

In July 2021 a £2,000 donation was received from the Samuel William Farmer Trust. Added to legacies from members, including former Librarian Lorna Haycock, it will fund new archival-quality cases for the Long Room.

***Voices from the Devizes Assize Courts* - how fundraising supports the Society's aims**

In August 2021 we were awarded funds from Arts Council England for a *Voices from the Devizes Assize Courts* oral history project. The project aims to record the memories of people connected with the Assize Courts, either during its days as an important judicial centre or in subsequent years.

The grant of £14,394 funded expertise from oral historian Padmini Broomfield, recording equipment, oral history training for students and volunteers, interpretation banners and a designer for a booklet.

Based at home two volunteers researched the building and existing archives to create a timeline. This provided background information for the oral history interviews and booklet.

In February 2022 two MA Heritage Management students from Bath Spa University (Helen Meikle and Linda Redden) began placements (until June 2022) at the Museum to work on the project, undertaking oral history interviews, research and publicity for the project.

A projects web page was created to include details about the project, research results and sound clips from oral history interviews. These included contributions from a Gazette and Herald reporter, a retired Police Officer, a Wiltshire County Council Building surveyor and a juror. These memories will be published in a booklet alongside photos from the Archive and Library collections.

Rachael Holtom and Jane Schön

Exhibitions

Our two special exhibition galleries - the Oexmann Gallery and the Piper Gallery enables the Museum to offer either two small exhibitions or one larger exhibition. The Exhibitions Officer post is funded by the Arts Council and Wessex Museums Project.

Despite disruption to the Museum's exhibition programme due to Covid-19, the Museum was able to deliver an exciting programme in 2021/2022.

On reopening to the public in May 2021, the *Ways of Seeing Wiltshire* (20 May – 31 August 2021) exhibition showcased a range of works from our collection not often on display. Guest Curator Brian Edwards explored the theme of the Wiltshire landscape with particular focus on chalk hill figures and the prehistoric landscape.

In autumn came the much anticipated *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition (25 September 2021 to 30 January 2022) guest curated by James Russell. The exhibition featured the Museum's dummy for the White Horse Puffin book (subsequently loaned to the Towner Eastbourne), together with many of Ravilious' well known and much-loved works including the *Westbury White Horse*, *Beachy Head*, and *Downs In Winter*, all of which appealed to both Ravilious fans and a new audience alike.

The Museum was fortunate enough to have the support of numerous funders and through these important loans establish new working partnerships with national galleries such as the V&A, British Museum, Tate, Imperial War Museum and the Towner Eastbourne, together with private lenders. The Museum welcomed over 12,000 visitors in the four months the exhibition was open.

After *Downland Man* the Piper window (in the Piper Gallery) underwent conservation (see pages 6 and 20) and the galleries were prepared for the next exhibition: a small selection of recent acquisitions and loans to our collections, together with a photographic exhibition featuring work created by students from Wellington Academy. The school partnered with Wiltshire Museum and The Salisbury Museum on a project in 2020 just as Covid-19 struck.

In 2022/23 our major exhibition will be *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a Writer* (28 May – 30 October 2022) run in conjunction with and simultaneously across our Wessex Partners Museums (Salisbury, Dorchester, Poole, and moving on to Swindon from October). The exhibition, curated by Harriet Still, will explore new perspectives in the life and work of Thomas Hardy in the beautiful and curious Wessex landscape that shaped his ideas. The exhibition at Wiltshire Museum will feature the original and very wonderful handwritten manuscript of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* on loan from the British Library.

The 2022/23 programme will also include our popular Oexmann Art Competition and Exhibition (December 2022 to February 2023), previously postponed due to Covid-19. The competition is open to anyone born or living in Wiltshire and this year will feature, in addition to the usual prize categories, a People's Vote. In 2023 there will be exhibitions by artists Joanna May, Robert Pountney, Anna Dillon and Hedley Thorne, and also *Forgotten Voices* a WWII focused exhibition.

Heather Ault
Exhibitions Officer

From the Left: Westbury White horse by Eric Ravilious, loaned to the 'Downland Man' exhibition by the Towner Eastbourne; HM The Queen Consort (when HRH The Duchess of Cornwall), with guest curator James Russell. Image (c) Anna Barclay





Following on from the successful Wessex Museums online exhibition *Wildlife in the Red: Once Collectors' Curiosities, now Endangered Species*, a new project with a focus on climate change was launched: *Create & Collect – Declaring a Climate Emergency – My World, My Future*.

This was a co-curation project to engage young people in the Climate Emergency, to provide an opportunity for their voices to be heard and to hand-pick objects to be included in the Museum's collections reflecting the issues in their local area (see page 27 for more details).

The Guides and Rangers created a protest banner, made from recycled and reused materials was displayed in the Long Room during the year and is now part of the Museum's permanent collection, preserving the voices of young women and their views on climate change.

Also displayed in the Long Room during the year were the Donald Grose notebooks and photographs to coincide with Wessex Museums Objects On Tour online exhibition *Wildlife in the Red* (October 2020 to January 2022).

Lisa Brown and Jane Schön

Loans

The loans programme was impacted again this year by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, loans to and from the Museum remain important in making the collections available to as many people as possible. The Museum lends items from its collections for display and research, subject to the proper security and environmental conditions being met. We are particularly pleased to lend objects for special exhibitions at other museums across Wiltshire.

British Museum: ***The World of Stonehenge***

The early Bronze Age grave groups Wilsford G5 (Bush Barrow) and Upton Lovell G2a (Shaman burial) went on loan to the British Museum, as part of the blockbuster exhibition *The World of Stonehenge* (17 February to 17 July 2022). Focusing on connections in exchange, travel and migration between Britain, Ireland and continental Europe during the 'Age of Stonehenge', the displays told the story of the people behind monuments such as Stonehenge, especially their beliefs about society and the heavens.

Other items from our collections also featured in the exhibition were finds from West Kennet Long Barrow; the flint long-tailed oblique arrowhead from Marden Henge; and the gold sun disc from Jug's Grave, Monkton Farleigh.

The loan involved the Curator spending 21 hours online as a 'virtual courier', supervising the unpacking and installation of the objects for display. The exhibition had recorded 56,500 visitors to the end of March 2022.

As part of a reciprocal loan agreement we borrowed objects from the British Museum to fill the gaps in our displays. This included three daggers from Egypt, Mycenae and the Royal cemetery at Ur, Iraq. The daggers are all broadly contemporary with Bush Barrow and tell the story of daggers with gold from across the world. Also displayed for the first time in Wiltshire since their excavation by Canon William Greenwell in 1878, was the early Bronze Age grave group (with Aldbourne Cup), Aldbourne IV.



Aldbourne Heritage Centre

A small number of archaeological and recent history items were borrowed in March 2022, including - prehistoric flints tools, Bronze Age and Roman pottery, Post Medieval clay tobacco pipe stems, some copper-alloy Roman coins, the weathervane from the top of the Aldbourne church tower, and a framed testimonial from the building company for the Aldbourne Memorial Hall for the successful execution of their contract.

Athelstan Museum, Malmesbury

This loan included one of our newer acquisitions, a Roman silver finger-ring with blue glass intaglio, engraved with a depiction of Victory, found at St Paul Malmesbury Without in 2019. The ring and two other objects from Easton Grey (the carved head of a Celtic goddess and a bronze brooch with two dolphins) featured in their 2021-22 exhibition about the Romans in North Wiltshire.

Halle Museum of Prehistory: *World of the Nebra Sky Disc – New Horizons*

This exhibition opened in Germany in June 2021; a precursor to the British Museum's exhibition *The World of Stonehenge*. We lent the early Bronze Age grave group from Preshute G1a (otherwise known as the Marlborough Lady), the Monkton Farleigh gold sun disc from Jug's Grave; and a red glass bead from the Wilsford G42 burial. 60,000 visitors were recorded.

Herne Museum for Archaeology: *Stonehenge – People and Landscapes*

In September 2021 the Museum for Archaeology, Federal State Museum for Westphalia, Herne and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, borrowed objects for this exhibition. Guest curated by Julian Richards, it featured objects from the Wilsford G7 grave group, with gold, amber, jet, and shale objects; Mere G6a grave group, with gold sun disc; Amesbury G56 Cursus barrow, with dagger and chert hammerstone; some of the minute gold studs from the Wilsford G5 Bush Barrow dagger handle; some early Neolithic stone axes from factories in Cornwall, North Wales, and the Lake District; and Mesolithic material from Oliver's Hill Field, Cherhill. As at June 2022 over 21,000 visitors had been recorded.

Museums Partner: *Stonehenge - Ancient Mysteries and Modern Discoveries*

Objects continued to travel across the USA as part of this major touring exhibition, in partnership with Museums Partner and Mike Parker Pearson of University College London. The exhibition will open at Auckland War Memorial Museum in December 2022 with interest from museums in Australia, China, and the USA. The export licence has been renewed as it is anticipated that the tour will continue until 2025.

The exhibition includes objects from the early Bronze Age burials: Amesbury G54 (Stonehenge flint dagger); Roundway G8 (Roundway archer Beaker burial); Wilsford G8 (high status female burial with gold and amber).

ARCHIVE & LIBRARY

Dr Lloyd Bowen of Cardiff University made a request in April 2021 to view material for an AHRC-funded project *Welfare, Conflict and Memory during and after the English Civil Wars, 1642-1710* (*www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk*). Although the Archive & Library was closed due to Covid-19 restrictions the following material was lent to Dr Lloyd Bowen and his team to scan and digitise for their project:

- Wiltshire Petitions from the Roundhead for Pensions (*Book.2802*)
- Wiltshire Civil War Pension Petitions (Royalists) 1660-1685 (*Book.2803 - Part II*)
- Wiltshire Civil War Pension Petitions (Royalists) 1660-1685 (*Book.2804 - Part I*)

The books have been returned, with Dr Bowen saying

> *They have been enormously helpful for the project's work – I really cannot tell you how valuable they will be for ensuring we complete the Great Rolls and order books work for Wiltshire to a high standard. We are enormously grateful*.

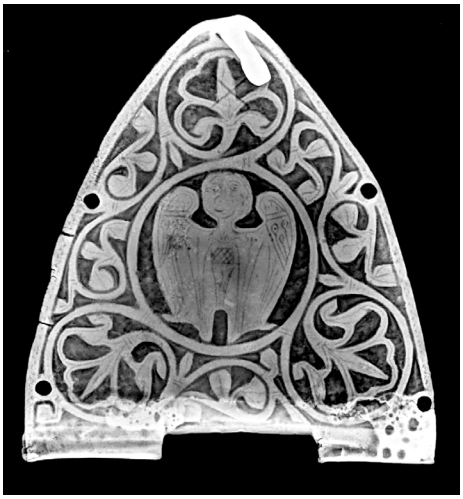
Lisa Brown and Jane Schön

Far left: the Bush Barrow collection on display at the BM; Below: an X-Ray of incense boat lid showing the design (c) Drakon Heritage & Conservation

To the Museum: From the Parochial Church Council of Bromham, Chittoe and Sandy Lane.

Half lid of a medieval incense boat dating to c. AD 1250. Enamelled in green, blue, and red, with traces of gilding and made in Limoges, France. It was dug up in the churchyard of St Nicholas, Bromham in 1897.

This is only the second known example found in the UK. Incense boats were sacred vessels to store frankincense and myrrh, which were both used in many church rituals, including Mass. The curved dragon-headed handle on the lid is for symbolic protection of the incense. In medieval times the burning of incense was considered both an offering to God and an act of purification. It is a rare and important find for Wiltshire and is on display in the Medieval Gallery (2021.8).



Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire

Collections

We continue to actively collect objects that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the closure of the Museum and collections staff being on furlough impacted on the acquisition of objects telling the story of Wiltshire.

In response to the pandemic, we developed Wessex Museums Contemporary Collecting Strategy, under the theme 'Society and Health'. Others were acquired under the subject of 'Environment & Climate Change' (these are marked * in the list below).

A complete list of acquisitions for the year can be found in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine.* All our Collections are available to search online *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/collections*. To date there are 123,000 records of catalogued items to search across all collections, along with 17,800 digital images.

Below are some of the highlights.

Contemporary Collecting is the collecting of objects and stories that reflect the recent past and what is happening today. It means acquiring new material to future-proof collections for as-yet-unknown exhibitions and research projects, therefore ensuring that museums remain relevant to and representative of their audiences. A great benefit of such collecting is that the histories fall within living memory so can be documented with insights from those who experienced them first-hand. This provides an opportunity to work in partnership with other people and communities and to be creative, dynamic, and inclusive.

Acquisitions of the Year

Collection of material once belonging to Miss Mary Niblett, a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Nurse, who provided care for military personnel during World War Two. The VAD system was set up before World War One with help from the British Red Cross.

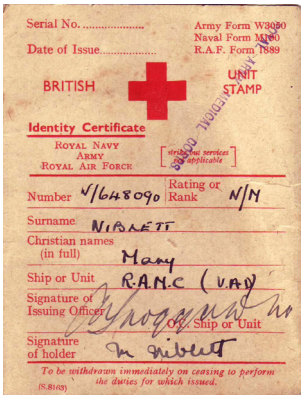
Miss Niblett's family farmed in Highworth, Ashton Keynes and Cerney Wick. Mary enlisted in 1941 and nursed in Military Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations across the UK, ending her service in a British Military Hospital in Italy. She was discharged from nursing duties in 1946.

The collection includes a demob kit bag; Mary's uniform (skirt, jacket, and belt) with cloth badges; Defence and War medals and armbands; identity documents; movement orders; numerous Red Cross certificates and a black and white photograph. Mary's time in Italy is well documented with postcards and photographs. Donated to the Museum by Maurice Taylor, via Mary Niblett's son, Will Seymour (*2021.5*).

Roman silver finger-ring, with blue intaglio, engraved with a depiction of Victory, left with wreath in palm, probably standing on a globe, dating to AD 150 - 300. Found in St Paul Malmesbury Without, 2019. PAS Treasure find *(2021.9)*.

Small hoard of later Bronze Age metalwork, dating to 1500 - 1150 BC. Includes a copper-alloy palstave axe; incomplete copper-alloy twisted bar torc; incomplete copper-alloy twisted bar bracelet; copper-alloy Liss-type annular bracelet; incomplete copper-alloy quoit pin. Found in Heywood, 2019. PAS Treasure find *(2021.17)*.

Medieval copper-alloy and enamel horse harness banner pendant, dating to AD 1275-1350. The enamel decoration is of a white, long-necked bird, possibly a crane. It is surrounded by simplified, stylised turquoise/green foliage and blue and red flowers. Found in Enford, 2021. Donated by Dr Peberdy, Oxford *(2022.1)*.









From the left: Mary Niblett's Identity Certificate (2021.5); Incomplete palstave axe (2021.17); Medieval horse harness (2022.1); Roman finger-ring (2021.9). Not to scale

Watercolour and ink drawing of Stonehenge, with two horses and four people standing beside one of the great Trilithons. Written on the mount in pencil, 'Stonehenge, Wiltshire'. 18th Century English School, artist unknown. The same scene, dated December 1790, is depicted in a painting published in Christopher Chippendale's book, *Stonehenge Complete*, 1987. Purchased at auction *(2021.1004)*. (see back page)

Archaeology

Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint core used to produce blades. Found on Quakers Walk Allotments, Devizes, 2021. Donated by Edmund Nash, Devizes *(2021.6)*.

Later Bronze Age gold penannular finger-ring, dating to c.1300 - 1150 BC. Found in Preshute, 2017. PAS Treasure find *(2021.11)*.

Medieval silver annular brooch, with projecting praying hands. Found in Wingfield, 2018. PAS Treasure find *(2021.12)*.

Anglo-Saxon silver pinhead, lozenge-shaped in original form, divided in four wedge-like quadrants by a straight-armed cross, dating to the 8th Century AD. Found in West Lavington, 2018. PAS Treasure find *(2021.13)*.

Anglo-Saxon silver strap-end, dating to 8-10th Centuries AD. Found in Grafton, 2012. PAS Treasure find *(2021.15)*.

Anglo-Saxon silver hooked tag, dating to 8-12th Centuries AD. Found near Marlborough, 2019. PAS Treasure find *(2021.16)*.

Three trays of petrological thin sections taken from Stonehenge and its environs by William Cunnington III (1813-1906), between c. 1870 and 1893. Mostly removed from chips excavated from under the turf within the monument. The trays are labelled 'Diabases', 'II Rhyolites, III Basic Tuffs', and 'IV Grits, V Doubtful' and contain 9, 14, and 11 samples respectively, totalling 34 thin sections. Old collection, previously unaccessioned *(2021.37)*.

Incomplete, probably Post Medieval lead vessel, dating to c. AD 1066-1650. The vessel, made of 4.6mm thick lead sheet, has been distorted due to old damage. Found in West Ashton, 2021. Donated by Philip York, Trowbridge *(2021.38)*.

Fragment of a Neolithic polished flint axe. Found at Hilperton, 2021. Donated by Tony Hack, Herefordshire *(2021.44)*.

Art

Five paintings by Devizes artist Jim Condell, c.1990 - Westbury White Horse; St John's Alley, Devizes; Standing Stone at Avebury; Wiltshire Harvest; Kennet & Avon Canal. Donated by Lynne Askey, Hampshire *(2021.1001.1-5)*. The paintings were displayed in the '*Ways of Seeing Wiltshire*' exhibition, (May – September 2021).

Pen and ink drawing - *Wiltshire Museum on Long Street, no.40-41*', by Paul Sharp, 1964. Donated by Philippa Morgan, Devizes *(2021.1002)*.

Colour woodcut - *Sunrise at Stonehenge*, signed by the artist William Giles (1872-1939). Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes *(2021.1003)*.

Limited edition print by Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) - *Wiltshire Landscape*, numbered 240/950. Purchased at auction *(2021.1005)*.

Limited edition print by John Piper (1903-1992), *From Photo by EP, Stonehenge*, numbered 7/850. Purchased at auction *(2021.1006)*.

Three metal vessels created by artist Linda Brothwell for a solo exhibition, *Conservations in Making* held at Stonehenge Visitor Centre in 2019. Inspired by three pots in the Museum's prehistory collection. Donated by Sophie Scott, Gingko Projects, Somerset *(2022.1001)*. Displayed in the Oexmann Gallery, March – April 2022.

Portrait of Alfred James Underwood (1843/4 - 1884), Chief Warder of Devizes Prison. The portrait may have been painted by one of the prisoners. Part of a collection of items donated by John Underwood, Colwyn Bay *(2021.40.1)*.

Archive and Library

The Archive and Library collection continued to grow despite the Covid-19 pandemic. 46 books were purchased and 87 donated - 41 by the authors themselves, contributing to the 137 new acquisitions during the year. Most of the purchased books were recently published, keeping the library collection up to date. Book purchases are still low due to financial constraints imposed by the pandemic.





From the left: Petrological thin sections taken by William Cunnington III (2021.37); Medieval brooch (2021.12); Gold finger-ring (2021.11); incomplete lead vessel (2021.38); pen and ink drawing of Wiltshire Museum, by Paul Sharp (2021.1002)

There were 73 additions to the Archive collection including 16 donations related to the pandemic, and 58 new acquisitions (all donations) to the photographic collection, including three photograph albums of Rendell employees and four postcards. Highlights include:

BOOKS

The World of Stonehenge publication to accompany the British Museum exhibition 17 February – 17 July 2022. A number of objects from the Museum's prehistoric archaeology collection were loaned to the exhibition. Gift to all exhibition lenders *(Book.18481).*

Volumes recording *Life in Lockdown in West Lavington during 2020*. Volume One covers life in the village of West Lavington during the Covid-19 pandemic and Volume Two covers life in the village of West Lavington during the summer of 2020 as lockdown restrictions were gradually eased. Donated to the Museum by the author, Lyn Dyson *(Book.18350).*

JOURNALS

Each year the Archive and Library receives a large number of journals and newsletters via subscriptions, journal exchanges or gifts from donors. These include *British Archaeology* and *Current Archaeology*, *Harnham Parish Church magazine, the Local Historian, Local History News, Wiltshire Life, The Antiquaries Journal* and *Wiltshire Ornithological Society news*, to name a few. Although book and tract acquisitions are still lower than normal due to the pandemic the number of journals acquired has increased from 168 to 181. This ensures the collections are kept up to date with the latest published research.

DOCUMENTS

Printed pamphlet containing the funeral sermon preached in the Independent Chapel, Devizes on Sunday 27 February 1853 following the death of the Reverend Richard Elliott (1780-1853), pastor for 50 years of the church. Transcribed from the short-hand notes of Mr C Gillman, Devizes. Rev. Elliott was an anti-slavery campaigner and lived at 41 Long Street (now one of the Museum buildings) in the early decades of the 19th Century. Purchased *(MSS.4514).*

Devizes Carnival Diamond Jubilee Programme, Devizes Carnival Committee (1972). The programme lists all the events, has a map of the carnival procession route and many local business advertisements. Discovered whilst sorting out papers during lockdown by the donor Ann Osmond *(MSS.4506)*.

Great Western Railway (GWR) letter addressed to Mr F Edwards thanking him for his swift action when a tree had fallen onto the track near to the Devizes Tunnel on 8 May 1916. Donated to the Museum by Thomas Massey *(MSS.4517)*.

Second World War German 'Wehrpass' (service ID book) issued to Hans [Heinz] Slywezynski who was a prisoner at the Devizes POW Camp (1941-1944). Donated by James Birkett, Brighton, who inherited it from his grandfather, A E Ravenhall, a police superintendent in Devizes during and after World War Two *(MSS.4519)*.

Collection of NHS leaflets and letter to book first Covid-19 vaccination and guidance documents for Covid-19 testing kits, 2021. Donated to the Museum by Jane Schön *(*MSS.4525).*

Folio containing plans and sections for the proposed London, Newbury and Bath Direct Railway, 1845. Message on frontispiece reads: *30th November 1845. This Plan and Section deposited in my office at half past seven in the evening. Jn.[John] Swayne. Clerk of the Peace of the County of Wilts*. Purchased at auction *(MSS.4537)*

Programme and information leaflet for a visit by The Queen to open Devizes Leisure Centre on Wednesday 8 August 1990, printed by Kennet District Council. The leaflet includes directions for attendees and how to act! Donated to the Museum by Mrs Barbara Fuller *(MSS.4551)*.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Three colour photographs of the interior of Devizes Assize Court including the Magistrates Court room *(court 2),* Assize Court room *(court 1)* and Entrance Hall ceiling. Donated to the Museum by Architects Caroe and Partners, Wells (*2021.7005*) (see page 33)



The World of Stonehenge ; Devizes Carnival Diamond Jubilee Programme, Devizes Carnival Committee (1972); NHS Covid-19 leaflets; Life in Lockdown in West Lavington during 2020

Black and white photograph of Sarah Elizabeth Bennett Godwin (1868-1943) who carried on her father's business "Bennetts Antiques" in Devizes. Contained in a collection of black and white photographs of the Devizes and Avebury families Godwin, Bennett, Trelease, Higgins and Peak Garland. Also included were scenic photographs of Avebury, Wiltshire. Purchased at auction (*2021.7006*).

Natural History

No acquisitions to report this year.

Numismatics

Hoard of Medieval silver cut halfpenny coins, six of Henry III and one of Alexander III, dating to AD 1253 - 1280. All the coins are in particularly good condition suggesting the hoard was deposited not long after minting. Found in Brokenborough, 2015. PAS Treasure find *(2021.10)*.

Roman silver Republican denarius coin, found in the vicinity of another Republican denarius coin and therefore classed as a hoard. Faustus Cornelius Sulla, dating to 56 BC. Found in Aldbourne, 2019. PAS Treasure find *(2021.19)*.

Recent History

Wiltshire Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society sash. Later known as the Wiltshire Friendly Society it was founded in Trowbridge in 1887. Friendly societies were insurance clubs with regular payments made for sickness and burial coverage, plus sociable activities. Donated by Lindsay McCormack, Swindon *(2021.4)*.

Rainbow mosaic. Rainbows were adopted as a symbol of hope during the Covid-19 pandemic. As rainbows appear when the sun comes out after a heavy rainfall they provided a reminder that there is always hope and light after challenging times. This is probably why the rainbow was chosen to show solidarity with key workers, including NHS staff, in the fight against Covid-19. Donated by Tim Daw, All Cannings and made by his daughter *(*2021.7.1).*

Angel Christmas tree decoration made from disposable face masks. Millions of masks were used by key workers and the public as protective equipment (PPE) during the Covid-19 pandemic. Donated by Tim Daw, All Cannings and made by his daughter *(*2021.7.2).*

White metal 1st Volunteer Rifle Corp cap badge of the Wiltshire Regiment. 1st Wilts V.R.C. Moonraker insignia - brandy barrel with crescent moon, dating to c.1903. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes *(2021.36).*

Long stemmed clay pipe, given to Arthur Ernest Underwood of Potterne at an event at the Corn Exchange/Bear Hotel, Devizes. Donated by John Underwood, Colwyn Bay *(2021.40.3).*

Set of five bowling blazer badges, including Devizes Bowling Club, with Devizes Castle emblem; South-Western Counties Bowling Association, with embroidered map; Wiltshire Bowling Association, with Stonehenge Trilithon emblem *(2021.41.1)*.

19th Century metal key to the main gate of Roundway Psychiatric Hospital, Devizes, also known as the Wiltshire County Lunatic Asylum, which opened in 1851. The donor's father, John Kennedy, was a hospital maintenance engineer who brought the key home after the hospital closed in 1995. Donated by David Kennedy, Surrey *(2021.42)*.

China teapot with Devizes Castle transfer print. Made by Shelley, England. Manufactured for C H Woodward, Stationer, Devizes. Donated by Ruth Gilliam-Hill, West Lavington *(2021.43).*

Box which had contained vials of the Pfizer Biotech Covid-19 vaccine. The vials were used at a Covid Vaccination Clinic at Devizes Corn Exchange in August 2021. Inside the box are several vaccination cards issued to those who attended the clinic, along with a description of how the clinic operated, written by a retired GP who volunteered there. Donated by Dr James Kay, Pewsey *(*2021.45)*.

Items created by the Devizes 4th Girl Guides and Rangers, as part of the Wessex Museums Climate Emergency project *My World, My Future* - a protest banner made from recycled and reused materials and a collection of painted pebbles. The Guides and Rangers expressed concern about local housing development and its impact on the nature reserve at Drew's Pond, Devizes. The project was supported by artist, James Aldridge (**2022.2-3*).

The banner was displayed in the Library Long Room, January – October 2022. Some of the painted pebbles were put around Drew's Pond for other children to find, and some were added to the Museum's collection.







*From the left: Roman silver Republican denarius coin(2021.19); Rainbow mosaic (*2021.7.1); White metal 1st Volunteer Rifle Corp cap badge of the Wiltshire Regiment (2021.36).*

CONSERVATION

Our collections require constant monitoring to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Curatorial staff undertake routine preventative conservation to ensure that objects and archives are displayed and stored in the best conditions that we can achieve, and we have been able to improve the storage of several collections over the last few years.

All remedial conservation is contracted in from qualified conservators from the ICON Conservation Register.

Museum

The Museum stores, gallery displays and building were regularly checked during the lockdowns to ensure that the collections remained in good condition. No issues were detected.

A rare and exquisite half lid from a Medieval incense boat is now on loan to the Museum, from the Parochial Church Council of Bromham, Chittoe and Sandy Lane. Found in the churchyard of St Nicholas church in Bromham, it was dug up in 1897, and then kept in the church safe. Over the years its condition has deteriorated significantly, and the metalwork started to actively corrode. It has been conserved by Pieta Greaves at Drakon Heritage and Conservation and is on display in the Medieval Gallery.

In February 2022 the John Piper stained-glass window was removed from the Museum by Holywell Glass, specialist conservators from Wells, Somerset. The window, located in the art gallery, was bowing due to the heat of the sun on the lead matrix since installation over 40 years ago. The window was dismantled, cleaned and straightened. On re-installation in May a backlight was fitted, which will illuminate the window from behind when it is boarded from the outside. This will enable the stained-glass to be visible when additional security is required for incoming loans from National museums that require Government Indemnity Standard. See photographs on page 6.

Archive & Library

A second volume of 277 letters addressed to William Cunnington I (1754-1810) was conserved by specialist conservators, R & L Lancefield and funded by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust, who awarded us £2,364 towards the total cost of £8,864. The remaining £6,500 was allocated from legacies.

The letters are now stored within protective sleeves inside bespoke archival binders. Digital photographs of all the letters were taken by the conservators, and these will be made available online in the future. See images on page 8.

The letters, written between 1798 and 1811, are from 54 correspondents including John Britton; Rev. Edward Duke; Rev. James Douglas; A B Lambert; H. Johnson; William Martin; Rev. Thomas Leman and James Sowerby. They help to illustrate correspondence between an antiquarian and contemporaries discussing archaeological ideas; proofing and amending each other's published works and creating their own collections.

A postgraduate student placement from Bath Spa University, and a few Archive & Library volunteers, will undertake the second stage of the project - to transcribe the letters and record onto our Modes database and carry out research into some of the correspondents. The results will be made available online through project blogs and an online exhibition.

It is planned to display them in the Long Room, once new high security display cases have been purchased.

DISPOSAL

A small number of items, stored in an out-building within the walls of the Museum car park, were proposed for disposal from the collections, following our Collections Development Policy. The items were in extremely poor condition, had low intrinsic significance, were un-accessioned and had no traceable provenance information.

The WANHS Trustees approved the items for 'Disposal by Destruction' in July 2021.

- Printing press
- Apple washer
- Fordham mangle and wash tub
- Agricultural fork, mallet and two spades.

Lisa Brown, Jane Schön and David Dawson

Collections Development Policy - Disposal by Destruction:

16.13 If it is not possible to dispose of an object through transfer or sale, the governing body may decide to destroy it.

16.14 It is acceptable to destroy material of low intrinsic significance (duplicate mass-produced articles or common specimens which lack significant provenance) where no alternative method of disposal can be found.

16.15 Destruction is also an acceptable method of disposal in cases where an object is in extremely poor condition, has high associated health and safety risks or is part of an approved destructive testing request identified in an organisation's research policy.

16.16 Where necessary, specialist advice will be sought to establish the appropriate method of destruction. Health and safety risk assessments will be carried out by trained staff where required.

16.17 The destruction of objects should be witnessed by an appropriate member of the museum workforce.

16.18 Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals.

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND OUTINGS

In the early months of the year Covid restrictions were relaxed and activities reintroduced at the Museum and walks organised. Many events were linked to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man exhibition,* both online and in the Museum. Events were also organised on behalf of, or jointly with, other organisations including the Victoria County History Society, the Prehistoric Society, the Bradford on Avon Museum and St Laurence Church, Bradford on Avon. Walks and tours were also jointly organised with Hidden Wiltshire and local historian John Girvan. The conferences - archaeology and industrial - were both postponed to 2022.

Activities for under-16s were also re-introduced, including holiday activities and the Young Curator's Club (previously known as Young WANHS) for 7 to 14 year olds. A new Saturday club for 5-7 year olds - called Museum Explorers - was introduced to bridge the gap between Curious Kids and Young Curator's.

Thank you to our speakers and walk leaders for their contributions to the Society as most do not charge a fee or claim expenses. We would also like to thank everyone who helps with organising and running our events and activities.

March 2022
Online: *The Marlborough Bucket: Connections and Context in the Iron Age of Southern Britain*, by Rebecca L Ellis
Museum Explorers and Young Curators: Potty about pots!
Online: *Bremhill Parish: a community history project*, by Louise Ryland-Epton and Martin Nye
Lecture: *Building Stonehenge: What Happened in Wiltshire*, by Mike Pitts
Curious Kids: Bugs
Online: *Staging the World of Stonehenge*, by Neil Wilkin and Jennifer Wexler

February 2022
Online: *Celtic Languages, Migrations and Milk: The genetics of Britain 1500 BC-43 AD*, by Tom Booth
Holiday Activities: Traditional Toys
Museum Explorer's Club: The Romans!
Young Curator's Club: Romans and the origins of Valentine's Day

January 2022
Day course: Wood Engraving with Robin Mackenzie
Online: *Engaging our Community: Ravilious Downland Man*
Museum Explorers and Young Curators: Ravilious and the Chalk Downland Landscape

December 2021
Museum Explorers and Young Curators: Christmas Traditions
Book Launch: *Hidden Wiltshire: from near and far*, Glyn Coy and Paul Timlett
Curious Kids: Toys and Games
Online: *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man*, James Russell

November 2021
Online: *Connections: Avebury and Orkney*, Alison Sheridan and Josh Pollard. Part of the celebrations for the 35th Anniversary of the Inscription of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site.
Online: *Wiltshire's White Horses*, David Dawson
Curious Kids: Horses
Online: *The World of the Nebra Sky Disk: new horizons in Bronze Age Europe*, By Dr Regine Maraszek

October 2021
Online: *Sutton Hoo 2021- old stories and new adventures*, Professor Martin Carver*[1].
Holiday Activities – Halloween and Chalk landscapes and White Horses
Art Course: Inspired by Ravilious, by Sue Martin
Online: *Ravilious in Wiltshire*, by David Dawson
Museum Explorers and Young Curators: Archaeological Discoveries
Online: *All history is local: Wilton, 1066, and the VCH past, present and future*, by Professor Catherine Clarke*[2].
Curious Kids: Egyptians

September 2021
Walk: Devil's Den and Fyfield Down (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Walk: Stonehenge Landscape Walk
Curious Kids: Dinosaurs

August 2021
Walk: Erlestoke Wood and Salisbury Plain (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Summer Holiday Activities: Fossils and Dinosaur Crafts
Walk: The Hills above Edington (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Summer Holiday Activities: Prehistoric Cave Art Creations
Walk: Erlestoke Woods
Summer Holiday Activities: Ways of Seeing Wiltshire

July 2021
Summer Holiday Activities: Ancient Greek Olympics
Walk: Bratton and Luccombe Springs (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Online: *Jomon Japan, Stone Circles and World Heritage*, by David Dawson,
Walk: Battle of Roundway Down – anniversary battlefield tour
Walk: Box Hill circular walk (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Online: *Revising the Wiltshire Pevsner*, by Julian Orbach*[2].

June 2021
Walk: Milk Hill – Hidden Wiltshire Walk
Walk: Bowood – Capability Brown's landscape and lakeland
Outing: Stonehenge Landscape Walk
Online: *Bowood and Whetham: Capability Brown and Landscape Design*, by Wendy Bishop, PhD
Walk: Swindon Old Town
Online: *Devizes Assize Court – a progress report*
Walk: Sutton Veny and Tytherington (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Online: *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man*, James Russell
Holiday Activities: Welcome back to the Museum

May 2021
Walk: Warminster Skyline (Hidden Wiltshire Walk)
Online: *Trying to Understand Wiltshire Townscapes*, by John Chandler*[2].
Online: *King Athelstan and the Making of England*, by Michael Wood, OBE*[1].

April 2021
Online: *Making Public History Fun* with Greg Jenner
Online: *Hartmoor and the Devizes Castle Deer Park*
Online: *Mycenean Gold-working and parallels in Brittany and Wessex: New Research*, by Nikolas Papadimitriou, with Akis Goumas, Eleni Konstantinidi-Syvridi and Maria Kontaki. Lecture jointly organised with the Prehistoric Society.

*[1] joint fundraising event for the Saxon Church of St. Laurence, Bradford-on-Museum, Bradford-on-Avon Museum, and Wiltshire Museum

*[2]. All proceeds to the Victoria County History Wiltshire Trust, who organised this lecture.

Members are very important to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and in addition to free entry to our award-winning Museum and special exhibitions, they receive other benefits:

- ◊ Free welcome tour of museum and library
- ◊ Discounted lectures, conferences, courses and outings
- ◊ Regular newsletter with the latest news and forthcoming events
- ◊ Free entry to Salisbury Museum and the Dorset County Museum as part of the Wessex Museums Partnership
- ◊ Free entry to English Heritage's Stonehenge Visitor Centre
- ◊ Helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.
- ◊ Opportunities to:
  - find out more about Wiltshire's story by meeting fellow members and subject experts
  - make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
  - get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
  - read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal (*pictured page 23)*
  - find out about the local area with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive.

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Bronze:
Individual - £44.00
Joint/Family - £56.50
Student - £20.00
Member Organisation - £51.00
Amber Donor - £69.00
Gold Donor - £129.00
Corporate membership - £100 and £450
Jadeite - £250
Life (over 50) - £750
Life (under 50) - £1,000

Subscriptions run for 12 months from the first day of the month of joining.

Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study, or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interests.

A variety of subscription and payment options are available, including monthly payments.

There were 104 new (or re-joining) memberships in the year (139 members); 62 (84) in 2020/2021.

Publications and Social Media

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (WANHM)

Our annual magazine continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire. Members receive a free copy, and it is available to non-members for a modest charge.

The 2021 volume (no. 114) contained the following articles, including:

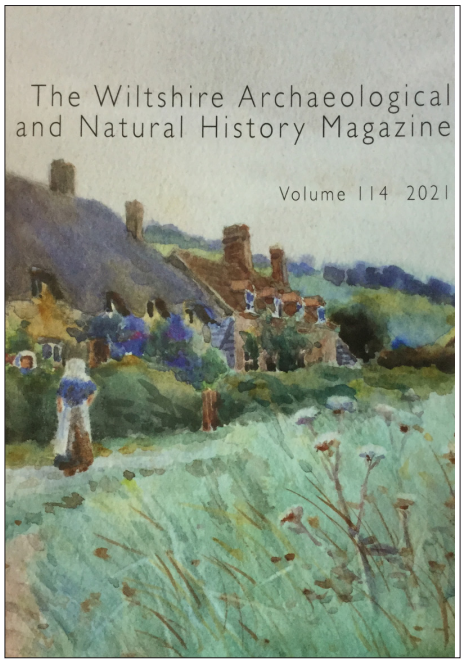
And the first shall be last: The Aubrey Holes and their stones (Rob Ixer and Richard Bevins)*; Petrography of sarsen debitage from the Stonehenge Landscape – a broad and perhaps scattered church* (Rob Ixer and Richard Bevins)*; Re-assessing the Rocks Hill Long Barrow, near Old Sarum* (Michael Gill)*; Cattle and Wiltshire Earthen Long Barrows: A Re-examination (Edward Shepherd); Middle to Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age occupation at Semington Road, Berryfield, Melksham, Wiltshire* (Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz)*; Prehistoric Settlement and Economy at Roundhouse Farm, Marston Meysey, Wiltshire* (Robin Holgate and Scott Williams)*; East Chisenbury Midden 2015−17: further investigations of the late prehistoric midden deposits, enclosure and associated settlement* (Phil Andrews)*; Romano-British occupation and a late medieval farm complex at The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire* (Gail Wakeham)*; A Summary Report on Medieval and Post-Medieval Activity at Salisbury Bus Station, Endless Street* (Nicky Garland, Matt Nichol, and John Chandler)*; The King of Morocco's daughter living in Wiltshire, c.1600* (Graham Bathe, Ian Purvis, Robin Holley, Nicola Johnson, Ian Johnson)*; Rebuilding and Analysing the Blackmore Museum Library Catalogue* (Anthony Hamber)*; The Culture of the Fields: Hay and Hay Makers in Wiltshire and Southern England before 1900* (Richard Moore-Colyer)*; Wiltshire County Council: First Elections 1889* (Ivor Slocombe)*; The Stonehenge Letter: reconstructing a preliminary stage of the Kon-Tiki expedition theory* (Eirik Stokke).

Notes and shorter contributions included: *Restoring John Aubrey's reputation as botanically competent with reference to records of his in The Flora of Wiltshire (1957); Late prehistoric and Romano-British funerary and settlement activity at Druids Lodge Polo Club, near Salisbury; Iron Age and Romano-British features at Western Way, Bowerhill, Melksham; Roman Roads at Monkton Deverill; Probable Late Romano-British/early post-Roman burial remains from Cranbourne Farm, Coombe Bissett; The Gomeldon Arrowhead; Geophysical Survey Report: Bradford-on-Avon Grange Barn; Commonwealth History and the Parish Register of Ashton Keynes; The Devizes white horse: rethinking a lost hill-figure; The Marlborough Artist, Mary Furnell May; Excavation and fieldwork in Wiltshire 2020; Highlights from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Wiltshire in 2020.*

NEW MEMBERS 2021/22

Mr Andrew Affleck, Salisbury
Mr John & Mrs Judith Aldersey-Williams, Devizes
Mr Mark & Mrs Patricia Alsop, Devizes
Mrs Hilary & Mr Les Antrobus, Devizes
Ms Janette Armstrong, Chippenham
Ms Nichola Bamford, Marlborough
Ms Anna Bishop, Devizes
Mr Michael Bloomfield, Trowbridge
Ms Jane Brouner & Mr Phillip Steele, Devizes
Mrs Victoria Bunyan, Pewsey
Mr Jonathan Burn, Alresford
Mr Peregrine & Mrs Julia Chadwyck-Healey , Devizes
Lord Richard Chartres, Salisbury
Mr Dave Crisp, Devizes
Mr Ben Crofts, Salisbury
Mrs Caroline Dalrymple, Pewsey
Ms Catherine Dimmer, Berkhampstead
Ms Claire Dobbin, Devizes
Leslie & Michael Doyle-Davidson, Devizes
Mr Edward & Mrs Elizabeth Ellis, Baldock
Ms Janice Ephgrave, Calne
Mr Spencer & Mrs Amelia Ewen, Corsham
Ms Nic Fleet, Pewsey
Ms Jackie Gardiner, Devizes
Lady Lucy Garton, Melksham
Mx Alison Gee, Devizes
Mr Edward George, Calne
Ms Anne Goodyer, Malmesbury
Ms Sarah Gould & Dr Andrew Watson, Andover
Mr Paul Greaves, Warminster
Miss Natalie Harrison & Mr Darren Revell, Devizes
Mr Rodney & Mrs Isabel Harward, Devizes
Ms Valerie Haye & Mr John Hambly, Liphook
Ms Sarah Helps, Corsham
Mr Gordon & Mrs Jessica Hotchkiss, Amesbury
Mr Antony Hubbard, Swindon
Mrs Maeve Hunt, Devizes
Ms Jane Jennion, Shrivenham
Mr Ian & Mrs Nicola Johnson, Pewsey
Mr David & Mrs Carmel Kendrick, Birmingham
Mr Christopher & Mrs Jessamy Kerr, Pewsey
Mr Simon Kerry, Calne
Mr Danny Kruger, London
Mr David Lacey & Ms Gill Crabtree, Swindon
Ms Lorna Lathrope, Devizes
Mr Alan Lewis, Pewsey
Mr Jonathan Long, Godalming
Ms Felicity MacSwiney, Shaftesbury
Mrs Elizabeth Mann, Chippenham
Ms Christine Mansfield & Mr Ray Blackwell, Salisbury
Mr Alexander Marr, Marlborough
Mr Alan & Mrs Nita Martin, Devizes
Mrs Bronwen Matters, Devizes
Ms Lucy A Maxwell Scott, Devizes
Ms Melanie May, Warminster
Mrs Christina McClean, Devizes
Ms Catherine Mitchell, Bath
Mr Benjamin Mogg, Bath
Ms Susan Morley, Bradford-On-Avon
Mrs Katherine & Mr Harry Morley, Calne
Ms Claire Nodder, Bath
Ms Bo Novak, Melksham
Ms Joanna O'Brien, Romsey
Mr Stephen Olliver, Devizes
Mrs Claire Osgood, Bradford On Avon
Ms Emily Palmer, Dorchester
Ms Cara Pearl, Devizes
Ms Ann Phillips & T J Cartwright, Devizes
Mrs Janet & Mr Michael Polack, Marlborough
Prenax Consolidation Centre Yeovil
Mr Mark & Mrs Imogen Racz, Hungerford
Mr Marc Rhodes-Taylor, Wroughton
Mr Colin Ridler, Oxford
Ms Imogen Riley, Trowbridge
Mr Andrew & Mrs Camilla Ritchie, Devizes
Ms Tessa Rome, Devizes
Mr David Rowan, Marlborough
Mrs Dodie & Mr Richard Scott, Pewsey
Ms Helen Simmonds, Calne
Mr Terry & Mrs Jenny Sinclair, Trowbridge
Mr Peter & Mrs Sue Small, Devizes
Mr Roland Smith, Southampton
Mr Stephen & Mrs Pascale Stacey, Marlborough
Ms Susan Stotter, Southampton
Mr Stephen Sykes, Salisbury
Mr Nicholas Tarrant, Chippenham
Mr Jim Theed, Princes Risborough
Mr Peter Thomas & Ms Joy Jenkins Salisbury
Mrs Barbara Thursten, Salisbury
Mr Christopher Tilley, Chippenham
Mr Paul Timlett, Salisbury
Ms Sarah Tucker, Bristol
Ms Beverley Turton, Pewsey
Mr Anthony & Mrs Angela Tuthill, Marlborough
Mr Ben Urmston & Ms Zabada Sheikh, Salisbury
Char Utton, Trowbridge
Mr Mark Warr, New Milton
Mrs Deirdre & Mr Malcolm Watson, Marlborough
Mr Neil, Mrs Fiona & Mr Matthew Watson, Trowbridge
Ms Katherine Whitehead, Bradford-On-Avon
Mr Craig Williamson & Ms Sally Robson, Amesbury
Ms Ruth Wilson, Bristol
Mr Joseph Wood, Devizes
Mr Francis Wright, Devizes

The volume was edited and indexed by Dr Stuart Brookes, with editorial assistance from Peter Saunders. Peter also coordinated the publication for the Society. Thanks are due to all of those involved in producing such a well-respected journal and especially to the many authors for their contributions.



Trilithon

This newsletter is usually sent to all Society members throughout the year - but the Covid-19 pandemic has caused disruption to this routine. The publication is a mixture of articles, items of interest and news about events.

Engaging audiences online

A regular e-newsletter is sent out and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) are used to engage and develop our audience. Social media is a great way to publicise upcoming events and news at the Museum and is an opportunity to reach new audiences and share more details about our collections in a more immediate way. It also means we can engage with an audience that is unable to physically access the Museum or collections.

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

Research: Archaeology Collections

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic there were only a small number of research visits during the year. However, it has been another busy year, reviewing the research that has been undertaken on the archaeology collections over the past decade, as part of the Arts Council Designation Development Fund, Wealth of Knowledge (WoK) project.

A Wealth of Knowledge: Unlocking a Decade of Archaeological Research

In November 2019 the Museum was awarded £47,000 from Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund to review the results of the last ten years of research into the nationally important archaeological collections of the Wiltshire Museum and The Salisbury Museum. An interim report was submitted to the Arts Council in April 2021 highlighting the success of the project.

Due to Covid-19, lockdowns and reduced access to the collections the Arts Council agreed to extend the project to 31 October 2022. The bulk of the work required will be to update some displays in the Prehistoric Wiltshire Galleries. Opened in 2013, new research on the collections has resulted in some out-of-date interpretation; particularly for Bush Barrow and the 'Shaman' burials. The University of Leicester's major research project - *Beyond the Three Age System (*to be published in 2022) will require MODES records to be updated following their analysis of more than 100 of our early Bronze Age objects.

Building on the work of identifying under-researched areas of the collections, we have increased our engagement with universities, through a series of seminars, to encourage MA students to work on defined projects that will help us to learn more about our Palaeolithic / Mesolithic, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon collections, which have received little research interest over the past 20 years or so. Reports are being written highlighting the potential for new research projects.

The Research Officer has also been developing new internal processes that will enable research beyond the life of WoK to be fed back more efficiently into the MODES management system.

We also participated in the FAIR project, led by the Collections Trust. This tested out approaches to displaying new research information to a range of communities through our website. We supplied data and images to a pilot service, bringing together information from eight museums in the FAIR project cohort; part of a £13m initiative by the Arts and Humanities Research Council – *Towards a National Collection*'. We hope this platform will be able to deliver our NPO objective to create a 'Virtual Wessex Collection', including online exhibition authoring and social media publishing tools.

Decolonising Collections

As part of the Wessex Museums NPO1 programme, each museum in the Wessex Museums Partnership has started Decolonial work on their collections. The first stage was mentorship, working with Tehmina Goskar from the Curatorial Research Centre.

Funded by the Partnership, each museum is testing a different approach to Decolonising collections work. Each participant and museum has gained confidence in both modern ethical curatorial practice, as well as key considerations for Decolonisation. In Devizes we started the process by exploring the history of John Britton's 'Celtic' Cabinet. It was commissioned by George Watson-Taylor (1771 – 1841) of Erlestoke Park and MP for Devizes 1826 - 32, an extremely wealthy Jamaican sugar plantation owner who had more than 2,000 slaves working for him.

Looking further ahead work will expand to include research and reinterpretation of the Anstie tobacco collection, which also has direct links to the slave trade. This tobacco enterprise, which lasted more than 200 years in Devizes, was one of the towns major industries, with the Anstie family one of its wealthiest commercial families.

Museums Association Statement on Decolonisation

[…] Decolonisation is not simply the relocation of a statue or an object; it is a long-term process that seeks to recognise the integral role of empire in British museums – from their creation to the present day. Decolonisation requires a reappraisal of our institutions and their history and an effort to address colonial structures and approaches to all areas of museum work.

This work has already started. Over the past decades museums have begun to recognise the trauma and suffering caused by the display and representation of objects that were obtained during or made as a result of the British Empire.

This vital work allows museums to provide additional information and context to the items they hold; to enter into meaningful dialogue with source communities and those in the diaspora relevant to these collections; and, in some cases, to explore options for restitution. Museums have also recognised the need for structural change, through a more diverse workforce and leadership. While some progress has been made on this front, there is still much to do ….]

Researchers

- Rebecca Ellis, PhD Candidate, Hull University. Visual assessment, reinterpretation, and photography of the Marlborough Bucket, researching animal and human forms and uses in the Iron Age art of England and Wales.
- Alejandra Gutiérrez, Senior Finds Officer, Cotswold Archaeology, sampled pottery sherds from the medieval assemblage at the Naish Hill Kilns, Lacock. The aim was to create a reference dataset for the material from the Naish Hill, so it can be used to compare against other pottery that is suspected to be from the same source. The Naish Hill reference dataset will be used to compare against some vessels that have been recovered during archaeological excavations at Redcliff Quarter, Bristol, and which are thought to have been made at Lacock.
- Dr Richard Madgwick, Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Science, Cardiff University, sampled faunal remains from midden sites at Potterne, East Chisenbury, All Cannings Cross and Stanton St Bernard, for the AHRC-funded 'FEASTNET: Feasting networks and Resilience at the end of the British Bronze Age'. The project explores how communities respond to economic and climatic crisis. It is a study of how new social and economic networks developed and how these made communities resilient in the face of turmoil.
- Dr Richard Madgwick, Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Science, Cardiff University & Dr Tom Booth, Senior Laboratory Research Scientist, Francis Crick Institute, London, sampled Bronze and Iron Age dog remains from the same midden sites listed above, for Ancient DNA analysis, to investigate dog population history. This included the migration history of dogs into and out of Britain during these periods and how they relate to human migrations, cultural changes, and trade networks, as well as the deeper roots of the dog populations that would later produce the many breeds developed in Britain. The project is supported by a grant from the European Research Council (ERC-StG-AGRICON).
- Bethany Revell, MSc student, supervised by Dr Richard Madgwick, Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Science, Cardiff University, sampled faunal remains from the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age site at Battlesbury Bowl, Warminster. A histological study to analyse pre-depositional treatment of domesticated animals on the site.
- Dr David Roberts, Lecturer in Roman Archaeology, and Helen Thomson, MA Student, Cardiff University. A study of the late Iron Age / Roman transition period along the Great Ridge, examining finds assemblages from Cold Kitchen Hill at Longbridge Deverill, and other sites in the area.

Lisa Brown, Wil Partridge, David Dawson

Research: Archive & Library

The last researcher physically visited the Archive and Library on 13 March 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing and hygiene guidelines, it was not possible to reopen during the year. It is planned to reopen the Archive and Library from May 2022, initially to those researchers who had been in contact during the closure.

Although closed the Collections Officer: Archive and Library answered a number of enquiries, providing scans of documents or photographs where possible.

Research topics included Non-conformist Chapels, Moonrakers, All Cannings Brewery, Stourhead, the Old Bridewell, Drews Pond, Heytesbury village, St Clements Church in Fisherton Anger and assisting with numerous family history requests including the Earle family of Crudwell, the Talbot family of Devizes, the Keevil family and the Tropenell family of Great Chalfield.

Jane Schön



Above: The Britton Cabinet

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools). Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

LEARNING, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year has fortunately seen both schools and families return to the Museum. It has been so lovely to hear the buzz of young people in the galleries, whether this be as they are searching for answers on their trails, excitedly exploring the round house and barrow models, or seeing who looks the funniest in our medieval costumes!

Schools began making trips as soon as they were able to, keen to give their students new opportunities and the chance to explore their local area. Many of the pupils visiting had never been on a school trip before, and as a result were quite excited but very keen to learn! Some school groups came by public transport, others from out of the county, and a good number of schools who had not previously made trips to the Museum. Some schools were initially more cautious on planning trips but were keen to have visitors to their classrooms. As a result quite a lot of outreach sessions took place in the Autumn term. Although not many schools were able to book trips and workshops from January to March, due to restrictions as Covid cases rose, bookings were arranged for later in the school year.

The Museum has continued to offer virtual school workshops this year. However, the demand for these has been less than we expected it would be. Those partaking have been schools from further afield, for whom visiting the museum would not have been feasible.

It has been lovely to welcome families back to the Museum. Our holiday activities remain popular, with many of our regulars returning, but also new families. On occasion we added more sessions to meet visitor demand. We ran activities linked to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition as well as ones with seasonal and historic themes.

We relaunched our museum clubs after the pandemic with the Young WANHS Club, for those aged 8 to 14, being renamed Young Curators. Pre-lockdown we had set up a Curious Kids Club for the under five's. However, this left a gap for families with children aged 5 to 7, so a new club called Museum Explorers has been added. The sessions focus on aspects of our collection and displays with the children taking part in practical activities such as investigating objects, visiting the exhibitions, quizzes, drawing and craft.

Other work in the year included a project for the Wiltshire Young Carers linked to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition and sessions for home education groups, Guide and Scout Groups.

In 2022/23 we will be holding 'Museum at Night' sessions for guide and brownie groups as well as for a year 5 school class. The groups will have the Museum to themselves to explore and make noise in! They will also have an opportunity to see behind the scenes with cellar visits, take part in fun craft activities, watch *Night at the Museum* in cinema style with popcorn, and finally sleep on our very hard wooden floors! Although it's uncertain how much sleep will be had, but it should be something they will remember!

We look forward to the learning opportunities that will arise with the projects and exhibitions planned in the coming year. With funding from the Crowdfunding appeal in 2020, the schools handling collection has been developed as are gallery interactives. These will provide further learning opportunities and improve accessibility of our collections for all ages.

Ali Rushent

From the left: Wiltshire Young Carers making white horses, which were then fixed to the outside of the Museum during the 'Eric Raviliious: Downland Man' exhibition.





COMMUNITY CURATOR

The Community Curator post is funded by the Art's Council NPO via Wessex Museum. Amy Hammett started in April 2021, as Sarah Gregson left to become Communities Manager for Salisbury City Council.

Image Project

Due to the pandemic some projects had to be adapted to ensure that the guidelines were followed. The hardest hit was the *Image Photography project*, which started in November 2019 but not finished until June 2021.

The project focused on teaching photography skills to students from Wellington Academy (referred by Youth Offending Team and teachers). Originally planned to 'learn to love your local area' it naturally drifted to capturing their experiences of lockdown. Their work was exhibited at both The Salisbury Museum (August 2021) and Wiltshire Museum (March-May 2022).

Chalk Hills

For the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition students with SEND from Fairfields Farm College created their own versions of Ravilious' 'Dummy Book'. This was influenced by Ravilious's work and the landscape which inspired his art. At the end of the project they explored the Museum and talked about job opportunities within arts and heritage in the future.

Whilst viewing the exhibition and the dummy book they sketched what they saw, and afterwards practiced using watercolours. They also explored the Wiltshire landscape - first stop Bratton white horse which featured in two of the paintings by Ravilious. Despite taking place in the middle of October the weather was lovely and one student even conquered their fear of heights! A second outing to Stanton St Bernard, which featured in *Wiltshire Landscape,* involved stopping in a field with the same view and a white horse behind them!

Their final paintings, drawings and poems were displayed in the Museum and will be added to the collection. The project had lots of positive feedback from the students and the painting was featured in *Special Needs Guide* and *White Horse* local newspaper.

My World, My future

My World, My Future is an online exhibition amplifying the voices of children and young people living in Dorset and Wiltshire, about their concerns on environmental issues and the climate emergency. Working with our four partner museums on the *Create and Collect for Climate Change* project, the exhibition focused on their ideas for positive action to mitigate the impact of climate change.

At Wiltshire Museum we worked with Devizes 4th Guides and Rangers who were very concerned about development around Drew's Pond in Devizes and the impact this would have on the local environment. Sessions were conducted online and in person, with the Guides and Rangers selecting objects from the collection for display, and, with artist James Aldridge, they created a protest banner out of recycled materials.

View the exhibition at *www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/exhibitions-events/my-world-my-future/*

Youth Panel

In the summer of 2021 a youth panel was set up for young people who wanted to be involved in projects to learn more about the Museum and gain work experience. They created a podcast and researched, scripted, recorded and edited it themselves. *Moonraker's Tale: Stories from Wiltshire* is available on most of the major podcast platforms or at *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/museum-podcast-moonrakers-tales/*

They have also been working on a smells interactive for the Roman Gallery. They have researched and considered accessibility to ensure that everyone can enjoy the activity.

Amy Hammett

From the left: The Devizes Guides and their 'My World, My Future' exhibition; Students of Fairfields Farm College at Bratton.





Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.

Volunteers

It was a busy year at the Museum. From helping re-open the building to the public to playing an integral part in the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, our volunteering team went above and beyond in their support. Our student volunteers and newly formed youth panel (see Community Curator's Report on page 27) were also hard at work developing several projects for the Museum.

Volunteers play a vital role in all aspects of running the Museum. They welcome visitors, look after researchers in the Archive and Library, assist with school groups and family activity days, maintenance, decorating, gardening, administration, mailings and events. We also have a growing student volunteer programme focusing on skills development through creative projects. Trustees of WANHS are also volunteers and we are thankful for the time and expertise they continue to dedicate to the Museum.

Whilst many volunteer activities were paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were delighted to welcome them back from May 2021 onwards. Our front of house volunteers were especially instrumental in the successful re-opening of the Museum after lockdown.

Archive and Library Team

A team of 20 Library volunteers catalogue the Archive and Library collections, adding to the online catalogue and scanning the photograph collection. Although halted by the Covid-pandemic many continued to undertake their own research whilst at home and answer the occasional enquiry.

The volunteer team answer any enquiries received and assist visiting researchers with their requests. We could not provide the service we deliver without our excellent team of volunteers and hopefully we can continue to do this as we reopen.

Volunteering and the Ravilious Exhibition

In the summer of 2021 volunteers to help with the Ravilious exhibition, in both a security and visitor engagement role, were sought. They were required to ensure there would be two people in the exhibition galleries during opening hours throughout the exhibition. 32 new volunteers joined us and 24 of our existing volunteers also getting involved. To manage the recruitment and help organise the rota we introduced the online management software system, Better Impact. Training sessions on security and exhibition content were also undertaken.

2,791 hours were logged by our reception, engagement and maintenance volunteer teams (72 people in total) during the four month run of the exhibition. Using National Lottery Heritage Fund methodology this represents a financial value of £41,857.

The volunteer contribution to the exhibition played a huge part in its success. We received wonderful feedback from visitors, with many remarking that the knowledge and welcoming nature of the team was a stand-out element of their visit. Their remarkable dedication and team spirit continuously propelled us forward and we are hugely grateful for their time and support.

A special highlight of the year for members of our volunteer team was meeting HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at a private view of the exhibition.

Looking ahead

2022-23 will be another busy year. Our engagement volunteers will return for the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer* exhibition, and we will also be recruiting for new members to join the team. Our student volunteering offer will be developed and we will take part in a Wessex Museum project involving working with young disabled volunteers.

From left: HM The Queen Consort (then HRH The Duchess of Cornwall) meeting some of our volunteers, December 2021. Image (c) Anna Barclay, Mary Rennie and Museum Assistant Adam Lomas





Student Volunteering

The Museum has a growing pool of young volunteers who are helping with holiday activities, writing website articles, producing social media content, and working on specific projects.

3D modelling project - as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award three students from Lavington School worked with the Museum and 3D Model Designer Sophie Russell to transform the Devizes Assize Court into a 3D model, using initial architect plans for the building's redevelopment. This model was then imported into a virtual game engine to allow audiences to virtually walk around the building, using either a computer or a Virtual Reality headset.

A video demo of the game is available on our website.

Here's hoping for a year with fewer disruptions than 2021/22. But whatever happens, we know our volunteer team will be there supporting the Museum in whatever way they can. We are exceedingly lucky to work alongside such an enthusiastic and united group of people. Our thanks to every individual who has offered their time in supporting the Museum.

Nicola Trowell and Jane Schön

Thank you to our volunteers:

Mr Thomas Bancroft
Ms Geraldine Bateman
Mr John Baumber
Ms Sharon Benfield
Mrs Wendy Bishop
Mrs Astrid Bleich
Mr Mike Borro
Mrs Catherine Brown
Mrs Jane Brunning
Ms Jan Bryant
Ms Margaret Bryant
Miss Ruby Butler
Mr Dave Coward
Mr Cameron Chamberlain
Lt Col Colvin Chamberlain
Ms Alison Christy
Mr Robert Clarke
Mrs Margaret R Clarke
Mrs Nicky Clarke
Ms Clare Conybeare
Ms Sandy Corbyn
Mr Michael Cornwell
Mrs Jean Covington
Mr Martin Covington
Ms Sarah Crean
Mrs Jan Dando
Ms Caroline Dalrymple
Mrs Catherine Dawson
Mr Sam Donovan
Mr Philip Edwards
Miss Amy Ellis
Mr Michael Fletcher
Dr James Flood
Mrs Sue Flood
Ms Elaine Gale
Ms Jackie Gardiner
Mrs Isobel Geddes
Mr Aidan Gibbons
Mr John Girvan
Mr Jeff Goatman
Mrs Jill Goatman
Mr Olly Gooden
Mr Paul Greaves
Ms Veronika Groke
Mr A Hack
Miss Anna Hallett
Mrs Sandy Haynes
Ms Netta Hemmins
Mr Tony Hinchliffe
Mr Thomas Hisscocks
Miss Bethany Hocking
Ms Rachel Holland
Mr David Hughes
Mr Jonathon Hurwitt
Mrs Shelagh Hurwitt
Mrs Carole Jones
Mr Tony Jones
Mrs Mary Kane
Dr James Kay
Ms Clare Kellar
Mr Dallas Kendall
Mrs Ann King
Ms Laura La Turner
Mrs Wendy Lansdown
Miss Tabitha Lawrence
Ms Emma Le Fleming
Mr Graham Lever
Mrs Jane Lever
Mr Ralph Lewis
Mrs Denise Leaning
Mr Andrew Livesley
Ms Lynn Livesley
Ms Yvonne Loth
Ms Stella Maddock
Ms Henreitta Mcneile
Mr Mike McQueen
Ms Tracey Mead
Mr Peter Melsom
Mr Robert Mitchell
Ms Philippa Morgan
Ms Sara Morgan
Mr Tony Morton
Mr Philip Nokes
Ms Louise Peak
Ms Dilys Peacock
Mr Bill Perry
Ms Caroline Power
Ms Susanne Pickup
Ms Penelope Price Jones
Mrs Angela Prophet
Ms Christine Purchas
Mr Stuart Raymond
Mr Martin Rea
Ms Mary Rennie
Ms Rosalind Robinson
Mrs Sue Roderick
Ms Barbara Rogers
Mr Doug Roseman
Mrs Judith Roseaman
Mrs Marion Rowland
Mr Jonathan Sanigar
Mr Peter Saunders
Miss Miasha Smith
Mr Peter Smith
Mr Mike Stone
Mr Michael Teale
Mrs Sue Teale
Miss Caeli Thomas
Mr Colin Thomas
Ms Pam Thomas
Mr Alistair Thomson
Ms Judith Thomson
Mr Peter Tolhurst
Mrs Judith Triggs
Miss Merryn Truscott-Davies
Mr Oliver Turney
Mr Erik Tyler
Mrs Dawn Vernon
Mr John Watts
Ms Maggie Watts
Mrs Wendy Weller
Mr David Weston
Ms Jirina Wheatley
Mr Mike Williams
Mr Francis Wright
Mr Jamie Wright

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group (WAFG) is a community archaeology group, working to professional standards. It carries out excavations and fieldwork in Wiltshire including geophysical survey, ground survey and field-walking. Anyone can get involved in research projects, ranging from prehistoric sites to 20th century archaeology. Members have organised practical training sessions on topics including basic excavation and identifying pottery. There have been a number of social events, which include talks on a variety of recent discoveries and new finds.

Membership is open to members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Regular reports appear in our Trilithon newsletter, and on the WAFG Facebook page.

For the AFG Steering Committee, the period April 2021-March 2022 centred upon restarting AFG activities post-Covid in a safe and responsible way, actively re-engaging with AFG members and planning for a busy summer of fieldwork projects in 2022.

The first AFG excavation post lockdown took place in October 2021, AFG members supporting a highly successful archaeological research evaluation near to Coombe Bissett in the south of the county. This exploratory excavation revealed what appears to be a rural late Iron Age or Romano-British domestic site with some interesting features including grain driers and large storage pits. AFG members will be returning to the site in August 2022, this time under the auspices of Cardiff University Archaeology which has adopted the site for an undergraduate summer-school, with larger trenches planned. More on the results of this project next year.

The Post-Excavation processing of the Finds Assemblage from the medieval grange site of Rodbourne Bottom, Malmesbury also resumed in October 2021. Huge progress has been made in tackling the large array of bulk finds, with over 95kg of pottery to process alone, and the detailed cataloguing of Special Finds. Following a summer break, “Post-Excavation Sunday” will be resuming in the autumn of 2022 to push this project forward to completion and to finally allow the accession of the Rodbourne Bottom material into the museum collections. An enormous thank you must be extended to the dedicated band of AFG volunteers who have helped push this forward!

The spring of 2022 saw the AFG Steering committee focus time and energy in securing a busy summer of fieldwork project opportunities for AFG members participation. These projects, such as All Cannings and Seend are to be AFG led projects, whilst Combe Bissett and the excavation of a Roman Tile kiln complex near Minety are research projects where AFG were seen as a key resource for project success. We have been really pleased to see so many AFG members come out and actively want to participate in hands-on archaeology – more to come on all of these projects in next year’s annual report!

Ali Thompson

We are always looking for more people to be involved in our work, a great way to meet people and to develop skills and experience.

A303 Working Group

In July, a Judicial Review at the High Court required the Secretary of State to redetermine the decision to approve the Stonehenge Tunnel. The main grounds were that an alternative route had not been properly considered and that the carbon impact had not been taken into account. A call for information was issued by the Department for Transport, but the Working Group felt that there was nothing to add at this preliminary stage to the existing response by the Society, but would consider responding as the process moves forward.

David Dawson, Director

Buildings and Monuments

Since March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, the diligent work of the committee continued by email with each committee member reviewing applications for their designated area. Their findings were presented to the other committee members and the consequent discussions forming the basis for the relevant response being made to the appropriate Planning depart-ment. No minutes were issued during the year as it was considered that the record of the re-sponses made (copied to the Director and Secretary) formed a sufficient record of the commit-tee activities and decisions.

This hiatus in normal process prompted review in October 2021 of the on-going committee's requirements. Due to improvements that have been developed over the last ten years, there are very few planning applications concerning Listed Buildings and Monuments (LBC's) that currently require a response. It was proposed and accepted by the Board of Trustees that the B&M Committee be held in abeyance and a nominated Trustee be appointed to undertake advising the WANHS Board of any controversial issue or application that warrants a re-sponse. The B&M Committee members would provide input of expertise and knowledge as required. This proposal retains the capacity for a quick response when needed and recognis-es that WANHS still has a role as an external voice for historic buildings and monuments preservation that is welcomed by county planning officers.

Under my Chairmanship over the last 10 years, approaching 2,000 applications have been reviewed in detail including major reports to protect archaeological sites from sand and gravel extraction, Core Strategy reviews, protection of demolition from significant structures and support of the WANHS response on the Stonehenge/A303 proposals. This has meant every LBC, WHS or heritage application has had some form of review and approaching 350 re-sponses resulted in the recommendations being recognised in about 70-75% of the cases.

WANHS will continue to guide Wiltshire Councils' decisions in protecting the heritage of the County and it is our continued objective to ensure that any developments within the County do not adversely affect the listed buildings, scheduled monuments and archaeological landscapes of Wiltshire.

John Baumber, C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E. B.Sc(Mech Eng) C.Dip.A.F., Chairman

Finance Committee

This committee ensures that the assets of the Society are managed in compliance with the various rules and guidelines pertinent to the WANHS status as a registered charity and limited liability company, and promulgates appropriate policies and procedures.

The routine and day-to-day monitoring and management of approved budgets is delegated to the Review & Development Committee.

The Finance Committee meet when events demand it.

Rathbone Investment Management provided regular reports on the investment situation throughout the pandemic.

Industrial Archaeology

The committee continues to act as a focus for IA matters in the County and liaises with other interested bodies. Plans are going ahead for the 2022 Conference with a good selection of speakers booked.

Doug Roseaman, Committee Secretary

DEVELOPMENT

WORKING WITH PARTNERS and PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership brings together Dorset Museum, Poole Museum, The Salisbury Museum and the Wiltshire Museum.

During the year the Wessex Museums Partnership progressed delivering the four year, Arts Council supported National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), project to improve collections care, enhance the exhibitions programme and work with new audiences. The Community Curator for Wiltshire, a shared post with Salisbury Museum, is developing links with community groups across the County.

The Partnership is supported by the Wessex Museums Trust, a charity that aims to support museums in Wiltshire and Dorset. The Trust fundraises to enable the delivery of projects that the individual museums are not able to undertake on their own and take a more active role in the management of the NPO. The Society is represented on the Board by the Director.

The focus during the year has been on delivering the *Hardy's Wessex: the landscapes that inspired a writer' exhibition*, which opened on 28 May 2022.

A bid to continue NPO status for a further three years was prepared during the year, and was submitted in May 2022. If the bid is successful, then Swindon Museums will be joining the Partnership.

Stonehenge Museums Partnership

We have kept in regular contact during the year, developing joint marketing where this has been possible.

David Dawson

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership has developed a Business Plan for the 4 years of funding that meets Arts Council requirements, which runs until March 2023.. The Business Plan has been agreed by the WANHS Board and the Board receives minutes of all relevant meetings and is asked to agree an annual progress report and update to the Business Plan. A bid for the NPO status for 2023-2026 was submitted in May 2022, with a result expected in October. The bid include an outline Forward Plan for 2023-2024.

Archaeology Archives and Amesbury Store

The commissioning of the Amesbury store, purchased to accept the eight-year backlog of archaeological archives awaiting deposition, was delayed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Plans to re-start the project commenced in November 2021 and although costs had risen substantially within the last 18 months due to Brexit and Covid-19, building work started in February 2022. JJ Storage Systems Ltd, Marlborough, installed a mezzanine floor, together with fire cladding, new lighting, and mobile racking.

The store is expected to open for the deposition of archaeology archives in autumn 2022, with the first delivery of 600 boxes of finds and associated paperwork from Wessex Archaeology.

Strategic and Forward Plans

We are continuing to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Society and Museum to continue to thrive as the Assize Court project proceeds.

As we were in lockdown at the start of the year, the Board were asked to agree an outline Forward Plan for 2021-2022, where key objectives were to re-open the Museum after lockdown, deliver the Ravilious exhibition and commission the Amesbury Store. The majority of targets for the year were achieved, or were under way by the end of the year, with the exception of a Stage 1 Bid to the NLHF and the re-opening of the Archive and Library.

The Forward Plan for 2022-2023 details priorities for the year ahead, with a particular focus on the Stage 1 bid to the NLHF for the Assize Court, the Hardy's Wessex exhibition and completing the commissioning of the Amesbury Store. The Plan has monthly objectives and is reviewed by the Board on a Quarterly basis.

Lisa Brown and David Dawson

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: DEVIZES ASSIZE COURT

Work has continued in partnership with eh Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) to prepare an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, following an unsuccessful Expression of Interest.

A revised Expression of Interest was submitted in March 2021 and we were informed in May 2022 that this had been accepted.

Following a very useful review meeting, work is now proceeding on a Development Stage application, with a target submission date in November. In the meantime, DACT has been successful in attracting support from private individuals towards the running costs, which includes a substantial insurance premium.

The Development Application requires several hundred pages of documentation, and assessment will take six months before we are informed of the result. In this stage, we will develop plans to engage new audiences and for the building over a two year period, before submitting a Delivery Stage bid.

Our current estimate for the opening of the building is 2029. During the Development Stage, we will launch a major fundraising campaign, as we need to raise substantial funding from trusts, foundations and individuals.

David Dawson



Clockwise from the left: interior photograph of the Devizes Assize Court; DACT logo; David Dawson with Hugh Dennis, from 'The Great British Dig'; filming the interior for an episode of 'The Great British Dig'. Unfortunately this section was not included in the finished broadcast, but the film was made available to us; HM The Queen Consort (then HRH The Duchess of Cornwall) meeting DACT Trustees, Peter Troughton and John Bush and architectural advisor Colin Johns, in December 2021, Image (c) Anna Barclay..

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the Law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate
- Presume that the company will continue to operate.

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

Internal risks are minimised by the establishment, documentation and regular review of a robust system of internal controls. Procedures have been implemented for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and monitored on a regular basis.

The Board continued to employ Rathbone Brothers Plc to manage both the investment portfolio and the endowment fund with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side, a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully and reported to the Trustees on a quarterly basis.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market which affect the investment portfolios, long-term staff or Trustee absence, inadequate staffing with dependence of a small team of full-time employees, physical risks to the collections or buildings from fire , theft or floods and reductions in grants from local authorities. The Trustees manage these risks by having an investment policy at the low end of medium risk with regular reviews from the investment managers, by having processes for trustee succession, by conducting reviews of staff availability and development and by regular reviews of security.

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Society should have unrestricted funds (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves) equivalent to at least one year's core costs, that is some £300,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be substantially greater than £300,000 to provide a measure of security since unrestricted funds are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities.

The Unrestricted Funds balance at 31 March 2022 was £852,340 (£728,632 at 31 March 2021).

The balance of Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) was £441,027 at 31 March 2022 (£430,535 at 31 March 2021). The purpose of Designated Funds can be changed by the Board of Trustees. However, it must be borne in mind that the Designated Funds are and have been used to meet expenditure not charged to core activities such as the running costs of the Hopton Store, the Librarian's salary and the depreciation charge on the Art Gallery and high security cases. Therefore, Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities.

Restricted Funds of £378,832 (£262,832 at 31 March 2021) must be used for a specific purpose. The capital of £524,608 (£407,444 at 31 March 2021) in the Endowment Fund is not distributable.

Included within the net book value of land and buildings of £295,456 is the land and buildings of the Museum. These assets are carried in the accounts at net book value of £114,540 (£114,540 at 31 March 2021). The net book value of this property is substantially smaller than its actual market value. There is provision in the Charity Accounting rules for tangible assets like the Museum land and buildings to be shown at market value in the accounts. However, the Trustees have decided that, for the moment, the property should be shown at net book value. This property is now used for the purposes of charitable activities but, if the Museum were to move, it may be available to generate funds to support the new opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The activities of the Society returned to a level of pre-Covid normality. The Museum returned to its usual opening times and exhibitions and other activities proceeded as planned. Particular mention needs to be made of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition which generated significant revenues through ticket sales but also shop sales associated with the significant increase in visitors to the Museum.

Unrestricted reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Designated Funds) increased in the year by £113,216. This was due to a surplus on operating activities of £97,473 and gains on investments of £15,743.

The operating surplus of £97,473 was £206,317 improvement on the adjusted budget deficit. This was mainly due to income from income from legacies (£79,341), unbudgeted grants that were received from Wiltshire Council and others (£37,538), and profits related to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition (£63,966). Most expenditure related to the Societies operating activities was in line with the agreed budget, although there were some additional exhibition costs (£24,367) and unplanned expenditure on premises (£12,999). The Society suffered VAT of £8,112 that it was unable to reclaim.

Designated Funds increased during the year by £10,942 mainly because of investment income and gains.

The Society continues to receive support from Wiltshire Council with a grant of £12,780 and Devizes Town Council of £4,000. Both grants will be maintained at this level in 2022/23 but there continuation at this level or at all is not certain for future years. These funds are very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and the Society is extremely grateful for all the grants it receives.

Restricted Funds increased by £116,000 due to the receipt of legacy income and investment income and gains.

Investment income from the Society's main portfolio and from the Sandell Trust was £66,905 which was marginally up on the previous year (£3,570). The overall return on investments on the combined main and endowment portfolios and including income and capital gains was 7.37% compared with 19.56% the previous year. This reduction in performance of the Societies investments reflects the volatility in the worlds capital markets associated with the global geopolitical situation and reduced levels of consumer confidence. The overall income return before investment management expenses was 2.44% compared with 2.86% the previous year.

The Society does not have a specific policy on social, environmental or ethical considerations. However, its investment managers have a corporate strategy that means that these are taken into account in all aspects of their business activities.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund's portfolio is managed at the low end of a medium risk mandate. The Endowment Fund balance has increased during the year by £125,853. In addition to gains on revaluation of the Fund's investments, the trustees allocated £100,000 of legacy income to the Endowment Fund during the year.

Under the terms of the Endowment Trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the Society at some future date to be decided by the Trustees. The Trustees have reserved the right to transfer income received by the Fund to unrestricted reserves from the year ended 31 March 2010. Net investment income of £8,689 after investment expenses of £2,835 was transferred to the unrestricted reserves during the year ended 31 March 2022.

COLLECTIONS TRUST

There are over 500,000 items in the Collections Trust of which 2,500 are displayed in the Museum. There are also some 30,000 items in the Archive and Library collections. Most of these items are assets which were acquired before 1 April 2005 and have no value placed on them in the accounts. These continue to be catalogued and conserved with some items on loan elsewhere as described on page 14. More recent items costing over £1,000 each and totalling £48,741 are included in the balance sheet at cost. During the year £22,000 was received in donations and legacies. These funds were used with existing cash balances to make acquisitions of £3,530 of items costing less than £1,000. These acquisitions are described on pages 16 to 19.

INCOMING RESOURCES AND LEGACIES RECEIVED

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised, the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to the unrestricted fund and restricted funds respectively. The accounts include £378,832 for restricted funds and £524,608 for the Endowment Fund. These funds are not available to the Society for general use and must, therefore, be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position.

FORWARD PLAN

Each year the Board approves a Forward Plan that contains objectives and targets for the year. The 2021/22 Forward Plan contained targets within the following categories: exhibitions and displays; collections; development; projects; Assize Court; learning and outreach; and governance and core activities. Within the context of management resources good progress was made in most of these areas - see page 32.

PARTNERSHIPS

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and co-operation on exhibitions. Although, by mutual consent, the Directors have ceased to be nominees on the other's Board, good communication is maintained through the Wessex Museums Partnership. Supported by Arts Council England and led by Poole Museum Service, the partnership also includes Salisbury Museum and Dorset County Museum.

The support of Wiltshire County Council and Devizes Town Council in providing revenue grants to the Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their nominated Trustees. We are pleased to continue working in partnership with English Heritage and Salisbury Museum through the Stonehenge Museums Partnership.

The Board is aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to build strong partnerships.

AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2021 and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 September 2022, and signed on their behalf by:

M J Nye

Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The latest Articles of Association were agreed by the members at the October 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Objects of the Society are detailed on the inner cover. The members of the Society are subscribing members; in the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

The Society is the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. The Collections Trust holds all the heritage assets in its collections. The Society does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property.

The Society is also the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Society's accounts but as a separate charity its funds do not form part of the Society's assets.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its Trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the Trustees".

The Society can have a maximum of 20 trustees. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer (the Officers) and nine Trustees are elected by the membership, with re-election after three years. Trustees, excluding the Officers, can serve a maximum of six years. Officers are elected annually from amongst the Trustees but can serve for no more than six years in any one role. As nominating bodies, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, can each appoint one Trustee, and Wiltshire Council can appoint two Trustees. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust no longer appoint a Trustee to the WANHS Board. The Trustees have the power to co-opt additional Trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they may be nominated and elected.

The Society is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets regularly throughout the year. It determines the general policy direction of the Society and discusses matters of importance to the Society. It approves and monitors budgets, Forward and Strategic Plans, all developments, the prioritisation and allocation of resources and approves trustee appointments. Trustees bring outside experience and knowledge which supports that of our small staff.

There is a Review and Development Committee which meets regularly to review the management and financial affairs of the Museum delegated to the Director and his staff. There are a number of standing committees and working groups are formed as needed to deal with specific issues.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed including those related to the operations and finances of the Society and Museum, Archive & Library, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Investment Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The Trustees have engaged Rathbone Investment Management as investment managers and a Finance Committee reviews the portfolio and investment strategy.

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The skills and experience of existing Trustees is reviewed annually and, together with future needs, taken into account when seeking new trustees. The Board has a succession plan and has drawn up a trustee role description. Vacancies are advertised to members and through archaeological and voluntary media. Prospective Trustees are invited to visit the Museum to discuss the role prior to a formal interview. A panel, including the Chair and Director, reviews applications and interviews candidates. References are obtained and checks on eligibility to be a trustee and company director made. Those who are considered suitable are recommended to the Board to go forward to the Society's AGM for election by members.

There is an induction process to help Trustees understand their new role. An induction pack includes information on governance, accounts for recent years, forward plans, minutes of recent Board meetings, policies and other relevant information. New Trustees receive copies of Charity Commission advice (e.g. *The Essential Trustee*), are signed up for their e-mail updates and receive a personal tour of the Museum, Archive & Library buildings. From time to time Trustees are offered training courses.

LEGAL INFORMATION

Names and registration numbers
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649 and a charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

PATRONS

J B Bush, CVO, OBE, CSt.J, JP
P Harding, DUniv, FSA, MIFA
D Inshaw
Mrs S R Troughton, CSt.J, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
Martin J Nye, MA (Cantab)

Deputy Chair:
Alison Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA

Hon. Treasurer:
Chris R Kelly, BSc, FCA, FloD

Elected Trustees:
Richard Cardiff
Timothy Daw, MA (Oxon)
Clare Dobbin, MA, MA, BA (Hons) (from Nov 2021)
Gillian Kenny, MA, PhD
Ruth B. Kerr, MA, BA (Hons) (from Nov 2021)
Alfred La Vardera, FCPFA, MSc
Katie Marsden, BSc (Hons) (from Nov 2021)
Daniel S Miles, BA, MA, MIfA
Lachlan Robertson, MA, BSc

Nominated Trustees:
Member, Devizes Town Council (from May 2021):
Cllr. Mrs C Gay, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, FPS
Members, Wiltshire Council: vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF AS AT 31.3.2022

Director: David Dawson, BA, FSA, AMA
Curator*: Lisa Brown, BA (Hons), MA
Marketing & Administration Manager:
Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Museum Assistant: Administration:
Emma Sykes, BA
Partnerships & Digital Lead:
Nicola Trowell, BA (Hons)

Collections Officer: Archive & Library*:
Jane Schön, BA (Hons), MA
Development Officer*:
Rachael Holtom, BA (Hons),P.G. Dip, AMA
Exhibitions Officer*: Heather Ault, BA
Finance Officer*: Mandy Dixon
Learning & Outreach Officer*: Ali Rushent, BA, MA
Museum Assistant*: Carol Johnston
Museum Assistant: Visitor Services*:
Bethany Hughes, BA (Hons)
Research Officer: Archaeology*:
Wil Partridge, PG Dip, BA (Hons)

Community Curator*: Amy Hammett (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the Wessex Museums Partnership)
Finds Liaison Officer: Sophie Hawke (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the British Museum and other partners)

*[*part-time]*

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors:
David Owen & Co., 17 The Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1BA

Bankers:
Lloyds TSB plc, 38 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1JD

Investment Managers:
Rathbone Investment Management, 8 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7AZ

Company Secretary:
Mrs K P Jones, BA (Hons)

Hon. Solicitors:
Wansbroughs, Northgate House, Devizes, SN10 1JX

Editor - Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine:
Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1NS

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concerns
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The trustees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustee's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 34), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company or the purposes of company law)

are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees' are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee's either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the UK Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, tax legislation, data protection legislation and regulations imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with regards to the provision of insurance policies.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence with HMRC and reviewed meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- We enquired of the trustees about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets, undisclosed related party transactions outside the normal course of business.
- We critically reviewed judgements and provisions included within the financial statements and examined the associated cut-off issues. Prior period forecasts were compared to actual results to ensure past judgements made were reasonable in comparison with eventual outcomes.
- We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We obtained independent confirmations from your bank regarding balances at the year-end in addition to any outstanding charges.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Use of our Report

The report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Michael Buckland (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For an on behalf of David Owen & Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 The Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1BA
Date: 29 September 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	*Total Funds 2021*
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	1	190,779	94,939	100,000	**385,718**	**173,015**
Charitable activities	2	261,571	-	-	**261,571**	**90,224**
Other trading activities	5	114,341	-	-	**114,341**	**33,286**
Investments	7	15,435	6,946	11,524	**33,905**	**33,983**
Total		**582,126**	**101,885**	**111,524**	**795,535**	**330,508**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	60,543	1,763	2,835	**65,141**	**28,894**
Charitable activities	9	441,846	-	-	**441,846**	**368,791**
Total		**502,389**	**1,763**	**2,835**	**506,987**	**397,685**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	35,282	15,878	17,164	**68,324**	**198,174**
Net income/(expenditure)		115,019	116,000	125,853	**356,872**	**130,997**
Transfers between funds		8,689	-	(8,689)	**-**	**-**
Net movement in funds		**123,708**	**116,000**	**117,164**	**356,872**	**130,997**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		728,632	262,832	407,444	**1,398,908**	**1,267,911**
Total funds carried forward		**852,340**	**378,832**	**524,608**	**1,755,780**	**1,398,908**

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15		347,224		310,155
Managed Investments					
Securities	16	978,823		853,167	
Cash		3,508		8,882	
			982,331		862,049
Managed Endowment Investments					
Securities	16	466,711		380,083	
Cash		57,447		26,910	
			524,158		406,993
Total Fixed Assets			1,853,713		1,579,197
Current Assets					
Stock		15,733		14,442	
Debtors	17	42,771		21,053	
Cash at Bank		96,726		83,475	
Total current Assets		155,230		118,970	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	111,814		145,343	
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)			43,416		(26,373)
Total assets less current liabilities			1,897,129		1,552,824
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		141,349		153,916
			1,755,780		**1,398,908**
The funds of the Society					
Endowment Funds	22		524,608		407,444
Restricted income funds	23		378,832		262,832
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)	24		852,340		728,632
			1,755,780		**1,398,908**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The notes on pages 44 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

M J Nye, Chair

C R Kelly, Honorary Treasurer

29 September 2022

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(a)	208,226	(43,265)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		33,906	33,983
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(58,951)	(1,905)
Proceeds from sale of investments		110,416	125,384
Purchase of investments		(255,183)	(99,941)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**(169,812)**	**57,521**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**38,414**	**14,256**
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	(b)	119,267	105,011
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	**(b)**	**157,681**	**119,267**

(a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per the Statement of Activities	356,872	130,997
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	21,882	10,092
Opening Balance adjustment	807	-
(Gains)/losses on investments	(68,324)	(198,174)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(33,906)	(33,983)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(1,291)	(411)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(21,718)	72,540
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(46,096)	(24,326)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**208,226**	**(43,265)**

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand (incl. investment cash)	157,681	119,267
	157,681	**119,267**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

(a) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2005), and

(b) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company qualifies as a small company under the Companies Act 2006 and under SORP. However, the Company has continued to comply with the requirements of large charities and to this end has produced a cash flow statement for the accounting period and comparative figures for the previous accounting period.

The Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except for the discounting of the liability for the pension deficit or unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition unless capitalisation is required as a condition of the grant. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 5 years

Investments

Net gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed between realised gains and losses and unrealised gains and losses in note 14 to the financial statements. Investment income has been accounted for on the basis of the due date of payment. Investment income and gains and losses in the Main Fund are allocated between Unrestricted Funds (including Designated Funds) and Restricted Funds on the basis of the average net assets of those funds.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Incoming Resources

- Legacies are normally accounted for when received and, if not given for specific purposes as a condition of the will, are utilised either for general expenditure or for the purposes which the Trustees believe the Testator would have approved.
- Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.
- Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received.
- All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.
- Grants. Where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year, the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. In the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum Services, Library Services, Educational Services, etc.) this has been done on the assessment of the Director.

Pensions

During the year to 31 March 2022 pension provision was made for 11 employees by membership of a Pension Trust Scheme which is principally a defined contribution pension scheme. All employees who are not in the scheme are offered pension auto-enrolment into the scheme where applicable. Employer's contributions of £11,496 have been charged to staff costs as incurred. The Scheme has a limited guarantee on losses under the scheme for those members of staff who transferred to it. This has led to small additional amounts in respect of a deficit being recovered from the Society.

Some years prior to the year ended on 31 March 2017 the Society ceased to be a scheme employer in the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, as stated in the 2012 report, entered into an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse the deficit by payment of £21,000 for each year up to and including December 2031. Full provision of the liability was originally made in the accounts to 31 March 2016 for the amounts payable to December 2031, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period. An amount of £9,626 was charged in the accounts to 31 March 2021 for the adjustment to the provision for the amounts payable, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period.

Reserves

The reserves at 31 March 2022 are located to Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds. Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting appropriate as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a charity established to raise and hold capital, the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but, as a separate charity, these funds do not form part of the Company's assets. The investment income from the Endowment Fund is credited to the Unrestricted Funds.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which own the Collections. On 3 March 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96(5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However, *"the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and hold the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company".*

Accounts for the Collections Trust have been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
1	**Income from Donations and Legacies**						
	Membership Subscriptions		42,958	-	-	**42,958**	41,568
	Donations and Tax Refunds		30,311	-	-	**30,311**	34,264
	Legacies		79,341	94,939	100,000	**274,280**	-
	Job Retention Scheme		5,169	-	-	**5,169**	64,183
	Income transferred by Old Society						
	Sandell Trust		33,000	-	-	**33,000**	33,000
			190,779	**94,939**	**100,000**	**385,718**	**173,015**
2	**Income from Charitable Activities**						
	Grants and Contributions	3	168,951	-	-	**168,951**	84,841
	Admissions		64,439	-	-	**64,439**	2,041
	Exhibitions Commissions		23,162	-	-	**23,162**	-
	Education Receipts		5,019	-	-	**5,019**	3,342
			261,571	**-**	**-**	**261,571**	**90,224**
3	**Income from Grants and Contributions**						
	Area Board (Community Area Grant - new boiler)		2,262	-	-	**2,262**	-
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge		15,501	-	-	**15,501**	15,185
	Cunnington Letters		-	-	-	**-**	4,750
	Community Curator Projects		1,165	-	-	**1,165**	900
	Devizes Town Council		8,000	-	-	**8,000**	-
	Ernest Cook Trust		1,672	-	-	**1,672**	-
	Eric Ravilious: Downland Man exhibition		47,988	-	-	**47,988**	(38)
	Seeing the Light of Day		11,020	-	-	**11,020**	-
	Stonehenge Avebury Bus		-	-	-	**-**	-
	Vale of Pewsey		10,174	-	-	**10,174**	-
	Wessex Museum Partnership		23,157	-	-	**23,157**	19,900
	Wiltshire Council		31,842	-	-	**31,842**	43,569
	Sundry Contributions for Projects		16,170	-	-	**16,170**	575
			168,951	**-**	**-**	**168,951**	**84,841**

		2022 £
4	**Grants carried forward**	
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge	24,296
	Cauldrons - Bromsgrove	556
	Community Curator Projects	1,097
	Cunnington Letters (NMCT)	1,182
	Devizes Area Tourism	1,257
	Ernest Cook Trust	31
	Stonehenge - Avebury Bus	5,153
		33,572

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
5	**Income from Other Trading Activities**		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
	Shop Sales	6	92,274	-	-	**92,274**	6,408
	Other Sales		-	-	-	**-**	34
	Museum Income		22,067	-	-	**22,067**	26,844
	Fund-raising Events		-	-	-	-	**-**
			114,341	**-**	**-**	**114,341**	**33,286**
6	**Shop Sales**						
	Shop sales		92,274	-	-	**92,274**	6,408
	Less Purchase cost		35,111	-	-	**35,111**	1,680
	Gross Profit		**57,163**	**-**	**-**	**57,163**	**4,728**
	Gross Profit % on sales					**61.95%**	**73.78%**
7	**Investment Income**						
	Income from Investments		15,435	6,946	11,524	**33,905**	33,983
			15,435	**6,946**	**11,524**	**33,905**	**33,983**
8	**Expenditure on Raising Funds**						
	Cost of Sales						
	Shop		35,110	-	-	**35,110**	1,680
	Salaries		9,573	-	-	**9,573**	9,111
	Members' services		3,297	-	-	**3,297**	3,068
	Marketing		219	-	-	**219**	20
	Fundraising costs		4,268	-	-	**4,268**	677
	Investment management costs		3,918	1,763	2,835	**8,516**	11,384
	Support costs		4,158	-	-	**4,158**	2,954
			60,543	**1,763**	**2,835**	**65,141**	**28,894**
9	**Expenditure on Charitable Activities**						
	Museum Services		275,182	-	-	**275,182**	206,479
	Library Services		43,445	-	-	**43,445**	33,614
	Educational work		34,260	-	-	**34,260**	28,503
	WANHM		12,733	-	-	**12,733**	13,742
	Support and governance costs		76,226	-	-	**76,226**	86,453
			441,846	**-**	**-**	**441,846**	**368,791**

Expenditure on Charitable Activities for Unrestricted Funds includes £15,992 (2021 £10,344) for Designated Funds.

Support and governance costs include audit fees of £6,300 (2021 - £6,000)

		Total 2022	*Total 2021*
10	**Staff costs**	**£**	***£***
	Wages and Salaries	**216,992**	202,385
	Social Security costs	**10,791**	9,637
	Pension costs	**20,379**	20,012
		248,162	**232,034**

Staff costs attributable to activities :	**2022**	**2021**
	£	**£**
Cost of raising funds	**9,573**	9,104
Charitable activities:		
Museum	**151,445**	137,997
Library	**26,206**	25,702
Education	**23,611**	22,930
Governance	**37,327**	36,301
	248,162	**232,034**

In 2022 £15,069 (2021 £14,471) of staff costs were funded from grants for projects.
Pension costs include £8,433 (2021: £9,044) relating to charges for deficits in previous years.
During the year £21,000 (2021: £21,000) was paid towards the liability for the Wiltshire Council Pension deficit (see note 20).
No employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000.
Key management personnel which consist of the Trustees and the Director were paid a total of £55,261 (2021 £52,391).
This amount is gross of employer's contributions towards pension and National Insurance.
The average number of employees in 2022 was 4 full time and 8 part time (2021: 4 full time and 8 part time).

11 Trustees' Expenses

No trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year.
Trustees' expenses totalling £0 (2021 £0) were paid during the year

12 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related Parties during the year 2022 (2021 - £0).

13 Operating Leases

Payments for operating leases for a telephone system and for a photocopier amounted to £2,842 (2021 £2,842) during the year. Minimum lease payments are to be made as follows:

	2022	**2021**
	£	**£**
Not later than one year	**2,842**	2,842
Later than one year and not later than five years	**2,842**	5,684
	5,684	**8,526**

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Main Portfolio**	**Endowment Portfolio**	**Total 2022**	**Total 2021**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
14 Gains/(losses) on investment assets						
Realised gains/(losses)	1,073	483	1,556	(1,028)	**528**	8,009
Unrealised gains/(losses)	34,209	15,395	49,604	18,192	**67,796**	190,165
	35,282	**15,878**	**51,160**	**17,164**	**68,324**	**198,174**

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Opening Cost at 1st April	72,750	298,487	27,290	**398,527**	396,622
Addition - EPOS System Till	-	-	-	**-**	1,770
Addition - Amesbury Storage Facility	-	-	58,951	**58,951**	135
Closing Cost at 31st March	**72,750**	**298,487**	**86,241**	**457,478**	**398,527**
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st April	-	69,766	18,606	**88,372**	78,280
Charge in year	-	6,015	15,867	**21,882**	10,092
Accumulated Depr. at 31st March	**-**	**75,781**	**34,473**	**110,254**	**88,372**
Closing Net Book Value at 31st March	**72,750**	**222,706**	**51,768**	**347,224**	**310,155**

The freehold land and buildings transferred from the original unincorporated Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Charity no. 309534) in November 2003 were included in the balance sheet at book values. Other tangible fixed assets acquired or created since have been included at cost. The Trustees have decided not to apply a valuation to the property.

16 Quoted Fixed Asset Investments	Main Portfolio 2022 £	Endowment Portfolio 2022 £	Main Portfolio 2021 £	Endowment Portfolio 2021 £
Opening Market Value at 1st April	853,167	380,083	**729,271**	331,248
Purchases	113,660	141,523	**46,995**	52,946
	966,827	521,606	**776,266**	384,194
Sales	39,149	71,268	**62,822**	62,561
	927,678	450,338	**713,444**	321,633
Net profits/(losses) :				
Realised	1,541	(1,819)	**3,900**	4,109
Unrealised	49,604	18,192	**135,823**	54,341
Closing Market value at 31st March	**978,823**	**466,711**	**853,167**	**380,083**

17 Debtors	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Trade Debtors	**6,758**	2,422
Prepayments	**14,620**	13,214
Gift Aid refund receivable	**11,948**	4,766
VAT recoverable	**6,705**	651
Monies owed by the Collections Trust	**-**	-
Monies owed by the Old Society	**2,740**	-
	42,771	**21,053**

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grants received in advance (note 4)	**33,572**	66,178
Trade Creditors	**8,916**	3,027
Accruals	**21,332**	18,723
Taxes including NIC	**3,263**	3,148
Pension Deficit Creditor, due within one year (see note 20)	**20,442**	20,442
Prepaid membership subscriptions	**22,291**	21,746
Other income in advance	**1,998**	12,079
	111,814	**145,343**

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	141,349	153,916
Pension deficit (see note 20)	**141,349**	**153,916**

20 Pension Deficit

The Society has an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse a deficit with the Wiltshire Pension Fund in relation to two former employees by payment of £21,000 for each year up and including December 2031. Full provision, subject to discounting at 5% over time from 31 March 2018 has been made in creditors. The charge for the year to 31 March 2022 for the discounted part of the provision was £8,433 (2021 £9,044).

21 Analysis of net assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund values at 31 March are represented by:					
Tangible Fixed Assets	144,814	202,410	-	**347,224**	310,155
Managed Investments	852,880	129,451	524,158	**1,506,489**	1,269,042
Current Assets	107,809	46,971	450	**155,230**	118,970
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(111,814)	-	-	**(111,814)**	(145,342)
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(141,349)	-	-	**(141,349)**	(153,917)
	852,340	**378,832**	**524,608**	**1,755,780**	**1,398,908**

22 Endowment Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Investment expenses	Gain on investments	Inter-Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Trust Fund	**407,444**	**111,524**	**(2,835)**	**17,164**	**(8,689)**	**524,608**

Income in the Endowment Trust Fund includes:	£
Legacies	100,000
Investment Income	11,524
	111,524

The Endowment Trust Fund is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee. It is established to raise capital, the income from which will be paid to the Company for its general use. The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets.

23 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Investment income £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
English Heritage Fund	7,263	-	161	(41)	367	-	**7,750**
Legacies and Donations	35,827	94,939	1,927	(489)	4,405	-	**136,609**
Oexmann Fund	17,391	-	385	(98)	879	-	**18,557**
Amesbury Storage Facility	189,693	-	4,193	(1,064)	9,587	-	**202,409**
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	12,658	-	280	(71)	640	-	**13,507**
	262,832	**94,939**	**6,946**	**(1,763)**	**15,878**	**-**	**378,832**

Income in the restricted funds includes:	£
Legacies	94,939
Grants	-
Other trading activities	-
	94,939

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes :

Amesbury Storage Facility	Storage facility for archaeology archives deposited after 2021.
English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects.
Legacies and Donations	Legacies and donations received for use in future projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition.
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	This fund was originally set up to cover the cost of Museum refurbishments to create a new Environmental Gallery. Discussions are proceeding to enable the Society to use some or all this money for the refurbishment of the office suite and the purchase of essential equipment.

These fund balances at 31 March 2022 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2022.

24 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Donations and Legacies £	Other Income (incl. investment income) £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds:							
Archaeology Field Group	1,955	-	-	-	-	-	**1,955**
Improvement Fund	13,715	-	303	(77)	693	-	**14,634**
Library Fund	2,196	428	32	(1,753)	74	-	**977**
Programme Committee	17,084	-	378	(96)	863	-	**18,229**
Publications Fund	22,564	-	498	(201)	1,138	-	**23,999**
Ready to Borrow Applied	38,347	-	-	-	-	-	**38,347**
Shearing Library Fund	108,350	-	2,338	(9,127)	5,345	-	**106,906**
The Crofton Story	391	-	13	(3)	30	-	**431**
Wiltshire Life	225,933	-	4,986	(6,766)	11,396	-	**235,549**
	430,535	428	8,548	(18,023)	19,539	-	**441,027**
Other unrestricted funds	298,097	147,532	425,618	(484,366)	15,743	8,689	**411,313**
	728,632	**147,960**	**434,166**	**(502,389)**	**35,282**	**8,689**	**852,340**

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees and which remain part of the unrestricted funds) is currently:

Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity.
The Crofton Story	Income from the sale of this publication.
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Museum.
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management.
Programme Committee	To finance members' events.
Publications Fund	To finance publications. (The expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks)
Ready to Borrow Applied	The balance represents capital expenditure funded by Ready to Borrow Grant and contributions used to defray the depreciation costs of new tangible fixed assets over their useful life.
Shearing Library Fund	To finance the cost of employing a part-time Librarian and small library equipment purchases.
Wiltshire Life	To finance the care and development of the Wiltshire Life Society Collections. The expenditure consists of direct costs and does not include curatorial charges.

Allocation of expenditure from Designated Funds is reviewed regularly. The timing of expenditure is over a period which matches requirements of each purpose, potentially over a number of years. These fund balances at 31 March 2022 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2022.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Income and Endowments from:	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	22,000	-	**22,000**	2,655
Charitable activities:				
Grants	-	-	**-**	-
Sale proceeds	-	-	**-**	-
	22,000	-	**22,000**	2,655
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Acquisitions costing less than £1,000				
Museum	3,530	-	**3,530**	1,076
Library	-	-	**-**	303
	3,530	-	**3,530**	1,379
Costs				
Sundry	-	-	**-**	-
	3,530	-	**3,530**	1,379
Net income/(expenditure)	18,470	-	**18,470**	1,276
Balance at 1 April 2020 brought forward	52,363	-	**52,363**	51,087
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	70,833	-	**70,833**	52,363

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

Heritage Assets		
Opening balance	**48,741**	46,271
Acquisitions over £1,000	**-**	2,470
Balance at 31 March 2022	**48,741**	**48,741**
Current Assets		
Cash in Bank	**22,142**	3,672
Total current assets	**22,142**	3,672
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**-**	50
Net current assets	**22,142**	3,622
Total assets less current liabilities	**70,883**	**52,363**

The Funds of the Trust	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income, Grants & Donations	Inter Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds - Museum and Art	48,111	22,000	-	3,530	**66,581**
Restricted Funds	4,252	-	-	-	**4,252**
	52,363	22,000	-	3,530	**70,833**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Museum and Art Collections: The collections fall within the definition of heritage assets for the purposes of the Charities SORP.

Accounting Policies:

1. No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1 April 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by the users of the financial statements.
2. The Trustees have adopted a policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of purchase.
3. Acquisitions costing in excess of £1,000 are capitalised and stated at cost as heritage assets. No depreciation is provided on heritage assets as all are deemed to have indefinite lives.
4. Policies for acquisition, disposal and conservation of heritage assets meet Accreditation Standard, which has been awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Summary of Transactions:	**Year to:**				
	31.03.2022	**31.03.2021**	**31.03.2020**	**31.03.2019**	**31.03.2018**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost of acquisitions of heritage assets	-	2,470	-	2,325	2,200
Value of assets acquired by donation and not reported in the Balance Sheet	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount of heritage assets disposed of and proceeds received	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of assets written off in year of purchase as per accounting policy	3,530	1,379	1,282	2,054	3,835

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Charity No: 1080096 Company No. 3885649

MINUTES OF THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY

held on Saturday 13 November 2021, commencing at 3.00 pm

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which had been declared in March 2020, government regulations remained in force to control the spread of the virus.

The AGM had been planned as a hybrid meeting - that is both online via Zoom video-conferencing and at the Museum. However on Wednesday 10 November 2021 notice was given to the Director that a member of staff had tested positive for Covid. Whilst no colleagues were required to immediately self-isolate, measures were put in place to ensure the safety of all staff, including those who had not come into contact with the person concerned on Tuesday 9 November – the only day they had been in the building for a couple of weeks.

As the Director and Company Secretary had met with the colleague concerned it was agreed with the Chair and Treasurer that to minimise the risk to members and other attendees at the AGM, that the meeting should be moved completely online.

Consideration was given to the Director and Company Secretary attending via Zoom and other members of staff dealing with the AGM in person. However, as only two members of staff were not in the building on Tuesday 9 November this was not considered sensible: they would be expected to keep the Museum buildings open for visitors to the 'Eric Ravilious: Downland Man' exhibition, deal with members attending the AGM, look after volunteers, set up the IT for the meeting and monitor security.

Consideration was given to postponing the meeting for at least two weeks as allowed in the Articles. This, however, would involve additional work and expense and the turnout for the AGM was not expected to be large – the majority opting to join via Zoom rather than in person. The demographic and geographical spread of our membership making this the preferred method; holding the meeting entirely via Zoom makes the meeting in that sense more equitable. All members who had advised they wished to attend in person were contacted prior to the meeting and advised of the change. However, facilities were made available at the Museum to enable members to view at the Museum if they arrived in person - although none did.

01/21 Present

Trustees: Mr M J Nye (Chair) and Mr C R Kelly (Hon Treasurer), Mr T Daw, Mrs C Gay (Devizes Town Council Nominee), Dr G Kenny, Mr A La Vardera, and 19 members of the Society.

In Attendance

Mr D Dawson (Director) and Mrs K P Jones (Minute Taker and Company Secretary).

02/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Ms J Adams, Mr R Cardiff (WANHS Trustee), Lt Col R C Chamberlain, Mrs M R Clarke, Mr A & Mrs L Dedden, Mr P A Harding, Dr A Hems (WANHS Trustee), Ms S Maddock, Mr D Miles (WANHS Trustee) and Mr L Robertson (WANHS Trustee).

03/20 Chair's Opening Address

The Chair, Martin Nye, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Company limited by Guarantee) and that the AGM would be run as normally as possible in the circumstances. The Director outlined how Zoom conferencing would work and how members could vote and ask questions.

He thanked the staff for all their hard work and members for their support.

The meeting acknowledged those members of the Society who had died since the last AGM: Stephen Brockman, Mr R J Cawley, Walter Chisholm-Batten, Mr O D H Clauson, Mr R G Evans, Miss Kate Forbes, Dr Ian D Jenkins, Prof Sean McGrail, Dr Phillida Sneyd, Dr James Thomas, Mr M D Truckle, Paul Tucker and Malcolm D Watts.

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/21 Minutes of meeting held 17 October 2020

Proposed by Mr Saunders and seconded by Mr C Kelly, the minutes of the AGM held on 17 October 2020 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed nem con.

05/21 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

a) Report by the Chair

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b) Report by the Treasurer

Mr Chris Kelly presented his report. He advised the meeting that although it had been a difficult year the Society had come through it strongly and identified new opportunities, despite the Museum being closed for much of the year.

The accounts had been approved by the Board of Trustees and signed by the auditors. In a series of slides he summarised the Society's financial position for the meeting.

Income was down and expenditure was flat, but the movements in funds were all positive - much of it related to the rise in the valuation of investments. Income had been received from a variety of sources including donations and legacies, Museum activities the government's 'furlough' scheme and a local authority Covid recovery grant. The latter two items, together with a drawn-down of £20,000 from investments, had ensured that the Museum had survived the Covid-19 lockdowns. The investment portfolio had increased during the year and was valued at 31 March 2021 at £1,2m (although values could go down as well as up!).

The challenges in this year and next included rising running and exhibition costs and static operational income; political and economic uncertainty affecting the value of investments; reduced reliance on legacies and donations; surviving Covid-19; fitting out and opening the Amesbury Archaeology Store; the success of the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition; and progress on the Devizes Assize Court project.

The financial highlights in the seven months of the current financial year (2021/22) included the receipt of legacies and an increase in shop sales due to the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition. Some of the legacy monies had been invested in the Endowment Fund and others in the main fund.

The Treasurer concluded that the Society had come through a difficult year and he thanked everyone for their help.

c) Report by the Director

The Director reported on activities during 2020/21, what had happened to date during 2021/22 and what was coming up.

The Covid-19 lockdowns had moved many activities to digital platforms, which had been a good way to keep in touch with groups, such as volunteers and some school classes had taken place in this way too. The huge change though was in holding online lectures - starting with the 2020 Archaeology Conference. This had originally been scheduled for March 2020 but postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, it took place online over a series of evenings in November 2020. The advantage of online talks was not only to be able to attract speakers from overseas, but also enabling an audience from a wide geographical area to view them.

When the lockdowns had lifted a stall was taken in the Shambles and there had been quite a bit of activity in the run up to Christmas 2020. An *Out of Egypt* exhibition was held at the Museum. This exhibition was aimed at familes, but sadly many of the planned activities and interactives had to be removed due to Covid-19 requirements.

A Crowd-funder appeal was held during the year, to raise funds to support curiosity and creativity, including developing new interactives for the galleries. Everyone was thanked for their support.

When flexi-furlough was introduced it became possible to hold online consultation events on the Devizes Assize Court project. This included seeking views on what should be included in the building, interpretation and activity planning. We only need £12m to complete the project!

Some activity continued as normal, such as producing the 2020 edition of the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (WANHM), arranging conservation of some important items, including a volume of letters sent to William Cunnington I and additions to the collection. This included items related to the Covid-19 pandemic, such as a rock snake.

The importance of legacies in funding acquisitions was highlighted with a report on the Den Shelton Fund. The Fund, set up in 2011 with a legacy of £10,000, had resulted in 40 objects being purchased for the collection, the cost either being made in in full from the Fund or as 'match-funding' for larger acquisitions. A new fund had been set up with a legacy from Dr Pamela Gough for the same purpose.

In the current year (2021/22) the exhibition *Art in Wiltshire* had taken place, some of our artefacts were on tour in America, before going to New Zealand, and other items had been loaned for exhibitions in Germany (Halle and Herne). The *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition had finally opened in September 2021, having been postponed from 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A large number of new volunteers had been recruited and over 4,000 visitors had been recorded to date. The Director was proud of all his colleagues for their hard work.

There were a number of interesting activities coming up, including filming with Channel 4 for their *Great British Dig* programme which was looking at the journey of prisoners and searching for the Devizes gaol. Funding had been awarded for an oral history project on the Devizes Assize Court and from February to July 2022 artefacts from Bush Barrow would be loaned to the British Museum for their exhibition *The World of Stonehenge*. We would be borrowing some items from them, such as the Aldbourne Cup, which would be on display in Wiltshire for the first time since it was excavated. Work was also underway on the major exhibition for 2022/23 *Hardy's Wessex: landscapes that inspired a writer*, due to open in late May 2022.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 are available from the Museum's website or on request from the Museum Office.

Proposed by Mr P Saunders and seconded by Mrs I Geddes, the meeting received the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021, together with the Auditors Report.

06/21 Election of Trustees

There were five nominations this year: three new members (Ms Claire Dobbin, Ms Ruth Kerr and Ms Katie Marsden) and two standing for re-election (Dr Gillian Kenny and Lachlan Robertson).

All had been proposed and seconded prior to the meeting.

No objection was raised to electing all in one resolution and the meeting duly elected Ms C Dobbin, Ms R Kerr and Ms K Marsden, and re-elected Dr Kenny and Mr Robertson to the Board of Trustees.

07/21 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mr C R Kelly and seconded by Mr A La Vardera, the meeting re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration.

08/21 Special Resolution

Proposed by Mr Kelly and Seconded by Mr La Vardera the meeting **APPROVED** the Special Resolution (one abstention), that **Subject to Charity Commission confirmation, the Articles of Association attached to the Agenda be approved and adopted as the new Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the entire exclusion of the existing Articles of Association (including those provisions which are treated as part of those existing articles by virtue of section 28 of the Companies Act 2006). Such Articles of Association to be effective no sooner than 1 January 2022.**

09/21 Any Other Business

The meeting was opened to members, but no items were raised.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for joining the meeting. The meeting closed at 3.56 pm.

The meeting was followed by *Looking back and moving forward: a Wealth of Knowledge Project* update, by Wil Partridge, Research Officer: Collections.

Wil is working on the ACE-funded *A Wealth of Knowledge* project, which aims to review 10-years' worth of archaeological research into the collections and update the Museum's records with this new information.

Date of next Meeting: TBC

To be held at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire


energising
small
educational
instructive
serene
special
stimulating
inspirational
fulfilling
fantastic
focused
sad
outstanding
factual
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delightful
delight
curated
satisfying
entertaining
experience
colourful
engrossing
contemplative
superb
well-organised
thrilling
interest
informed



Stonehenge, Wiltshire. 18th century English School (undated). (2021.1004)

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
Tel: 01380 727369
Company No - 3885649
Registered Charity No - 1080096
VAT Registration No - 140 2791 91

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1080096

Accounts

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS
01380 727369
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

WILTSHIRE MUSEUM
DEVIZES





ABOVE Lockdown-inspired 'Positive Pack' sold in Devizes, to boost spirits in January. Each box includes one positive postcard, two badges PUT YOUR POSITIVE PANTS ON / I GET LOCKED DOWN I GET UP AGAIN, one heart-shaped keepsake, a packet of sweets and herbal teabag. Donated by the creator, Katy Light, at Hillbilly Rocks Vintage, Devizes (2021.2)

LEFT: 'out of office' message



Cover: Framed 19th century watercolour of a red-tiled and white-washed dwelling, with Avebury stone circle in the background. Signed D. Cox, 1820. (David Cox, 1783 – 1859). Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.1003)

WILTSHIRE Archaeological and Natural History Society

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

SUMMARY and OBJECTS

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853. The Society's first permanent Museum opened in Long Street in 1874. The Society is a registered charity and governed by Articles of Association.

Objects. To educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

Mission Statement. To explore the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire.

Aims. The Society runs the Wiltshire Museum, organises a programme including conferences, lecture and events, learning and outreach for children and schools, provides access to our collections for academic and general researchers, reviews planning consents, supports the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group, promotes Industrial Archaeology and publishes the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (*WANHM*)*. Further details are included in this Annual Report.

The Collections. These have been acquired by the Society over nearly 170 years and their strength lies in the prehistoric material. The Early Bronze Age collection is of exceptional importance because of its size and range, the uniqueness of many of the objects, the fact that it includes many important items, its association with the World Heritage Site of Avebury and Stonehenge, and its relevance to the history of archaeology. 'Gold from the Time of Stonehenge' is on permanent display.

Researchers. Every year academic researchers carry out important research on the collection. There are over 500,000 items in the collections and details can be found in our online searchable database. The collections are '**Designated**' of national importance and '**Accreditation**' status was first awarded in 2005. Overseen by the Arts Council the Accreditation Scheme *sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. It enables museums to assess their current performance, as well as supporting them to plan and develop their services*.

The **Library** contains a local studies collection of books, journals, newspapers and other printed items including photographs and maps concerned with Wiltshire, all available to researchers. The archaeology section includes a general collection of archaeology books, the principal archaeology journals, the papers of Wiltshire antiquaries and the written records of more recent excavations in the county. The natural history section similarly includes general natural history books, specialist journals and the papers of early natural historians.

Funding. The Society and Museum are funded by its members, past and present; admission charges, Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council; grants from charitable trusts, fundraising activities and income from investments.

The Society holds an Annual General Meeting each year to which all Society members are invited. At this meeting the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March are presented for approval and Trustees elected.



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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

CONTENTS

Summary and Objects	3
Denis Shelton Legacy for Archaeological Acquisitions	6
Letter from the Chair	7
Board of Trustees' Report	9
Objectives and Activities of the Society	9
About the Museum	10
Finds Liaison Officer, Fundraising	11
Lockdown, Furlough and Social Distancing: Covid and the Museum	12
Exhibitions	13
Loans	15
Collections - Acquisitions of the year	16
- Collections - Archaeology, Art, Archive and Library	17
Collections - Natural History, Numismatics, Recent History	18
Conservation	20
Activities, Events, Lectures and Outings	21
Membership	22
Research: A Wealth of Knowledge	23
Publications and Social Media	24
Learning, Outreach and Community Engagement	25
Volunteers	27
Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group	29
Society Committees and Working Groups	30
Development - Working with Partners	31
Development - Contemporary Collecting, Archaeological Archives	32
Plans for the Future; Devizes Assize Court	33
Trustees' Financial Review	34
Structure, Governance and Management	37
Reference and Administrative Information	38
Report of the Auditors	39
Statement of Financial Activities	41
Balance Sheet	42
Statement of Cash flows	43
Notes to the financial statements	44
Collections Trust – Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	53
Collections Trust – Notes to the Financial Statements	54
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 2020	55

DENNIS SHELTON LEGACY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACQUISITIONS

Legacies are valuable in underpinning the Society's finances and we are most grateful to those members who have made bequests to the Society in their wills - even a small bequest can help.

In 2011, Dennis (Den) Shelton, former WANHS Trustee and long-standing Member, bequeathed a £10,000 legacy to the Society for the sole purpose of acquiring archaeological finds. Over the past ten years this generous gift has been used to acquire almost 40 objects for the collection, most of which are Treasure finds, made by metal detectorists and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Legacies like these are very important to the Museum enabling far more items to be acquired for the collection than would otherwise be possible. Such acquisitions strengthen our outstanding collections, Designated as being of national importance.

Den's legacy not only enabled the purchase of smaller items 'outright' but has also been used to provide match-funding for more expensive items where grants were awarded from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, Art Fund and Headley Trust. This includes a 10th - 11th century Viking Ring made from six strands of gold plaited together, found in the Stockley area, near Heddington (2015.14); and an Anglo-Saxon sword pommel of 'cocked-hat' type, dating to 7th century AD, from the Cricklade area (2011.61).

Some of the objects acquired are on display, others are in store and form part of an important research collection. All, and many others like them, are available to search online: *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/collections/.* Items purchased with the Den Shelton Legacy includes:

- *Civil War hoard of 21 silver coins found in Stanton St Quintin*. The hoard comprises 7 half-crowns and 14 shillings. The earliest coin is a shilling of Philip and Mary, 1554-5. The latest coin, a shilling of Charles I with the initial mark (R), minted 1644-5 suggests that the hoard was deposited in or after 1646. (2013.29)
- *Silver gilt medieval annular brooch found in Urchfont*. The front of the brooch is flat and decorated with an incised design consisting of three panels of leaves and three panels of Greek crosses and saltires. The latter may be imitating an inscription. (2013.30) -
- *Hoard of two early medieval silver sceattas*. (1) Obverse: Diademed head right, beaded serpent circle at 6 o'clock, blundered legend in margin. Reverse: Bird to right on cross pattée, annulets each side, beaded serpent circle at 6 o'clock, blundered legend in margin, c.680-710. (2) Obverse: Diademed draped bust right, cross in front of face, beaded border. Reverse: Beaded standard enclosing saltires pommées in the angles, around central pellet in annulet, pellets in the field and outside standard, c.710-720. Found in Urchfont. (2013.41)
- *Late Bronze Age gold plated penannular ring*. 1150 - 750 BC in date. Found in the Marlborough area. (2014.8)
- *Iron Age gold strip fragment broadly rectangular in shape*. The front face has punched decoration consisting of a stylised flower with oval petals. Located next to one of the petals is a central perforation. No clear parallels for this object have been found. It superficially resembles a casket ornament but is earlier than 1st century AD in date. The perforation suggests that the fragment was once secured to something made of wood or leather. The decoration suggests a date of between 250 and 50 BC. Found in the Marlborough area. (2014.9)
- *Roman gold ring of Henig Type VIII with a red oval garnet setting*. The bezel is decorated with crescent shaped markings down the sides. The hoop is bent. The garnet is decorated with a thyrsus (staff of giant fennel) and ribbons behind a centrally positioned male head, facing left. Late 3rd century AD in date. Found in Fyfield. (2014.10)
- *Roman green gem-set gold finger-ring*, dating to the 3rd century AD, found in Clyffe Pypard. (2015.16)
- *Hoard of fifteen, and one cut, Medieval silver pennies*, ranging in date from AD 1180- 1217. All these coins, except for the cut penny are from the reign of John I. Found in Purton. (2017.24)

From the left: A coin from the Civil War hoard coins found in Stanton St Quintin; (2013.29); Roman green gem-set gold finger-ring (2015.16); Medieval silver penny (2017.24); Iron Age gold strip fragment (2014.9); Late Bronze Age gold plated penannular ring (2014.8). Not shown to scale.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the WANHS Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2021. This year has obviously been highly challenging, and on behalf of the Trustees, I want to start by thanking all our staff and volunteers for their commitment and professionalism which has ensured that we continue to have such a positive impact, engaging with a wide variety of audiences despite the extraordinary difficulties and disruptions. I also want to thank you, our members, for the tremendous support you have given the Society over the last year. It is particularly encouraging that we have had so many new members sign up over the last year – we look to forward to developing a long and rewarding relationship with you.

I am pleased to say that at the time of writing the Museum is open again and we are getting a steady stream of visitors. We have also achieved real traction with our online resources and events. A significant effort has ensured that a wealth of interesting and informative material is available online, and our programme of lectures have typically attracted audiences of more than 150, and at times as many as 400 participants, from across the UK and internationally. The topics have included the full range of our scope – archaeology, history, art and natural history. We have also been able to use our technical platform to host events in partnership with other heritage and arts organisations, further widening our audiences.

Our participation in the Wessex Museums Partnership continues to be highly beneficial. We are sharing programmes such as the recent "Wiltshire in the Red" virtual exhibition and the forthcoming Hardy show. Sharing best practice with the other museums in the partnership is helping further develop a number of our policies, including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which has been an area of real focus. The partnership is currently rated as 'strong' in Diversity by Arts Council England, we are now working on achieving 'outstanding' in the future.

We continue to work closely with Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) to ensure that the Assize Court building can fulfil its full potential as a central part of the heritage of Devizes, for the local people and for visitors. Despite the constraints of lockdown, we were able to conduct an extensive consultation process to ensure the community's views are reflected in the designs that are being developed by Purcell, the appointed architects. A significant fund-raising campaign will be launched in the next year. Although the process has been frustratingly delayed by the pandemic, we and DACT are using the time to good effect, working to ensure that the restored and extended Assize Court will have the maximum beneficial impact on the cultural, social and economic life of the area.

The Trustees of WANHS are pleased to report that despite the severe impact of the pandemic on our income and fund-raising activities, our financial situation has improved over the last 12 months, due to a combination of the increased value of our investment portfolios, prudent cost management and some generous legacies and gifts. We continue to greatly appreciate the support given by Chris Kelly, our Honorary Treasurer, to ensure the effective financial management of the Society.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting to review the past 12 months is scheduled to take place on 13 November, at which I hope to see many members so I can thank you personally for your ongoing support and encouragement at this difficult time.

Martin Nye











Jane's experience of Furlough

At the beginning of the first lockdown I mainly had the task of trying to keep my 3 year old boy entertained at home! This consisted of mainly playing with cars and dinosaurs whilst at the same time attempting to do other activities such as art, learning to count and recognise the letters in the alphabet. All with limited success. We also took part in the Museum's Trilithon Challenge and attempted some of the Museum's online activities. Once my little boy had returned to preschool then I started to research my family history and have so far got back to my 4x great-grandmother who was born in 1785 on my mother's side and as far as my 3x great-grandfather who was born in 1833 on my father's side. *Jane Schön*

From top left - Covid Support flyer, Rachael Holtom and Covid-measures at front of house; vaccinations at Salisbury Cathedral; examples from the Devizes Covid snake; a Key Worker badge from Morrisons.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This Annual Report includes the reports and financial statements set out on pages 2 to 54. The Report of the Board of Trustees should be deemed to be the directors' report for the purposes of Company Law.

The reports on the following pages show how the Objects of the Society - see below - are achieved to further the charities purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Director is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chair and his report, and those of the staff, follow, on pages 9 to 31. The Society's committees and working groups provide a number of services to members and the wider public. They cover a wide range of activities from fundraising, industrial archaeology through to expert advice on planning matters. Their work helps promote the Society and its Museum and Archive and Library to a wide audience and reports are included in this report. The Society could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours provided and also the invaluable funding and support of our membership. .

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are *to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit*. To achieve this the Society:

- Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.
- Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire
- Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.
- Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).
- Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.
- Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.
- Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in archaeology in the county.
- Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.



Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire. Loans objects to other organisations.

MISSION STATEMENT
Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

About the Museum

The year has been overshadowed by the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Museum has been closed for much of the year and we have not been able to offer our usual programme of events, learning activities and exhibitions. However, we have managed to find different ways of engaging our audiences online and even to expand those audiences in the online world.

We are fortunate that, as far as we know, the health and well-being of our members, volunteers, trustees and staff has not been directly affected. Those who have been affected are in our thoughts.

We have been able to maintain core services to members and, when able to open, we have welcomed local audiences back to the Museum to enjoy our displays and exhibitions, even though we have had to restrict numbers and remove interactives that help to make the Museum so engaging to our younger visitors.

For many charities, the pandemic has had a serious economic impact. Careful management of Society finances, the continued support of our members and Government schemes, particularly the Furlough Scheme, have ensured that we remain in a good position.

The big success of the year has been our online events programme, engaging audiences well beyond Wiltshire. Our Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference, lecture programme, schools sessions and university field trips have all been delivered online and engaged new audiences: many from outside Wiltshire and a not insignificant number from outside the UK. Record numbers of people have attended these events, helping to raise our profile outside the County. We have also been able to use our technical platform to support other like-minded organisations, helping us to develop new partnerships.

With the Museum closed and staff on furlough leave until July 2020, it was not possible to develop the online shop. However, once the Museum reopened, and in order to take the Museum shop into the community a stall was set up every Thursday from September to December, in the Shambles Market, Devizes. The stall incorporated a Tourist Information Point, promoted the Assize Court consultations and sold Cards For Good Causes Christmas cards, which proved very popular, along with our own range of Christmas cards, stocking fillers and tea towels. It was only possible to do this initiative with the support of Volunteers, who were very keen to return to duties after the Lockdown. Devizes Town Council did not charge and we hope to continue the initiative.

With changes to the Furlough scheme it was possible for staff to update the Museum's online shop and offer a free delivery service in the Devizes area. We even sold out of one of our higher end products, the Gold Horn Pendant made exclusively for us by Tundra Jewellers. Net online sales increased, helping to offset losses from the closure of the Museum.

The Assize Court project has also been able to move forward, working closely with the Devizes Assize Court Trust and its new Chair, Peter Troughton. Purcell began their work on the project as architects and, despite lockdown, Niall Phillips and Claire Phillips developed imaginative plans that were showcased during a consultation held during Heritage Open Days in September. The Imagemakers team, led by David Masters and Deborah Hodson, developed an inspiring Interpretation Strategy for the displays and an insightful Audience Development Strategy for engaging with new audiences. Background work has progressed with seeking funding for the project, which will take a number of years to achieve.

David Dawson and Emma Sykes

Volunteer Mary Rennie in the Shambles Market.



Finds Liaison Officer/Portable Antiquities Scheme

As with many aspects of the museum, the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (a national scheme ran in partnership between the British Museum and local parties in order to archaeological finds made by members of the public) in Wiltshire has been greatly disrupted by Corona Virus and Associated restrictions. With the exception of a brief window in September and October, finds surgeries held at the Wiltshire Museum and other locations, such as the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, have not been possible, and nor have we been able to visit hobbyist Metal Detecting clubs around the county – both factors greatly reducing the quantity of archaeological artefacts reported and made available for recording. Due to this we have been largely limited to working through a backlog of finds reported previously, and those reported via email.

Unfortunately, this disruption has also been compounded by staffing issues over the course of the financial year. The present author reduced his hours with the scheme in order to take on a new role with the Wiltshire Museum in April 2020, however the hiring of a second Finds Liaison Officer to backfill this time was delayed significantly due to the impacts of coronavirus, resulting in only two days' a week coverage through much of the spring and summer. The post again became open in December but was thankfully filled by the present post-holder, Sophie Hawke, at the beginning of the calendar year; they will be going on to take over as a full time Finds Liaison Officer from April 2021.

Despite these set-backs, the scheme was still able to create 807 records detailing 1482 objects in the 2019-2020 financial year; unusually, the normal dominance of the Romano-British period (and in particular late Romano-British coins) is not apparent. It is unclear why this should be so, but it may relate to decreased input from experienced metal detectorists, who will typically be both more likely to find these coins, but also have access to more 'productive' land. That there was a recording bias towards Roman coins in Wiltshire has previously been noted by this author elsewhere, and in light of this outreach strategies should perhaps be reviewed.

Although recording and outreach have been negatively hit, due to a significant underspend we have been able to fund an ongoing scheme of geophysical survey in Bowerchalke, South Wiltshire. The site was identified as being of interest by the presence of a large late Roman pewter ingot and a quantity of other finds suggesting Romano-British occupation extending to the very end of the Romano-British period. A magnetometry survey has been able to identify a probable Romano-British structure, as well as a series of enclosures and a line of previously unknown Bronze Age Barrows. Further Magnetometry and a resistivity survey are scheduled.

Wil Partridge

Fundraising

As a small, independent charity, WANHS depends on the support of members and the local community. Every subscription helps, so thank you to all our members. We also highly value support from Corporate Members - Wansbroughs Solicitors, Venture Chartered Accountants and AC Archaeology, and other local firms for 'in-kind' help.

We unsuccessfully applied for some of the Government's Covid-19 Emergency Funding and although I was furloughed for part of the year some significant steps were taken.

In November, for the first time, we joined the virtual fundraising platform - Crowdfunder - to raise funds for our Education and Learning Programme; resulting in donations of £4,400 (before Gift Aid). The skills we learnt from this process will be built on in the future. As well as raising money, Crowdfunder was a great way of harness supportive comments left on the webpage and raise awareness of our charitable status, and need for funds, across the world via social media. The Museums' Association requested a short article about our Crowdfunder experience which was included in a sector newsletter.

The Crowdfunder appeal formed part of the Members' Appeal and in total £7,832 was raised. We are grateful to all Members and supporters for their donations.

A 'Thanks to Trusts and Foundations' page was added to the Wiltshire Museum website, together with a 'Sponsor an Object' page which lists items in the collection requiring urgent conservation.

An Ethical Fundraising Policy was agreed by the Board of Trustees and a similar one for the giving of legacies is being prepared.

As always, the Museum and Society has been very grateful for all donations and legacies received in the year, which are essential to our sustainability. Many members also donated to our forthcoming *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition. Once again – thank you.

Rachael Holtom



An example from the Sponsor an Object website page.

LOCKDOWN, FURLOUGH AND SOCIAL DISTANCING: COVID AND THE MUSEUM

The World Health Organisation declared a Pandemic on 12 March 2020 and already the impact on tourism and museum visits was clear. People were increasingly worried about travelling, and museum visits were falling and cancellations were beginning to rise.

Over the next few days, we were assessing the risks of running the Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference, due to be held on 22 March, with over 200 delegates expected and considering whether to close the Museum as people were becoming increasingly concerned. Finally, on 16 March 2020, the Government announced that museums should close, and at 5pm we closed our doors, apprehensive about the course of the pandemic.

Preparations were already in place for members of staff to work from home, to have a minimal number of people in the Museum and to maintain our care for our nationally-important collections. A review of the budget for the year made dismal reading, as we modelled the impact of three months of closure and significant cuts to our income. The announcement by the Government of the Furlough Scheme on 20 March steadied our nerve and allowed us to begin to plan for the future. Our Board met to assess the potential impact of the crisis and to take key decisions about how we would operate during lockdown.

As the situation became clearer, several members of staff were placed on furlough as they were unable to carry out their roles under lockdown. Others continued to work - maintaining services to our members and ensuring that the basics of the organisation continued to function. Staff whose posts were publicly funded continued to work – at home wherever possible. We quickly adopted Zoom to keep in touch with each other and began to experiment with online delivery of lectures, children's activities and volunteer coffee mornings.

As the course of the pandemic slowed, we began to plan how we might reopen, avidly reading all the best practice guidance. Children's interactives were removed, a one-way system introduced with new signage, barriers and hand sanitizer purchased. Lavington School donated face-shield, 3D printed in their IT labs and we applied for the Visit England 'Good to Go' mark to show that we were 'COVID-safe'. Meanwhile, we cancelled or postponed events and exhibitions and invested time in submitting applications for COVID emergency funding that unfortunately were not successful.

We re-opened on 24 July, delighted to be welcoming visitors back to the Museum. Visitors were asked to book their visit in advance, wear a face-mask and socially distance (stay at least 2m apart from other people). Many of our volunteers were self-isolating as they were in at-risk categories, so we opened just three days a week with the front desk run by members of staff. We operated in two staff teams to manage the risk of cross-infection. Our visitors were very appreciative of their visit and the measures we put in place, but visitor numbers were approximately 25% that of a more usual year.

Meanwhile, we began to document the impact of COVID: we took photographs, collected objects and flyers that encouraged people to seek help. We began working with the Centre for Independent Living and we will be the long-term home for their project 'Tales from the Town' – recording the impact of COVID on people's lives.

We began to experiment with delivering our events programme online, with an initial trial session on new research about one of our Bronze Age burials. Buoyed by the feedback from this trial, we rescheduled our Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference over mid-week evenings in November, began setting up an online lecture programme, and offered online sessions for schools and virtual University Field Trips.

As COVID case numbers rose with the second wave in October 202, we began to plan to re-enter another lockdown, which finally came on 5 November. We returned to a similar situation to that earlier in the year, some staff working to maintain services or who were publicly funded, and others on part-time furlough. Although the Museum re-opened again on 3 December, it was no surprise that this re-opening was short-lived and the Museum closed again on 28 December for the remainder of the year, only reopening again on 20 May 2021.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus, which started to circulate across the globe in late 2019/early 2020.

COVID-19, for the majority of people is a mild to moderate respiratory illness and most people would recover without requiring special treatment. However it could develop into a serious illness, requiring hospital treatment, for older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

With no natural immunity to the disease in 2020 measures were introduced to control the spread and impact of the virus, including socially isolating the population (lockdown - non-essential businesses and schools closed and the population were required to work at home wherever possible) and later requiring the wearing of face-coverings in public, minimising the numbers of people who could interact with each other (e.g. the rule of six), social distancing (staying 2m apart) and hand washing or use of hand sanitiser on entry to buildings.

Exhibitions

Our two special exhibition galleries - the Oexmann Gallery and the Piper Gallery enables the Museum to offer either two small exhibitions or one larger exhibition. The Exhibitions Officer post is funded by the Arts Council and Wessex Museums Project.

The 2020/21 exhibitions programme, like many other aspects of the Museum's work, was heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, and unfortunately we had to postpone or cancel planned exhibitions. The *Arts of Jomon* exhibition, due to feature Japanese artwork and ancient Jomon pottery to coincide with the 2020 Olympics, was cancelled due to restrictions with travel from Japan.

One exhibition that the Museum was able to display from late summer to autumn 2020 was *Out of Egypt*, on loan from the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Intended as family-friendly, the exhibition focused on how ancient Egyptians treated their dead and included scarabs and mummified animals, mummy masks and wrappings, shabti figures and much, much more. Although unable to feature the more family centred activities planned due to the pandemic, the exhibition was successfully supported online with many Egyptian themed children's activities and resources.



Above: Mummy Mask (c) Hampshire Cultural Trust

Visitors can expect to enjoy some memorable exhibitions throughout the remainder of 2021 to 2022. The first of these is *Ways of Seeing Wiltshire* by guest curator Brian Edwards (May – August 2021). This will feature artworks not normally on display around the theme of the Wiltshire landscape - from chalk hill figures to prehistoric remains. The Museum is also extremely fortunate in that most of these artworks were recently acquired.

Members and supporters will also be looking forward to our postponed *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition to be held from 25 September 2021 – 30 January 2022. Work is ongoing to bring the exhibition to the Museum, which will be the first time that we have borrowed art on such a scale from national museums or galleries. The exhibition will focus on Ravilious' fascination with the Wiltshire and Sussex downlands and is guest curated by James Russell, curator of the 'Ravilious' exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery in 2015.

Work is also underway on the 2022 programme, a main feature of which will be an exhibition about Thomas Hardy, which will be run in conjunction with our Wessex Museum Partners (Salisbury, Dorchester, Poole) in May – October 2022. The exhibition, curated by Harriet Still, will explore new perspectives on the life and work of Thomas Hardy in the stunning Wessex landscapes that shaped his view of the world.

Heather Ault

EXHIBITIONS – Long Room

Small displays are mounted in the Long Room display cases, with the aim of highlighting little known items within the collections or to compliment the main exhibition programme. This year only three displays were possible due to the Coronavirus pandemic:

- Selection of Wiltshire female authors, to coincide with Women's History Month. The display was researched and curated by Archive & Library volunteers (Mar-Oct 2020)
- Bound volume of 1940s *Wiltshire Gazette* newspapers to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the 80th anniversary of Operation Dynamo. During lockdown non-furloughed staff posted relevant pages and interesting articles on social media (Mar-Oct 2020)
- Display of Donald Grose notebooks and photographs to coincide with Wessex Museums Objects On Tour online exhibition Wildlife in the Red (from Oct 2020).

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic a number of planned displays were cancelled including:

- 75th Anniversary of VE Day - although the display did not go ahead a call out was made on social media for people's memories of celebrations and end of war recollections in 1945.
- Dunkirk 80 marking the 80th anniversary of Operation Dynamo.
- 800 years of Salisbury Cathedral (May).

Jane Schön

Wildlife in the Red: Once collectors' Curiosities, now Endangered Species, is a new online exhibition, coordinated by the Wessex Museums Partnership. It replaced this-years 'Objects on Tour', which could not go ahead due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Launched in October 2020 the theme is 'Declaring a Climate Emergency'.

It has received lots of views and likes on various social media platforms. One of our Life Members and Chair of the Tisbury Natural History Society, wrote ….

> *this is absolutely brilliant, totally loved it. More! More! Whoever build that website deserves medals, what a fantastic achievement and how brilliantly timed. I've posted it on the website I manage for the TNHS. This has got everything we need to distract us from life's horrors, I can hardly believe it, well done!*

The exhibition was an opportunity to showcase the natural history collection, using the Donald Grose herbarium, donated to the Museum in 1981. Comprising 9,000 sheets of pressed plant specimens (mostly) from Wiltshire, many were collected during the time that he was writing *The Flora of Wiltshire* (1957).

Donald was a jeweller by profession with a shop in Swindon. Born in 1900, by the time of his death in 1973 he had established himself as Wiltshire's most distinguished botanist. He was also the chief botanical Recorder for Wiltshire.

The wider aim of the project is to engage people with the Wiltshire Downland and the threat to wildflower meadows and the habitats it supports. The Museum teamed up with Plantlife, a conservation charity based in Salisbury, to deliver some of the objectives and raise awareness. *www.plantlife.org.uk. #WhyMeadowsMatter*.

Wildflower meadows are one of the most species rich habitats in the UK and since the 1930s, more than 95% of them have been lost due to intensive farming and housing developments - the equivalent 7.5 million acres. In April 2021 Plantlife raised awareness of this issue in an online talk about the threats to Wiltshire's wildflower meadows.

The Community Curator worked with local artist, James Aldridge, to show families how to make a biodiversity journals using *#MuseumConnect* videos. 'Spotter sheets' were put on the website to encourage people to get out and about during Lockdowns 2 and 3 to see how many wildflowers and plants they could spot in the Wiltshire countryside.

Over the next year we will be working with uniform groups, including Wiltshire Girl Guide and Scout troops, to help raise awareness of the environmental and climate change issues on our doorstep. As outlined in the Contemporary Collecting Action Plan, we plan to work with these groups to acquire material relating to the Climate Emergency, with the aim to accession at least three items into the collections by the end of 2021. This will include not only material that comes from local environmental campaigns on combating Climate Change, but also the creative responses that the uniform groups will be tasked to produce, therefore developing the idea of the project legacy, 'Create and Collect'. The results of this project will also be used to create a joint online exhibition for the Wessex Museums.

This is an ongoing project which will feature in the Museum's outreach work with children and young people throughout 2021-23.

www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/exhibitions-events/wildlife-in-the-red/



From the left: Buttercup sheet from the Donald Grose Herbarium and Donald Grose and friends on a field trip to Imber.

Loans

The loans programme was impacted this year by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, loans to and from the Museum remain important in making the collections available to as many people as possible. The Museum lends items from its collections for display and research, subject to the proper security and environmental conditions being met. We are particularly pleased to lend objects for special exhibitions at other museums across Wiltshire.

Ongoing loans to the Stonehenge Visitor Centre were renewed in October 2020, including finds made by Maud Cunnington at Woodhenge; the early Bronze Age grave group Wilsford G60 and the Wilsford G54 beaker burial.

This year, objects also continued to tour the USA (Houston, Dallas and Denver), as part of a major touring exhibition about Stonehenge, in partnership with Museums Partner and Mike Parker Pearson at University College London. The tour includes objects from the early Bronze Age burials: Amesbury G54 (Stonehenge flint dagger); Roundway G8 (Roundway archer Beaker burial); Wilsford G8 (high status female burial with gold and amber). Looking ahead to 2022-23, Museums Partner are in discussions with the Auckland Museum in New Zealand, to host the exhibition and at least two exhibition venues in Australia.

Dr Chris Standish, Research Fellow at Southampton University & Dr Christina Tsoraki, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Leicester University, borrowed a small number of stone and metal objects from the early Bronze Age archaeology collection (including hammerstones, stone axes, whetstones and copper-alloy awls), for non-destructive analysis, to look for possible traces of prehistoric gold. Dr Standish scanned the objects using an electron microscope.

Peter Saunders, former Director of the Salisbury Museum and WANHS Trustee, borrowed the Winterslow horn beaker, for panoramic photography and eventual publication in *WANHM*. The beaker depicts the attack on the Exeter mail coach at the Winterslow Hut by a lioness who escaped from a travelling menagerie in October 1816.

International loans planned for 2021

A loan agreed with the State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt State Museum of Prehistory, Halle (Saale) was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and *The World of the Nebra Sky Disc – New Horizons* exhibition has been rescheduled for June - December 2021. The Museum has agreed to lend some early Bronze Age objects, including the sun disc from Monkton Farleigh; a circular dark red glass bead from Wilsford G42; and the early Bronze Age grave group from Marlborough, Preshute G1a.

Looking ahead, in September 2021 the Museum for Archaeology, Federal State Museum for Westphalia, Herne and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, are borrowing objects for the exhibition, *Stonehenge - People and Landscapes*, guest curated by Julian Richards. The objects featured in this exhibition are the Wilsford G7 grave group, with gold, amber, jet and shale objects; Mere G6a grave group, with gold sun disc; Amesbury G56 Cursus barrow, with dagger and chert hammerstone; some of the minute gold studs from Wilsford G5 Bush Barrow dagger handle; and some early Neolithic stone axes from factories in Cornwall, North Wales and the Lake District. The exhibition will run for one year.

There were no loans from the Archive & Library collection this year.







Top - from the left: Winterslow horn beaker; Mere G6a Grave Group - loaned to Herne; Monkton Farleigh Sun Disc - loaned to Halle.

Bottom - from the left: Gallery view of the MuseumsPartner USA Tour; Preshute G1a - loaned to Halle; Preshute G1a - (c) Halle Museum.







Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire

Collections

We continue to actively collect objects that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections. There were many interesting additions made to the collections during the year. A complete list of acquisitions for the year can be found in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (volume 114, 2021). Below are some of the highlights.

All Collections are available to search online *www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/collections*, making them accessible in the widest possible terms. To date there are 122,560 records of catalogued items to search on the database across all collections, along with 15,500 digital images.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the acquisition of new objects for the collections has been limited. For eight months, the Museum was closed, and collections staff were on furlough. However, we were able to collect a small number of objects that tell the story of Wiltshire, to both enhance our displays and strengthen our research collections.

Some items were collected as part of the Wessex Museums Contemporary Collecting Strategy and Action Plan, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, under the theme 'Society and Health' (these are marked with a * in the list below).

Contemporary Collecting is the collecting of objects and stories that reflect the recent past and what is happening today. Contemporary collecting means acquiring new material, to future-proof collections for as-yet-unknown exhibitions and research projects, therefore ensuring that museums remain relevant to and representative of their audiences. A great benefit of contemporary collecting is that the histories fall within living memory, so can be documented with insights from those who experienced them first-hand. This provides museums with the opportunity to work in partnership with other people and communities, to be creative, dynamic and inclusive.

Acquisitions of the Year

Two Viking gold stranded wire finger-rings, found in Beckhampton*, near Avebury, in 1994. Dating to 8th – 10th centuries AD, the rings were placed inside one another in antiquity. They are bent into an oval shape - possibly from the pressure of burial. Each gold strand is delicately spot-soldered and then finished with a flattened terminal at each end. The rings are very small (12 and 15 mm in diameter), and so probably belonged to an infant and older child. A rare and interesting find for Wiltshire. Until this year, the rings were in a private collection. Purchased by the Museum at auction in January (2021.1).

On display in the Anglo-Saxon Gallery

**Beckhampton falls under the collecting area for the Alexander Keiller Museum. However, it was agreed by both parties that the rings are better placed in Devizes, as the museum at Avebury focuses on the prehistoric element of the World Heritage Site. .*

German cap badge and model German U-boat made from wood and wire, marked in black ink 1945. J. DASHFIELD. Made by Hermann Siemonsmeier, a German anti-aircraft gunner who was captured off the Belgian coast towards the end of the Second World War, and incarcerated in the Devizes PoW Camp.

Hermann gave the wooden model and cap badge to John Dashfield, a 9-year-old boy who befriended the POW, when he was part of a working party sent from Devizes by lorry to help build prefabricated houses in the Pinehurst area of Swindon.

Hermann and John kept in touch throughout their lives, until Hermann died in April 2020. Donated by John Dashfield, Swindon (2020.32.1-2).

On display in the Story of Devizes Gallery.





Below from the left: Two Viking gold stranded wire finger-rings (2021.1); German cap badge and model German U Boat (2020.32.12)



Framed 19th century watercolour of a red-tiled and white-washed dwelling, with Avebury stone circle in the background. Signed D. Cox, 1820. (David Cox, 1783 – 1859). Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.1003) [*illustrated on front cover*].

Archaeology

Incomplete late Bronze Age or early Iron Age copper-alloy hinged brooch, probably dating to 300 - 150 BC. In the form of two circular lobes decorated with a ring and dot pattern. Traces of coral inlay survive in the central dot of one lobe. Found in Calne Without, 2020. Donated by the finder, Sean Hinksman, Chippenham (2020.20).

Neolithic polished stone axe found in Warminster Purchased at auction (2021.3).

Art

Standing Still at Avebury, by Rachel Heard, 2020. Framed acrylic on canvas. Commissioned as part of the Wessex Museums Partnership Project, 'Museum Connect'. Donated by the artist, Rachel Heard (2020.1002) [*image below*]

Avebury Ring. Unframed artist's proof by Mark Cheverton, c.1980. Mark (1952 - 1991) was an art teacher at Marlborough College and, with his wife Lottie, founded the Leith School of Art, Edinburgh. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.1004). [*image below*]

Archive and Library

The Library and Archive collection continues to grow, albeit much slower this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. During the year 15 books were purchased and 51 donated, many by the authors themselves, contributing to the 102 new acquisitions to the library. Most of the books purchased were published during 2019-21, keeping the library collection up to date. Fewer books were purchased due to financial constraints imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

There were 20 additions to the Archive collection including two maps, all of which were donations; 54 acquisitions to the photographic collection (50 donations), 24 of which were digital images.

Highlights include:

BOOKS

A bound scanned copy of Canon J.E. Jackson's Journal of Parochial Duty volume VI, 1834-1889. The journal was written by Canon Jackson (1805-91) whilst he was Vicar of Farleigh and Rector of Leigh Delamere. The journal records his parish work - all the sermons he preached, all the baptisms, marriages and funerals he carried out, and contains numerous references to local (and national) events and personalities. With the journal are watercolours and sketches by Jackson himself. The journal was digitised by the donor's cousin and a separate printed copy followed later for the collections. Donated by Anna O'Donoghue, niece of J.E. Jackson who was her two time Great Uncle (Book.18279 and 2020.7008).

JOURNALS

Each year the Archive and Library receive a large number of journals and newsletters via subscriptions, journal exchanges or gifts from donors. These include titles such as *British Archaeology* and *Current Archaeology* Magazines, *Bromham Parish Magazine*, the *Local Historian*, *Local History New*, *Britannia*, *The Antiquaries Journal* and *Wiltshire Ornithological Society News* to name a few. This year, although the number of book and tract acquisitions is lower than normal due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the number of journals acquired has increased from 141 to 168. Thus ensuring the collections are kept up to date with the latest published research.

DOCUMENTS

Wartime National Registration Identity Card for under sixteen years, numbered WRXA 383 and issued to Felicity H Davies, 1945-1955. Donated to the Museum by Mr Bob Walker, wife of the late Felicity Davies (MSS.4485). [*image below*]







'Standing Still at Avebury', by Rachel Heard (2020.1002); Avebury Ring; Unframed artist's proof by 'Mark Cheverton', (2020.1004); Wartime National Registration identity Card issued to Felicity H Davies (MSS.4485).

Collection of correspondence between Robin Tanner and Colin Mayhew, Wiltshire Museum and associated papers, 1985 – 1987. Colin was the museums Temporary Museum Assistant until October 1986 and his daughter Charlotte was the Museum Doorkeeper between 1985-6. Donated to the Museum by Mrs Charlotte Dawber, nee Mayhew, daughter of Colin Mayhew (*MSS.4488*) [*image below*].

Devizes Covid 19 Support Group flyers offering residents help and advice for those in need in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, March – July 2020. Produced by Devizes Town Council for the group of over 350 volunteers who supported residents in Devizes, 2020. Donated to the Museum by Mr David Dawson, Director (*MSS.4492*) [*illustrated page 11*]

Two driving licences issued to Mrs Dorothy Willis (nee Avery) of Park Farm, Westbury and Hawkeridge Farm, Westbury dated 1947-1975. Donated to the Museum by Mr Norman Willis, son of Dorothy Willis (*MSS.4496*)

British Legion souvenir programme for rally held at Roundway Park, Devizes, Saturday July 19, 1930. The programme possibly belonged to the donor's aunt (Frances Alice Parrish, nee Roberts) whose brother served in the Navy during World War One. Donated to the Museum by Marie Campbell (*MSS.4497*)r

PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTCARDS

Black and white postcard of early aviation flight over Stonehenge, Wiltshire, May 1912. This postcard complements a glass lantern slide already in the photographic collection (*2019.7035*). Donated to the Museum by WANHS Member, Tim Daw (*2020.5001*)

Collection of seven colour photographs of key events at Stonehenge including a digger working on the A344 during road closure works. The heel stone and Stonehenge are in the background, 2014. Donated to the Museum by WANHS Member, Tim Daw (*2020.7005.1-7*). [*image below*]

Eight black and white photographs of Robert Carter (born in Devizes August 13, 1888) who served in India with the Wiltshire Regiment in World War I. He was a piano tuner by trade and whilst in India he tuned pianos for Rajahs. Donated to the Museum by Mrs Margaret Carter, Carter family historian (2020.7007.1-8)

Seven digital photographs of the Covid vaccination centre at Salisbury Cathedral, February 2021. Mass vaccination centres were set up to roll out the vaccination programme to halt the spread of Covid-19. Many venues which could accommodate large numbers of people were used such as Cathedrals, football grounds and conference centres. Whilst being vaccinated in Salisbury Cathedral patients were calmed by music played by the Cathedral Organist. Donated by WANHS Member, Bill Perry (*2021.7001.1-7*) [see page 11]

A collection of black and white photographs of Orchard Cottage, Fisherton de la Mere and Dr Archibald Houghton Brown and his wife Molly who lived at this property from the 1930s until the 1980s. Also included with these photographs was a sales catalogue of Orchard Cottage, dated circa 1984. Donated to the Museum by Anthony Houghton Brown, grandson of Dr Archibald Houghton Brown. (2021.7003, 2021.7004 and SC.45.85)

Natural History

No acquisitions to report this year.

Numismatics

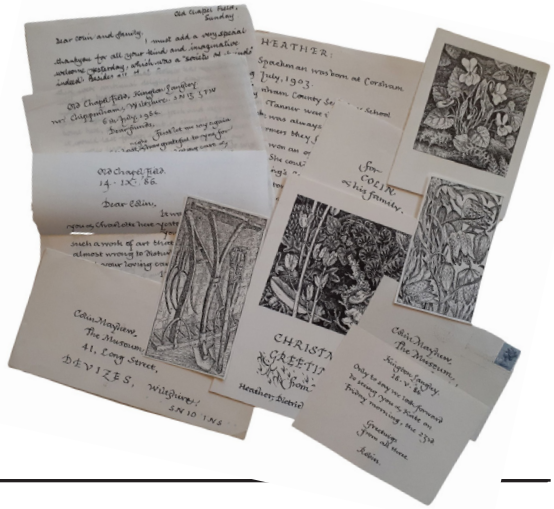
No acquisitions to report this year.

Recent History

A collection of items once belonging to Christopher L. Rice (known as Jim Rice). Jim was a police inspector in Devizes, retiring in the late 1950s - early 1960s. He was born in c.1907 and died in 1964. Donated by Nigel Amor, Croydon (Jim Rice's grandson). Items include:

- Police medal on a blue and white striped ribbon: EXEMPLARY POLICE SERVICE / GEORGIVS VI DEI GPA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID (2020.7.1) [*image page 19*].





Work on the A344 near Stonehenge, 2014 (2020.7005.1-7); sample of correspondence with Robin and Heather Tanner (2020.7005.3)

- Police Athletic Association Championship Medal. 220 YARDS / STANDARD / 1930 / C. L. RICE (2020.7.2)
- Framed black and white photograph of Christopher L Rice, in his police uniform (2020.7.3)

Two sets of collectable Anstie cigarette cards. One of the WILTSHIRE DOWNS, produced in1935 (set of 20) and another of STONEHENGE, produced in1936 (set of 10). E&W ANSTIE LTD TOBACCO FACTORY, DEVIZES. Purchased at auction (2020.8) [*image below*].

Orange paper carrier bag from ROBERT KEMP / TELEPHONE 2274, clothing shop, Devizes. Cockerel motif is featured on the front in black print, c.1980. Donated Dorothy Robertson, Devizes (2020.9).

China coffee mug. THE PERFECT EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD BE..... and two metal pins badges BREXIT NO THANKS! THERE IS NO BREXIT DIVIDEND #STOPBREXIT. 2019. Donated by David Dawson, Devizes (2020.13).

Two pieces of Victorian concrete with Bristol blue glass inclusions. Transported from Bristol to Wiltshire by canal and used to build workers cottages in All Cannings Cross, c.1868. Donated by Tim Daw, All Cannings (2020.15).

Plastic spray bottle containing RAMSBURY ALCOHOL HAND SANITISER. Manufactured in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ramsbury Brewing & Distilling Company, Aldbourne. Purchased (2020.17). [*image below*].

Two plastic face visors made on a 3D printer by Market Lavington Secondary School students, as part of a community project, 'Shield Wiltshire', in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These visors were made free of charge and were worn by staff when the Museum re-opened to the public in July 2020, after four months of lockdown. Donated by Market Lavington Secondary School (2020.18). [*image page 11*].

Set of eight 'Stonehenge 1984' plastic pin badges, small and large size. The designs were drawn by David Stooke in early 1984, in the run up to the Stonehenge Free Festival, in June. These badges were recreated and made in 2020. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.19)

Devizes Scooter Club banner. Auctioned by the club to raise money for the National Health Service, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.31).

Green metal pin badge with white lettering. MORRISONS / KEYWORKER / FEEDING THE NATION / #ITSMORETHANOURJOB. Worn by the supermarket employees and manufactured in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020. Donated by Simon Dawson, Devizes (2020.33) [*image page 11*].

Seventeen hand-painted stones that formed part of a 'Covid-19 pebble snake' on Quaker's Walk, Devizes, in the spring / summer of 2020. A creative response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This snake was started by local resident, Sarah Cook. Other long lines of painted pebbles, called 'snakes', were created at Hillworth Park; along the path of the Kennet & Avon canal and on Windsor Drive. Some of the stones are marked DEVIZES ROCKS / SAVE THE NHS / STAY SAFE. With permission from Devizes Town Council, a selection of the stones were collected by the Museum, before the snake deteriorated and was taken away (2020.34) [*image page 11*].

Fabric bandana-snood face covering, with transfer print of the iconic Stonehenge sarsen trilithon on it. Produced by English Heritage and sold at the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, 2020. Donated by Brian Edwards, Devizes (2020.36)

Lockdown-inspired 'Positive Pack' sold in Devizes, to boost spirits in January. Each box includes one positive postcard, two badges PUT YOUR POSITIVE PANTS ON / I GET LOCKED DOWN I GET UP AGAIN, one heart-shaped keepsake, a packet of sweets and herbal teabag. Donated by the creator, Katy Light, at Hillbilly Rocks Vintage, Devizes (2021.2) .







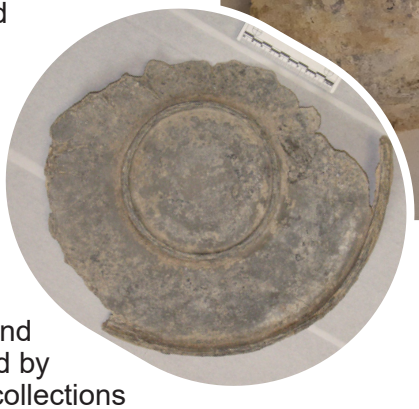
Police medal on a blue and white striped ribbon (2020.7.1); Plastic spray bottle containing RAMSBURY ALCOHOL HAND SANITISER (2020.17); set of Anstie cigarette cards, depicting the Wiltshire Downs (2020.8)

CONSERVATION

Museum

Our collections require constant monitoring to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Curatorial staff undertake routine preventative conservation to ensure that objects and archives are displayed and stored in the best conditions that we can achieve and we have been able to improve the storage of a number of collections over the last few years.

All remedial conservation is contracted in from qualified conservators from the Conservation Register.

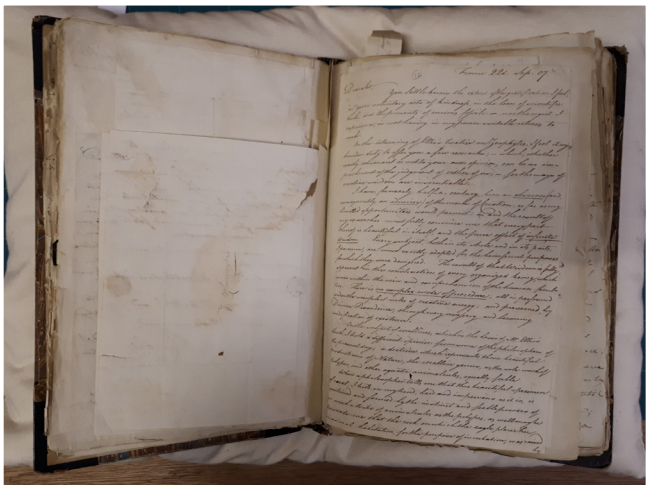




Hilmarton Pewter: before (above) and after (left) Conservation.

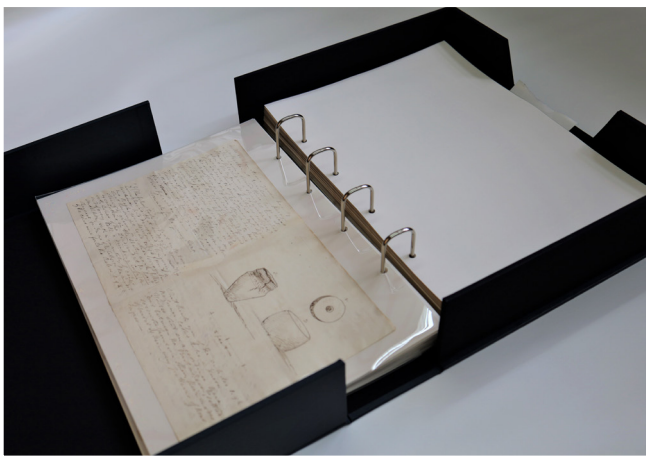
During lockdown the museum stores and gallery displays were regularly checked by staff. After each lockdown ended, the collections team undertook detailed checks in all areas of the building, to ensure that the collections remained in good condition, after long periods of closure. No issues were detected.

A hoard of Roman pewter plates found on farmland at Hilmarton during a metal detecting rally were donated to the Museum in January 2019. Wessex Archaeology have since conserved and repacked them (*above right*). A rare find for the County, only two other hoards like this one are known, all found in North Wiltshire.



Cunnington letters, before, during and after conservation.





Archive & Library

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the conserved letter book of 246 antiquarian letters written to William Cunnington 1 from fellow antiquarians discussing archaeological discoveries was eventually returned to the Museum in September. The letters are now stored within protective sleeves within bespoke archival binders. They have also been digitised and in the future they will be made available online. It is still hoped that in the future new high security display cases will be purchased for the Long Room so that these letters can be displayed for the first time.

Lisa Brown, Jane Schön and David Dawson

TRAINING

The Collections Officer: Archive & Library undertook a number of online courses: *Novice to Know-how* organised by The National Archives and delivered by the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC). The aim of the course was to give a broad introduction to digital preservation issues and address some ways to tackle them; and two Museum Skills Essentials sessions organised and delivered by the South West Museum Development team: *Working with Volunteers in a New Normal* and *Decolonising Collections, Exhibitions and Displays*.

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND OUTINGS

The number of events held at the Museum during the year were reduced due to the pandemic, but with a move to online lectures - details below - we were able to develop an online audience.

Thank you to our speakers and walk leaders for their contributions to the Society as most do not charge a fee or claim expenses. We would also like to thank everyone who helps with organising and running our events and activities.

With the Museum in lockdown from 17 March 2020 all events had to be cancelled, including Easter Holiday and Curious Kids activities, lectures, the Wiltshire Archaeology Conference and outings. With the lockdown of unknown duration and most staff on full-time furlough, no plans could be made to rearrange the events. All ticket holders were contacted and very few sought a refund, the majority prepared to wait until events could be rearranged.

As the year wore on and Covid-restrictions were introduced following the first lockdown our event offering was adjusted - lectures were moved online and numbers restricted attending events at the Museum. A few outings took place in the summer and autumn - and it was frustrating that after a lengthy period of good weather persistent rain caused some to be rearranged!

The lecture programme moved completely online, using the Zoom conference platform (Zoom webinar). Trialled with lectures in May to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the ending of World War II. By October, and just before the second lockdown, we had all got used to the technology - with a little trial and error (!) - and the first of the postponed lectures was held. The Archaeology Conference, postponed from March 2020, took place online over three weeks.

For the remainder of the winter, and during lockdown three online lectures continued, held on a weekday evening rather than the traditional Saturday afternoon. Q&A sessions were introduced, primarily for WANHS members (and free of charge).

Online lectures have many advantages - attracting speakers who would not be able to visit Devizes on a Saturday afternoon; attendees could view from across the globe; and more people can view online than can be accommodated in the Lecture Hall.

Lectures were also arranged in conjunction with other organisations, including the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society. Online talks can also be recorded easily and made available, a few weeks after the live event, via a 'talks -catchup' page on our website.

The online talks have received many positive comments and requests to keep them going and will, therefore continue during 2021/22.

Finally, we would like to record our thank you to all the speakers for giving of their time to present these lectures and to all the viewers for attending, and their patience when the technology let us down.

March 2021
Buzzkill: The Victorians and the Vibrator, by Dr Kate Lister
Story of Devizes Q&A: John Girvan
Building a new chronology for the Mount Pleasant mega-henge: Susan Greaney

February 2021
Death is Not The End: Curation of the Dead In Bronze Age Britain: Tom Booth
Latest archaeological news and research about Stonehenge – Q & A session: Mike Pitts, Katy Whitaker, Matt Leivers and David Dawson
What Goes Around Comes Around: Wiltshire, from Stone Circles to Corn Circles: Tom Holland
T*he prehistoric chalkland landscape of Stonehenge, Avebury and Dorchester – tearing up the textbooks and starting again*: Dr Mike Allen.

January 2021
Prehistory in History: Dr Francis Young
Geochemical fingerprinting the Sarsen stones at Stonehenge: David Nash

December 2020
The Forgotten Country House: The Rise and Fall of Roundway Park: Simon Baynes. The Inaugural Lorna Haycock Memorial Lecture
Stonehenge: new light on its origins: Mike Parker Pearson

November 2021
Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference:
Overpaid, oversexed, and under Aldbourne? Digging D-Day's 'Band of Brothers': Richard Osgood
Ludgershall Castle – recent archaeological investigations: Ray Kennedy
Hidden Elements: Folk Art and Protection Marks within the Lacock Barns: Tony Hack
Recent work on the Roman ritual complex at Teffont, Wiltshire: David Roberts
A Stourhead Notebook: David Dawson
What's around the town? Results of initial geophysical exploration of the environs of Roman Verlucio: Andy Payne
New work on old rocks: recent fieldwork in the sarsen fields of Wiltshire: Katy Whitaker
Recent Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds: Wil Partridge
Ogbourne St Andrew Barrow – 3D Geophysics: Bruce Fox
A survey of recent archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire and Swindon: Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger
A Wealth of Knowledge: Unlocking a Decade of Archaeological Research: Lisa Brown

October 2020
Devizes Castle – Norman Stronghold to Victorian Folly: David Dawson.

May 2020
The Lacock Cup: a Medieval silver master-piece from St Cyriac's Church: David Dawson
WW2 in Devizes: A Day in the Life of a German Prisoner of War in Devizes: David Dawson
Romans in Calne: The 'Fates' Sculpture: David Dawson
WW2 and Devizes: The Home Front: David Dawson

Members are very important to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and in addition to free entry to our award-winning Museum and special exhibitions, they receive other benefits:

- ◊ Free welcome tour of museum and library
- ◊ Discounted lectures, conferences, courses and outings
- ◊ Regular newsletter with the latest news and forthcoming events
- ◊ Opportunities to find out more about Wiltshire's story as you get to know fellow members and meet subject experts
- ◊ Opportunities to make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
- ◊ Opportunities to get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
- ◊ Opportunities to read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal (*pictured page 24)*
- ◊ Opportunities to find out about where you live with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive.
- ◊ Free entry to Salisbury Museum and the Dorset County Museum as part of the Wessex Museums Partnership
- ◊ Free entry to English Heritage's Stonehenge Visitor Centre
- ◊ Helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.

There are a variety of subscription and payment options available, including monthly payments.

There were 62 new (or re-joining) memberships in the year (84 members); 44 (52) in 2019/2020.

NEW MEMBERS 2020/21

Ms L Abrahams ,Dubbo
Ms G Allerton, Cirencester
Mr N & Mrs J Amor, Croydon
Ms V Amos, Bristol
Mr A Barclaey & Ms P Bradley, Salisbury
Mr D & Mrs J Bardwell, Royal Wootton Bassett
Mr A Barrass-Haswell, Swindon
Mr C Beer, Bath
Ms H & Ms C & Mr N Berry, Melksham
Ms S J Botfield, Peterborough
Mr J & Mrs S Bowerman, Poole
Mr S A C Boydell, Corsham
Mr J Brace, Swansea
Mrs J & Mr Bristow, Gosport
Mr C & Mrs G Clark, Croydon
Ms S Cooper, Salisbury
Mr B Corbett Higgins & Mr Z Perry, Southampton
Mrs S & Mr N Crean, Marlborough
Mr D Cross, Southsea
Mr R Davis & Mrs F Altinoluk-Davis, Chippenham
Mrs B L Dixon, Chippenham
Mr S Dunn, Salisbury
Mr S East & Ms S Jackson, Pewsey
Mr P Edwards, Devizes
Dr R Fletcher, Trowbridge
Ms C Gale, Pewsey
Mr P & Mrs L Gallop, Calne
Ms L R S Genevieve, Acharacle
Ms E George, Salisbury
Dr M Greenhall & Prof S Hackett, Calne
Ms V Groke & & Mr W Rollason, Uxbridge
Ms B Helps, Pewsey
Mr R Henry, Salisbury
Mr R A & Mrs S Hoyle, Melksham
Mr M Leivers, Southampton
Ms E Lupprian & Mr S Barkham Shaftesbury
Mr S Marshall & Mrs K Kalina, Shepton Mallet
Mr B & Mrs M Micklam, Bradford On Avon
Ms S Miles, Brackley
Mrs & Mr J A L Morelli, Devizes
Mr J Noble, Devizes
Mr C & Mrs V O'Brien, Marlborough
Mr R F Olding, Abergavenny

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: at 1 January 2021 (retained at 2020 rate)

Bronze:
Individual - £44.00
Joint/Family - £56.50
Student - £20.00
Member Organisation - £51.00
Amber Donor - £69.00
Gold Donor - £129.00
Corporate membership - £100 and £450
Jadeite - £250
Life (over 50) - £750
Life (under 50) - £1,000

Subscriptions run for 12 months from the first day of the month of joining.

Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study, or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interests.

Mr N & Mrs K Penny, Salisbury
Mr A Platts, Sturminster Newton
Ms G Pope, Salisbury
Mr A Rees & Dr S Shelburne, Marlborough
Mr A Rice, Twyford
Mr S Roberts, Trowbridge
Mr A Rumsey, Marlborough
Ms H Sebire, Salisbury
Mr W Sibley, Bath
Mr W Smith, Bath
Mr R Speight, Westbury
Mr O Turney, Swindon
Mr E Tyler, Glastonbury
Ms B Vivian-Crowder, Chippenham
Mr R Ward, London
Mr J Webb, Shaftesbury
Ms J Wexler, London
Ms L Williams, Waterlooville
Ms J Wright, Devizes

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

Research: Archaeology Collections

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were no research visits to the Museum. However, with the launch of the Wealth of Knowledge project in April 2020, it has been a busy year reviewing the research that has been undertaken on the archaeology collections over the past decade.

A Wealth of Knowledge: Unlocking a Decade of Archaeological Research

The Museum was awarded £47,000 in 2019 from Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund for a project to review the results of the last ten years of research into the nationally important archaeological collections of the Wiltshire Museum and Salisbury Museum. The collections were accessed by some 200 academic researchers, building up a backlog of research results to be included in the museums' records.

The project will update the Museum's collections management system (MODES) records to include the latest research and to create 'enhanced' records. This will form the basis of an online publicly accessible database bringing together the collections of the Wessex Museums Partnership. We are also reviewing how the collections have been used, identifying under-researched sections, and developing priorities for future research, based on ideas and feedback from specialist researcher-led seminars. The final aim of the project is to ensure that future archaeological research can be incorporated into museum records with minimal curatorial time.

The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the researcher seminars; however, the first of these has now been hosted, with more to follow. These seminars will keep museum staff up-to-date on current research priorities, as well as helping to identify new ways in which the collections can be utilised by researchers. We will promote those areas of the collections which are currently under-utilised to those who will undertake or supervise new research.

The project has identified 590 objects accessed 688 times, resulting in 781 records being updated. New high-quality photographs have been added, including those taken by David Bukach for the 250 objects featured in Woodward & Hunter's *Early Bronze Age Grave Goods*. In addition to adding substantial detail to these database records, the information on how these objects are used allows us to build a profile of current research into the collections, and revealing future areas of research.

The results show that the Museum's Early Bronze Age collections are accessed most often, largely due to ongoing interest in the richly furnished barrow graves of the region. This was to be expected, but it has also been possible to identify, for instance, that whilst similar numbers of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age human remains have been accessed, in the case of the former this has been by far fewer researchers who employed more traditional methodologies. Speaking generally, so far it is possible to say that the interest generated by Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age sites such as the midden at Potterne has previously been underestimated, whilst the research interest in the Neolithic period has perhaps been overestimated. The Medieval, Roman, and pre-Neolithic collections would all also greatly benefit from increased attention. These are all insights that will be vital in guiding the Museum's future research priorities.

Looking ahead, the Museum has been engaging with the Arts & Humanities Research Council, *Towards a National Collection* programme. This aims to bring together museum data at a national level and may provide a mechanism to get enhanced collections records and data online. We are one of eight organisations selected to take part in the *Making it FAIR project*, led by the Archaeology Data Service with Collections Trust and Culture24. Free training, mentoring and technical support will help us develop digital collections-focussed content, to stay connected with existing audiences and reach new ones.

Lisa Brown, Wil Partridge, David Dawson

Research: Archive & Library

The last researcher visited the Archive & Library in mid-March 2020. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions it was not possible to reopen during the year and visiting researcher requests were put on hold.

Between lockdowns and furlough a small number of enquiries were dealt with, including scanning documents and photographs. Research topics included the English Civil War, Moonrakers, Cerne Abbas Giant, Stanley Abbey, strip lynchets, Wedgwood, Westbury Manor, the villages of Imber, East Kennett and Enford, as well as numerous family history requests including the Ludlow family of Hill-Deverill, the McEvoy family of Aldbourne and the Mogg family of Upton Lovell.

Peter Lankester was provided with scans and images for new interpretation display boards and banners at Imber Church, about village life in Imber life during the 19th and 20th century.

Jane Schön

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine (WANHM)

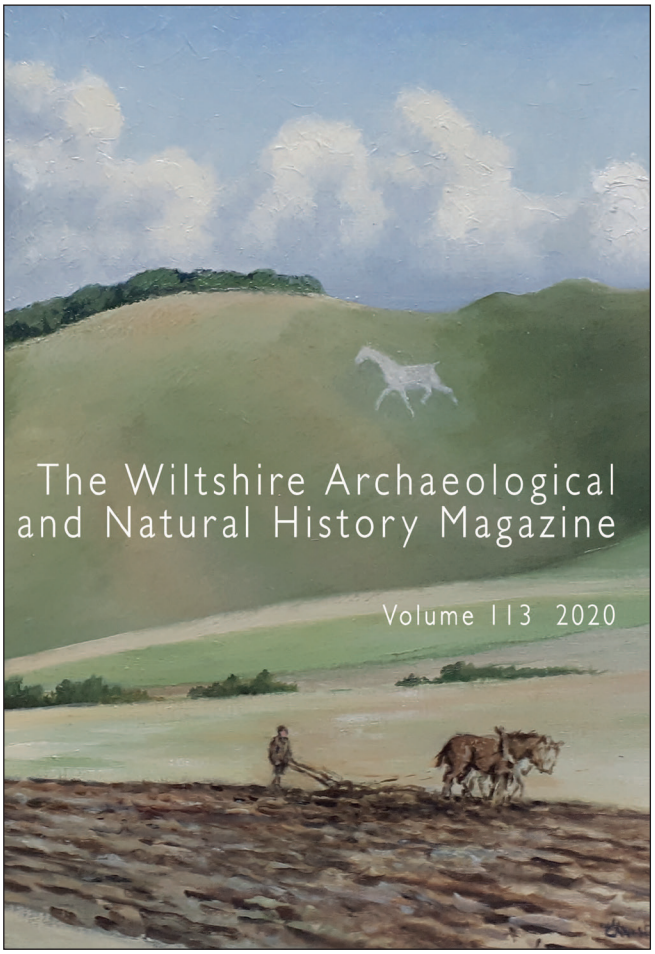
Our annual magazine continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire. It is sent to members every year and is available to non-members for a modest charge.

The 2020 volume (no. 113) contained articles on the natural history, archaeology and local history of the county. Subjects included *'No provenance is better than wrong provenance': Milford Haven and the Stonehenge sandstones; Pit digging and lifeways in Neolithic Wiltshire; Neolithic Pits and Middle Iron Age Settlement at Salisbury Road, Marlborough; An Early Bronze Age 'log burial' and other features along the Bulford to Tidworth cable trench, Defence Training Estate Salisbury Plain, 2017; An unusual Late Bronze Age palisaded site and settlement on land north of Bitham Park, Westbury, Wiltshire; Excavation of an Early Roman Settlement at Lay Wood, Devizes, Wiltshire, 2016; A controlled metal-detecting survey: Revising the Roman numismatic perspective of Sorviodunum; The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Petersfinger, near Salisbury: an additional grave and associated settlement; Evidence for the Outer Defences of Devizes Castle at The Beeches, Castle Road, Devizes; Salisbury's Black Friars; The Development of a walled garden in Wiltshire, an exemplar from a 'Gentleman's estate'; Bureau West Devizes, Wiltshire: An Early Component of the British Computer Landscape.*.

The volume also contains reviews and notes of excavations and fieldwork. The volume was edited and indexed by Dr Stuart Brookes, with editorial assistance from Peter Saunders. Peter also coordinated the publication for the Society. Thanks are due to all of those involved in producing such a well-respected journal and especially to the many authors for their contributions.

Trilithon

This newsletter is produced regularly throughout the year and distributed to all Society members and via the Museum shop. The publication is a mixture of articles, items of interest and news about current and forthcoming activities and events. It was not possible to produce as many editions as usual during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



Engaging audiences online

In addition to our printed publications, we use our monthly e-newsletter and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to engage and develop with our audience. Social media is a great way to publicise upcoming events and news at the Museum and is an opportunity to reach new audiences and share more details about our collections in a more timely and immediate way. It also means we can engage with an audience that is unable to physically access the Museum or collections.

Non-furloughed staff were able to continue with e-newsletters and other communications, including adding content to the website, particularly during Lockdowns.

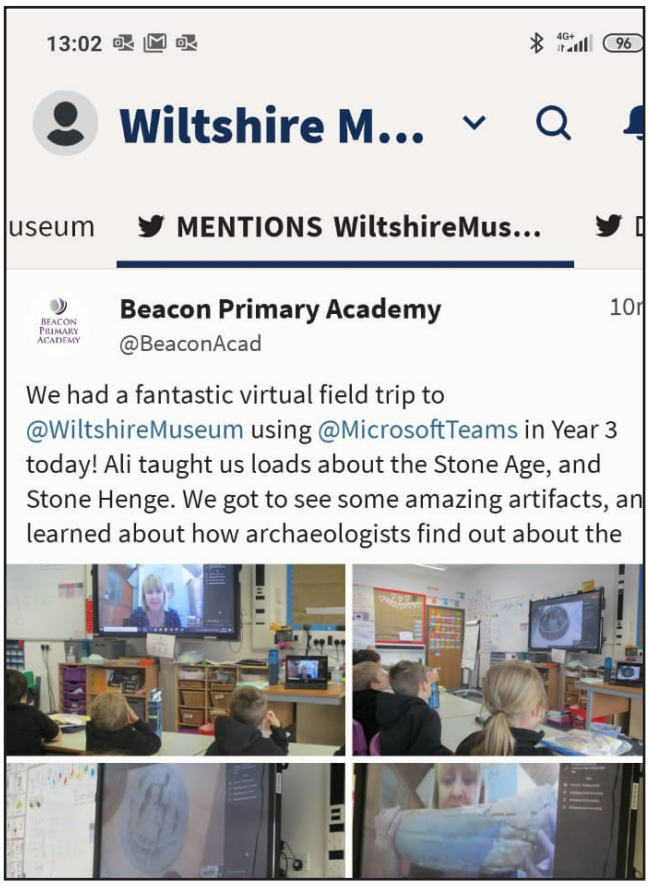
Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools). Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

LEARNING, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year has certainly been very unusual for Museum learning with little chance to work with schools and families in person. Under such challenging circumstances we had to think of new ways of keeping in touch with our audiences and delivering our educational services.

I worked with a handful of groups in the school setting, but most sessions to schools have taken place virtually. This is something that took a little time to get used to, but it is something that quickly become the norm for school children.

Most of the virtual workshops were linked to the Stone Age and prehistoric sites in Wiltshire, with local schools borrowing artefacts to accompany their sessions to make them more interactive. A particularly positive outcome of offering virtual sessions is that I could reach schools that would not would not normally be possible, delivering sessions to classes as far away as Slough and Skegness. As a result of this success, we aim to continue and develop this offer for schools outside Wiltshire in the future.



The sessions delivered in schools were all Reception and Year 1 classes, illustrating how important hands-on activities and first-hand experiences are for this age group. The children were so excited to have a visitor in their school and to explore and play with the objects. They reacted well to the adjustments that had to be made to ensure the sessions were safe.

Our only family sessions at the Museum this year were during the October Half Term to accompany the *Out of Egypt* Exhibition. These were run for small groups but as expected were popular and very well received.

As our work with families has been limited, we added activities to our website, for families to do at home, so as not to lose touch completely. We also ran virtual sessions for community groups and our under-fives 'Curious Kids' club. We hope to be able to resume running holiday activities during the 2021 Spring Half Term and summer holidays, to start welcoming groups back and restarting our Museum club, as soon as possible.

We are hoping that next year we will be able to implement a blended learning model for schools and community groups. We look forward to welcoming groups back into the Museum, but still offering virtual sessions and online resources as part of our learning offer, particularly for those who may not physically be able to visit or may not yet feel comfortable doing so. With an exciting exhibition programme planned in the coming year, we will be hosting a variety of linked community projects and events and cannot wait to see our museum galleries bustling with families and school groups once again.

Ali Rushent

COMMUNITY CURATOR

The Community Curator was not furloughed during the Covid-19 pandemic and moved most of her activities online.

Museum Connect

During Lockdown-1 I learnt how to make and edit videos, creating a range of video resources from reminiscence to kids craft.

From this experience a video pilot project - Museum Connect - for engaging new audiences was developed. We engaged five local artists to create six films, inspired by our collections and aimed at inspiring creativity at home. The videos were aimed at a family (the first three listed below) or adult audience spending more time at home, shielding, or living in a care setting:

- *Art Out of Egypt - Hieroglyphics*, by Matthew Dean
- *Art Out of Egypt – Mummy Masks*, by Emma Kerr
- *Make Your Own Biodiversity Journal*, by James Aldridge
- *Landscape of the Megaliths*, by Rachel Heard
- *Look Again at the Assize Court*, by Jane Scott

The Museum Connect items will remain as a resource on the Wiltshire Museum website. The videos also supported six digital workshops for local community groups and have been re-used to maintain relationships with our communities and audiences through the subsequent lockdowns.

We plan to continue working closely with several of the artists in 2021, including "Create and Collect – Communities and The Climate Emergency" with James Aldridge – our first youth-led contemporary collecting project.

Curious Kids – Digital

Prior to the first lockdown in March 2020 our new under 5's offer, *Curious Kids*, was regularly attracting 10 to 12 families for singing, stories and making connections to our collections and exhibitions. We stayed in touch with these audiences with video resources and in October 2020 began using Zoom digitally engage with families. The sessions were slightly shorter, culminating in a show and tell and an actions song - with everyone on mute!

Wildlife in the Red Digital

The Wessex Museums digital exhibition, *Wildlife in the Red,* was the inspiration for online workshops offered to local uniformed groups, including 4th Devizes Guide & Rangers and 6th Devizes Cubs and Scouts, who met regularly between November 2020 and February 2021.

We brought a little bit of the Museum to their sessions, as they learnt about the Donald Grosse Herbarium, took part in plant identification quizzes and quick draw art activities. The groups also watched the *Wildlife in the Red* Museum Connect video – with artist James Aldridge - and created their own Biodiversity Journals.

The results of these workshops are on the Museum website, together with content from the young artists on their experiences of recording the natural world around them.

"I never noticed the variety of trees there were, until now"

"We did a really long walk … I might do this walk more often now"

"I don't usually focus in silence. I paid more attention"

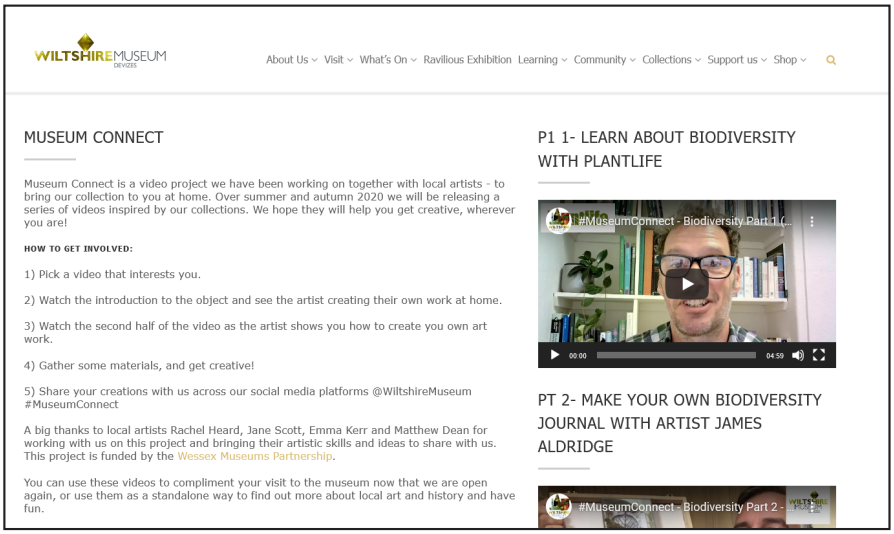
The Image

The Image, a project funded by Tidworth Area Board and the Wiltshire PCC, works in partnership with Wiltshire Youth Offending Team (YOT). A pilot project was designed to support and nurture young people by teaching them skills and enabling them to explore their relationship with their home town by documenting it in photographs.

Sadly just four sessions into the planned 11 sessions lockdown began. However the sessions recommenced in October 2020 with the support of the participant's school, The Wellington Academy.

The focus of the project shifted to enable the young people to explore their feelings around and experiences of the pandemic. It was hoped to exhibit at the school in the 2021 summer term, with a view to bringing elements of it to the Museum later in the year.

Sarah Gregson



Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.

Volunteers

This year saw a large disruption to the Museum's normal volunteering programme. However, our wonderful team remained as dedicated and connected as could be, given the circumstances. Whilst we did not have the same level of activity in the building, our volunteers kept engaged through digital volunteering, Zoom coffee mornings, emails, and phone calls.

With the building closed for the majority of the year, the only volunteering to take place on site was our enthusiastic team of gardeners, who were able to keep the garden looking sprightly between June and October. In the autumn, our Front of House team were just starting refresher training when the Museum closed for the second lockdown. Members of the team gave their time to help run a weekly market stall in the Devizes Shambles between October and December.

Whilst physical volunteering was severely restricted, our digital volunteering programme was able to expand, although not as much as we would've liked due to staff being furloughed. However, seven new digital volunteers were welcomed and they, alongside our existing team, have been researching and writing 'Collections Highlights' for our website, creating social media posts, and producing blogs. Two new projects are also underway: one focuses on researching slavery links in the collection, the other, undertaken by a Bath Spa placement student working with Wessex Museums, centres upon developing a new partnership website for museums across Wiltshire.

One of the positives throughout our year in lockdown were the 'Zoom' volunteer coffee mornings. Started as a weekly catchup in April 2020 with volunteers they have continued throughout the year and have now become a regular staple. For staff these meetings were a real beacon of positivity in a difficult time. The coffee mornings contained quizzes, show & tells, gardening tips, local history discussions, and a wealth of smiles and laughter. Contact was maintained with those unable to join online, via phone, email, and regular newsletters.

> *"Thank you to everyone for organising these online meetings. I has been something I look forward to each week"*

We hope next year will bring a chance to reunite with our wonderful team. The focus will be on supporting volunteers in returning to the Museum, helping to build confidence, and re-training. We will also be recruiting new volunteers to assist in the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, opening in September.

Our volunteers are integral to the success of the Museum and will be even more vital as we restart day-to-day operations. Volunteers welcome and engage with visitors, look after researchers in our Library and Archive, assist with school groups and family activity days, help with maintenance and decorating, gardening, administration, mailings and events.

> *"It is so uplifting to see all the cheery faces at a pretty gloomy time."*

A team of 21 Library volunteers catalogue the Archive and Library collections, adding to the online catalogue and scanning the photograph collection. Although halted by the Coronavirus pandemic many continued to undertake their own research whilst at home and answer the occasional enquiry. Just before lockdown one several volunteers researched Wiltshire Female Authors and created an exhibition in the Long Room, which greeted returning visitors when the Museum reopened in July.

The volunteer team answer enquiries and assist with visiting researchers and their requests. We could not provide the service we deliver without our excellent team of volunteers and hopefully we can continue to do this again when we reopen.

Trustees of WANHS are also volunteers and we thank them for the time and expertise they continue to dedicate to the Museum.

We are extremely grateful to work alongside such a knowledgeable, hardworking and committed voluntary team. We wish to express our gratitude to every individual who has donated their time and work to supporting the Museum.

Nicola Trowell and Jane Schön

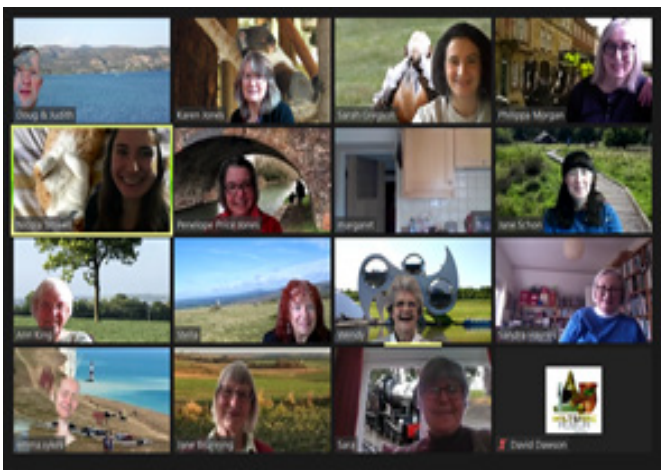


Image: The 'best virtual background' competition, volunteer coffee morning held via Zoom, February 2021

Thank you to our volunteers:

Mr Thomas Bancroft
Mrs Laura Barker
Mrs Karen Bate
Mr John Baumber
Ms Sharon Benfield
Mrs Wendy Bishop
Mrs Astrid Bleich
Mr Mike Borro
Mrs Catherine Brown
Mrs Jane Brunning
Ms Jan Bryant
Mrs Judith Caldwell
Mrs Doreen Came
Mr Cameron Chamberlain
Lt Col Colvin Chamberlain
Mrs Janice Chapman
Ms Alison Christy
Mr Robert Clarke
Mrs Margaret R Clarke
Mrs Nicky Clarke
Ms Clare Conybeare
Ms Sandy Corbyn
Mr Michael Cornwell
Mrs Jean Covington
Mr John Coxhead
Mr John Cullimore
Mrs Jan Dando
Miss Lauren Doherty
Mrs Catherine Dawson
Ms Tracey Delamere
Mr Paul Draper
Mr Philip Edwards
Ms Lynne Farrow
Ms Pauline Ferguson
Mr Michael Fletcher
Dr James Flood
Mrs Sue Flood
Ms Heather Flower
Mrs Isobel Geddes
Mr Aidan Gibbons
Mr John Girvan
Mr Jeff Goatman
Mrs Jill Goatman
Miss Beth Green
Mr A Hack
Mrs Sandy Haynes
Ms Netta Hemmins
Mr Tony Hinchliffe
Miss Bethany Hocking
Mr Malcolm Holland
Mr David Hughes
Mr Jonathon Hurwitt
Mrs Shelagh Hurwitt
Mrs Carole Jones
Mr Tony Jones
Mrs Mary Kane
Dr James Kay
Mr Dallas Kendall
Mrs Ann King
Mrs Wendy Lansdown
Miss Tabitha Lawrence
Mr Graham Lever
Mrs Jane Lever
Mrs Marlene Lewis
Mr Ralph Lewis
Ms Stella Maddock
Mr Robert McGrane
Mr Mike McQueen
Mr Peter Melsom
Miss Sasha Minnis
Mr Joseph Moore
Ms Philippa Morgan
Mrs Sara Morgan
Mr Tony Morton
Miss Tessa Nightingale
Mr Philip Nokes
Mr Kieran O'Donnell
Miss E A Paddon
Mrs Dilys Peacock
Mr Bill Perry
Ms Caroline Power
Mrs Sally Price
Mrs Penny Price Jones
Mrs Angela Prophet
Mr Stuart Raymond
Mr Martin Rea
Miss Emily Rees
Ms Mary Rennie
Ms Laura Richards
Mrs Dorothy Robertson
Mrs Diane Robinson
Mrs Doris Roddham
Mrs Sue Roderick
Mr David Rolls
Mrs Pamela Rolls
Mr Doug Roseaman
Mrs Judith Roseaman
Mrs Marion Rowland
Mr Rick Rowland
Mr Jonathan Sanigar
Mr Ethan Sault
Mr Peter Saunders
Mrs Anne Smith
Mr Mike Smith
Mr Peter Smith
Mr Mike Stewart
Mr Mike Stone
Mr Michael Teale
Mrs Sue Teale
Mr Colin Thomas
Mr Alistair Thomson
Ms Judith Thomson
Mr Peter Tolhurst
Miss Lola Tovey
Mrs Judith Triggs
Miss Merryn Truscott-Davies
Mr Oliver Turney
Mrs Dawn Vernon
Mrs Jean Volpi
Mr John Watts
Mrs Wendy Weller
Mr David Weston
Mrs Anne Willis
Mr Jamie Wright

In Memoriam: Dr Walter Chisholm-Batten (1923-2020)

We were sorry to hear that our Library volunteer, Walter Chisholm-Batten, died shortly before Christmas 2020. Walter, who was a retired GP, much enjoyed his days at the Museum. He was not a computer user but was happy to settle into a routine of summarising the contents of our 19th century Wiltshire tracts onto proformae record sheets for others to enter onto our Modes database. He much enjoyed his days in the Library, so much that when he had to give up driving he paid for a taxi for the journey to and fro from Marlborough where he lived. We shall miss his company, but are grateful for the many records on the Library catalogue which are based on his meticulous summaries.

Whilst working Walter often talked about his family, his medical career, his school days in Marlborough and how he found people fascinating. But the memory I remember most is the notable archaeologist Harold St George Gray and his wife collecting Walter and his friends from school at Marlborough to go and dig at the Somerset Lake Villages and Harold telling Walter he should become a doctor and not an archaeologist! We never did find out what Walter found during those digs…..

Bill Perry & Jane Schön

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

The Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group (WAFG) is a community archaeology group, working to professional standards. It carries out excavations and fieldwork in Wiltshire including geophysical survey, ground survey and field-walking. Anyone can get involved in research projects, ranging from prehistoric sites to 20th century archaeology. Members have organised practical training sessions on topics including basic excavation and identifying pottery. There have been a number of social events, which include talks on a variety of recent discoveries and new finds.

Membership is open to members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Regular reports appear in our Trilithon newsletter, and on the WAFG Facebook page.

The past year has seen AFG activities come to an almost complete standstill due to Covid-19. In between lockdowns we have, however, undertaken some geophysical surveys that continued our support of the Bremhill/Foxham history project. Resistivity and magnetometry surveys were carried out the grounds of both Cadenham Manor, Foxham and Bremhill Manor, to look for possible early medieval features and attempt to ascertain the location of the medieval manor houses that predate the current buildings at both sites. This successfully identified some intriguing archaeological features and it is hoped this will lead to an opportunity to excavate some exploratory test-pits later this year, depending on permissions and any ongoing restrictions obviously.

It is also our clear intention to resume the Post-Excavation processing of the Rodbourne Bottom medieval grange site excavated by the AFG a few years ago. This exercise had only just got underway before lockdown forced a halt to proceedings and there remains a lot to do as the site yielded a large volume of interesting material, including 230 Special Finds which require additional cataloguing to make them ready for archiving into the museum collections.

It is unfortunately still too early to consider dates for the above or commit to other potential activities. We are however very much looking forward to the time when the AFG and our team of excellent volunteers can get back out in the field to continue our long-standing track record of archaeological research!

Mike McQueen and Ali Thompson

We are always looking for more people to be involved in our work, a great way to meet people and to develop skills and experience.

A303 Working Group

In July 2020, the Government announced an additional consultation, following the announcement of the discovery of a Neolithic pit structure associated with Durrington Walls by the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project. The Committee drafted a response to this additional consultation, which was agreed by the Board and submitted to the Government. In November, the Government announced that the Minister had agreed the A303 tunnel proposal, even though the recommendation from the Planning Inspectorate was that approval should be refused. Subsequently an application for Judicial Review was agreed. These developments were monitored by the Committee and reported to the Board.

David Dawson, Director

Buildings and Monuments

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions it was decided in March 2020 that the work of the committee would take place by email discussion. Each member of the Committee reviewed applications for a designated area of the County and presented to the other members (by email) their deliberations on any relevant Planning Application. Email exchange discussion then resulted in a response being made to the Local Planning department. No minutes were issued during the year as it was considered that the record of the responses made (copied to the Director and Secretary) formed a sufficient record of the committee activities and decisions.

This has meant every LBC, WHS or heritage application had some form of review and 89 (last year 49) responses were made to either Swindon or the Wiltshire Council Planning departments. In 76% of cases our comments were actively recognised and either additional information sought from the applicant, conditions set or the application rejected.

The Committee welcomed new members during the year and their resilience and support during this difficult year has been very much appreciated.

The work of the committee continues to guide Wiltshire Councils' decisions in protecting the heritage of the County, encouraging the continued use and survival of scheduled structures. It is our continued objective to ensure that any developments within the County do not adversely affect our listed buildings, scheduled monuments and archaeological landscapes of Wiltshire.

John Baumber, Chairman

Finance Committee

This committee ensures that the assets of the Society are managed in compliance with the various rules and guidelines pertinent to the WANHS status as a registered charity and limited liability company, and promulgates appropriate policies and procedures.

The routine and day-to-day monitoring and management of approved budgets is delegated to the Review & Development Committee.

The Finance Committee meet when events demand it.

Rathbone Investment Management provided regular reports on the investment situation throughout the pandemic.

Industrial Archaeology

The committee continues to act as a focus for IA matters in the County and liaises with other interested bodies. Apart from individual research projects the Committee's main focus this year has been to assist in bringing to publication the late David Pollard's definitive work *Digging Bath stone – a quarry and transport history* which will be published in 2021 by Lightmoor Press. David was a member of the committee and Bath stone quarry owner and operator.

The 2020 IA Conference was postponed to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Doug Roseaman, Committee Secretary

DEVELOPMENT

WORKING WITH PARTNERS (organisations)

Wessex Museums and De-Colonising Collections

Collections staff from across the Wessex Museums Partnership are evolving a new aspect of their work in line with a national movement towards 'Decolonising Collections'.

> *Museums Association Statement on Decolonisation*
>
> *[…] Decolonisation is not simply the relocation of a statue or an object; it is a long-term process that seeks to recognise the integral role of empire in British museums – from their creation to the present day. Decolonisation requires a reappraisal of our institutions and their history and an effort to address colonial structures and approaches to all areas of museum work.*
>
> *This work has already started. Over the past decades museums have begun to recognise the trauma and suffering caused by the display and representation of objects that were obtained during or made as a result of the British Empire.*
>
> *This vital work allows museums to provide additional information and context to the items they hold; to enter into meaningful dialogue with source communities and those in the diaspora relevant to these collections; and, in some cases, to explore options for restitution. Museums have also recognised the need for structural change, through a more diverse workforce and leadership. While some progress has been made on this front, there is still much to do [….]*

Like many other heritage organisations across the county, the Museum has items in the collections that fit the Decolonisation criteria, and for Devizes in particular, this includes material associated with the Anstie tobacco factory, where there are links with the slave trade. There is work to do, reinterpreting and redisplaying this material in the *Story of Devizes Gallery* to create a more meaningful narrative to share with our audiences. The Museum has started to make links with groups in the community who can support this reinterpretation plan. These include the Devizes branch of Black Lives Matter, as well as a group of young people from Urchfont, who are recording the voices of those who have experienced rural racism. We are also making connections with a Devizes multi-faith group and the Wiltshire Race Equality Council. To facilitate this work and to ensure that it is undertaken properly, Wessex Museums is putting together a support package that can be built into both the Collections and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans. Museums staff who work with collections have also been attending various online webinars and workshops, including *Decolonising Collections, Exhibitions and Displays*, hosted by the South West Museums Development programme in March 2021.

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership brings together Dorset County Museum, Poole Museum, Salsbury Museum and the Wiltshire Museum. During the year the Wessex Museums Partnership progressed delivering the four year, Arts Council supported National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), project to improve collections care, enhance the exhibitions programme and work with new audiences. The Community Curator for Wiltshire, a shared post with Salisbury Museum, is developing links with community groups across the County.

The Partnership is supported by the Wessex Museums Trust, a charity that aims to support museums in Wiltshire and Dorset. The Trust fundraises to enable the delivery of projects that the individual museums are not able to undertake on their own and take a more active role in the management of the NPO. The Society is represented on the Board by the Director.

The focus during the year has been on how the Partnership could continue to support the Museum, particularly through the 'Wildlife in the Red' virtual exhibition and events programme. The Arts Council has been very supportive, extending the NPO programme for an additional year, giving valuable breathing space. The Trustees have also been deciding on options to transfer the responsibility for the ACE-funded programme from Poole Borough Council to the Wessex Museums Trust.

Stonehenge Museums Partnership

We have kept in regular contact during the year, developing joint marketing where this has been possible.

Lisa Brown and David Dawson

Wessex Museums and Contemporary Collecting

The Wessex Museums Partnership Contemporary Collecting Strategy and Action Plan (2020-25) were both approved in January 2020.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Action Plan has been updated to include collecting material under the theme 'Society and Health'. A small amount of material has already been added to the collections, including a bottle of Ramsbury Alcohol Hand Sanitiser, manufactured by the Ramsbury Brewing & Distilling Company, Aldbourne, and two plastic face visors made on a 3D printer at Market Lavington School, as part of the, Shield Wiltshire Covid Response Project.

Throughout lockdown, the Archive & Library volunteers have also been collecting material relating to Covid-19, with a specific focus on how the virus has impacted our rural communities.

The Museum is also supporting a Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living (CIL) Project, *Tales from the Town*. A co-produced project exploring the individual experiences of people from Devizes during lockdown, with an emphasis on hearing from those who's stories often go unheard.

The aim is to build on the kindness, neighbourliness, and community support shown in the town throughout these difficult times to create a mutually supportive recovery into not just a "new normal" but a better normal, where everyone feels welcome. The outcomes of the project will include a digital archive, with oral history recordings and photographs, which will eventually be archived at the Museum.

Archaeology Archives and Amesbury Store

The commissioning of a store in Amesbury, to accept the eight-year backlog of archaeological archives awaiting deposition, was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Work to progress the project would continue once the Curator and colleagues working in the post-excavation side of contractual archaeology returned from furlough. Installation of a mezzanine floor and roller racking would be undertaken first and once the space was prepared, the boxes for deposition would arrive in batches, which would ensure the items could be accessioned on to MODES (the museum's documentation system). The first and largest batch of archives - comprising some 750 boxes from Wessex Archaeology - will take two to three months to document.

Box fees would be charged after the transfer of title has been agreed with the landowner and contractor archaeology unit and the archives are deposited in the museum store. A small batch of paper archives, where the fieldwork yielded no finds, have already been transferred to the new store.

In March 2021, the Museum attended an online workshop delivered by the Archaeology Data Service, for the roll-out of the new Online Access to the Index of Investigations OASIS V.

OASIS is an online reporting system enabling archaeological and heritage practitioners to provide information about their investigations to regional Historic Environment Records and respective heritage organisations, including museums. The learning outcomes were to explain how OASIS can assist with communicating the archiving process; highlight the value of using OASIS as a coordinated, central system to record grey literature and archives; and describe how OASIS can assist with the archive deposition process.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Devizes Assize Court

In June 2020, the Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) appointed Purcell as architects to take forward plans to restore the building as a community hub and as the new home of the Wiltshire Museum. Work progressed swiftly on reviewing the detailed brief and developing plans for the building, led by Niall Phillips and Clare Phillips.

In September, during Heritage Open Days, a consultation was launched on the initial plans, with a socially distanced open-air exhibition at the rear of the building. Almost 150 people attended, giving useful feedback to the consultation, with over 200 people engaging online.

Imagemakers, an award-winning interpretive design consultancy, were commissioned by DACT to develop strategies for Interpretation and Audience Development, each essential to support funding applications. David Masters led on Interpretation and worked closely with Museum staff to identify key objects and stories from the collections and drew out how these might be developed with the building. The team also looked at how the space outside the building might be brought to life and how an impact can be made as people enter the building. Deborah Hodson led the work on Audience Development, preparing a series of consultation events, including a 'World Café' with stakeholders. A series of focus groups, run by Nicola Trowell and Sarah Gregson, involved more than 150 people, including youth and Alzheimers' groups and the local SureStart Centre. Lockdown meant that all the events were held online, and were successful in obtaining results.

Now complete, these documents and plans provide the background needed for grant applications to make the project a reality. A key potential funder, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was closed to new applications for much of the year, and announced new priorities in February 2021. A first Expression of interest was submitted in March, which although unsuccessful did receive positive feedback. A new Expression of Interest will be submitted which, if successful, will allow a Development Stage application to be submitted - the start of a long fundraising campaign. It is likely to be at least five years before the project is likely to be in a position where it can proceed.



Phil Harding and David Dawson outside the Assize Court, Devizes, September 2020

Strategic and Forward Plans

We are continuing to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Society and Museum to continue to thrive as the Assize Court project proceeds.

A detailed Forward Plan had been agreed for 2020-2021, including mounting an ambitious exhibition programme, commissioning our new store and delivering a busy events programme. The COVID pandemic meant that little of the Plan could be delivered, with most actions postponed or cancelled.

The Forward Plan for 2021-2022 picks up the areas of activity planned for last year that could not be delivered and takes into account the uncertainty around re-opening the Museum and continuing restrictions. The key priority for the year is the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, opening in September 2021 and featuring loans from national collections.

Wessex Museums Partnership

The Wessex Museums Partnership has developed a Business Plan for the 4 years of funding that meets Arts Council requirements. The Business Plan has been agreed by the WANHS Board and the Board receives minutes of all relevant meetings and is asked to agree an annual progress report and update to the Business Plan.

David Dawson

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the Law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the Income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate
- Presume that the company will continue to operate.

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

Internal risks are minimised by the establishment, documentation and regular review of a robust system of internal controls. Procedures have been implemented for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and monitored on a regular basis.

The Board continued to employ Rathbone Brothers Plc to manage both the investment portfolio and the endowment fund with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side, a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully and reported to the Trustees on a quarterly basis.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market which affect the investment portfolios, long-term staff or Trustee absence, inadequate staffing with dependence of a small team of full-time employees, physical risks to the collections or buildings from fire , theft or floods and reductions in grants from local authorities. The Trustees manage these risks by having an investment policy at the low end of medium risk with regular reviews from the investment managers, by having processes for trustee succession, by conducting reviews of staff availability and development and by regular reviews of security.

The Trustees consider, in line with the Charity Commission advice, that the Society should have unrestricted funds (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves) equivalent to at least one year's core costs, that is some £300,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be substantially greater than £300,000 to provide a measure of security since unrestricted funds are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities.

The Unrestricted Funds balance at 31 March 2021 was £728,632 (£695,868 at 31 March 2020).

The balance of Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) was £430,535 at 31 March 2021 (£378,628 at 31 March 2020). The purpose of Designated Funds can be changed by the Board of Trustees. However, it must be borne in mind that the Designated Funds are and have been used to meet expenditure not charged to core activities such as the running costs of the Hopton Store, the Librarian's salary and the depreciation charge on the Art Gallery and high security cases. Therefore, Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities.

Restricted Funds of £262,832 (£223,299 at 31 March 2020) must be used for a specific purpose. The capital of £407,444 (£348,744 at 31 March 2020) in the Endowment Fund is not distributable.

Included within the net book value of land and buildings of £301,471 is the land and buildings of the Museum. These assets are carried in the accounts at net book value of £114,540 (£114,540 at 31 March 2020). The net book value of this property is substantially smaller than its actual market value. There is provision in the Charity Accounting rules for tangible assets like the Museum land and buildings to be shown at market value in the accounts. However, the Trustees have decided that, for the moment, the property should be shown at net book value. This property is now used for the purposes of charitable activities but, if the Museum were to move, it may be available to generate funds to support the new opportunities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The continuing impact of the COVID-19 crisis has affected the financial performance of the society and can be summarised as follows:

Reduced revenue through lower levels of activity or cancellation of planned events. However, the Society benefited from members and the public's generosity through increased donations and legacies.

Additional costs associated with required mitigation.

Central government and Wiltshire Council grants specifically related to the COVID-19 crisis amounted to £101,861.

Performance of investments – following the initial shock the capital markets have recovered quite quickly and all the capital losses sustained in the previous accounting period have been recovered and are reflected in the carrying value of the Societies investments. In addition, investment income was significantly above trustee's initial expectations.

Unrestricted reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Designated Funds) decreased in the year by a net £19,143. This was due to losses on operating activities of £68,196 being offset by gains on investments of £49,053.

The operating deficit of £68,196 was £30,149 lower than the adjusted budget, mainly due to income from unbudgeted grants that were received from Wiltshire Council and others. Other significant variances within this result were management's decision to take additional income from the Sandell Trust (£20,625) and underspending across most expense areas due to the reduced level of activities. However, these positive variances were partially offset by a prior year VAT correction and current year adjustment (£24,653 in total) associated with the requirement to comply with the VAT cultural exemption rules.

Designated Funds increased during the year by £51,907 mainly because of investment income and gains.

The Society continues to receive support from Wiltshire Council with a grant of £11,880 in line with the previous year. This grant will be maintained at this level in 2021/22 but its continuation at this level or at all is not certain for future years. These funds are very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and we are extremely grateful for all the grants we receive.

Restricted Funds increased by investment income and gains to £262,832.

Investment income from the Society's main portfolio and from the Sandell Trust was £63,335 which was marginal down on the previous year (£1,487). A total of £20,000 was transferred out of the Society's main investment portfolio to meet expenditure requirements. The overall return on investments on the combined main and endowment portfolios and including income and capital gains was 19.56% compared with a loss of -4.12% the previous year. This positive performance of the Societies investments reflects the rebound in the value of capital assets during the year. The overall income return before investment management expenses was 2.86% compared with 3.54% the previous year reflecting the increase value of the assets against a relatively stable income stream.

The Society does not have a specific policy on social, environmental or ethical considerations. However, its investment managers have a corporate strategy that means that these are taken into account in all aspects of their business activities.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Fund's portfolio is managed at the low end of a medium risk mandate. The Endowment Fund balance has increased during the year by £58,449 driven by the gain on revaluation at 31 March 2021.

Under the terms of the Endowment Trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the Society at some future date to be decided by the Trustees. The Trustees have reserved the right to transfer income received by the Fund to unrestricted reserves from the year ended 31 March 2010. Net investment income of £8,564 after investment expenses of £3,583 was transferred to the unrestricted reserves during the year ended 31 March 2021.

COLLECTIONS TRUST

There are over 500,000 items in the Collections Trust of which 2,500 are displayed in the Museum. There are also some 30,000 items in the Archive and Library collections. Most of these items are assets which were acquired before 1 April 2005 and have no value placed on them in the accounts. These continue to be catalogued and conserved with some items on loan elsewhere as described on page 13. More recent items costing over £1,000 each and totalling £48,741 are included in the balance sheet at cost. During the year £2,655 was received in donations and legacies. These funds were used with existing cash balances to make acquisitions of £1,379 of items costing less than £1,000. These acquisitions are described on page 15 (for items in the Archive and Library) and page 14 for items in the main collections.

INCOMING RESOURCES AND LEGACIES RECEIVED

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised, the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to the unrestricted fund and restricted funds respectively. The accounts include £262,832 for restricted funds and £407,444 for the Endowment Fund. These funds are not available to the Society for general use and must, therefore, be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position. During the year donations of £250 were received for the Endowment Fund.

FORWARD PLAN

Each year the Board approves a Forward Plan that contains objectives and targets for the year. The 2020/21 Forward Plan contained targets within the following categories: exhibitions and displays; collections; development; projects; Assize Court; learning and outreach; and governance and core activities. Within the context of management resources good progress was made in most of these areas - see page 33.

PARTNERSHIPS

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and co-operation on exhibitions. Although, by mutual consent, the Directors have ceased to be nominees on the other's Board, good communication is maintained through the Wessex Museums Partnership. Supported by Arts Council England and led by Poole Museum Service, the partnership also includes Salisbury Museum and Dorset County Museum.

The support of Wiltshire Council in providing revenue grants to the Museum is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their nominated Trustees. We are pleased to continue working in partnership with English Heritage and Salisbury Museum through the Stonehenge Museums Partnership.

The Board is aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to build strong partnerships.

AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting in October 2019 and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on 30 September 2021,
and signed on their behalf by:

M J Nye
Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The latest Articles of Association were agreed by the members at the October 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Objects of the Society are detailed on the inner cover. The members of the Society are subscribing members; in the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

The Society is the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. The Collections Trust holds all the heritage assets in its collections. The Society does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property.

The Society is also the corporate trustee of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund, a linked charity, registration number 1080096. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Society's accounts but as a separate charity its funds do not form part of the Society's assets.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its Trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the Trustees".

The Society can have a maximum of 20 trustees. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer (the Officers) and nine Trustees are elected by the membership, with re-election after three years. Trustees, excluding the Officers, can serve a maximum of six years. Officers are elected annually from amongst the Trustees but can serve for no more than six years in any one role. As nominating bodies, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust, can each appoint one Trustee, and Wiltshire Council can appoint two Trustees. The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Trust no longer appoint a Trustee to the WANHS Board. The Trustees have the power to co-opt additional Trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they may be nominated and elected.

The Society is governed by the Board of Trustees which meets regularly throughout the year. It determines the general policy direction of the Society and discusses matters of importance to the Society. It approves and monitors budgets, Forward and Strategic Plans, all developments, the prioritisation and allocation of resources and approves trustee appointments. Trustees bring outside experience and knowledge which supports that of our small staff.

There is a Review and Development Committee which meets regularly to review the management and financial affairs of the Museum delegated to the Director and his staff. There are a number of standing committees and working groups are formed as needed to deal with specific issues.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed including those related to the operations and finances of the Society and Museum, Archive & Library, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Investment Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The Trustees have engaged Rathbone Investment Management as investment managers and a Finance Committee reviews the portfolio and investment strategy.

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The skills and experience of existing Trustees is reviewed annually and, together with future needs, taken into account when seeking new trustees. The Board has a succession plan and has drawn up a trustee role description. Vacancies are advertised to members and through archaeological and voluntary media. Prospective Trustees are invited to visit the Museum to discuss the role prior to a formal interview. A panel, including the Chair and Director, reviews applications and interviews candidates. References are obtained and checks on eligibility to be a trustee and company director made. Those who are considered suitable are recommended to the Board to go forward to the Society's AGM for election by members.

There is an induction process to help Trustees understand their new role. An induction pack includes information on governance, accounts for recent years, forward plans, minutes of recent Board meetings, policies and other relevant information. New Trustees receive copies of Charity Commission advice (e.g. *The Essential Trustee*), are signed up for their e-mail updates and receive a personal tour of the Museum, Archive & Library buildings. From time to time Trustees are offered training courses.

LEGAL INFORMATION

Names and registration numbers
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649 and a charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund is an unincorporated, linked charity, registration number 1080096.

PATRONS

J B Bush, CVO, OBE, CSt.J, JP
P Harding, DUniv, FSA, MIFA
D Inshaw
Mrs S R Troughton, CSt.J, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
M J Nye, MA (Cantab)

Deputy Chair:
A Hems, BA, PhD, AMA, FRSA

Hon. Treasurer:
C R Kelly, BSc, FCA, FloD

Elected Trustees:
C Callow, BSc, ARCS, MBCS (to 17.10.20)
R Cardiff
T Daw, MA (Oxon)
G Kenny, MA, PhD
A La Vardera, FCPFA, MSc
D S Miles, BA, MA, MIfA
L Robertson, MA, BSc

Nominated Trustees:
P Evans, Member, Wiltshire Council
Cllr. R. E. Gamble, BA (Hons), MIEx, Member, Wiltshire Council
Cllr. A. I. Johnson, Member, Devizes Town Council (died 25 May 2020)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF AS AT 31.3.2021

Director: David Dawson, BA, FSA, AMA
Curator*: Lisa Brown, BA (Hons), MA
Marketing & Administration Manager: Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Collections Officer: Archive & Library*: Jane Schön, BA (Hons), MA
Development Officer*: Rachael Holtom, BA (Hons), P.G. Dip, AMA
Exhibitions Officer*: Heather Ault, BA
Finance Officer*: Mandy Dixon
Learning & Outreach Officer*: Ali Rushent, BA, MA
Museum Assistant: Administration: Emma Sykes
Museum Assistant*: Jackie Davies
Projects Officer: Nicola Trowell, BA (Hons)
Research Officer: Archaeology*: Wil Partridge, PG Dip, BA (Hons)

Community Curator*: Sarah Gregson (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the Wessex Museums Partnership)
Finds Liaison Officer: Wil Partridge and Sophie Hawke (employed by The Salisbury Museum, funded through the British Museum and other partners)

*[*part-time]*

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors:
David Owen & Co., 17 The Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1BA

Bankers:
Lloyds TSB plc, 38 Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1JD

Investment Managers:
Rathbone Investment Management, 8 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7AZ

Company Secretary:
Mrs K P Jones, BA (Hons)

Hon. Solicitors:
Wansbroughs, Northgate House, Devizes, SN10 1JX

Editor - Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine:
Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street
Devizes
Wiltshire.
SN10 1NS

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Independent Auditors' Report
to the Members of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concerns
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The trustees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustee's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 34), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company or the purposes of company law)

are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees' are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustee's either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws and regulations that affect the company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws and regulations that we identified included the UK Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, tax legislation, data protection legislation and regulations imposed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with regards to the provision of insurance policies.
- We enquired of the trustees, reviewed correspondence with HMRC and reviewed meeting minutes for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the trustees have in place to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud.
- We enquired of the trustees about any incidences of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks. We identified the potential for fraud in the following areas: misappropriation of cash and other assets, undisclosed related party transactions outside the normal course of business.
- We critically reviewed judgements and provisions included within the financial statements and examined the associated cut-off issues. Prior period forecasts were compared to actual results to ensure past judgements made were reasonable in comparison with eventual outcomes.
- We reviewed financial statements disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above.
- We enquired of the trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We obtained independent confirmations from your bank regarding balances at the year-end in addition to any outstanding charges.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of internal controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Use of our Report

The report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Michael Buckland (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For an on behalf of David Owen & Co, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 The Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1BA
Date: 30 September 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	*Total Funds 2020*
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	1	172,765	-	250	**173,015**	*94,048*
Charitable activities	2	90,224	-	-	**90,224**	*215,800*
Other trading activities	5	33,286	-	-	**33,286**	*44,229*
Investments	7	16,222	5,614	12,147	**33,983**	*44,267*
Total		**312,497**	**5,614**	**12,397**	**330,508**	***398,344***
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	23,305	2,006	3,583	**28,894**	*55,926*
Charitable activities	9	368,791	-	-	**368,791**	*331,143*
Total		**392,096**	**2,006**	**3,583**	**397,685**	***387,069***
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	103,799	35,925	58,450	**198,174**	*(95,721)*
Net income/(expenditure)		24,200	39,533	67,264	**130,997**	*(84,446)*
Transfers between funds		8,564	-	(8,564)	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**32,764**	**39,533**	**58,700**	**130,997**	***(84,446)***
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		695,868	223,299	348,744	**1,267,911**	*1,352,357*
Total funds carried forward		**728,632**	**262,832**	**407,444**	**1,398,908**	***1,267,911***

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	15		310,155		318,342
Managed Investments					
Securities	16	853,167		729,270	
Cash		8,882		26,716	
			862,049		755,986
Managed Endowment Investments					
Securities	16	380,083		331,249	
Cash		26,910		17,295	
			406,993		348,544
Total Fixed Assets			1,579,197		1,422,872
Current Assets					
Stock		14,442		14,031	
Debtors	17	21,053		93,593	
Cash at Bank		83,475		61,000	
Total current Assets		118,970		168,624	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	145,343		157,712	
Net Current Liabilities			(26,373)		10,912
Total assets less current liabilities			1,552,824		1,433,784
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		153,916		165,873
			1,398,908		**1,267,911**
The funds of the Society					
Endowment Funds	22		407,444		348,744
Restricted income funds	23		262,832		223,299
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)	24		728,632		695,868
			1,398,908		**1,267,911**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The notes on pages 44 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

M J Nye, Chair

C R Kelly, Honorary Treasurer

30 September 2021

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(a)	(43,265)	(37,755)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		33,983	44,267
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,905)	(197,178)
Proceeds from sale of investments		125,384	236,125
Purchase of investments		(99,941)	(2,966)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		57,521	80,248
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		14,256	42,493
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	(b)	105,011	62,518
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	**(b)**	**119,267**	**105,011**

(a) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year as per the Statement of Activities	(130,997)	(84,446)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	10,092	9,647
(Gains)/losses on investments	(198,174)	95,721
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(33,983)	(44,267)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(411)	(292)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	72,540	(54,817)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(24,326)	40,699
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(43,265)**	**(37,755)**

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand (incl. investment cash)	119,267	105,011
	119,267	**105,011**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

(a) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2005), and

(b) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company qualifies as a small company under the Companies Act 2006 and under SORP. However, the Company has continued to comply with the requirements of large charities and to this end has produced a cash flow statement for the accounting period and comparative figures for the previous accounting period.

The Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value except for the discounting of the liability for the pension deficit or unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition unless capitalisation is required as a condition of the grant. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 5 years

Investments

Net gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed between realised gains and losses and unrealised gains and losses in note 14 to the financial statements. Investment income has been accounted for on the basis of the due date of payment. Investment income and gains and losses in the Main Fund are allocated between Unrestricted Funds (including Designated Funds) and Restricted Funds on the basis of the average net assets of those funds.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stock.

Incoming Resources

- Legacies are normally accounted for when received and, if not given for specific purposes as a condition of the will, are utilised either for general expenditure or for the purposes which the Trustees believe the Testator would have approved.
- Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.
- Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received.
- All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.
- Grants. Where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year, the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. In the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum Services, Library Services, Educational Services, etc.) this has been done on the assessment of the Director.

Pensions

During the year to 31 March 2021 pension provision was made for 9 employees by membership of a Pension Trust Scheme which is principally a defined contribution pension scheme. All employees who are not in the scheme are offered pension auto-enrolment into the scheme where applicable. Employer's contributions of £9,482 have been charged to staff costs as incurred. The Scheme has a limited guarantee on losses under the scheme for those members of staff who transferred to it. This has led to small additional amounts in respect of a deficit being recovered from the Society.

Some years prior to the year ended on 31 March 2017 the Society ceased to be a scheme employer in the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, as stated in the 2012 report, entered into an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse the deficit by payment of £21,000 for each year up to and including December 2031. Full provision of the liability was originally made in the accounts to 31 March 2016 for the amounts payable to December 2031, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period. An amount of £9,626 was charged in the accounts to 31 March 2020 for the adjustment to the provision for the amounts payable, discounted at 5% per annum over the payment period.

Reserves

The reserves at 31 March 2021 are located to Unrestricted Funds, Restricted Funds and Endowment Funds. Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting appropriate as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is a charity established to raise and hold capital, the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the Charity Registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but, as a separate charity, these funds do not form part of the Company's assets. The investment income from the Endowment Fund is credited to the Unrestricted Funds.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which own the Collections. On 3 March 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96(5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However, *"the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and hold the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company".*

Accounts for the Collections Trust have been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
1	**Income from Donations and Legacies**						
	Membership Subscriptions		41,568	-	-	**41,568**	**39,772**
	Donations and Tax Refunds		34,014	-	250	**34,264**	**16,026**
	Legacies		-	-	-	**-**	**5,000**
	Job Retention Scheme		64,183	-	-	**64,183**	**-**
	Income transferred by Old Society						
	Sandell Trust		33,000	-	-	**35,750**	**33,250**
			172,765	**-**	**250**	**173,015**	**94,048**
2	**Income from Charitable Activities**						
	Grants and Contributions	3	84,841	-	-	**84,841**	**177,389**
	Admissions		2,041	-	-	**2,041**	**23,647**
	Exhibitions Commissions		-	-	-	**-**	**10,517**
	Education Receipts		3,342	-	-	**3,342**	**4,247**
			90,224	**-**	**-**	**90,224**	**215,800**
3	**Income from Grants and Contributions**						
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge		15,185	-	-	15,185	**334**
	Cunnington Letters		4,750	-	-	4,750	**1,165**
	Community Curator Projects		900	-	-	900	**-**
	Devizes Town Council		-	-	-	-	**4,000**
	Ernest Cook Trust		-	-	-	-	**2,685**
	Ravilious		(38)	-	-	(38)	**3,160**
	Seeing the Light of Day		-	-	-	-	**2,519**
	Stonehenge Avebury Bus		-	-	-	-	**142**
	Wessex Museum Partnership		19,900	-	-	19,900	**23,007**
	Wiltshire Council		43,569	-	-	43,569	**138,680**
	WW1 Armistice Exhibition		-	-	-	-	**-**
	Sundry Contributions for Projects		575	-	-	575	**1,697**
			84,841	**-**	**-**	**84,841**	**177,389**

4	**Grants carried forward**	**2021 £**
	Arts Council - Wealth of Knowledge	8,015
	Cauldrons - Bromsgrove	556
	Devizes Area Tourism	1,257
	Ernest Cook Trust	1,703
	Ravilious	23,038
	Sasakawa Foundation	3,000
	Seeing the Light of Day	11,020
	Stonehenge - Avebury Bus	5,153
	Vale of Pewsey	10,174
	Wiltshire Council	2,262
		66,178

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	*Total 2020*
5	**Income from Other Trading Activities**		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	***£***
	Shop Sales	6	6,408	-	-	**6,408**	***19,105***
	Other Sales		34	-	-	**34**	***2,418***
	Museum Income		26,844	-	-	**26,844**	***22,317***
	Fund-raising Events		-	-	-	**-**	***389***
			33,286	**-**	**-**	**33,286**	***44,229***
6	**Shop Sales**						
	Shop sales		6,408	-	-	**6,408**	***19,105***
	Less Purchase cost		1,680	-	-	**1,680**	***11,765***
	Gross Profit		**4,728**	**-**	**-**	**4,728**	***7,340***
	Gross Profit % on sales					**73.78%**	***38.42%***
7	**Investment Income**						
	Income from Investments		16,222	5,614	12,147	**33,983**	44,267
			16,222	**5,614**	**12,147**	**33,983**	**44,267**
8	**Expenditure on Raising Funds**						
	Cost of Sales						
	Shop		1,680	-	-	**1,680**	***11,765***
	Salaries		9,111	-	-	**9,111**	***9,154***
	Members' services		3,068	-	-	**3,068**	***3,843***
	Marketing		20	-	-	**20**	***862***
	Fundraising costs		677	-	-	**677**	***15,567***
	Investment management costs		5,795	2,006	3,583	**11,384**	***12,695***
	Support costs		2,954	-	-	**2,954**	***2,040***
			23,305	**2,006**	**3,583**	**28,894**	***55,926***
9	**Expenditure on Charitable Activities**						
	Museum Services		206,479	-	-	**206,479**	***188,852***
	Library Services		33,614	-	-	**33,614**	***38,197***
	Educational work		28,503	-	-	**28,503**	***28,217***
	WANHM		13,742	-	-	**13,742**	***11,782***
	Support and governance costs		86,453	-	-	**86,453**	***64,095***
			368,791	**-**	**-**	**368,791**	***331,143***

Expenditure on Charitable Activities for Unrestricted Funds includes £10,344 (2020 £18,420) for Designated Funds.

Support and governance costs include audit fees of £6,000 (2020 - £6,000)

		Total 2021	*Total 2020*
10	**Staff costs**	**£**	***£***
	Wages and Salaries	202,385	*185,192*
	Social Security costs	9,637	*9,623*
	Pension costs	20,012	*19,434*
		232,034	***214,249***

Staff costs attributable to activities :	2021 £	2020 £
Cost of raising funds	9,104	*9,154*
Charitable activities:		
Museum	137,997	*117,248*
Library	25,702	*25,414*
Education	22,930	*24,265*
Governance	36,301	*38,168*
	232,034	***214,249***

In 2021 £0 of staff costs were funded from grants for projects. In 2020 £1,428 staff costs were funded from grants for projects.
Pension costs include £9,044 (2020: £9,951) relating to charges for deficits in previous years.
During the year £21,000 (2020: £21,000) was paid towards the liability for the Wiltshire Council Pension deficit (see note 20).
No employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000.
Key management personnel which consist of the Trustees and the Director were paid a total of £52,391 (2020 £52,809).
This amount is gross of employer's contributions towards pension and National Insurance.
The average number of employees in 2021 was 4 full time and 8 part time (2020: 4 full time and 8 part time).

11 Trustees' Expenses

No trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year.
Trustees' expenses totalling £0 (2020 £0) were paid during the year

12 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related Parties during the year 2021 (2020 - £0).

13 Operating Leases

Payments for operating leases for a telephone system and for a photocopier amounted to £2,842 (2020 £2,842) during the year. Minimum lease payments are to be made as follows:

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Not later than one year	2,834	*2,131*
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
	2,834	***2,131***

14 Gains/(losses) on investment assets	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Main Portfolio £	Endowment Portfolio £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Realised gains/(losses)	2,897	1,003	3,900	4,109	**8,009**	***(4,651)***
Unrealised gains/(losses)	100,902	34,922	135,824	54,341	**190,165**	***(91,070)***
	103,799	**35,925**	**139,724**	**58,450**	**198,174**	***(95,721)***

15 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land £	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Opening Cost at 1st April	72,750	298,352	25,520	**396,622**	***199,444***
Addition - EPOS System Till	-	-	1,770	**1,770**	***432***
Addition - Amesbury Facility Land Registry Fee	-	135	-	**135**	***196,746***
Closing Cost at 31st March	**72,750**	**298,487**	**27,290**	**398,527**	***396,622***
Accumulated Depreciation at 1st April	-	63,751	14,529	**78,280**	***68,633***
Charge in year	-	6,015	4,077	**10,092**	***9,647***
Accumulated Depr. at 31st March	**-**	**69,766**	**18,606**	**88,372**	***78,280***
Closing Net Book Value at 31st March	**72,750**	**228,721**	**8,684**	**310,155**	***318,342***

The freehold land and buildings transferred from the original unincorporated Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Charity no. 309534) in November 2003 were included in the balance sheet at book values. Other tangible fixed assets acquired or created since have been included at cost. The Trustees have decided not to apply a valuation to the property.

16 Quoted Fixed Asset Investments	Main Portfolio 2021 £	Endowment Portfolio 2021 £	*Main Portfolio 2020 £*	*Endowment Portfolio 2020 £*
Opening Market Value at 1st April	729,271	331,248	*1,005,352*	*384,047*
Purchases	46,995	52,946		*2,966*
	776,266	384,194	*1,005,352*	*387,013*
Sales	62,822	62,561	*220,520*	*15,605*
	713,444	321,633	*784,832*	*371,408*
Net profits/(losses) :				
Realised	3,900	4,109	*(1,279)*	*(3,373)*
Unrealised	135,823	54,341	*(54,283)*	*(36,786)*
Closing Market value at 31st March	**853,167**	**380,083**	***729,270***	***331,249***

17 Debtors	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Trade Debtors	2,422	*17,470*
Prepayments	13,214	*17,989*
Gift Aid refund receivable	4,766	*4,200*
VAT recoverable	651	*45,384*
Monies owed by the Collections Trust	-	*50*
Monies owed by the Old Society	-	*8,500*
	21,053	***93,593***

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Grants received in advance (note 4)	66,178	*70,138*
Trade Creditors	3,027	*19,420*
Accruals	18,723	*14,738*
Taxes including NIC	3,148	*2,955*
Pension Deficit Creditor, due within one year (see note 20)	20,442	*20,442*
Prepaid membership subscriptions	21,746	*21,378*
Other income in advance	12,079	*8,641*
	145,343	***157,712***

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		
	153,917	*165,873*
Pension deficit (see note 20)	**153,917**	***165,873***

20 Pension Deficit

The Society has an agreement with Wiltshire Council to reimburse a deficit with the Wiltshire Pension Fund in relation to two former employees by payment of £21,000 for each year up and including December 2031. Full provision, subject to discounting at 5% over time from 31 March 2018 has been made in creditors. The charge for the year to 31 March 2021 for the discounted part of the provision was £9,044 (2020 £9,626).

21 Analysis of net assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Fund values at 31 March are represented by:					
Tangible Fixed Assets	120,462	189,693	-	**310,155**	***318,342***
Managed Investments	820,307	41,742	406,993	**1,269,042**	***1,104,529***
Current Assets	87,122	31,397	451	**118,970**	***168,624***
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(145,343)	-	-	**(145,343)**	***(157,712)***
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(153,916)	-	-	**(153,916)**	***(165,873)***
	728,632	**262,832**	**407,444**	**1,398,908**	***1,267,910***

22 Endowment Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Investment expenses	Gain on investments	Inter-Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment Trust Fund	**348,744**	**12,397**	**(3,583)**	**58,450**	**(8,564)**	**407,444**

Income in the Endowment Trust Fund includes:	£
Donations	250
Investment Income	12,147
	12,397

The Endowment Trust Fund is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee. It is established to raise capital, the income from which will be paid to the Company for its general use. The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets.

23 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Investment income £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
English Heritage Fund	6,170	-	155	(55)	993	-	7,263
Legacies and Donations	30,438	-	765	(273)	4,897	-	35,827
Oexmann Fund	14,775	-	371	(133)	2,378	-	17,391
Amesbury Storage Facility	161,162	-	4,052	(1,448)	25,928	-	189,694
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	10,754	-	270	(97)	1,730	-	12,657
	223,299	**-**	**5,613**	**(2,006)**	**35,926**	**-**	**262,832**

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes :

English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects.
Legacies and Donations	Legacies and donations received for use in future projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition.
Wiltshire Environment Gallery	This fund was originally set up to cover the cost of Museum refurbishments to create a new Environmental Gallery. Discussions are proceeding to enable the Society to use some or all this money for the refurbishment of the office suite and the purchase of essential equipment.

These fund balances at 31 March 2021 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2021.

24 Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Donations and Legacies £	Other Income (incl. investment income) £	Expenses (incl. investment expenses) £	Gain on investments £	Inter-Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds:							
Archaeology Field Group	-	-	1,955	-	-	-	1,955
Improvement Fund	11,652	-	293	(105)	1,875	-	13,715
Library Fund	1,834	50	46	(28)	295	-	2,197
Programme Committee	14,514	-	365	(130)	2,335	-	17,084
Publications Fund	19,170	-	482	(172)	3,084	-	22,564
Ready to Borrow Applied	38,347	-	-	-	-	-	38,347
Shearing Library Fund	95,788	-	2,408	(5,258)	15,411	-	108,349
The Crofton Story	701	-	18	(441)	113	-	391
Wiltshire Life	196,622	-	4,943	(7,265)	31,633	-	225,933
	378,628	50	10,510	(13,399)	54,746	-	430,535
Other unrestricted funds	317,240	172,715	129,222	(378,697)	49,053	8,564	298,097
	695,868	**172,765**	**139,732**	**(392,096)**	**103,799**	**8,564**	**728,632**

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees and which remain part of the unrestricted funds) is currently:

Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity.
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Museum.
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management.
Programme Committee	To finance members' events.
Publications Fund	To finance publications. (The expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks)
Ready to Borrow Applied	The balance represents capital expenditure funded by Ready to Borrow Grant and contributions used to defray the depreciation costs of new tangible fixed assets over their useful life.
Shearing Library Fund	To finance the cost of employing a part-time Librarian and small library equipment purchases.
Wiltshire Life	To finance the care and development of the Wiltshire Life Society Collections. The expenditure consists of direct costs and does not include curatorial charges.

Allocation of expenditure from Designated Funds is reviewed regularly. The timing of expenditure is over a period which matches requirements of each purpose, potentially over a number of years. These fund balances at 31 March 2021 are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank. Investment returns have been allocated pro-rata to the average balance of individual funds in the year to 31 March 2021.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
Income and Endowments from:	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	2,655	-	2,655	396
Charitable activities:				
Grants	-	-	-	-
Sale proceeds	-	-	-	-
	2,655	-	2,655	396
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Acquisitions costing less than £1,000				
Museum	1,076	-	1,076	570
Library	303	-	303	712
	1,379	-	1,379	1,282
Costs				
Sundry	-	-	-	-
	1,379	-	1,379	1,282
Net income/(expenditure)	1,276	-	1,276	(886)
Balance at 1 April 2020 brought forward	51,087	-	51,087	51,973
Balance at 31 March 2021 carried forward	52,363	-	52,363	51,087

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2021

Heritage Assets		
Opening balance	46,271	46,271
Acquisitions over £1,000	2,470	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	48,741	46,271
Current Assets		
Cash in Bank	3,672	4,866
Total current assets	3,672	4,866
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	50	50
Net current assets	3,622	4,816
Total assets less current liabilities	52,363	51,087

The Funds of the Trust	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income, Grants & Donations	Inter Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds - Museum and Art	46,835	2,655	-	1,379	48,111
Restricted Funds	4,252	-	-	-	4,252
	51,087	2,655	-	1,379	52,363

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Museum and Art Collections: The collections fall within the definition of heritage assets for the purposes of the Charities SORP.

Accounting Policies:
1. No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1 April 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by the users of the financial statements.

2. The Trustees have adopted a policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of purchase.

3. Acquisitions costing in excess of £1,000 are capitalised and stated at cost as heritage assets.

4. No depreciation is provided on heritage assets as all are deemed to have indefinite lives.
Policies for acquisition, disposal and conservation of heritage assets meet Accreditation Standard, which has been awarded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Summary of Transactions:	**Year to:**				
	31.03.2021	**31.03.2020**	**31.03.2019**	**31.03.2018**	**31.03.2017**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost of acquisitions of heritage assets	2,470	-	2,325	2,200	3,300
Value of assets acquired by donation and not reported in the Balance Sheet					
Carrying amount of heritage assets disposed of and proceeds received					
Cost of assets written off in year of purchase as per accounting policy	1,379	1,282	2,054	3,835	2,295

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Charity No: 1080096 Company No. 3885649
MINUTES OF THE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
held on Saturday 17 October 2020, commencing at 2.30 pm

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which had been declared in March 2020 and government regulations restricting movements and gatherings the meeting was held online, via Zoom video-conferencing. A few were in attendance at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

01/20 Present

Trustees: Mr M J Nye (Chair) and Mr C R Kelly (Hon Treasurer), at the Museum and Mr A La Vardera, Mr R Gamble and Mr D Miles online; and 30 members of the Society (two at the Museum and the remainder online).

In Attendance

At the Museum: Mr D Dawson (Director). Online: Mrs K P Jones (Minute Taker and Company Secretary).

02/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Mr R Cardiff (WANHS Trustee), Mrs J Dando, Mr P Evans (WANHS Trustee), Mr A Heasman, Mrs G Swanton, Mr D Uren.

03/20 Chair's Opening Address

The Chair, Martin Nye, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (Company limited by Guarantee), whether at the Museum or online. He advised that the AGM would be run as normally as possible in the circumstances. The Director outlined how Zoom conferencing would work and how members could vote and ask questions.

The meeting acknowledged those members of the Society who had died since the last AGM: Mr Julian Brown, Lady Teresa Carter, Miss Penny Copland-Griffiths, Mr Colin Davies, Mrs Pamela Gough, Susan Graney, Mr Lionel Grundy, OBE, Mr Michael Handford, Mr Frank Howells, Mr Andrew Johnson (WANHS Trustee and Devizes Mayor), Mrs Adrienne Massey, Mr Adrian Mills, Mrs Carol Part, Mr William Ralph, Mr James Russell, Mr A J F Smith, Mr Eric Stanford, Mr Lindsay Symon, Mr Kenneth Watts and Mr Malcolm White.

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/20 Minutes of meeting held 19 October 2019
Proposed by Mr A La Vardera and seconded by Mr R Gamble, the minutes of the AGM held on 19 October 2019 were adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed nem con.
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05/20 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

a) Report by the Chair

Where to begin – a year like no other! It was all going so well …with impressive engagement with an ever-widening range of audiences – and then the seismic impact of the coronavirus. For probably the first time in its long history, the Museum had to shut its doors. David and his team certainly rose to the occasion, demonstrating professionalism, commitment and flexibility through some extraordinary difficulties and disruptions. We had to use the Government's furlough scheme to minimise the financial impact, which meant that those staff who continued to work had even greater burdens placed upon them.

Despite this, the team produced a wide range of on-line talks, social gatherings and material for children to entertain, inform and engage our community which has undoubtedly helped many people cope with the challenges of the pandemic. And there has been an enormous amount of work planning and operating the re-opening of the Museum to the public over the last couple of months, which had been very well received.

At times like this there is greatly increased awareness of the positive contribution that museums, collections and their related stories make to increasing well-being and sense of belonging. On behalf of all the Trustees and members, I want to thank David and all his team – in alphabetical order – Ali, Emma, Heather, Jackie, Jane, Karen, Lisa, Mandy, Nicola, Rachael, Sarah and Wil - for their sterling work in such challenging circumstances – it really is appreciated by us all. My thanks also to my fellow trustees for their support and help, and to the large number of volunteers without whom the Society would not be able to function.

At the end of the meeting further details about the Assize Court will be given. The Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) have made sure that the building is weatherproof to minimise further deterioration, and architects Purcell have produced some exciting initial designs. The Society is working closely with DACT to give the building a new life, telling the story of its original function, providing a fitting home for the Museum's collections and playing a pivotal role in the regeneration of Devizes. The universal support for the outline proposals during recent consultations was most encouraging, showing that the community is right behind what we are trying to do. In due course a significant fund-raising campaign will be launched - inevitably this will have been made more difficult and take longer because of the impact of the pandemic.

WANHS' own finances have of course been directly impacted by the loss of much of our revenue and fund-raising activities, and by the reduction of the value of our investment portfolios and the lower dividends being paid. However, thanks to the diversity of income sources we have, including our greatly valued members' subscriptions, grants from Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council, the Arts Council and others, legacies and gifts, we are currently weathering the storm as Chris will show you shortly. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continuing support at this critical time. We really do depend on you.

b) Report by the Treasurer

Mr Chris Kelly presented his first report as Treasurer. He started by thanking Mr La Vardera for the handover he received, and his continuing advice to him and the Society. Mr La Vardera had initiated many of the improvements in the accounting process. Through

a series of slides Mr Kelly highlighted the financial situation in the year to 31 March 2020.

Fundamentally the finances for the year to 31 March 2020 had been good, but were impacted in the last quarter by the Covid-19 pandemic, with events cancelled or postponed to the following year. Income and expenditure were both down in the year, and the investment portfolio showed at loss at the year end, compared to the previous year. Assets had increased due to the acquisition of a new archaeology store, although this reduced investments in the portfolio. We had not received the same value of legacies as we had in 2018/19; income for charitable activities increased due to a grant from Wiltshire Council for the purchase of the archaeology store. Funds raised from Museum events and activities were impacted by Covid-19 as events were postponed or cancelled. As a result the creditors figure on the Balance Sheet was higher than usual, as revenue for postponed events was carried forward. There was nothing major to report on expenses.

The Treasurer had reviewed core performance for the past two financial years, against a 4-year average. This showed net income of £273,000 against an average of £306,000 and core loss (expenses) of £114,000, against an average of £91,000. However, as there has been a reduction of £40,000 in recurring grants the situation was not as bad as it appears. The challenge was to increase revenue by 20-25% to close the gap to core loss. He did not believe that costs could be reduced further without reducing the activities provided.

A summary of movement on the investment portfolio was shown to the meeting, opening at £1.4m and closing at just over £1m, due to transactions during the year and its value at 31 March 2020. However, the stock market had since recovered and in October the portfolio was valued at £1.2m.

Financial challenges remained for the Society. A number identified last year had been completed, e.g. purchase of archaeology store, VAT issues and new accounting system; and recovery from Covid-19 had been added. Ongoing challenges remained rising running and exhibition costs and static operational income; political and economic uncertainty affecting the value of investments; and reliance on legacies and donations. We really had to focus on how to generate regular income, to ensure that legacies and donations were 'the icing on the cake rather than the cake'.

The Treasurer reported that the VAT charged on the purchase of the archaeology store had been reclaimed. A review of our VAT process had highlighted that we were in error in claiming cultural exemption, e.g. we were applying VAT to admission charges. Our system had been reviewed with a VAT consultant and external accountants and reported to HMRC. No fine was imposed as we had declared the error, which had not been picked by a HMRC audit, and £17k had subsequently been repaid to HMRC.

A new accounting system had been introduced during the financial year to 31 March 2020. This had been set up and data transferred by external accountants. The new system allowed for online access enabling the Hon Treasurer to access records easily.

Covid-19 was a serious challenge, with a major impact on cashflow. Cash burn was approximately £20,000 per month. Excluding legacies due and unforeseen grants or income a recovery plan would be drafted to look at revenue generation in the Covid-world. Would look at ways to generate income (online events, subscriptions etc) and to make the new normal work for us.

On a question from a member Mr Kelly advised that the Society did not qualify as a large charity in 2019/20, although it had in 2018/19 – being based on level of income.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 are available from the Museum's website or on request from the Museum Office.

c) Report by the Director

The Director highlighted a number of activities from the past year, current activities and plans for the future. He highlighted some of the key highlights added to the collection in the year, including the donation of a microscope once owned by William Cunnington III, a mourning ring, in memory of Maria Heathcote, who's portrait hangs in the lobby of Devizes School [DETAILS], a penny struck in Wallingford and found in Collingbourne and items belonging to Norah Ussher who had been prominent in the local suffrage movement. The collections continued to be used by researchers with an average of 30 post-graduates visiting every year. Research and reports continued to be published in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine, thanks to the hard work of the editorial team.

A building had been acquired during the year to be used as a store for the archaeology collection. It had not been possible to progress the commission of this however due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in due course it would hold material from excavations in the county. Some work did continue during the period with the conservation of letters sent to William Cunnington I taking place, with the support of a grant from the Association of Independent Museums and donations from members.

The Alchemy exhibition in May 2019, an exhibition which toured the Wessex Museums, had been very well received and would be going to a London gallery in 2021. A busy exhibition programme had been planned, although some dates were changed due to the pandemic. Another popular, although brief event, had been a small exhibition of finds from Barrow Clumps, to accompany the launch, at the Museum, of the publication [DETAILS]. Library volunteers had also used the Long Room to display small exhibitions, a notable one being about the Great Storm of 30 December 1857. Items from the collection were included in a touring exhibition of America, which may go to Australia and New Zealand in 2021/22.

Talks and walks continue to be very popular and the Director thanked all the speakers and leaders who gave their time, often not requesting a fee. Sadly 2020 had seen a reduction in these. The activities of the Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group had also been curtailed by the pandemic, although there had been much post-excavation work on the finds from Mother Anthony's Well at Bromham before the pandemic. Activities for children had continued with holiday activities, Young WANHS and Curious Kids, the latter

being particular with dads.

As everyone knew, the Covid-19 pandemic struck early in 2020 with the Museum having to close on 17 March 2020 until early July 2020, but special measures introduced and limited hours. Despite this a school had visited and sessions had also been delivered online. Events scheduled for the closure period had been rearranged as online events, including the Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference. A stall had been taken in the Shambles Market in Devizes to sell Charity Christmas Cards, promote the Museum and show draft plans for the Devizes Assize Court. The Out of Egypt exhibition (online from the Hampshire Cultural Trust), had opened in August (originally scheduled to open in April), although without many of the activities originally planned. The 2021 exhibition programme would include an exhibition of works donated to the Museum collection featuring Wiltshire landscapes, the Oexmann Art Award Competition and of course the Ravilious exhibition was now scheduled to open in late-September 2021 instead of 2020 as originally planned.

The Director thanked members, colleagues and volunteers for all they had done, as without their contribution we would not do anything.

Thanks were received from the audience for the excellent reports and endorsed the Chair's thanks to all the staff for their efforts during the year. It was noted that research access to the collections would commence once the Curator was off-furlough leave and dealt with the backlog of work. It would take longer to get the Archive & Library to reopen with Covid-measures, but this would progress as quickly as staff time and resources allowed.

Proposed by Mr C Callow and seconded by Mr M McQueen, the meeting received the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020, together with the Auditors Report. One abstention.

Proposed by Mr C Callow and seconded by Mr M McQueen, the meeting received the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020, together with the Auditors Report. One abstention

06/20 Election of Trustees

There were two nominations this year – both Mr Alfred La Vardera and Mr Dan Miles were standing for re-election. Both had been proposed and seconded prior to the meeting.

No objection was raised to electing both in one resolution and the meeting duly re-elected Mr A La Vardera and Mr D Miles to the Board of Trustees. One abstention.

07/20 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mr C R Kelly and seconded by Mr C Callow, the meeting re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration.

08/20 Any Other Business

The meeting was opened to members and one item, which had been suggested by a member prior to the meeting was raised. The Society was asked to consider a memorial to Dr Lorna Haycock, the former Sandell Librarian, who had died in April 2019. Some ideas had been suggested, such as the using a legacy received to purchase display cases for the Long Room or an essay competition, but others were welcome. It was hoped to progress these during the year.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for joining the meeting. The meeting closed at 3.31 pm.

The meeting was followed by presentation about plans for the Devizes Assize Court, and responses from a recent public consultation, by David Dawson.

Date of next Meeting: Saturday 16 October 2021

To be held at Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, Wiltshire