

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1165078

Details

Other names DRS

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-01-07

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

Contact

Address 2 Wellbridge Close
Dorchester
DT1 2BJ

Phone 01305264259

Email smith_wellbridge@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF HISTORY, AND TO FACILITATE HISTORICAL RESEARCH BY THE PUBLICATION, DISTRIBUTION AND INTERPRETATION OF ARCHIVAL TEXTS, RECORDS AND STUDY GUIDES RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

Activities: It publishes books, texts, transcripts, and study guides relating to archive material and historical sources not readily accessible to the general public because of their age, fragility, illegibility, language or location.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£550	£586	-	-
2023-12-31	£685	£115	-	-
2022-12-31	£451	£637	-	-
2021-12-31	£490	£289	-	-
2020-12-31	£370	£516	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SAM JOHNSTON	Chair	2016-01-07
Dr MARK PETER FORREST PHD		2016-01-07
Dr MARTIN KENNETH AYRES PHD		2016-01-07
Dr Robert Nantes		2024-10-26
GEOFF SMITH		2016-01-07
GRAHAM COLIN HODDINOTT		2016-01-07
John Howard Chandler		2016-01-07
KATHERINE MARGARET BARKER MA		2016-01-07
MRS ANN SMITH		2016-01-07
Mary Louise HAYWOOD		2024-10-26

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165078

Accounts

We held our AGM in February 2024 in person at Dorset History Centre; one member attended remotely by MS Teams as he lives some distance away. Our September meeting was also a hybrid, one of our academic advisors attending remotely by MS Teams. We published Volume 23, *The Minutes of the Dorset Standing Committee 1646* in February 2024. We held the launch in Dorset History Centre in May 2024, which was widely advertised in local media. The Editor, Dr. Tim Goodwin gave a talk on the text and answered a good number of interesting questions at the end. It was a free meeting, open to all, and the new book sold well. We have since sold several copies locally and nationally. We hope to publish Volume 24, Dr Martin Ayres' book on Corfe Castle in 2025. Dr Tim Connor's book on the Letters of Lady Mary Trenchard of Wolfeton is almost ready. We have ready a new edition of Vol. 10, *The Love Letters and Poems of William Barnes*, which has been out of print for some years. It will be in hardback with a colour cover and illustrations, an improvement on the original paper-bound version. This will coincide with the cataloguing of the Barnes archive at Dorset History Centre, for which they have almost completed fund-raising, and which is expected to commence in 2025. We have appointed two new Trustees, Dr. Robert Nantes from Bridport and Louise Haywood from Corfe Castle. Both are actively involved in local history.

Dorset Record Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 2024

	£	£		£	£
Opening Balance on 1st January 2024					
Lloyds Bank	9851.30				
		9851.30	Printing & publication costs	586.67	
			Editorial expenses	0.00	
			Secretarial expenses	0.00	
			Bank charges	0.00	
			Refunds	0.00	
					586.67
DRS Book Sales	545.73		Balance at 31st December 2024		
Other Sales	0.00				
Grants	0.00		Lloyds Bank	9814.86	
Donations	4.50				
		550.23			9814.86
		10401.53			10401.53

Income and Expenditure: 2024

Income:	550.23
Expenditure	586.67
Contingent Liabilities	0.00
 Surplus:	 -36.44

G M Smith
 Hon. Treasurer
 Date: 05/01/2025

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165078

Accounts

We held our AGM in March 2023 in person at Dorset History Centre, and another Committee meeting in September remotely by MS Teams. We ran a Dorset Record Society book stall at the British Association for Local History regional conference at Taunton in October. Our Editor, Mark Forrest was one of the speakers at this event, talking about his Guide to Manorial Records. The Trustees have asked Dr Sam Shave, Dr Trixie Gadd and Prof Henry French to act as academic advisors to our publications. We have several titles nearing completion. Volume 23, The Minutes of the Dorset Standing Committee 1646 will be published in February 2024. Dr Gadd has given valuable assistance with the preparation of this text.

Dorset Record Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 2023

	£	£		£	£
Opening Balance on 1st January 2023			Printing & publication costs	30.66	
Lloyds Bank	9280.77		Editorial expenses	0.00	
			Secretarial expenses	84.04	
		9280.77	Bank charges	0.00	
			Refunds	0.00	
					114.70
DRS Book Sales	682.52		Balance at 31st December 2023		
Other Sales	0.00				
Grants	0.00		Lloyds Bank	9851.30	
Donations	2.71				
		685.23			9851.30
		9966.00			9966.00

Income and Expenditure: 2023

Income:	685.23
Expenditure	114.70
Contingent Liabilities	0.00

Surplus: 570.53

G M Smith
Hon. Treasurer
Date: 08/01/2024

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165078

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 01	Year 2022		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Dorset Record Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1165078

Charity's principal address Dorset History Centre

Bridport Road

DORCHESTER

Postcode DT1

1RP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sam Johnston	Chairman		
2	Ann Smith	Secretary		
3	Geoff Smith	Treasurer		
4	Mark Forrest	Editor		
5	Martin Ayres			
6	John Chandler			
7	Graham Hoddinott			
8	Katherine Barker			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organization
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by the Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the public in the subject of history, and to facilitate historical research by the publication, distribution and interpretation of archival texts, records and study guides relating to the county of Dorset.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees held the seventh AGM at Dorset History Centre on 23rd March 2023 to discuss Record Society business. The accounts and the minutes of the previous meeting in 2022 were approved. The second edition of the Minute Book of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis 1625-1660, published in hardback with illustrations and a new Preface has now been issued. Volume 22, The Records of Bridport Fraternities c. 1300-1550 was published at the end of 2022. We held an additional meeting remotely by MS Teams to plan the launch which will be early in 2023. Volumes in preparation include Corfe Castle census and associated documents which is nearly ready for publication, the Minutes of the Dorset Standing Committee 1650-1660 which just needs the text checking, the Dorset Lay Subsidy of 1628, the Dorchester Offenders Book 1620s and 1630s, and Witchcraft in Dorset. Work is continuing on The Love Letters and Poems of William Barnes will be re-issued in hardback format shortly.

The South-West regional meeting of the British Association for Local History took place in October 2022 at Taunton, after being delayed for two years. One of our Trustees, Mark Forrest was a speaker at the event and another Trustee helped with organizing the event. They ran a bookstall for Dorset Record Society This was successful in terms of sales and raising our profile.

We have recruited Sam Shave, Trixie Gadd and Henry French as volunteer advisors. They all have academic backgrounds. They help us by reviewing texts, writing introductions, research context and providing links with the academic community. We are beginning to think about Succession and recruiting new Trustees. We particularly need people who are familiar with social media, the press and advertising.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in running the charity.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We have published one new volume in the last year, The Thomas Rackett Papers, 1786-1840. Two more volumes are almost ready for publication. As a result of the pandemic, opportunities to sell our volumes have been reduced, and we are actively seeking new outlets.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Sales of books provide income for future publications.
All funds are held in the DRS bank account.
There are no separate reserves but the Treasurer and Trustees have agreed a policy that no more than 50% of available funds may be committed to a new publication and that a minimum balance of £500 pounds will be maintained in the DRS bank account.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	P.A. Smith	
Full name(s)	Patricia Ann Smith	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	3 th May 2023	

Dorset Record Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 2022

	£	£		£	£
Opening Balance on 1st January 2022			Printing & publication costs	612.81	
Lloyds Bank	9466.27		Editorial expenses	0.00	
			Secretarial expenses	23.80	
		9466.27	Bank charges	0.00	
			Refunds	0.00	
					636.61
DRS Book Sales	451.11		Balance at 31st December 2022		
Other Sales	0.00				
Grants	0.00		Lloyds Bank	9280.77	
Donations	0.00				9280.77
		451.11			
					9917.38
		9917.38			

Income and Expenditure: 2022

Income:	451.11
Expenditure	636.61
Contingent Liabilities	0.00
Surplus / Deficit:	-185.50

G M Smith
Hon. Treasurer
Date: 05/01/2023

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165078

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 01	Year 2021		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Dorset Record Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1165078

Charity's principal address Dorset History Centre

Bridport Road

DORCHESTER

Postcode DT1

1RP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sam Johnston	Chairman		
2	Ann Smith	Secretary		
3	Geoff Smith	Treasurer		
4	Mark Forrest	Editor		
5	Martin Ayres			
6	John Chandler			
7	Graham Hoddinott			
8	Katherine Barker			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organization
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by the Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the public in the subject of history, and to facilitate historical research by the publication, distribution and interpretation of archival texts, records and study guides relating to the county of Dorset.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees held the sixth AGM at Dorset History Centre on 7th April 2022 to discuss Record Society business. The accounts and the minutes of the previous meeting in 2021 were approved. The Thomas Rackett Papers, 1786-1840 were published in December 2021. A second edition of the Minute Book of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis 1625-1660 containing a few corrections to the captions will be issued shortly. Further volumes nearly ready for publication include Corfe Castle census and associated documents and the Medieval Fraternity of Bridport. Work is still in progress on the Dorset Lay Subsidy of 1628, the detached portion of the Minutes of the Dorset Standing Committee 1646, Sherborne wills and inventories, the Dorchester Offenders Book 1620s and 1630s, and Witchcraft in Dorset. It was hoped to produce a volume on the earliest Motor Tax records of Dorset, but formidable difficulties with the text have regretfully caused the Trustees to abandon this project. New texts suggested for future volumes include the Churchwarden's presentments for the Dorset peculiars of the Dean of Sarum, 1550-1603 and the 18th century political diaries of Henry Bankes. The churchwarden's presentments have been digitized and work will start on them when other texts are finished. Outlets for selling our books were severely affected during the pandemic, and some of our core outlets have since disappeared. Dorset County Museum has now re-opened after major building work, but the new shop does not sell academic books. Dorset History Centre has re-opened to the public, but on a reduced basis which is affecting footfall and potential sales of our books. Sales are continuing through online outlets such as Amazon. We are contacting independent bookshops to strengthen our links with them. The South-West regional meeting of the British Association for Local History may take place in the Autumn. If it goes ahead, one of the Trustees and the Secretary will man a bookstall for Dorset Record Society.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in running the charity.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We have published one new volume in the last year, The Thomas Rackett Papers, 1786-1840. Two more volumes are almost ready for publication. As a result of the pandemic, opportunities to sell our volumes have been reduced, and we are actively seeking new outlets.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Sales of books provide income for future publications.
All funds are held in the DRS bank account.
There are no separate reserves but the Treasurer and Trustees have agreed a policy that no more than 50% of available funds may be committed to a new publication and that a minimum balance of £500 pounds will be maintained in the DRS bank account.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	P.A. Smith	
Full name(s)	Patricia Ann Smith	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	3 th May 2022	

Dorset Record Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 2021

	£	£		£	£
Opening Balance on 1st January 2021			Printing & publication costs	289.29	
Lloyds Bank	9265.74		Editorial expenses	0.00	
	<u> </u>	9265.74	Secretarial expenses	0.00	
			Bank charges	0.00	
			Refunds	0.00	
				<u> </u>	289.29
DRS Book Sales	489.82		Balance at 31st December 2021		
Other Sales	0.00				
Grants	0.00		Lloyds Bank	9466.27	
Donations	0.00			<u> </u>	9466.27
	<u> </u>	<u>489.82</u>			<u> </u>
		<u>9755.56</u>			<u>9755.56</u>

Income and Expenditure: 2021

Income:	489.82
Expenditure	289.29
Contingent Liabilities	0.00

Surplus: 200.53

G M Smith
Hon. Treasurer
Date: 5th January 2022

DORSET RECORD SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1165078

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 01	Year 2020		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Dorset Record Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1165078

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Bridport Road

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Postcode DT1

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

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2	Ann Smith	Secretary		
3	Geoff Smith	Treasurer		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organization

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by the Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the public in the subject of history, and to facilitate historical research by the publication, distribution and interpretation of archival texts, records and study guides relating to the county of Dorset.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees held the fifth AGM remotely by Microsoft Teams on 10th May 2021 due to the continuing COVID 19 restrictions, to discuss Record Society business. The accounts and the minutes of the previous meeting in 2020 were approved. The Minute Book of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis 1625-1660 was published in December 2020. The Thomas Rackett Papers, 1786-1840 are now nearly ready for publication. Further volumes in preparation include Corfe Castle census and associated documents, the Medieval Fraternity of Bridport, the Dorset Lay Subsidy of 1628, Sherborne wills and inventories, The Dorchester Offenders Book 1620s, and Witchcraft in Dorset. We are intending to reprint Puddletown Census and the Love Letters and Poems of William Barnes, both now out of print. These will be in modern hardback format. Whilst lockdown has reduced activity and opportunities to sell our volumes, the Trustees and a small band of supporters have used the time to prepare new texts for publication. We have been offered potential texts of the detached portion of the minutes of the Dorset Standing Committee 1646, a manuscript volume of hymns used by Thomas Hardy's family and the Shaftesbury Abbey cartulary.

The South-West regional meeting of the British Association for Local History has been postponed. If it goes ahead, one of the Trustees and the Secretary will man a bookstall for Dorset Record Society.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in running the charity.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Sales have been affected by the closure of Dorset County Museum for major building works and closure or limited access to Dorset History Centre, both of which are important sales outlets. Such sales as have taken place have been through online outlets such as Amazon.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Sales of books provide income for future publications.
All funds are held in the DRS bank account.
There are no separate reserves but the Treasurer and Trustees have agreed a policy that no more than 50% of available funds may be committed to a new publication and that a minimum balance of £500 pounds will be maintained in the DRS bank account.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	P.A. Smith	
Full name(s)	Patricia Ann Smith	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	30 th May 2021	

Dorset Record Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 2020

	£	£		£	£
Opening Balance on 1st January 2020			Printing & publication costs	516.39	
Lloyds Bank	9411.92		Editorial expenses	0.00	
			Secretarial expenses	0.00	
		9411.92	Bank charges	0.00	
			Refunds	0.00	
					516.39
DRS Book Sales	370.21		Balance at 31st December 2020		
Other Sales	0.00				
Grants	0.00		Lloyds Bank	9265.74	
Donations	0.00				
		370.21			9265.74
		9782.13			9782.13

Income and Expenditure: 2020

Income:	370.21
Expenditure	516.39
Contingent Liabilities	0.00
Surplus/Loss:	-146.18

G M Smith
Hon. Treasurer
Date: 5/1/2021