

Malmesbury History Society Trustee Annual Report 2021

Registered Charity Number - 1193228

Address of Society

39 Gastons Road Malmesbury
SN16 0BD

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Anthony McAleavy	Chairman 1/1/21 - 30/7/21
Michael Lewis	Vice Chair, Acting Chairman (30/7/21 - 31/12/21)
Christina Staff	Secretary
Anne Goodyer	
Roger Griffin	
Barry Dent	
Deborah Shipp	
Maria Marsh	Treasurer

Structure and Governance

CIO – Charitable Incorporated Company

All trustees are elected according to the constitution by the members at the yearly AGM.

Objectives and Activities

Main Purpose of the Society

To advance education in the history of Malmesbury and the surrounding area, by holding meetings to disseminate and promote the history of the local area in a wider historical context to the local community and the general public of all ages and to publish local history information and liaise with other local groups who have a similar aim.

Public Benefit

The society exists for the public benefit. All the trustees have been made aware and reviewed the guidance on what the Charity Commission means by public benefit and believes that this has been achieved through our activities.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New trustees are vetted by the current trustees and are put forward for election by the members at the AGM. A committee member may be co-opted during the year for a trial period. All new trustees are given a copy of the essential guidance on being a trustee from the government.

Activities Related to our Objective and Purposes

A subgroup was set up to investigate the possibility of an archaeological investigation of the Cloister Garden to the north of the abbey building. Two further geophysical surveys of the Cloister Garden have taken place. They were arranged at no cost to MHS by one of

our members, archaeologist Robin Holley. The group is now in the process of navigating the procedural rules with English Heritage before a firm plan of action can be made.

Meeting and Talks

17 September 2020 Barry Dent The Abbey Tudor Frieze
19 November 2020 Charles Vernon The History of the Old Bell Hotel
21 January 2021 Mike Lewis The Past Dental History of Malmesbury
18 March 2021 Mark Horton What happened when the Romans left Cirencester
20 May 2021 David Witt The history of 25 Gastons Road
17 June 2021 Tony McAleavy Malmesbury Abbey in the 14th century
16 September 2021 Anne Goodyer Malmesbury Market Cross
18 November 2021 Gordon Williams Stop Line Green

Publications

The publication of the booklets Hannah Twynnoy and The Witches of 17th Century Malmesbury and subsequent sales were in accordance with our Objectives and Charitable purposes.

Volunteer Contributions

Volunteer time contributions: The 6 trustees met 6 times for approximately 1.5 hours each.

Arranged and held meetings, talks, and events.

Additional admin and planning as needed.

In addition research and presentations by members are all voluntary.

Summary of Achievements

A lot has happened since the last Malmesbury History Society AGM on 21st March 2019. Covid has impacted upon all our lives, directly or indirectly; no-one can claim to have been unaffected. For a while normal life was suspended and we all had to re-assess interpersonal communications. Some because of clinical considerations almost withdrew from normal everyday activity. Several restrictive lockdowns took their toll on social activity across the spectrum of civic and personal life. MHS was not alone in suspending activities as people everywhere shunned mass gatherings either by law or later by personal choice.

A new word, Zoom, took a prominent place in our vocabulary. What a difference electronic communication made in business, education and on a personal level. We started holding our bi-monthly meetings on the Zoom platform and we are very grateful that our contributors agreed to participate in this temporary format. MHS is in a good position and has a membership with a depth of experience and a real interest in the history of Malmesbury and district.

Relationships with other organisations in the local area

The MHS has a good working relationship with the Civic Trust and our local museum, Athelstan Museum. We hire meeting space from the museum. The Athelstan Museum is also an outlet for the sale of our publications.

Financial Review for 1 January 2021 to 30 December 2021

Membership is robust again after the slight decline during the Covid 19 pandemic. At the end of the two years we had 72 members, the same as the previous period. There were 9 life members, an increase of 1 over the previous year. The committee decided to not charge a membership fee for 2020. Renewals are now due on April 1st. The membership year runs from April to March for everyone. It was also decided to keep the membership at £10 for the coming year but to look at this again for next year.

The society ended the year with a healthy bank balance of £6,552.61, £530.52 down on the previous period, largely due to the late year printing of the Hannah Twynnoy book and the reprinting of the Witches of Malmesbury book. The largest income was membership and publications sales, although sales were down from 2019 due to the pandemic. Our largest expenses were due to printing books and meeting expenses such as Zoom and room hires. We also are members of BAHF from whom we get our insurance cover, with 2021 and 2022 paid in the calendar 2021 and an overpayment that was refunded in 2022.

After much discussion it was decided that the society should become a charity. In January

2021 the Society became a registered charity, #1193228 (as a CIO). This will help to obtain funding and grants for future projects we may wish to run such as the Cloister Excavations.

Reserves Policy

The society holds £1,000 in reserve for the purpose of having the funds to cover the expenses for 18 months. This is reviewed yearly.

Policy on Restricted Funds

The Society considers Restricted Funds yearly. These are grants and specific bequests to a society that are for a stated purpose.

Designated Funds are usually funds that are set aside for a specific purpose during the year, but can be used for other things at the discretion of the trustees. For 2021 the society held £600 designated for publishing publications.

2020 Balance £7,083.13

	2021		
	Income	Expenses	Gain/Loss
Abbey Geophys		-£119.16	-£119.16
Donations	£50.00		£50.00
Meetings		-£411.88	-£411.88
Membership	£700.00		£700.00
Publications	£367.50	-£868.00	-£500.50
Societies		-£225.00	-£225.00
Website		-£23.98	-£23.98
	£ 1,117.50	£ (1,648.02)	£ (530.52)

2021 Year End Balance **£**
6,552.61

This report has been approved by the trustees on 29 October 2022.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by Christina Staff, Chair and Maria Marsh,
Treasurer