

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 2025

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

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Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

Directors, Trustees and Advisors

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, CStJ
Patrons	The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester The Lord 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 (Chairman) (resigned 10th September 2024) Gordon Arthur, Esq (Chairman from 10th September 2024) Robert Collins, Esq, MVO, DL Professor Christopher Dyer, CBE Simon Gravett, Esq (Company Secretary) Dr Richard Jones Professor Elizabeth Tingle Professor Marilyn Upstone Dr David Wykes
Sub Committee Members	Mrs Carol Cambers Dr Pamela Fisher Freddie de Lisle (Appointed 21st 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

The Directors and Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Patrons, Directors and Trustees

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

As planned and mentioned in last year's Report, the chairman of the Board, Squire Gerard de Lisle, stepped down shortly after our year began, on 10 September 2024, after almost 20 years of service. He has been succeeded as Chairman by Gordon Arthur, one of our longest serving Directors and Trustees.

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

Research on Loughborough continues, and we are pleased to advise that we have now received sufficient grant funding to be able to publish the first of three books with a focus on Loughborough. *Loughborough Since 1750: A Social and Cultural History* is on course to be published in Spring 2026. The second paperback will cover the working life of Loughborough and its people since 1750, including related topics such as the completion of canals and railways and the introduction of gas, electricity and clean water. Work is in progress on this book, with the date of publication currently uncertain and dependent upon further fundraising, which is underway. These two paperbacks will be published by HobNob Press, a growing local history publisher based in Gloucester who have impressed us with the standard of their other publications. The third book will be one of the iconic VCH 'big red books' and will be a history of Loughborough and some neighbouring villages from the earliest records to the present day. Some work towards this volume, for example on medieval Loughborough, has been completed through specific grants, but much more work will be required.

During the year we also began and completed a piece of research on the history of Nanpantan. This small village on the southern fringe of Loughborough is gradually becoming a suburb to the town through ribbon development along Forest Road and housing development on former Nanpantan farmland. Nanpantan's history was largely unexplored. Almost all that was known was that between 1794 and 1803 coal and minerals from west Leicestershire were transferred at Nanpantan from barges on the Charnwood Forest canal to wagons on a railroad for the final stage of their journey to Loughborough (with some travelling on to Leicester by another canal). We were very grateful to be awarded a grant from Charnwood Forest Geopark, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable us to recruit a group of local volunteers to help us to dig deeper into Nanpantan's past.

This was a 4-month project with volunteers looking at online sources, including historic census returns and newspapers, to build a picture of the village, along with information collected from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland at Wigston and The National Archives in Kew, west London. We discovered that Nanpantan, with no more than a dozen or so houses in 1883, had by then become a popular destination for days out, and on a single sunny summer day could receive many hundreds of visitors seeking refreshment. Our project concluded with a public event at Nanpantan Hall in March 2025 attended by 100 people. More information and two self-guided walks are available on our website at https://leicestershirehistory.co.uk/?page_id=5351

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees – continued

Since the year-end we have received a second grant from Charnwood Forest Geopark and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project to research and write a brief historical 'Digest' for twenty places in the Charnwood Forest Geopark area, outlining their history. These will go online on the Geopark website. The project began in December 2025 and will end in December 2026. We have recruited a professional historian to help us with this work and will recruit volunteers to assist with the research from February 2026.

We remain members of the Loughborough Heritage Forum, which meets twice each year and helps to keep us in touch with Charnwood Borough Council and organisations and individuals with an interest in researching and promoting Loughborough's history and heritage. We attended the annual Heritage Hub event held at the University of Leicester and also had a stall at Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society's local history fair, held at Oakham. During the year we have delivered talks about our work to the Friends of Charnwood Forest at Woodhouse Eaves in January 2025, to the Rotary Club of Leicester in April and, also in April, to Rugby Archaeological Society. Our annual Newsletter issued each Autumn now reaches a mailing list of over 250 people, with the Autumn 2024 issue including articles on Housing Loughborough's workers, Loughborough's two workhouses and Chartists in Loughborough in 1839. The Autumn 2025 issue features Nanpantan, Loughborough's charities and Charnwood Forest enclosure.

Fund raising and future prospects

Not all the Trust's applications and negotiations for funding are successful, but during the year the Trust continued to benefit from the bequest received by the University of Leicester that was mentioned in our 2023 Report. That source of income has now been exhausted. Grants of £2,500 were received during the year from the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and the Green Bean Trust. As a result of discussions with the National Forest and its initiatives in developing the heritage of north-west Leicestershire, a grant of £2,998 was secured for a volunteer project on the history of Nanpantan. It is pleasing to report the award of a further grant of £45,000 since the end of the financial year from Charnwood Forest Geopark, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to produce a series of 'Digests' introducing the history of 20 places within the Geopark. 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 £39,114 and expenditure of £30,700 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £8,414.

The financial position is sound. Total net assets at 31 August 2025 were £33,679, which included £7,451 of restricted funds. A balance of £24,548 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 31st August 2026, when it will be reviewed again.

Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees - continued

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 31st August 2025, 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.


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:

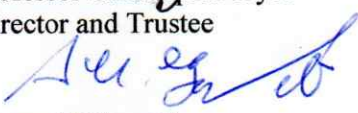
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Comply with applicable accounting regulations and standards and statements of recommended practice, with any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial 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

16th February 2026

Directors' Remuneration Report

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st August 2025, 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 2025

	Note	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income	2	11331	27145	38476	32646
Interest income			426	426	356
Gift aid			214	214	258
Total incoming resources		11331	27784	39115	33260
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds	3	3075	2600	5675	6004
Charitable activities					
- Research & volunteer training		10631	14360	24991	18867
Governance costs			34	34	13
Total resources expended		13706	16994	30700	24884
Net surplus / (deficit) for the period		-2375	10790	8415	8376
Total funds brought forward		9826	15438	25264	16888
Add net income / (deficit)		-2375	10790	8415	8376
Reclassification of costs					
Total funds carried forward		7451	26228	33679	25264

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

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2025

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Current assets		
Cash at bank	24548	23945
Debtors	10986	3008
Total current assets	35534	26953
Current liabilities		
Creditors	1855	1689
Total current liabilities	1855	25264
Net current assets	33679	23945
Total assets less current liabilities	33679	23945
Funds of the Charity		
Restricted income funds	7451	9826
Unrestricted income funds	26228	15438
Total funds	33679	25264

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

For the year ending 31 August 2025, 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

16th February 2026

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.

	Restricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
2. Voluntary income				
Donations - Friends scheme		940	940	1005
Other donations and grants	8256	24294	32550	26081
Book Sales		66	66	841
200 Club Income & funds transfer	3075	1845	4920	4720
Total	11331	27145	38476	32647
3. Cost of generating funds				
Administration		384	384	140
Marketing & Publicity		1582	1582	1860
Event costs		374	374	718
200 Club prizes	1230		1230	1180
200 Club funds transfer of cash	1845		1845	1770
Bank charges		123	123	140
Sundry other costs (excl governance)		137	137	196
Total	3075	2600	5675	6004

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 2025.

6. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 August 2025