

Registered Company Number  
Registered Charity Number

6683052  
1128575

# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

**Report of the Directors and Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the year ended  
31 August 2024**

# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

## **Report of the Directors and Trustees and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2024**

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# Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

## Directors, Trustees and Advisors

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Registered Charity Number	1128575
Registered Company Number	6683052
Registered Office	Meadowside, Main Street, Kings Norton, Leicester LE7 9BF
President	HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur, Esq, OBE
Patrons	The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester The Bishop of Leicester President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University Vice-Chancellor and President, Loughborough University John Aldridge, Esq, OBE, DL Major Richard Bream, TD, DL Baroness Byford, DBE, DL Baron Glendonbrook, CBE Jennifer, Lady Gretton, DCVO, JP Lars Tharp, Esq, DL David Wilson, Esq, CBE, DL Professor Michael Wood, OBE
Directors and Trustees	Squire Gerard de Lisle, DL (Resigned 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024) Gordon Arthur, Esq Robert Collins, Esq, MVO, DL Professor Christopher Dyer, CBE Simon Gravett, Esq (Company Secretary) Dr Richard Jones Professor Elizabeth Tingle (Appointed 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023) Professor Marilyn Upstone Dr David Wykes (Appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024)
Sub Committee Members	Mrs Carol Cambers Dr Pamela Fisher Dr David Holmes (Resigned 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024) Freddie de Lisle (Appointed 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024)
Independent Examiner	Barry Thompson, Esq
Solicitors	Shakespeare Martineau One Colton Square, Leicester, LE1 1QH
Bankers	HSBC Plc 2-6 Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, LE1 1DA

# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

## **Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees**

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The Directors and Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### **Patrons, Directors and Trustees**

The Patrons, Directors and Trustees are listed on page 2.

The Trust continues to refresh its membership. During the year the chairman of the Board, Squire Gerald de Lisle, announced his intention to stand down after almost 20 years of service. After consultations in the autumn of 2024, it was decided to invite Gordon Arthur, an existing Trustee, to succeed him. He agreed to take on the role.

A new candidate to join the Trustees was Dr David Wykes, the former Director of Dr William's Library in London, who has many historical publications to his credit. His nationwide links with other historians of nonconformity will be of benefit to the Trust, and he also lives in Leicester and has many connections with local heritage bodies.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 28 August 2008, company number 6683052. It was registered as a charity on 16 March 2009, charity number 1128575. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, approved by the Directors on 11 February 2009.

The Directors and Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Additional Directors may be appointed by ordinary resolution of the board.

The board of Directors and Trustees has ultimate legal responsibility for our organisation and works to ensure good governance, with the help of its committees. The board agrees the overall strategic direction and is our highest decision-making body. Its members are volunteers. They work alongside the executive committee, who are responsible for the implementation of policy and for the management of the day-to-day running of the organisation.

The board is committed to ensuring that governance arrangements are effective and relevant, as well as ensuring that the board members reflect the breadth of the services we provide. The board are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The board's responsibilities also extend to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements.

### **Objects**

The objects of Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust are:

- To further the education of the public in the history of the county of Leicestershire and its communities and to promote and foster public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the history of the area in general.
- To commission, facilitate and promote research into the history of the county of Leicestershire and its communities and to disseminate the useful results of such research for the public benefit.



# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

## **Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees - continued**

### **Public Benefit**

In exercising their powers and duties, the Directors and Trustees have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust aims to provide (when funds allow) a volunteer programme which is open to anyone in Leicestershire with an interest in the county's history. It provides free training in historical research methods, including skills that the volunteers will be able to use in employment or in other voluntary activities. Sections are being published online as research is completed and are published within books to provide local people and the public more generally with a definitive and accurate history of the towns and villages within the county. The Trust works with schools when funds permit, to provide educational packs that meet the needs of local teachers and the curriculum, and to enthuse and inform pupils about the history of their communities.

### **Activities, Research and Publications**

A book on Ibstock, after a delay caused by Covid, was launched with much local enthusiasm in the autumn of 2023.

Our research into Loughborough's history has continued, and with the help of the grants mentioned in the next section we have been able to increase the pace. Excellent progress was made towards our first of two Loughborough paperbacks, a social and cultural history of the town since 1750. The sections on religious life and on the town's educational providers were completed, and substantial progress was made on other social history topics, including Loughborough's two workhouses and the town's sports grounds and teams. We also began to publicise some of our findings online through websites provided by others as we aim to reach the widest possible audience. Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society published a blogpost written by Dr Pamela Fisher on 'Loughborough's First Workhouse', available online at <https://lahs.org.uk/blog/loughboroughs-first-workhouse> and an article on 'Loughborough's Second Workhouse' was written for the Lynne-About-Loughborough site, at <https://lynneaboutloughborough.blogspot.com/2024/08/loughboroughs-second-workhouse.html>.

During 2024 the central office of the VCH indicated that counties should make their own publishing arrangements, though with continued quality assurance from the London staff. The Leicestershire VCH Trust has made a provisional arrangement with a reputable publisher for future volumes.

Work is also underway on our second Loughborough paperback, which will focus on Loughborough's farms and industries since 1750. Meanwhile, Dr Andrew Watkins has continued to make progress on the rural history of the parish in the medieval period, looking at the demesne (manorial) farm and the lives of the peasant farmers. Volunteers are also continuing to transcribe probate records from the early modern period.

Once again, we attended both meetings of the Loughborough Heritage Forum, in October 2023 and April 2024. Convened by Loughborough Local Studies Library volunteers, sponsored by Loughborough Building Society and supported by Charnwood Borough Council, all organisations and individuals with an interest in researching and promoting the history and heritage of the town attend these meetings to share information about their activities. We are finding these meetings very useful for hearing about other projects, making contacts, supporting the work of others and publicising our own work.

We have taken several opportunities to share our research with the public by delivering talks and attending events arranged by others. We joined other heritage organisations from Leicestershire and across the East Midlands counties at the second Heritage Hub event organised by the University of Leicester, where we were able to discuss our research with members of the public.



# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

## **Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees - continued**

We were delighted to be invited to deliver a brief talk for the Friends of the Centre for Regional and Local History at the University of Leicester as part of their annual Hoskins Day. Interest in local history continues to be strong across the country, and 50 members of Cosby Heritage Society attended a talk we were asked to give on the history of Lutterworth, where we also sold some of our published history of this town. We were also made very welcome when we returned to Castle Donington as part of the national Festival of Archaeology, where Dr Pamela Fisher led a tour of the church and talked about its interesting history and its three prominent monuments in stone, brass and alabaster.

Since the year end, we have started a new volunteer project on the history of Nanpantan, which will feed into our Loughborough paperbacks. Over 20 volunteers are meeting at Home Farm in Nanpantan to help with this research. We are very grateful to Charnwood Forest Geopark and the Heritage Fund for their financial support for this work.

### **Fund raising and future prospects**

Not all the Trust's applications and negotiations for funding are successful, but during the year the funds contained in the Bequest which featured in last year's report at last became available to spend. We were also successful in an application for £5000 to the Aurelius Charitable Trust, and a further separate grant of £500 was made by the Aurelius Trust. Eventually an earlier application for £5000 to the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was approved. The VCH Trust maintains its relationship with this society. Trustees have also been in discussion with the National Forest which is taking initiatives in developing the heritage of north-west Leicestershire. The Trust continues to receive a steady revenue stream from its Friends and 200 Club.

### **Financial Review**

The financial position of Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust is set out in the financial statements on pages 9 to 12. These show total incoming resources of £33,260 and expenditure of £24,884 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £8,376.

The financial position is sound. Total net assets at 31 August 2024 were £25,264, which included £9,826 of restricted funds. A balance of £23,945 was held in the Trust's bank accounts.

The Directors and Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be satisfactory. The activities of the charity are carefully tailored to match available resources. Budgets are drawn up and monitored closely and costs kept to a minimum through many hours of donated time given freely by several highly skilled people. The Directors and Trustees aim to ensure that the Trust's reserves do not fall below six months' anticipated expenditure and believe that this policy is appropriate and will be met throughout the next year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, when it will be reviewed again.

### **Responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The Directors and Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with Charities Act and Companies Act requirements.

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees - continued

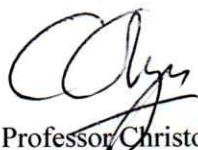
The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these statements the Directors and Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Comply with applicable accounting regulations and standards and statements of recommended practice, with any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare financial statements on the "going concern" basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Directors and Trustees confirm that these financial statements comply with the above requirements, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

The Directors and Trustees are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report and these financial statements have been approved at a meeting of the Directors and Trustees held on 18th February 2025 and are signed on behalf of the board of Directors and the Trustees by



Professor Christopher Dyer  
Director and Trustee



Simon M Gravett  
Director and Trustee

18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

# Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

## Directors' Remuneration Report

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It is confirmed that the Directors of Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust have received no emoluments for their services and no expenses have been claimed by them for travel, subsistence, entertainment or any other purpose.



Professor Christopher Dyer  
Director and Trustee



## **Independent Examiner's Report**

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, which are set out on pages 9-12.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Barry Thompson  
47, Maplewell Road,  
Woodhouse Eaves,  
Leicestershire, LE12 8RG



# Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities, incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income	2	9950	22696	32646	13963
Interest income			356	356	59
Gift aid			258	258	308
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>9950</b>	<b>23310</b>	<b>33260</b>	<b>14330</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Cost of generating funds	3	2950	3054	6004	5428
Charitable activities					
- Research & volunteer training		1798	17069	18867	12077
Governance costs			13	13	13
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>4748</b>	<b>20136</b>	<b>24884</b>	<b>17518</b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit) for the period</b>		<b>5202</b>	<b>3174</b>	<b>8376</b>	<b>-3188</b>
Total funds brought forward		4624	12264	16888	20075
Add net income / (deficit)		5202	3174	8376	-3188
Reclassification of costs					
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>9826</b>	<b>15438</b>	<b>25264</b>	<b>16887</b>

The notes on pages 11-12 form part of these financial statements

# Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

## Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank	23945	12183
Debtors	3008	6516
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>26953</b>	<b>18699</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors	1689	1812
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1689</b>	<b>1812</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>25264</b>	<b>16887</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>25264</b>	<b>16887</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Restricted income funds	9826	4623
Unrestricted income funds	15438	12264
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>25264</b>	<b>16887</b>

The notes on pages 11-12 form part of these financial statements

For the year ending 31 August 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.



Professor Christopher Dyer  
Director and Trustee

18th February 2025



# Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historic cost convention, in accordance with the requirements for charitable companies under the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 'Accounting by Charities' and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

Unrestricted funds have not been designated for any specific purpose and are available for use at the discretion of the Directors and Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity. Restricted funds relate to donations received which are to be used for a purpose specified by the donor.

	<b>Restricted funds 2024</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024</b>	<b>Total funds 2024</b>	<b>Total funds 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>2. Voluntary income</b>				
Donations - Friends scheme		1005	1005	1025
Other donations and grants	7000	19081	26081	6150
Book Sales		841	841	1708
Event income				520
200 Club Income & funds transfer	2950	1770	4720	4560
<b>Total</b>	<b>9950</b>	<b>22697</b>	<b>32647</b>	<b>13963</b>
<b>3. Cost of generating funds</b>				
Administration		140	140	
Marketing & Publicity		1860	1860	590
Book & launch costs				1512
Event costs		718	718	173
200 Club prizes	1180		1180	1140
200 Club funds transfer of cash	1770		1770	1710
Bank charges		140	140	141
Sundry other costs (excl governance)		196	196	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>2950</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>6004</b>	<b>5428</b>

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust has no employees in the period covered by these Accounts, but has benefited from the services of several employees of the University of Leicester. None of them is a Director of the company or a Trustee of the charity, except for Dr Richard Jones.

# **Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements continued**

### **4. Taxation**

The company is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

### **5. Contingent liabilities**

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 August 2024.

### **6. Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments at 31 August 2024

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