

# BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1158020

## Details

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**Other names** BHS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-07-28

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** c/o Strutts Centre Ltd  
Derby Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1UU

**Phone** 01332891346

**Email** [treasurer@belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

**Website** [www.belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY OF BELPER, ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:- PROVIDING LECTURES, PUBLICATIONS, DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITIONS; - ENCOURAGING PRACTICAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH INTO BELPER'S PAST; - COLLECTING AND PRESERVING ARTIFACTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARCHIVES, DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATERIALS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF BELPER AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT; AND- MAKING SUCH RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR STUDY BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

**Activities:** The Society provides and advertises a public monthly lecture programme relating to all aspects of the history of Belper and the region. Provides public exhibitions, and has published several books. We have amassed, conserved and catalogued a huge collection of photographs of the area, a large collections of archive documents and of historic artifacts which are used for education and research.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Derby City
- Derbyshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£5,878	£5,891	-	-
2024-08-31	£5,052	£3,761	-	-
2023-08-31	£3,302	£3,602	-	-
2022-08-31	£2,014	£2,572	-	-
2021-08-31	£5,221	£4,857	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Ian Jackson	Chair	2023-11-02
Andrea White		2025-11-20
Jane Whitaker		2023-11-02
Neil Hallsworth		2022-11-02

**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158020

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# Accounts

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## **BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

Belper Historical Society (BHS) was founded in 1957, 68 years ago, and became a charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in 2014 with an aspiration to be better placed to make its resources available to more people by increasing its membership and raising income to fund its work and maintain its archive material.

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

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society, the Committee consists of:

- (a) Not less than four and up to five trustees who are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one or two other members of the Society and
- (b) six to nine other members of the Society who are all elected by the membership annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Documents for the 2024 AGM (Annual Report, Financial Statement and Trustee Balance Sheet) were supplied to members by e-mail.

The committee members appointed were as follows:

Chair and Ex-Officio Trustee – Ian Jackson

Secretary and Ex-Officio Trustee – Jane Whitaker

Treasurer and Ex-Officio Trustee – Neil Hallsworth

Elected Trustees – Mary Featherby

Other Committee Members duly elected – Andrea White, Sue Peach, Sheilagh Harnan and Steve Hill.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main aims of the Society continued to be:

- Cultivate an interest in the history of Belper and its neighbourhood.
- Maintain the BHS Collection (artefacts, paintings, documents, photographs, maps and Library books and paper archives).
- Encourage practical historical research into Belper's past.
- Providing lectures, publications, displays and exhibitions and making such resources available for study by the general public.

To support these aims, meetings are held monthly where talks or walks of local and historical interest are given by members and visiting speakers. The lecture programme continues to be the main activity of the Society, sustained largely through an annual membership subscription to offset programme and room hire costs. In addition, the BHS were represented at local events, artifacts shared with other parties, digital images shared, the BHS library opened and the BHS website maintained and updated.

## Programme

There has been a varied programme of talks and walks throughout 2024-5, with something on offer every month.

Unusually, we have had three late changes to programmes due to ill health of speakers/leaders, but meetings have gone ahead with BHS committee members providing alternative talks/walks.

		Speaker/ Leader	Members + (Visitors)
Sep. 24	Water: the Power that Changed the World (Belper)	Ian Jackson	43 + (9)
Oct. 24	The Evans family – their local, national and international influence	Katherine Everitt	34 + (9)
Nov. 24	Opening the Floodgates + Belper videos <i>change to programme</i>	Ian Jackson	28 + (1)
Dec. 24	The Strutts, Cotton Textiles and Enslavement	Susanne Seymour	35 + (4)
Jan. 25	Historic Buildings Myth Busting	Dr James Wright	45 + (7)
Feb. 25	The contest of sophistry with truth <i>change to programme</i>	Jane Whitaker	37 + (4)
Mar. 25	John Flamsteed - First Astronomer Royal	Dr Michael Lancaster	39 + (12)
Apr. 25	The Fibres Spun in our Valley	Kim Kerry	33 + (1)
May 25	Ecclesbourne Valley Railway	Eric Boulton	33 + (3)
Jun. 25	Milford Waterways (visit) <i>change to programme</i>	Ian Jackson	27 + (0)
Jul. 25	South Wingfield Railway Station (visit)	DHBT	22 + (0)
Aug. 25	Christchurch, Belper (visit)	Sue Peach	37 + (0)
Sep. 25	The Strutt Building Campaign c1890 – 1930	George Henshaw	44 + (6)
Oct. 25	Anthony Woodville: Sophisticate or Schemer?	Danielle Burton	28 + (1)

Concerns were raised about sound quality in Room 107 at the Strutt Centre, so speaker system was purchased and speakers asked to wear a microphone. The concerns relating to the fire safety room limit of 60 people remain as membership numbers grow but we have identified two possible alternative meeting locations in Belper if this does become a problem in 2026.

## Future Programme

Nov. 25	The Cromford Canal in Old Photographs	Hugh Potter
Dec. 25	Transported: The Story of a Belper Convict	Viv Scott
Jan. 26	The Strutt's and the Pentrich Revolution	Sylvia Mason
Feb. 26	To be confirmed	Adrian Farmer
Mar. 26	Frank Beresford, Artist of Royalty, History, Landscapes – and my Grannies	Robert Reid
Apr. 26	75 years of Belper Town Football Club	Mike Smith
May 26	Finding the Historic in the Folkloric	Chris Lewis-Jones
Jun. 26	The Buildings of Holbrook	Michael Lobb
Jul. 26	Strutt Around North Mill (walk)	BNM volunteers
Aug. 26	The Dark Side of Milford (walk)	Jane Whitaker
Sep. 26	William Strutt FRS: A tradesman of some eminence	Ian Jackson
Oct. 26	To be confirmed	
Nov. 26	Accidents at the Strutt Mills	Trevor Lightfoot
Dec. 26	To be confirmed	

## Events attended

The Belper Historical Society attended a series of local events promoting the society with displays and a new pop-up banner (including a link to the membermojo link) and selling books (new and used).

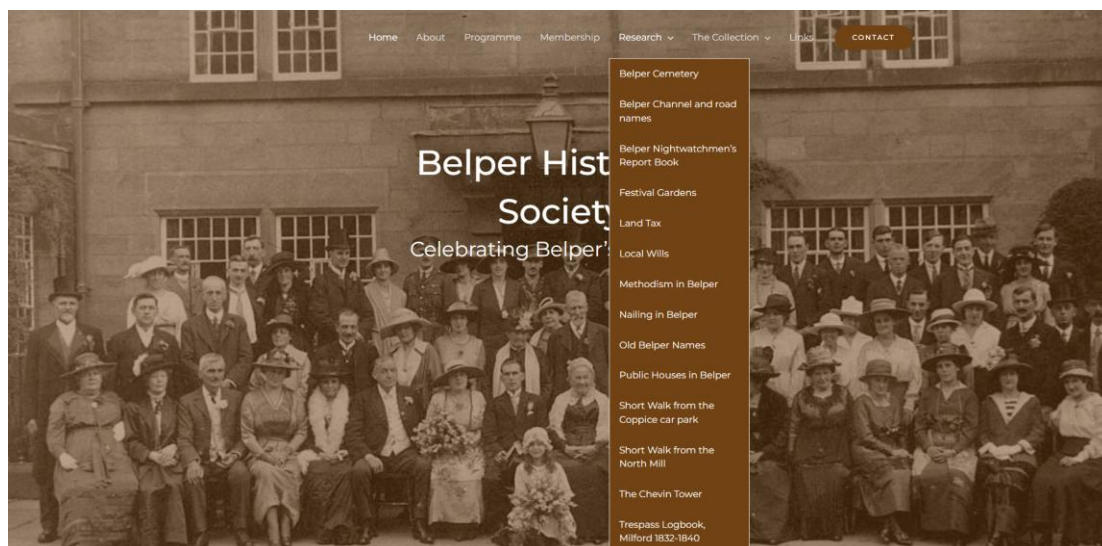
- Derbyshire History Fair – Strutt Centre June 2025
- Planning for BELPER250

2026 will be a busy year for the society, participating in the towns BELPER250 celebrations that hopefully will include more BHS members in a wide variety of activities and events.

## Website

The website continues to attract visitors, especially to the programme page, research pages and homepage.

Some pages are hidden because they can only be accessed by QR code, as they provide information for images that were in the Belper Shops & Traders exhibition. This was held in no28 in September 2024. The images will be on display again, using the QR codes, in Belper library in February 2026.



The inquiry button on the Belper Historical Society website generated 80 queries between September 2024 and August 2025, mainly seeking historical information.

## Social Media

The Historic Belper Facebook page continued to attract significant interest until 31 December 2024, when an enforced break was needed for personal reasons.

There are plans to relaunch the site for the Belper 250 anniversary from January 2026 onwards.

## Membership

Membership numbers stood at 120 at the end of the financial year - an increase of 13% over the previous year, continuing the steady increase seen in recent years. Membermojo continues to show that it can deliver an integrated and user-friendly membership system, and has recently been upgraded to include the facility for online subscription payments via the Stripe payments system.

As a reflection of the robust financial position of the Society, it has been decided that the annual subscription for 2026 will remain unchanged at £15.

## Archives/Artifacts

Following the relocation of artifacts into the safe and clean, Room 101 at Belper Storage, the project of artifact disposal has been paused until a full stocktake, versus the original MODES database, is completed.

We have had a review of the iron work, much of which arrived following the North Mill museum closure, by Richard Hazell of Hazell Forged.

We have contacted the new auctioneers in Belper, Edwin's, who could be a potential outlet for artifacts in store not relating to Belper.

An alternative storage location for the artifacts, linked to the BHS library stock, was considered during 2025 but will not be progressed, for practical and economic reasons.

## Donations

### Financial

- We have gratefully received a donation from the family of the late Brian Tunnard.

We have received 3 donations of documents and artifacts during 2025

- Moores – ESCC printing blocks, paintings and plans of Belper and Milford Mills from a former ESCC engineer (NOTE: Milford plans shared with the House Builder)
- Bennett – Photograph albums of Stevensons Dyers and Rifle Trophies (Belper)
- 1940s and 50s colour glass slides

## Loans

Eight Strutt family portraits were transferred to the Strutt Centre in April 2024 but they have not been displayed and are now back in the BHS store (Goods Road). The portraits will hopefully go on a temporary display as part of the BELPER250 celebrations in Belper Library.

Our large (1,180mm x 1,440mm) Jedediah Strutt portrait painting has been loaned to the Belper North Mill Trust (from July 2025) to be used as part of the Belper Library display, accompanying the Derby Rib machine, formerly in the North Mill Museum.



## Photographs

Whilst the scanning of photographs has not progressed since the last transfer of 1,230 photographs and digital images to the Derbyshire Record Office (D8434 Boxes, 11, 12, 21, 22 and 23) the society has had 609 glass negatives/slides scanned by Oxford Duplication.

- BHS25001 to BHS25260 – BHS glass slides
- BHS25261 to BHS25534 – BHS glass negatives
- BHS25535 to BHS25609 – 2025 donation 1940's-1950's slides

Work continues on the identification and collation the digital images.

## Library and Books

We have had a poor attendance to BHS library openings during 2025 so a review of the future of the BHS library openings will be carried out before 2026.

Sales of donated books and new books continue to provide useful income to the society, see the financial statement. This includes the new *belperhistoricalsociety* 'shop' on ebay. The society has also helped with the sales of Belper Voices 1 & 2 for the Derwent Valley Mills Educational Trust (18 books sold).

## Plans for Future Periods

The new committee will develop a plan for the following 12 months but work currently being undertaken by the BHS includes:

- Review of the library – books held and library access
- Utilise an online database, e.g. Dropbox, for BHS documents and digital materials for managed shared access.
- BELPER250
  - Some themed talks and walks for our 2026 monthly meetings
  - Preserving Belper's Industrial Heritage – Monthly Farmers Market stall
  - Displays in Belper Library

Continuing from last year

- Room 101 – A thorough review of the artifacts compared to the 'modes' database of artifacts that hasn't been reviewed or updated in recent years.
- Continue the digitisation and transcription of documents.
- Continue the digitisation of photographs.
- Review and possible scanning of the Noel Smith negatives.
- Continued development of the website, including making more resources available.
- Attend relevant events to raise awareness of the BHS and its activities.

## Ian Jackson

Chair of the Belper Historical Society,

On behalf of Belper Historical Society Committee (and with thanks to Jane Whitaker, Neil Hallsworth, Adrian Farmer and Mary McLean Farmer for their contributions).

6.11.25

**Belper Historical Society**  
**CIO Charity No: 1158020**

**YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

<b>Income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Interest/Dividends	£2,687.77	£1,877.84	Archive Storage	£2,254.20	£2,268.95
Members Subscriptions	£2,096.25	£2,252.24	Digitisation Project	£1,840.20	n/a
Visitors/Donations	£530.00	£225.00	Speakers Fees	£434.00	£280.00
Raffles (donated items)	£222.00	£299.00	Purchases	£374.60	£226.86
Donated Items Sales	£195.51	£106.60	Meeting Room Hire	£368.40	£351.00
New Books Sales	£146.00	£291.00	Library Room Hire	£278.36	£329.90
			Admin Costs	£240.11	£225.41
			Bank Charges	£101.23	£78.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,877.53</b>	<b>£5,051.68</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,891.10</b>	<b>£3,760.97</b>
<b>Excess of Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>-£13.57</b>	<b>£1,290.71</b>			

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2025**

**Current Assets**

Cash in hand	£0.00
At HSBC Current A/c	£4,934.69
At Cambridge & Counties Bank	£48,706.20
At Mansfield Building Society	£11,268.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>£64,909.37</b>

**Current Liabilities**

Unbilled expenditure at 31/8	£1,740.30
Uncashed cheques at 31/8	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,740.30</b>

**Tangible Assets**

"Belper in Wartime - The Great War" book	(Stock at Cost 311x3.86)	£1,200.46
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,200.46</b>
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<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>£64,369.53</b>
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<b>Unrestricted General Fund at 31/8/2025</b>	<b>£64,909.37</b>
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<b>Unrestricted General Fund at 31/8/2024</b>	<b>£63,254.52</b>
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**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158020

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# Accounts

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## **BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

This is the tenth Annual Report of Belper Historical Society (BHS) as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year 2023-24. Founded in 1957, the Society sought charity status as a CIO in 2014 with an aspiration to be better placed to make its resources available to more people by increasing its membership and raising income to fund its work and maintain its archive material in a central and accessible building.

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

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society, the Committee consists of:

- (a) Not less than four and up to five trustees who are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one or two other members of the Society and
- (b) six to nine other members of the Society who are all elected by the membership annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Documents for the 2023 AGM (Annual Report, Financial Statement and Trustee Balance Sheet) were supplied to members by e-mail.

The committee members appointed were as follows:

Chair and Ex-Officio Trustee – Ian Jackson  
Secretary and Ex-Officio Trustee – Jane Whitaker  
Treasurer and Ex-Officio Trustee – Neil Hallsworth

Elected Trustees – Mary Featherby

Other Committee Members duly elected – Andrea White and Sue Peach.

The reduced number of committee members, now 6, has created a problem in achieving the societies rules, regarding the minimum number of 6 committee members (including 2 trustees) to form a quorum, hence the updating of society rules proposed on the agenda.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main aims of the Society continued to be:

- Cultivate an interest in the history of Belper and its neighbourhood.
- Maintain the BHS Collection (artefacts, paintings, documents, photographs, maps and Library books and paper archives).
- Encourage practical historical research into Belper's past.
- Providing lectures, publications, displays and exhibitions and making such resources available for study by the general public.

To support these aims, meetings are held monthly where talks or walks of local and historical interest are given by members and visiting speakers. The lecture programme continues to be the main activity of the Society, sustained largely through an annual membership subscription to offset programme and room hire costs. In addition, the BHS were represented at a number of local events, artifacts shared with other parties, digital images shared, the BHS library opened and the BHS website maintained and updated.

## Programme

There has been a varied programme of talks and walks throughout 2023-4, with something on offer every month.

		Speaker/ Leader	Members + (Visitors)
Sep. 23	The Belper West Mill Tower	Barbara Bowman	
Oct. 23	Jedediah Strutt's early life	Rosemary Annable	4
Nov. 23	Industrial Ambergate	Steve Hill	3
Dec. 23	Belper Manor and Roman Settlement	Denise Grace	46 + (3)
Jan. 24	Policing in 19 <sup>th</sup> century Derbyshire	Robert Mee	51 + (4)
Feb. 24	The Chevin Tower	Ian Castledine	54 +(15)
Mar. 24	The sheep looked after themselves – religion and radicals in the early 1800s	Simon Wood	50 +(2)
Apr. 24	Belper Voices	Chris Charlton + Authors	45 + (2)
May 24	(replacement) Photos from the BHS archives	Adrian Farmer	22 + (4)
Jun. 24	(outdoor demonstration) Nail making	Richard Hazell	38 + (5)
Jul. 24	(walk) Walking the deer park boundary	Adrian Farmer	20 + (3)
Aug. 24	(walk) Everything but cotton – the industrialisation of Ambergate	Steve Hill	13
Sep. 24	Water: the Power that Changed the World (Belper)	Ian Jackson	43 + (9)
Oct. 24	The Evans family – their local, national and international influence	Katherine Everitt	34 + (9)



It is hoped more 'shared history' events will be organised in the area, following the successful Alfretton History Day.

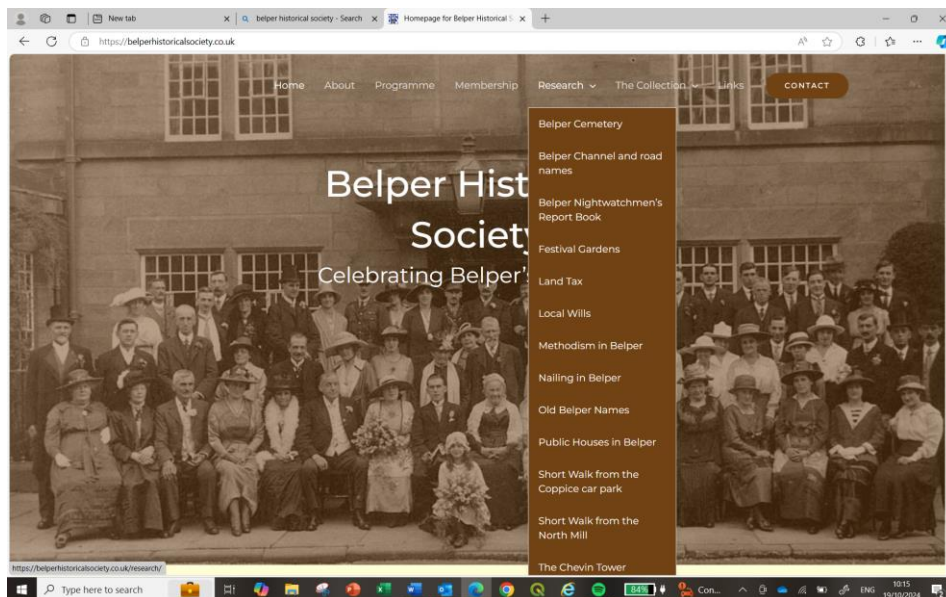
## Website

The website had an update on overall design at the start of this year - colour and fonts in particular - whereby the pages have become easier to read and score highly on accessibility scales.

Most popular pages on the website are The Home page, Programme page, Photograph page and Research pages. The History of Public Houses in Belper always scores highly in searches! Our users are predominantly from the UK but with a good following in Europe, USA, Canada and Australia.

There tends to be a steady interest in the Research section although there are never any queries regarding the Wills page and indeed only one person has clicked on there in the past couple of months. Perhaps we need to think about uploading some wills to the site to encourage interest (rather than the current format of an index of wills held by the society).

The Contact form on the website is well used and along with Facebook is probably the most direct way of contacting the society.



## Social Media

The Historic Belper Facebook Page continues to attract a lot of attention, with photographs being added every day and reaching up to 130,738 people per month. The page has 7,812 dedicated followers. The page generates about 12 to 15 enquiries per month, as well as many comments on images which help us to better understand the images and the stories they support.

## Membership

Membership numbers stood at 106 at the end of the financial year - an increase of 30% over 2022/23. During the year the Society moved its membership database from an Excel spreadsheet to an online system known as membermojo.

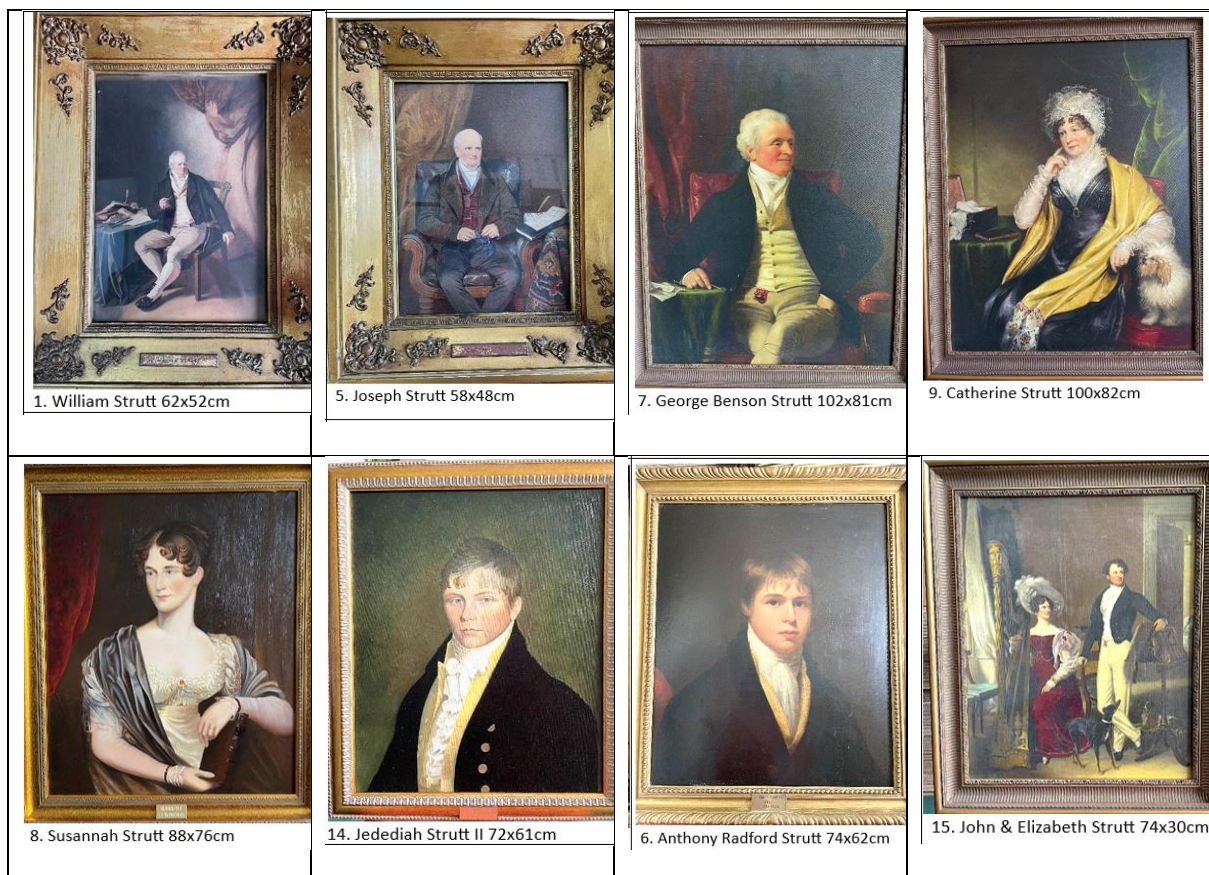
The previous spreadsheet had to be edited and updated manually, as did mailing lists, attendance registers, Gift Aid declarations, etc. Membermojo has shown that it can deliver an integrated and user-friendly alternative, and has helped ensure that our membership database is always up-to-date and accurate. It has also shown to be a very useful system for items such as email management and the preparation of Gift Aid claims to HMRC.

## Archives/Artifacts

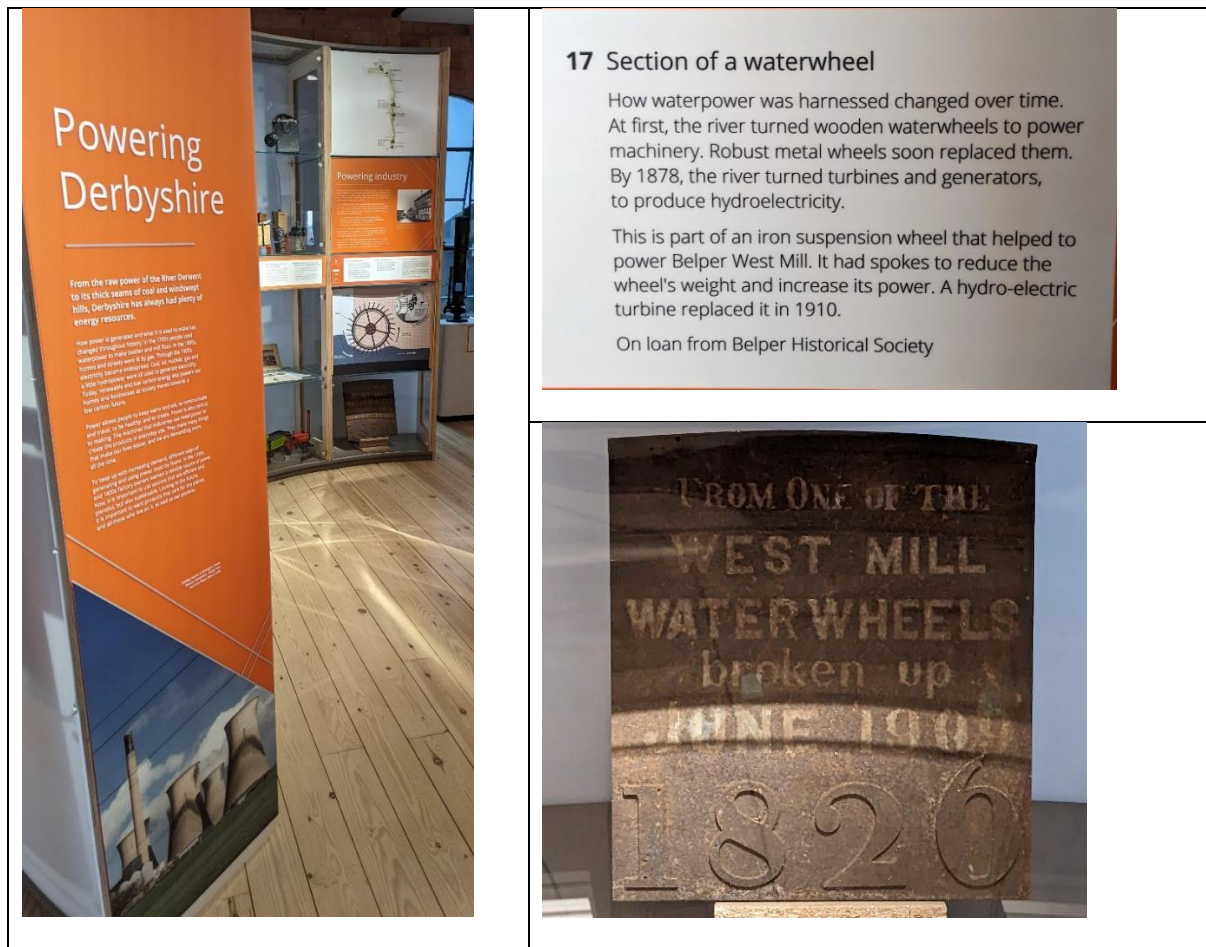
Following the relocation of artifacts into the safe and clean, Room 101 at Belper Storage, the project of artifact disposal was paused until a full stocktake, versus the original MODES database, is completed, hopefully during 2025.

## Loans

Eight Strutt family portraits were transferred to the Strutt Centre in April 2024 to be displayed in one of the communal downstairs rooms. The project has not been progressed any further at this time and the BHS are awaiting confirmation the Strutt's Community Centre want to progress the project.



Belper Mills waterwheel (BHSA233) is on loan to the Derby Museums (May 2024 to May 2027) as part of a new Power Display.



Weather Vane – The West mill weather vane has been loaned (May 2024) to the Belper North Mill for a potential art project.

### Documents

The project to transcribe and digitise documents continues, with the aim of making the digital documents, such as wills, available via the website and once scanned transferred to the Derbyshire Record Office for secure storage.

### Photographs

Digitisation of the photographic archive continues, with two large albums of photographs added to the digital archive. The pace of scanning has slowed, but progress is still being made. We now have access to a new scanner for this work, which ensures higher definition.

We are also reviewing a collection of Noel Smith negatives with a view to scanning the negatives.

## **Library**

The Society's library opened regularly before the meetings for members to borrow books. Several new books have been added to the collection over the year and an updated catalogue is available on the website.

## **Books**

Small numbers of the Society's publications *Historic Belper and Milford in Colour* and *Belper in Wartime* have continued to sell, raising over £270 in the past year. There are less than 15 copies of the former left available for sale.

Belper in Wartime – donated books can now be purchased from the Belper British Legion, helping raise money for the BBL and the BHS.

Belper Voices used BHS photographs in the publication and as a result BHS members may purchase the book at a discounted rate.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

The new committee will develop a plan for the following 12 months but work currently being undertaken by the BHS includes:

- Room 101 – A thorough review of the artifacts compared to the 'modes' database of artifacts that hasn't been reviewed or updated in recent years.
- Continue the digitisation and transcription of documents.
- Continue the digitisation of photographs.
- Review and possible scanning of the Noel Smith negatives.
- Continued development of the website, including making more resources available.
- Prepare, alongside other groups and interested parties, for the Belper 2026 anniversary celebrations.
- Attend relevant events to raise awareness of the BHS and its activities.

## **Ian Jackson**

Chair of the Belper Historical Society,

On behalf of Belper Historical Society Committee (and with thanks to Jane Whitaker, Neil Hallsworth, Adrian Farmer, Heather Eaton and Mary McLean Farmer for their contributions)

27.10.24

**Belper Historical Society****CIO Charity No: 1158020****YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024****Statement of Financial Activities**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Members Subscriptions	£2,252.24	£795.00	Archive Storage	£2,423.93	£2,634.81
Interest/Dividend	£1,877.84	£717.34	Meeting Room Hire	£351.00	£302.40
Raffles (donated items)	£299.00	£273.00	Library Room Hire	£329.90	£273.27
New Books Sales	£291.00	£288.00	Admin Costs	£297.29	£99.98
Visitors Donations	£225.00	£407.70	Speakers Fees	£280.00	£238.60
Donated Books Sales	£106.60	£221.81	Bank Charges	£78.85	£78.94
Local Authority Grant		£401.80	Milford School Event		£401.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,051.68</b>	<b>£3,104.65</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,760.97</b>	<b>£4,029.80</b>
<b>Excess of Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,290.71</b>	<b>-£925.15</b>			

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2024****Current Assets**

Cash in hand		£20.00
At HSBC Current A/c		£3,443.68
At Cambridge & Counties Bank		£46,367.60
At Mansfield Building Society		£13,423.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>£63,254.52</b>

**Current Liabilities**

Uncashed cheques at 31/8		£0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£0.00</b>

**Tangible Assets**

Belper in WW1 book	(Stock at Cost 250x3.86)	£965.00
Belper & Milford	(Stock at Cost 13x3.77)	£49.01
<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,014.01</b>

**Net Current Assets** **£64,268.53****Unrestricted General Fund at 31/8/2024** **£63,254.52****Unrestricted General Fund at 31/8/2023** **£62,290.47**

**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158020

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# Accounts

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## BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

This is the ninth Annual Report of Belper Historical Society (BHS) as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year 2022-23. Founded in 1957, the Society sought charity status as a CIO in 2014 with an aspiration to be better placed to make its resources available to more people by increasing its membership and raising income to fund its work and maintain its archive material in a central and accessible building.

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

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society, the Committee consists of:

- (a) Not less than four and up to five trustees who are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one or two other members of the Society and
- (b) six to nine other members of the Society who are all elected by the membership annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Documents for the 2022 AGM (Annual Report, Financial Statement and Trustee Balance Sheet) were supplied to members by e-mail.

The committee members appointed were as follows:

Chair and Ex-Officio Trustee - Adrian Farmer  
Secretary and Ex-Officio Trustee – Neil Hallsworth  
Treasurer and Ex-Officio Trustee – Heather Eaton

Elected Trustees – Adrian Keetley (Vice-Chair), Mary Featherby

Other Committee Members duly elected – Mary McLean Farmer, Jane Whitaker (Programme Secretary), Ian Jackson, Andrea White.

Appointments of future committee members now follow a more informal process, less rigorous than that required for Trustee nomination.

Adrian Keetley continued in office as a Trustee with Belper North Mill Trust as the Society's representative until stepping down at the beginning of 2023. It was decided not to replace him at this time.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main aims of the Society continued to be:

- Cultivate an interest in the history of Belper and its neighbourhood.
- Maintain the BHS Collection (artefacts, paintings, documents, photographs, maps and Library books and paper archives).
- Encourage practical historical research into Belper's past.
- Providing lectures, publications, displays and exhibitions and making such resources available for study by the general public.

To support these aims, meetings are held monthly where talks or walks of local and historical interest are given by members and visiting speakers. The lecture programme continues to be the

main activity of the Society, sustained largely through an annual membership subscription to offset programme and room hire costs.

The main activities for the past year have been:

- Community events in April at Belper and Milford in July.
- Maintenance and expansion of the BHS website.
- Continue the rationalisation and review of storage of the archive collection.
- Greater access for members to the Society's library.

### **Achievements and Performance**

In April, the Society's first 'extra' event since the Covid lockdowns was held at No.28, working in collaboration with the No.28 community hall, the Belper Market Place Research Group, Our Belper Mills and local authors. A series of short talks were given by Adrian Farmer and Viv Scott during the day, supported by a series of stalls and a small display of artefacts relating to the Belper nailing industry. The final talk was a tribute to the late Mary Smedley, the Society's one-time Chair and Secretary, for which the venue was at full capacity. The Historical Society raised £98 on the book stall and £257 in donations at the event, which was free to enter, as part of the society's charitable work.

In July, with support from a small grant from Belper Town Council, the Society held a community history day for Milford, based in the village school. The school had approached the Historical Society about holding a heritage-focussed free event specifically for Milford. This offer by the school allowed the first public opportunity to see inside the county's oldest school building still used for teaching, and gave the society a chance to engage Milford people with their local history. Large-scale historic photographs were printed and mounted on boards to illustrate the village's development; a textile specialist led a Giant Knitting and Weaving workshop to help families understand how cotton from the mills was used to clothe the world; trail sheets were printed specifically designed to encourage visitors and local families to explore the village's heritage; a memory tree was created with cards for people to record their memories of Milford; and Belper North Mill Trust Education Volunteer Team provided learning activities for children. Other activities included heritage walks and talks, an advice stall on heritage matters and a tour of the school. The village's new interpretation panels and heritage trail were also unveiled as part of the day's activities, which attracted about 300 people.

### **Membership**

Membership since the enforced break in 2020/1 remains low in comparison with recent years.

The Society is in the process of moving its membership database from an Excel spreadsheet to a system known as membermojo. The existing spreadsheet has to be edited and updated manually, as do things such as mailing lists, attendance registers, Gift Aid declarations, etc. Membermojo offers a low cost and user-friendly alternative, and will help ensure that our membership database is always up-to-date and accurate.

### **Programme**

There has been a varied programme of talks and walks throughout 2023, and for the first time there has been something on offer every month. In January, Gary Spendlove spoke about the history of Brettles, and the development of Slenderella. February's speaker cancelled due to Covid, but last minute stand-ins Jane Whitaker spoke about the trespassers around Milford in the 1830s and Adrian Farmer showed some new photos of Belper recently rediscovered. The March speaker also

called off due to Covid, and local folk singer and storyteller Pete Castle entertained us and got members singing along. In April, Cliff Lea gave a talk on the development of the Silkolene company. As a change from our usual programme, we had a visit to the Unitarian Chapel in May where members told us about the history of the Unitarians and the architecture of the building, followed by a visit to the crypt. The first of our summer walks was led by Ian Jackson around the Belper waterways, where he gave us the benefit of his new research. The next two walks were affected by the poor summer weather and few members turned out in the rain. Adrian Farmer led a visit to the farmyard at Crossroads Farm, including a look indoors, and Robert Reid led a walk around the southern part of Duffield in August, looking particularly at the Georgian architecture. Volunteers from Duffield church provided tea and cake. The Autumn season began with a well researched talk by Barbara Bowman on the West Mill tower. October's talk was also extremely informative. Rosemary Annable unpicked the "mythology" surrounding Jedediah Strutt's early life. In November, BHS member Steve Hill is talking on the industries of the Ambergate area. Our December speaker will be Denise Grace, with a talk on recent investigations shedding light on the medieval Belper Manor House and Laund area of Belper.

Due to the poor sound quality in the hall, and background interference from other groups, we are moving to Room 107 for 2024, which also involves changing evening to the third Thursday of the month. The programme for 2024 will be available online very soon.

## **Archive**

Some members grouped together and moved the archive car load by car load in October last year. Since then, regular meetings have taken place to organise and make the most of the space available.

One unfortunate situation to arise was the arrival of material from Strutt's North Mill which had been on loan to the museum. This has taken up much needed space for documents which means that many of them are still located in other places.

Scanning and photographing documents and photographs has continued. Working on the scanning has enabled decisions to be made on what material should be offered to Derbyshire Record Office. At present this is in 26 archive boxes in their storeroom and awaiting cataloguing.

Additionally, Belper Town Council is in the early stages of looking to rejuvenate St John's Chapel, where it may be possible for the Society to provide items for public viewing.

## Documents

Within the collection are many items for which we will never be able to provide satisfactory storage condition. Progress has been made in taking documents to Derbyshire Record Office where they will be available to a wider audience.

## Artefacts

These are still in our storage room, with progress being made slowly. The Collection policy for the acquisition and retention of artifacts of local interest remains as follows: *'that the archive will contain photographs, artefacts and paper material which illustrate and testify to the people of Belper, their working lives and businesses and those who were influenced by Belper'*.

## Photographs

A large number of BHS images were sent to the Derbyshire Record office last year. This year, we borrowed them back and made digital copies, with supporting catalogue. A large number of other images have also been scanned by Neil Hallsworth and Mary McLean Farmer, increasing the digital archive and allowing more images to be passed to the Record office for appropriate archiving.

## **Library**

Throughout 2023 the library has been opened every two months. Several members have borrowed books on a variety of local history subjects. It's also provided an opportunity for networking and for answering local history queries. A basic version of the catalogue is now available online for members to search. There have been several donations of books from members that have been added to the shelves. Sale of excess stock has raised funds towards the upkeep of the library.

## **Books**

Small numbers of the Society's publications *Historic Belper and Milford in Colour* and *Belper in Wartime* have continued to sell, raising over £270 in the past year. There are less than 30 copies of the former left available for sale.

## **Website**

Committee member Mary McLean Farmer continues to expand and manage the <https://belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk/> website. There are regular uploads of wills and land tax records. The contact form has proven to be a popular way of allowing the general public to contact the society with queries. All questions aim to be answered within 48 hours. In tandem with the Facebook page, Historic Belper, the society has a good internet presence. Most popular pages are the Homepage, History of Belper Pubs and Photographs.

## **Audrey Barrass**

The Society heard with sadness of the death of the President of the Society, Audrey Barrass. For many years, Audrey was the society's secretary and first point of contact for the public – she worked tirelessly for the society and will be greatly missed.

## **Stepping down**

Some committee members are stepping down at this AGM – Adrian Keetley, who served as secretary for many years, Heather Eaton, treasurer since 2017 and Mary McLean-Farmer, society webmaster, are not standing for re-election. We thank them for their service to the Society.

I too will be stepping down as Chair, and from the committee.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

Plans and objectives for 2023-24 will include the following key areas:

- Website - further development
- Continue current mix of meetings and walks
- Continue rationalisation of artifacts
- Continue with transcription and scanning of documents and photos
- Increase membership

## **Adrian Farmer**

Chair,

On behalf of Belper Historical Society Committee (and with thanks to Jane Whitaker, Neil Hallsworth, Heather Eaton and Mary McLean Farmer for their contributions)

15.10.23

# Belper Historical Society

CIO Charity No: 1158020

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

## Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 August 2023.

Income	2023	2022	Expenditure	2023	2022
Bank Interest	717.34	0533.01	Library room hire	0273.27	0078.40
Members subscriptions	795.00	0915.00	Speakers fees	0238.60	0080.00
Visitor Donations	407.70	0015.00	Meetings Room Hire	0302.40	0073.00
Sales, donated books	221.81	0016.50	Web domain	0000.00	0021.58
Raffle, items all donated	273.00	0027.00	Banking Fees	0079.84	0048.96
Sales of WW1 Book	50.00	0130.00	Zoom Fees	0000.00	0028.78
Sales of Belper & Milford	238.00	0303.00	Comp ext back-up x2	99.98	0000.00
Sales of Images	000.00	0075.00	Printing Book	0000.00	0000.00
Milford School Grant	600.00		Archive storage No 30	0346.66	2241.56
			Archive storage Rm 101	2288.15	0000.00
			Milford School Grant	600.00	0000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3302.85</b>	2014.51	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3601.70</b>	2572.28

**Current Excess of Expenditure over Income 298.85**

### BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2023

#### Current Assets

Cash in hand	0.00
At HSBC Current A/c	2,304.73
At Cambridge & Counties Bank	22,243.25
At Mansfield Building Society	<u>37,742.49</u>
	62,290.47

#### Represented by

General Fund at 1 Sep 2022  
62,469.21

#### Net Current Assets

Current Liabilities (Uncashed 31 2023)

Sec Exp	8.80
Milford Sch	19.00
BTC	108.20
K Kerry	50.00
Belper NMT	150.00
Strutt Rm Hire	<u>30.16</u>
	366.16

General Fund at 31 Aug 2023

62,290.47

#### Tangible Assets

Belper in WW1 book	
(Stock at Cost 350x3.86)	1351.00
Belper & Milford	
(Stock at Cost 56x3.77)	<u>211.12</u>
	1562.12

Net Assets 63,486.43

#### Represented by

Unrestricted General Fund **62,290.47**

124 Lloyds Banking Group Shares at 31 Aug 2023 £42.35

**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158020

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# Accounts

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## BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

This is the eighth Annual Report of Belper Historical Society (BHS) as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year 2021-22. Founded in 1957, the Society sought charity status as a CIO in 2014 with an aspiration to be better placed to make its resources available to more people by increasing its membership and raising income to fund its work and maintain its archive material in a central and accessible building.

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

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society, the Committee consists of:

- (a) Not less than four and up to five trustees who are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one or two other members of the Society and
- (b) six to nine other members of the Society who are all elected by the membership annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Circumstances precluded holding a face-to-face AGM in November 2021, but with membership agreement it was held on line. Documents for the AGM (Annual Report, Financial Statement and Trustee Balance Sheet) were supplied to members by e-mail.

The committee members appointed were as follows:

Chairman and Ex-Officio Trustee - Adrian Farmer  
Secretary and Ex-Officio Trustee – Adrian Keetley  
Treasurer and Ex-Officio Trustee – Heather Eaton

Elected Trustee – Mary Featherby

Other Committee Members duly elected – Mary McLean Farmer, Jane Whitaker, Ian Jackson, Andrea White, Neil Hallsworth.

Appointments of future committee members now follow a more informal process, less rigorous than that required for Trustee nomination.

The Secretary continued in office as Trustee with Belper North Mill Trust as the Society's representative in that group. It was agreed some of the secretary's work be dispersed across the committee, with Jane Whitaker as Programme Secretary and Neil Hallsworth as Minutes Secretary.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main aims of the Society continued to be:

- Cultivate an interest in the history of Belper and its neighbourhood.
- Maintain the BHS Collection (artefacts, paintings, documents, photographs, maps and Library books and paper archives).
- Encourage practical historical research into Belper's past.
- Providing lectures, publications, displays and exhibitions and making such resources available for study by the general public.

To support these aims, meetings are held monthly (except August) where talks of local and historical interest are given by members and visiting speakers. The lecture programme continues to be the main activity of the Society, sustained largely through an annual membership subscription to offset programme and room hire costs.

The main Objectives for this year have been:

- Maintenance and expansion of the BHS website.
- Continue the rationalisation and review storage of the archive collection.
- Set up a functional library system for access to members.
- Re-establish face-to-face meetings.

## **Achievements and Performance**

Activities for 2021/22 reflected the growing confidence of members in meeting face-to-face, with a mixture of outdoor walks, on-line talks and face to face presentations. No special events beyond the regular monthly programme were planned, but discussions began on providing more activities in 2023, including a chance to display some of the artefacts in the archive. Membership since the enforced break in 2020/1 remains low in comparison with recent years, with plans for a membership drive in 2023.

## **Programme**

Not everyone felt comfortable attending meetings in person, so the first three meetings of 2022 were held on Zoom, all given by members of the Society. The year started with Ian Jackson speaking about the latest discoveries he has made regarding the waterways used to power the mills of Belper. In February, Adrian Farmer stepped in at the last minute to talk about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. March was the turn of Neil Calladine who talked about the links between the local circus and the fair, using the research carried out for his recent book.

April saw the return of the first in-person talk for over two years, given by Trevor Griffin, a long-standing volunteer from Belper North Mill. It was better attended than anticipated, with many members delighted at the opportunity to see the speaker in person. Heather Eaton was the speaker in May, talking about Milford.

As a change to the usual meetings, June and July saw two well-supported walks, firstly around the northern part of Duffield, starting at the castle, and led by Robert Reid. The second was around Belper cemetery by Adrian Farmer.

Once again, Adrian was the speaker in September, using interesting extracts from the recently discovered Nightwatchman's book. October's talk was by Ian Coker about Heage and Morley Park. There are still two more talks to finish off the year, Robin Macey on the history of ballooning in Derbyshire and Jonathan Dwerryhouse on the George Inn, Belper. Many thanks to all the speakers and walk leaders for their interesting contributions.

Members were given the opportunity to comment on the style of the programme via a short questionnaire. Those that responded were happy with the combination of meetings, walks and Zoom talks, so the 2023 programme will continue in the same vein with a mixture of speakers drawn from the members of the Society and outside speakers who can present on a variety of Belper and Derbyshire history. There is always room on the programme for items by members – please discuss ideas with any of the committee members.

## **Archive**

Since January 2019, the Society has rented an upstairs room in a building on the Market Place, which is used for archive storage (documents, photos, artefacts, etc). There are a number of problems with this arrangement, not least that access to the room is via a set of steep and narrow

stairs, the access corridor being blocked from time to time and on occasions the electricity in the building has been turned off presenting a hazard on the dark staircase area. The access yard has become full of junk and brambles. There is a risk of damage or even loss of the archives from water ingress or fire, and also to the personal safety of people accessing the archives.

The committee decided to look for alternative arrangements for archive storage, and an initial visit was made to Belper Storage in Goods Road in July. The operation was seen to be very modern and well maintained, with full fire and security protection; they also reported that quite a few local companies and legal firms store their archives there. Access to the room would be unrestricted during their opening hours (6 days a week), and the cost would be similar to what is being spent now, for a similar floor space. This option was discussed at a committee meeting in August, and it was agreed unanimously to go ahead with this option, subject to a visit by the full committee.

The committee visited Belper Storage, and were impressed with what they saw; a reservation will be placed on a unit there following further discussions on the required floor space, and a move for the archive is anticipated shortly.

### Documents

Considerable progress has been made on scanning and cataloguing the archive, essentially those documents which had not been listed previously. Within the collection are many items for which we will never be able to provide satisfactory storage conditions. These have now been taken to Derbyshire Record Office where they will be available to a wider audience in the near future, although we will be able use material for exhibition locally whenever required. Scanning and cataloguing of documents not now with Derbyshire Record Office continues.

### Artefacts

These are still in our storage room, with progress being made slowly. The Collection policy for the acquisition and retention of artifacts of local interest remains as follows: *'that the archive will contain photographs, artefacts and paper material which illustrate and testify to the people of Belper, their working lives and businesses and those who were influenced by Belper'*.

### **Library**

The Society's library finally opened its doors at the end of July, to the delight of several members. A number of books were borrowed and some useful connections made between researchers. Sale of surplus stock and other history books kindly donated by members are helping to fund the running of the library. The committee has agreed that from 2023 the library will open more frequently, increasing from every three months to every two months on the last Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon in Room 104 at Strutts Community Centre. There is a wide range of material, not only books but also manuscripts, journals, pamphlets and original research, some of which is unavailable elsewhere.

The library will continue to expand as more books are donated. Any suggestions and recommendations are welcome. A shortened version of the catalogue is available to download from the website. A fuller version can be emailed out on request.

### **Books**

Small numbers of the Society's publications *Historic Belper and Milford in Colour* and *Belper in Wartime* have continued to sell, raising over £400 in the past year. New titles are being considered.

## **Website**

Committee member Mary McLean Farmer continues to expand and manage the <https://belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk/> website. Along with our Facebook page, Historic Belper, it has proven to be a popular way of contacting the society. New material added has included pages on the recovery of the Nightwatchmen's Reports of 1833-1836, along with a full transcription of the contents by Heather Eaton, an updated Library page, Land Tax page and Local Wills resource.

Chair Adrian Farmer was asked to contribute to a virtual tour of the town's Unitarian Chapel and this too has been uploaded to the website. So too has information regarding the local Rotary Club's project on cleaning up the cemetery and researching the rediscovered graves.

## **Video Material**

Adrian Farmer and committee member Mary McLean-Farmer created a Belper Stories video which was made available to members. It can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAtSTddfXt4>

A video version of Adrian's talk on the Nightwatchmen's Reports of 1833-1836, part of the regular BHS programme, was also made available to members. It can be watched at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmp\\_M-yxdtM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmp_M-yxdtM)

## **Closure of the Strutt's North Mill**

The Society heard with sadness of the closure of the town's only museum, Strutt's North Mill, which closed its doors at the end of September. The Society had a number of artefacts on long-term loan to the museum, which will now be returned to the society archive.

## **Extracurricular activity**

A number of inquiries have come in via the BHS website, and responses sent out.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

Plans and objectives for 2022-23 will include the following key areas:

- Website - further development
- Continue current mix of face-to-face and on-line meetings and walks
- Increase use of the library facility
- Continue rationalisation of artifacts
- Continue with transcription and scanning of documents and photos
- Plan future BHS products
- Plan special events
- Increase membership

## **Adrian Farmer**

Chair,

On behalf of Belper Historical Society Committee (and with thanks to Adrian Keetley, Jane Whitaker, Neil Hallsworth, Heather Eaton and Mary McLean Farmer for their contributions)

12.10.22

# Belper Historical Society

CIO Charity No: 1158020

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

## Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 August 2022.

Income			Expenditure		
	2022	2021		2022	2021
Deposit Interest	0533.01	0793.58	Library room hire	0078.40	
Members subscriptions	0915.00	0075.00	Speakers fees	0080.00	
Visitor Donations	0015.00		Meetings Room Hire	0073.00	
Donated books donations	0016.50	0100.00	Web domain	0021.58	
Raffle	0027.00	0021.58	Banking Fees	0048.96	
Sales of WW1 Book	0130.00	0105.00	Zoom Fees	0028.78	
Sales of Belper & Milford	0303.00	4148.00	Administration	0000.00	
Sales of Images	0075.00		Printing Book	0000.00	2642.00
			Archive storage	2241.56	2214.75
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2014.51</b>	5243.16	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2572.28</b>	4856.75

Current Excess of Expenditure over Income **£557.77**

## BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2022

### Current Assets

Cash in hand	1.64
At HSBC Current A/c (incl Dep Acct)	3196.20
At Cambridge & Counties Bank	21968.64
At Mansfield Building Society	<u>37302.73</u>
	62469.21

### Represented by

General Fund at 1 Sep 2021	
	63004.51

### Net Current Assets

Current Liabilities	0000.00
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General Fund at 31 Aug 2022

Depreciation of Assets	348.40
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62469.21

### Tangible Assets

Belper in WW1 book (Stock at Cost)	1385.74
Belper & Milford (Stock at Cost)	<u>324.22</u>
	1709.96

Examiners Report

Net Assets	64179.17
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### Represented by

Unrestricted General Fund	62469.21
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124 Lloyds Banking Group Shares at 31 Aug 2022 £44.38

**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158020

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# Accounts

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## BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

This is the seventh Annual Report of Belper Historical Society (BHS) as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year 2020-21. Founded in 1957, the Society sought Charity status as a CIO in 2014 with an aspiration to be better placed to make its resources available to more people by increasing its membership and raising income to fund its work and maintain its archive material in a central and accessible building.

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

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Society, the Committee consists of:

- (a) Not less than 4 and up to five Trustees who are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and one or two other members of the Society and
- (b) six to nine other members of the Society who are all elected by the membership annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Circumstances precluded holding an AGM in November 2020, but with membership agreement it was deemed acceptable for the current Committee to continue in office for the next 12 months. Documents for the AGM (Annual Report, Financial Statement and Trustee Balance Sheet) were supplied to members on 29 November 2020.

Committee members therefore continued in office from November 2020 as follows:

Chairman and Ex-Officio Trustee – Alan Kerry  
Vice Chairman and elected Trustee - Adrian Farmer  
Secretary and Ex-Officio Trustee – Adrian Keetley  
Treasurer and Ex-Officio Trustee – Heather Eaton  
Other Committee Members duly elected – Brian Deer, Mary Featherby,  
Justin Keeley, Mary McLean Farmer and Jane Whitaker.

As noted in last year's report, the appointments of future committee members will follow a more informal process, less rigorous than that required for Trustee nomination.

The Secretary continued in office as Trustee with Belper North Mill Trust as the Societys' representative in that group.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main aims of the Society continued to be as follows, to:

- Cultivate an interest in the history of Belper and its neighbourhood.
- Maintain the BHS Collection (artefacts, paintings, documents, photographs, maps and Library books and paper archives).
- Encourage practical historical research into Belper's past.
- Providing lectures, publications, displays and exhibitions and making such resources available for study by the general public.

To support these aims, meetings are held monthly (except August) where talks of local and historical interest are given by members and visiting speakers. The lecture programme continues to be the main activity of the Society, sustained largely through an annual membership subscription to offset programme and room hire costs.

The main Objectives for this year have been:

- Maintenance and expansion of the BHS website.
- Continue the rationalisation of the archive collection and provide access for members and people of Belper.
- Set up a functional library system for access to members.
- To publish a new book utilising some of the newly acquired photos.

## **Achievements and Performance**

Activities for 2020/21 were constrained by the imposition of two further national lockdowns (5.11.20 and 6.1.21) through progressive relaxation up to end of June 2021. Members were advised in November 2020 that while the prospect of resuming normal meetings remained on hold, subscriptions for 2021 (normally renewed at end of September) would also be held in abeyance, but the Committee would aim to provide some talks and short films online.

## **Video Material**

Over the past year, a number of short videos about Belper, and the Strutt family, were compiled by Vice Chair Adrian Farmer and committee member Mary McLean-Farmer, to provide material of interest to members while meetings were not taking place. These can still be viewed at the following links:

A Wander Around Old Belper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8TgiMENR-A>

Food Provision in the Early Days of the Derwent Valley Mills - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCvcG1AR9U0>

Experiencing the Derwent Valley - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZMi5kAJjhI>

The Strutt Family Albums 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iegTTgaEjjo>

The Strutt Family Albums 2 - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q63M-Q\\_o8X4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q63M-Q_o8X4)

## **Additional Material**

Short animations of the Belper Mills site and Milford were completed by Evans Vettori Architects Ltd as part of the DVMWHS Great Place Scheme using information from many old photographs creating a virtual perspective of the long lost aspects of the site and its true extent and splendour. The animations were shared with members in December and can be revisited here:.

Belper 1896 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5bkv1qubI8>

Belper 1921 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7rdsfOfmyU>

Milford - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT4CAZXNEDE>

A link to a short (10min) film trailer was for an event called 'The Machinery installation' to be held in North Mill and Cromford was also supplied:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dNwcyhCbhQ>

In February, members received a copy of an article on 'Nail-makers' which Adrian Farmer had contributed to using images from the society's collection in response to a request from 'Who Do You Think You Are' ancestry magazine for publication in their March edition.

Alex Gilbert delivered an on line talk in June on his research into the Strutt Farms, their innovative design and construction and what they provided and in July, Frances Wilkins provided a talk on the Douglasses of Ashbourne, Jedediah Strutt and the Slave Trade, a remarkably detailed piece of research which was very well received.

Circumstances again made it impractical to arrange an event to celebrate and honour former Chairman Mary Smedley, to recognise her contribution to Belper life and heritage. It is still intended that this takes place when feasible.

Suggestions from members for any topics which could be included in any future programmes are as ever, always welcome.

## **Archive**

In March, the Society received two filing cabinets from Mary Smedleys estate containing more of her research material, together with many box files and her collection of historical books. The latter will be accessioned into the BHS library. In view of the limited space the Society has to accommodate all its archive material, an initial approach was made to the DRO (Derbyshire Record Office) to see if they could assist with storage of

an estimated 6000 BHS documents with the aim of getting everything scanned so the Society has access. This is not possible so work has begun 'in house' to scan or photograph where possible, particularly those items which it will be necessary to deposit at the DRO. Lockdown has delayed this transition however and the disposal of items of no relevance to Belper, or which fall outside our remit.

Following the completion of the transcription of the letters of George Henry Strutt, members have transcribed many wills and inventories of local people and those who have influenced development in the area. An index is currently in preparation for the website.

Another useful research tool has proved to be the 'lockdown' transcription of the Magistrates Court books of 1830-1833 and 1836-9. These complement ledgers already in the DRO where our books will be deposited.

### **Belper Nightwatchmen's Reports – Acquisition**

A nightwatchmen's logbook detailing nightly goings-on in Belper from 1833-1836 came up for sale by a national bookseller, and the Society agreed to work with Derbyshire Record Office on a fundraising campaign to acquire it.

The book was on sale for £3,000 and the Society agreed to provide a series of funding callouts on video for release in July 2021, as part of a Crowdfunder Campaign. Within 48 hours of the campaign launch, the target had been reached. The reports book has now been acquisitioned at the record office, where it is freely available to researchers, and a digital copy of the book now rests with the society. A transcript has also been made by the society of much of the book in which many well known Belper names appear – a family historians paradise.

### **BHS Books**

The Historical Society's second publication of recent years, *Historic Belper and Milford in Colour*, was released in October 2020 and had very healthy sales up to Christmas, with steady interest for the remainder of 2020-21. By the end of August 2021, some 560 books had been sold, raising a net profit for the society of £1,496. Members enjoyed an on line talk in April by Adrian Farmer using images from the book. The 2019 *Belper in Wartime* book has continued to sell in small numbers.

### **The BHS Website**

Committee member Mary McLean Farmer continues to expand and manage the [belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk) website. During the protracted lockdown, the website has received a lot of attention from across the globe, and encouraged new members to join from around the country. New material added has included a number of short research articles compiled from Mary Smedley's notes.

### **BHS library**

The library is located at Strutts (Room 104). The collection (approximately 700 books) covers the wider Belper area, Derbyshire as a whole, local worthies, businesses, buildings etc. plus general histories of the kinds of industries that created the Belper area. Members will be able to borrow books, although some of the more unusual books are reference only. The catalogue and guidance on using the library is available on the BHS website. [Opening times will appear on the website.]

**Retention of premises at No 30 Market Place.** Taken up in January 2019 as a centralised storage area and work space for the Society's collection, the annual lease was renewed in January 2021. The Collection policy for the acquisition and retention of artifacts of local interest remains as follows:

*'that the archive will contain photographs, artefacts and paper material which illustrate and testify to the people of Belper, their working lives and businesses and those who were influenced by Belper'.*

### **Financial Review**

The only outgoings this year have been payment for the archive room, and the cost of printing the book 'Historic Belper and Milford in Colour.'

Interest on our bank and building society accounts has reduced considerably and we have had no income from subscriptions, except from welcome new members. Fortunately, the committee had planned ahead to produce another book which came out at the beginning of the society year and was well received, sales covering nearly double the printing cost. This has enabled us to show a small profit over the year as there were few of the usual overheads.

**Extracurricular activity.**

BHS provided a letter of support for the proposed plan from Belper Community Enterprise and the Friends of the Belper River Gardens to restore the lost feature of the Serpentine walk In Belper River Gardens.

**Plans for Future Periods**

Plans and objectives for 2021-22 will include the following key areas:

- Website - further development
- Investigate use of on-line meetings for talks
- Open the Library facility
- Complete rationalisation of artifacts
- Continue with transcription and scanning of documents and photos
- Plan future BHS products

Adrian Farmer

Acting Chairman,

On behalf of Belper Historical Society Committee.

26.10.21

# Belper Historical Society

CIO Charity No: 1158020

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

## Balance Sheet at 31 August 2021

### Current Assets

	<b>2021</b>
Balances at Bank	
HSBC Current Account	2835.47
HSBC MM Deposit Account	1428.19
Cambridge & County Bank	21697.42
Mansfield B.S. 30 day Notice Account	<u>37043.43</u>

**Net Current Assets** 63004.51

**Current Liabilities** 0000.00

**Depreciation of Assets** 348.40

### Tangible assets

WW1 Books (Stock at cost)	1470.66
Belper & Milford in Colour Books (Stock at Cost)	467.48
Audio Visual Equipment	<u>348.40</u>
	2286.54

**Net Assets** 65291.05

### Represented by

    Unrestricted General Fund 63004.51

The Trustees are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

    Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and

    Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to Small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective from April 2008)

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on.....2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee

**Belper Historical Society .**  
**CIO Charity No: 1158020**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 August 2021.**

<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenditure</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Deposit Interest	0793.58	0994.54	Program printing	0000.00	171.00
Members subscriptions	0075.00	1560.00	Speakers fees	0000.00	179.00
Visitor Donations	0000.00	0117.00	Room Hire	0000.00	309.40
Donations	0100.00	0000.00	Archive Collections costs	2214.75	3058.14
Donations for Postcards	0000.00	0107.90	Web site domain & design	0000.00	30.70
Raffle	0000.00	0084.00	Audio Visual Equipment	0000.00	10.99
Sales of WW1 Book	0105.00	1725.00	Administration	0000.00	82.65
Sales of Belper & Milford	4148.00	0000.00	Printing Book	<u>2642.00</u>	<u>0000.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5221.58</b>	<b>4588.94</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4856.75</b>	<b>3841.88</b>

**Current Excess of Income over Expenditure 364.83**

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2021**

<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Represented by</b>
At HSBC Current A/c	2835.47	
At HSBC Deposit A/c	1428.19	General Fund at 1 Sep 2020
At Cambridge & Counties Bank	21697.42	
At Mansfield Building Society	<u>37043.43</u>	62639.68
	63004.51	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities	0000.00	General Fund at 31 Aug 2021
Depreciation of Assets	348.40	63004.51
<b>Tangible Assets</b>		
Belper in WW1 book		
(Stock at Cost)	1470.66	Examiners Report
Belper & Milford		
(Stock at Cost)	467.48	
Audio/Visual Equipment	<u>348.40</u>	
	2286.54	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>65232.37</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>		
Unrestricted General Fund	63004.51	

*R. Walker FICB.*  
*18/11/21*

124 Lloyds Banking Group Shares at 31 Aug 2021 £28.72.

**BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BELPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on these pages.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:  
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

*R. Walker*  
18/11/21.

# Belper Historical Society

## Abstract of

### Statement of Financial Activities for Year ended 31 August 2021

Income		Expenditure	
Deposit Interest	0793.58		
Subscriptions	0075.00		
Donations	0100.00		
Book Sales		Printing Belper & Milford in	
Belper in WW1	0105.00	Colour Book	2642.00
Belper & Milford in colour	<u>4128.00</u>	Archive Collection costs	<u>2214.75</u>
	5221.58		4856.75
Current excess of income over expenditure		364.83	

### BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2021

<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Represented by</b>
At HSBC Current A/c	2835.47	
At HSBC Deposit A/c	1428.19	General Fund at 1 Sep 2020
At Cambridge & Counties Bank	21697.42	
At Mansfield Building Society	<u>37043.43</u>	62639.68
	63004.51	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>General Fund at 31 August 2021</b>
Current Liabilities	0000.00	63004.51
Depreciation of Assets	348.40	
<b>Tangible Assets</b>		<b>Examiners Report</b>
Belper in WW1	1470.66	
Belper & Milford in Colour	467.48	
Audio/Visual Equipment	<u>348.40</u>	
	2286.54	
Net Assets	65291.16	
<b>Represented by</b>		
Unrestricted General Fund	<u>63004.51</u>	

124 Lloyds Group Shares at 31 August 2021: £28.72  
Registered Charity (CIO) 1158020

R. Walker FICB  
18/11/21.