

Charity Registration No. 233701

Company Registration No. 115703 (England and Wales)

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Neil Allcock	Resigned December 2020
	Amelia Bennett (Vice Chair)	
	Andrew Douglas	Co-opted 15 December 2020
	Laura Doyle	Resigned December 2020
	Robert George	
	David Gill	Co-opted 15 March 2021
	Heather Nowlan	Co-opted 25 August 2020
	Raymond O'Connell (Treasurer)	
	Edward Percival (Chair)	
	Janice Tulloch	Retired November 2020
	Graham Walter	
	Darris Williams	Co-opted 15 December 2020
Charity number	233701	
Company number	115703	
Registered office	14 Charterhouse Buildings Goswell Road London EC1M 7BA	
Auditor	Richard Place Dobson Services Limited 1-7 Station Road Crawley West Sussex RH10 1HT	
Bankers	HSBC 74 Goswell Road London EC1V 7DA	
Solicitors	Field Fisher Waterhouse 5 Vine Street London EC3N 2AA	

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

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SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

A Message from the Chairman

Once again I find myself writing about an organisation which in August 2021 is very different from that which closed 2020. As with all organisations, COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our abilities to function, but unlike others, we've also been going through the most significant transformation in our history.

At the close of 2020, we had completed the sale of our premises at Charterhouse Buildings and had set out an ambitious programme for transformation to ensure we had the systems in place to ensure the future of the Society. Our CEO, June Perrin, retired in December 2020 and we thank her for her long and dedicated service.

Laura Doyle stepped down from the trustee board to take up the CEO role on an interim basis. Similarly, another trustee, Neil Allcock, stepped off the board to use his considerable expertise to run our transformation programme.

Both have driven our hugely successful change programme - scoping and introducing multiple new systems to replace those which were failing. In addition, it became clear that we needed to push ahead with our planned move to new premises. Thus the enormous task of carefully boxing, rationalising and storing our collections took thousands of man hours

We will have vacated the building by the start of October 2021 and are negotiating on the acquisition of new premises, in London, which better fit to needs of our future operations. We hope to be fully moved and operating before the close of 2022. In the interim, the team continue to complete the transformation programme, as well as delivering a much expanded and outstanding educational programme.

We are enormously grateful to our members who have continued to support us during the long period of enforced closure and transformation, as well as the generous bequests we have received.

Our members and visitors will soon see the fruits of this enormous change, in the emergence of a revitalised Society of Genealogists, resourced and prepared for the future. I'm also delighted that Dr. Wanda Wyporska will take up the CEO role from October 2021. She brings with her both considerable experience as a charity CEO, and extensive connections, but also a real passion for history. We're excited for our future.

I offer my gratitude to our interim CEO, Laura Doyle and her team for their continued resilience and efforts, and our army of volunteers, without whom nothing would be possible. It is incredible how much can be achieved with limited resources, particularly when people work their socks off.

I need to give thanks to the support of our trustee board, who have provided experience and many hours of their time as we collectively steer the Society through troubled waters. In particular, my deputy chair Amelia Bennett, who completes her second term as a trustee, has been vital, both in her intimate understanding of the library, its collections, our team and volunteers, but also in her knowledge of the genealogy world. She will be sorely missed, but I know she won't be far away.

Finally, I thank our members in supporting our work. It is through the dedication of all members of our SoG community working together that we have achieved so much and that we can be confident that the Society of Genealogists will continue to flourish in the years ahead. We will deliver a refreshed organisation, whose sustainability will be reliant on a growing and healthy membership base.

The windfall finance of our building sale is a once-only event, enabling a step change in investment in our organisation. It will not replace our reliance on membership income and the generosity of our donors. I thank you for keeping with us in these difficult and uncertain times.



Edward Percival

Chairman

Dated: 28/9/21

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the society's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Governance, Structure & Management Team

Constitution & Organisation

Constitution

The Society of Genealogists is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Charity number 233701. Company number 115703.

The Board of Trustees

For the purposes of charity law, a Board of Trustees are directors of and administer the charitable company. The Board consists of up to 10 members who receive no emoluments for their service. As set out in the Articles of Association, the trustees are elected by the charity's members, serving for a term of three years and for a maximum of two successive terms. These trustees have the power to appoint an honorary treasurer and an honorary solicitor, who ex-officio serve as members of the Board. No honorary solicitor has been appointed for many years. The trustees also have the power to elect any eligible member of the Society to the Board to fill any casual vacancy arising between one Annual General Meeting and the next; any person so elected shall retire at the AGM next following their election but shall be eligible for re-election. The trustees serving during the year 2020 and up to the date of this report are listed on the legal and administrative page

Committees

The Board of Trustees appoints other committees and working parties as it considers expedient from time to time.

A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day activities of the charity.

Directors & Trustees

Trustee Recruitment, Induction & Training

The Society's Governing documents require all Trustees to become a Member once successful in applying for Board membership. By not having to be a member for a requisite time in advance it means individuals with particular skillsets can become a Trustee.

Trustees are recruited through notice in the main instruments of communications with Members i.e. *The Genealogists Magazine* and the Website and actively approach organisations where skilled people put themselves forward for positions on the Board. We carry out an audit of skillsets when considering any gaps for new applicants. Applicants wishing to put themselves forward are invited for an interview and appropriate checks to ensure they satisfy the criteria of Trustee along with a 200 word CV. Formal election takes place at the Annual General Meeting where all Members have a right to vote.

The Society requires a good cross section of skills on its board of Trustees to cover all the areas the Charity encompasses. Formal processes ensure there are no major gaps in necessary skillsets and that all Trustees are aware of their responsibilities. This process is consistently under review to ensure it is still adequate for our needs.

To assist ongoing awareness, Trustees receive any updates received from the Charity Commission, etc. The Trustees employ a Chief Executive whose role it is to ensure any arising issues are highlighted to the Trustees. Training is continual as needs arise.

New Trustees have an induction to assess the new skill sets being added to the Society.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Strategic Overview

Present

2020 saw the Society of Genealogists grasp the opportunity provided by the sale of the building to set in train plans for a significant transformation of our systems and services to ensure a robust response to the challenges of the year and secure a firm foundation for the future.

2020 was an extremely challenging year for the Society of Genealogists, as it was for many. The COVID-19 shutdowns from March meant all staff and trustees had to re-evaluate operations in a very short time frame, devise new front facing services and work practices for staff who could work from home and sadly some staff were furloughed, but for as short a period as possible. Having made the decision to sell, the building was put on the market and sold reasonably quickly considering the market conditions, leaving the option of the Society renting the premises for two years in anticipation of a move. A comprehensive strategic review of options for future business activity, relocation, investments, membership services and IT systems was set in train with Neil Allcock stepping down from the board in the middle of the year with permission from the Charity Commission for England and Wales to direct the transformation project as a consultant.

Day to day priorities during 2020 were to provide remote services and education programmes for members, provide systems and support for staff who could work from home, and to prepare for gradual reopening under strict socially distanced COVID-19 safety structures. The detail of this will be outlined elsewhere in the relevant sections of the report, but thanks must be paid the efforts of the staff and volunteers and our members. The transformation to a remote delivered events programme using the Zoom platform showed a significant growth in income and attendance. Membership held up remarkably well given the circumstances and this must in part be down to the improved interaction through the enhanced online events and education programme; the switch to remote management of digital data volunteering programmes; better communications ;and we were gratified that, after its initial postponement, the online AGM proved to be the highest attended in recent years. As part of the transformation agents were appointed to assess the Society's relocation needs which included a comprehensive survey of members and other stakeholders.

In 2020 the Society has:

- Sold 14 Charterhouse Buildings
- Set in train a comprehensive transformation review and process to steer the Society on course for the future including a multi-part transformation plan covering:
 - Education and events
 - Finance
 - Investment strategy
 - Membership
 - Marketing and brand
 - Relocation
 - Document processing and storage
 - DataOnline
 - Unique assets
 - Website
 - Library published materials
 - Bookshop and magazines
 - Systems architecture
 - Fundraising and grants
- Developed and delivered a well-received online programme of events and social activities.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- Developing new IT platforms for the management of the enhanced Events programmes, Membership administration and Finance management and Newsletter e-communications
- Added video and modules to the members learning zone
- Focussed on remote access to the digital collections and media from the catalogue
- Continued where possible cataloguing and library data projects
- Set up remote volunteer programmes for indexing and scanning projects
- Established future planning for a new website
- Established remote working systems for staff
- Prepared and reconfigured the library for safe use under COVID-19 restrictions and reopened the library on a restricted member use as soon as possible.
- Continued external partner relationships with commercial and non-commercial genealogy sector

Future

June Perrin retired as CEO at the end of 2020 and, after consultation with the Charity Commission, Laura Doyle stepped down from the Board of Trustees and was appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer. The appointment of a new permanent CEO, Dr. Wanda Wyporska, was announced in August 2021. Wanda is expected to join the Society on 1 October 2021 and Laura will step down.

The opportunity for investment provided by the sale of the building has meant that 2021 has seen the appointment of a restructuring and transformation team under the directorship of the Interim CEO Laura Doyle and Neil Allcock who had also stepped down from the Board. Strategic appointments for new Head of Membership Services, Fundraising and IT infrastructure were made, along with an overhaul finance, web and membership systems. The first stage of the development of the new website was introduced and plans are in train to implement a further integration of digital data into the website.

After consideration of the costs of rent and maintenance etc. it was decided that the Society will not continue with its lease of the current building and to invest that expenditure in the transformation and preparation of the library and collections for our new building. Hence the Society gave notice to vacate Charterhouse buildings from October 2021. Intensive preparations are underway to pack up the library and offices, retrieve items from existing offsite storage, conserve and prepare items for permanent off-site storage or digitisation. The Society has engaged an agent to make a wide-ranging search for new premises in London based on the conclusions from extensive surveys of members and stake holders.

Objectives & Activities / Achievements & Performance

Objectives & Aims of the Society

The objectives and aims of the charity are to promote, encourage and foster the study, science and knowledge of genealogy. The Society's principal activities in achieving this aim continue to relate to education:

- maintains the foremost specialist library in the country
- provides a comprehensive programme of lectures, tutorials and courses
- publishes textbooks and indexes of genealogical material
- maintains co-operative relationships with allied organisations
- lobbies government and other relevant organisations on behalf of the genealogical community

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The objectives we set ourselves were radically challenged by circumstances in 2020 which made imperative efforts to maintain membership numbers as best we could; provide digital services through education and web interactions; keep our members informed of our endeavours and to devise and implement a strategic plan for the future. Library, bookshop and administrative staff were furloughed for some considerable part of the year and hence targets for cataloguing and data provision were set aside, although activity did continue in these where possible and where staff were able to work from home. COVID-19 secure measures were introduced for the safety of staff and visitors and the library was configured for a limited number of members to pre-book visits under socially distanced regulations. In anticipation of the potential hit to the Society's income a concerted appeal for donations via the website was instigated along with the general legacy fundraising.

Achievements & Performance

Detailed descriptions of the different departments' performance are made throughout this Annual Report. However, the Trustees recognise the need to have some Key Performance Indicators to assess the Society is achieving its Objectives. Given the uncertainty at the start of the year Key Performance Indicators were approved and instigated in 2020 based on holding stability with the previous year. An assessment is made each year on the continuing suitability of the Indicators and the Trustees monitor them regularly.

Key areas of Operation	Specific Task	Actual
Membership	To maintain membership at current levels as far as possible	7,530 at 31 Dec 2020, down from 7,998 at 1 Jan 2020, a decrease of 5.9%
Lectures	To achieve 3,250 attendees	846 (physical attendees at the Library) Jan-Mar 14; 6,226 remote attendees Apr-Dec In total, 7,072 attendees, 118% above target
Lectures	To achieve income of £45,000	£65,000, 44% above target
Data On-line	To add at least 200,000 records	265,631, 33% above target
Customer Care	To ensure customer satisfaction on visits to the Library – Target 95%	No surveys undertaken due to COVID-19 closure
Cataloguing	To ensure priority material is catalogued within three months of receipt	Priorities turned to work that could be done from home – such as adding links from the catalogue to digital data
Fundraising	To achieve income of £116,350	£73,799, 37% below target due to COVID-19 and furlough impacts

The Board of Trustees and the Management Team suspended these 'business as usual' objectives during the transformation period. In their place focus was moved to successful achievement of the transformation plan within the set budget. Once the transformation work is complete, new performance indicators will be set, appropriate to the goals of the Society.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The purpose of the Charity is encapsulated in its objects to promote, encourage and foster the study, science and knowledge of genealogy. One excellent example is the free Open Access area which provides a good resource to newcomers in starting their educational journey. By reading this report it will be clear what services the Society offers to ensure all the public can benefit from its services. The membership fees are kept as low as possible.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Risk Statement

The Society recognises that it has a responsibility to manage risks effectively in order to control its assets and liabilities, protect its employees and community against potential losses or against obstacles in the way of achieving its objectives. The trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage and minimise those risks.

Additionally the risk assessments required to ensure the safety of employees and the public against COVID-19 were undertaken and the plan implemented.

Principal risk identified	Planned response
A continued steady decline in membership combined with increases in operational costs through general inflation are a threat to the long-term sustainability of the Society and the services it offers	Through the Transformation Programme, Trustees have taken steps to limit the growth in operational costs and to reverse the long-term trend in membership and income
Lack of a permanent physical home and the restriction on traditional services during any relocation period reduces the effectiveness of the Society and its attractiveness to existing and new members	Trustees are seeking to confirm a new permanent physical home for the Society in London and to put in place interim arrangements to support the continued operation of core services and the retention of staff and volunteer expertise. Enhancements to our online services are prioritised to provide resources to a potentially wider group of members and online visitors
Changing responses to COVID-19 through the emergence of new variants limit the Society's ability to operate and present a challenge to the health and well-being of staff, volunteers and visitors	The Trustees have taken a precautionary approach to the use of buildings and will continue to do so, by limiting access, providing all appropriate social distance and hygiene measures, and by enabling more activity to be undertaken remotely, including through online collaboration and the provision of digital tools
Continued deterioration of the Charterhouse building and historic challenges associated with storage and office space make it harder to ensure a safe working environment for staff and volunteers	The Trustees have accelerated the process of relocation, and given priority to the process of clearing and storing all materials held at the Charterhouse building, at a time when COVID-19 restrictions (including on travel) reduced access for visitors, so as to minimize overall disruption.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the society that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the society's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year. The trustees are aware that the unrestricted reserves are currently in excess of the stated policy but feel that the level of uncertainty surrounding the move and COVID-19, they feel it is prudent to hold higher reserves and the reserves policy will be reviewed during the next financial year.

The Library

During 2020 the library was closed to visitors from March till August and again from November 2020 until May 2021. When access was permitted, staff made considerable preparations and reconfigurations to provide adequate social distancing and COVID-19 secure measures. Public access to the library was reduced to a maximum of 20 members for pre booked sessions on Tuesdays and the first Saturday of the month.

The library staff were furloughed for some of the year and hence some work on accessions, project management and digital collections was put into abeyance. Some cataloguing did continue, however, and greater focus was made to make links from the catalogue to the increasing number of digital books viewable from home via SoG Data Online. The library was able to receive some limited accessions and despite the constraints of labour and access to the library, significant lists of notable accessions and digitised collections uploaded to the website were able to be listed in the quarterly Genealogists Magazine in this period.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Projects

Thanks to the efforts of the staff and volunteers a significant amount of effort was put into ensuring that project work for our digital collections could shift to remote home working. Literally thousands of existing scanned images from the collections were made available to upload and view remotely so they could be worked on.

Equipment was transferred from the library to volunteers' homes so that work could continue scanning the Society's collection of roll pedigrees and volunteers worked to abstract the data from the scanned images to create GEDCOM files for the pedigrees.

The Wells Wills project was complete which makes the Society's unique index to probate documents in the Consistory and Archdeaconry Courts of Bath and Wells, which were destroyed in 1942, available to members. Volunteers continue to work at home indexing our unique transcripts of registers and monumental inscriptions, transcribing information from the Great Card Index, Certificates, Memorial Cards, Poll Books and Directories. A dedicated volunteers' forum ensured the team can support each other as remote volunteer transcribers and indexers and create digital records for future uploads.

Volunteering

2020 was a year of interruptions; our volunteer community was no exception.

The year started in the usual way, with volunteers attending the annual Closed Week to assist library staff with tidying, sorting, preparing removal of collections material to offsite storage and getting the premises ready for the new year. Also in January, we had a special meeting of Counter Volunteers, to give them the opportunity to meet others doing this important, front-line work, to talk about their experiences and to make recommendations for service improvement.

With the first COVID-19 lockdown occurring in late March, many onsite volunteers had their work interrupted. Some transitioned to volunteering offsite by taking on home indexing projects, hosting online events and responding to members' research questions in the Community Hub on our website. Volunteers have also assisted us with one-off duties such as testing online events and closed captioning software.

In March, we set up the SoG Volunteer Community Forum on the Groups platform. This has been useful for keeping volunteers connected and informed and to enable volunteers to converse about and assist each other with their work. Those carrying out home projects have been the most frequent users of the forum and using community input we have been developing resources for those projects. From an administration standpoint, the relative immediacy of communication to volunteers on the forum enabled us to quickly respond in 2020 to frequently changing circumstances. We'd like to thank all those volunteers who have supported this initiative and registered on the forum. Twenty e-bulletins (the 'SoG Volunteer Dispatch') were also distributed throughout the year to provide volunteers with information about the society and project updates.

Throughout the lockdowns we held a number of online activities for volunteers including project specific information sessions, and some software training. Volunteers were offered the opportunity to attend gratis six 'SoG Orientation' sessions, which were developed in response to the Counter Volunteers' request for further training about the major resources in the society's collections. In December, we hosted a meeting of the Advice Line volunteers (one of the groups whose volunteering was indefinitely interrupted by the pandemic) and there are plans to host more of these for other volunteers whose work for the society has been interrupted. The volunteer program was also well supported by the events team in its offering of many free events for volunteers throughout the year, and volunteers appreciate these benefits and learning opportunities.

A relatively small but enthusiastic contingent of volunteers attended the society between lockdowns during 2020 and assisted staff with all areas of collection work and service delivery. These volunteers were working in unusual circumstances, with the rearrangement of computers in the building and the necessity of working within new COVID-19 safety guidelines. We'd like to commend these people for their patience, cheerfulness and productivity in difficult circumstances.

The Trustees and staff of the Society are very grateful to all our amazing volunteers, whose support and work was so important in 2020 and will continue to be vital in the society's major transformation plans.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Membership

The uncertainties brought about to the economy during 2020 were expected to have a devastating impact on the Society's revenues and while membership did decline, and stood at 7,530 at the end of 2020, this was considerably better than our projection. The strategic plan had already started to address the potential for revised memberships services, recruitment and ways to forestall decline. Part of that review recommended in 2020 the appointment of a new Head of Membership Services who would be part of the renewed transformation and communications.

New Members pay £80 for Full Membership and £56 for Associate Membership. Day entry fees remained at £5 for two hours, £10 for four hours and £18 for a day. Associate Members received 50% discount on the four hour and day rates.

Once again membership fees were not increased in 2020 for Full Members who joined prior to September 2017.

Publications

Our bookshop sales were resilient throughout the lockdowns, albeit with delays to delivery times.

Adelle Emm's work *My Ancestor worked in Textile Mills* was well received and is selling well. No new titles were commissioned or published in 2020, but several existing titles were reprinted.

The Genealogists Magazine was published as usual. Efforts continue to encourage our members to take advantage of the electronic version and of the e-newsletter. Both remained vital means of communicating with our members.

Communication

The challenges of this year mean the Society's communications outlets were busier than ever. Like most organisations the Society has several means of communicating with its members and the genealogical community at large. The website with its news functions was updated regularly and provided links to and contacts for the Society's *Genealogists Magazine*, (published quarterly) and the monthly e-newsletter. The latter was significantly redesigned in this period and distributed to more members and non-members via a new distribution service. The members' online hub in the dedicated member's area of the website was effectively utilised in lockdown as many of the Society's former library counter volunteers helped answer enquiries and direct conversations between members. A separate forum for volunteers was established to assist communications for those volunteering on digital projects.

The Society remains active on social media, on Facebook Page and via the @SoGGenealogist Twitter account. The Society promotes its events via Instagram and Pinterest. While personal genealogical consultations and telephone enquiries in the library were put on hold the Society dealt with marked increase in emailed genealogical enquiries and questions.

Education, Lectures, Courses & Shows

The challenges in 2020 brought about by lockdown enabled the Society to fulfil long held plans to create digital and remote access to our courses and events – something our out-of-town members had wanted for some time. The Society already had a free beginner's course for members on its website and a number of recorded lectures along with record guides and hints and tips free to the public and some exclusively for members. These were added to during the year. However, the main boost to the programme came from a concerted effort by staff and volunteers to make use of Zoom to deliver our lectures and courses and even to adapt our social activities for a virtual world. 2020 saw a significant growth in both attendance and income for the events and courses. With a target to achieve attendance figures for the year of 3,350 on the events, courses and visits, the physical presence of some 846 attendees at the Library between January and March 2020 looked like we were off to a good start.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced the cancellation of all the events that had been planned to take place at the Library for the year. In their stead, and within six weeks the Society had invested in Zoom, trained our admin staff, volunteer hosts and speakers and from 1 May 2020 we delivered over 100 virtual activities including 2 extremely well received extensive study courses badged as virtual Genealogy Getaways. We tripled attendance on our regular skills evening classes. Working with our regular team of tutors and bringing on some new to the Society, we developed online full and half study days, one- hour talks, extensive and intensive study courses. As part of the virtual programme, the Society created free talks highlighting the free resources available to family historians via the catalogue and website and transferred the members' orientation sessions to a Zoom event.

We were delighted to welcome 6,226 remote attendees during May-December (including 933 non-members). This success meant we surpassed the income targets considerably. Our thanks go to those who supported the programme as attendees, staff and volunteers who hosted the events, our tutors and speakers and particularly to the events team who devised and coordinated the education programme. Other online social activities included virtual common room chat groups, the virtual AGM and the virtual Christmas Party.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Society's partnership with Pharos Tutors continues to deliver the Intermediate and Advanced Family History Skills certificated courses. The Intermediate course has now been running ten years. The Society partnered with the New England Historic Genealogical Society (American Ancestors) to deliver English genealogy courses to an American audience with two extensive online courses on 19th and 17th century genealogy.

External Liaison & Media Coverage & Outreach

Lockdown restrictions meant that most planned opportunities for the Society to be present at physical genealogy events and fairs were cancelled and sadly two American Tour Groups who were to be hosted at the Society were forced to postpone their trips. At the beginning of the year the Genealogist travelled to Boston, MA to run a Seminar on 17th century English research for the New England Historic Genealogical Society (American Ancestors). A scheduled lecture tour of Australia was curtailed halfway through in early March due to the pandemic. In response to the National Archives making digital documents freely available, the Society assisted the Times Newspaper History Correspondent with an article on using historic probate records and the Society and volunteers were featured in an article in the Telegraph about *Tracing Family History in Lockdown*.

The Society continues to work with FamilySearch as an affiliate library although Lockdown did cause some delay in the proposed partnership to scan and digitise the Society's collection of compiled printed family histories. The Society continued to host the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and The Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS). Neither were able to open their libraries after lockdown however the IGRS members joined the Society in presenting a very successful online series of courses.

The Society continues to represent and advocate for the genealogy community and liaises with various record societies and archives.

Premises

The sale of the building was concluded in 2020 with a two-year leaseback. However ongoing maintenance costs and expenses, along with the unsatisfactory and cramped general working conditions for staff and volunteers in the library, as well as its detrimental effect on our collections contributed to the Board's decision that the Society would be unable to continue working in the premises for the next two years. Hence the decision was made to terminate the lease agreement when possible and start preparations to pack up the library and vacate Charterhouse Buildings after 37 years. A relocation working group has been established which appointed agents to undertake a survey of the Society's needs and requirements for a new building and set in train search for new premises. We look forward to announcing our new location as soon as possible.

Financial Review

For the year ended 31 December 2020 the Charity made a surplus of £3,245,122 (2020: £55,582). If the profit on the sale of the building is excluded the Charity made a deficit of £20,212.

The results of the Charity are shown on page 15 to the accounts.

Acknowledgments

Patron

HRH Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia (2013 – present)

President

Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG (2010 – present)

Vice-Presidents

William Bortrick (2014 – present)

Colin Chapman, FSG (2014 – present)

Miriam Margolyes, OBE (2014 – present)

Sir Mervyn Medlycott, FSG (2014 – 2021)

Dan Snow (2014 – present)

The Rt Hon Lord Sudeley, FSA (2014 – present)

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Fellows

As a result of the pandemic and its lockdowns it was decided to postpone the Fellow's meeting and therefore no nominations were put to the Fellows.

It is with sadness that we have to report that Sue Lumus, Cecil Humphery-Smith and Sir Mervyn Medlycott died since the last report.

Awards

The Board of Trustees is able to recognise the contribution of members, non-members and appropriate organisations through the award of a Certificate of Appreciation. His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent has graciously agreed that a special award may be made from time to time bearing his name. In 2020 no award was made.

In 2020 the Certificate of Recognition was awarded to Janet Few.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



R O'Connell

Trustee

Dated: 28/9/21



E Percival

Trustee

Dated: 28/9/21

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees, who are also the directors of Society of Genealogists for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the society will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Society of Genealogists (the 'society') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the society for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatements due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team made enquiries of management, and those charged with governance, regarding the procedures relating to identifying, evaluating and complying with;

1. laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
2. detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
3. the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, General Data Protection Regulations, Companies Act, Charities Act 2011, Charities Statement of Recommended Practice and employment law and regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliance, which may have a material impact on the financial statements. These included reviewing financial statement disclosures and evaluating advice received from external advisors. There were no significant laws and regulations we deemed as having an indirect impact on the financial statements.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

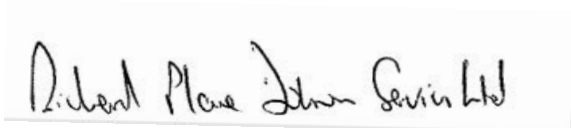
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the rationale in relation to any significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

28 September 2021

1-7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

Richard Place Dobson is eligible for appointment as auditor of the society by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
	Notes					
<u>Income from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	3	130,400	-	-	130,400	171,056
Charitable activities	4	491,878	-	2,813	494,691	504,109
Investments	5	1,209	-	-	1,209	2,131
Other income	6	3,329,450	-	-	3,329,450	7,058
Total income		<u>3,952,937</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,813</u>	<u>3,955,750</u>	<u>684,354</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	7	4,823	-	-	4,823	2,016
Charitable activities	8	687,234	14,693	3,878	705,805	626,756
Total resources expended		<u>692,057</u>	<u>14,693</u>	<u>3,878</u>	<u>710,628</u>	<u>628,772</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		3,260,880	(14,693)	(1,065)	3,245,122	55,582
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(2,519,133)</u>	<u>2,519,133</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		741,747	2,504,440	(1,065)	3,245,122	55,582
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		<u>407,851</u>	<u>3,076,302</u>	<u>56,825</u>	<u>3,540,978</u>	<u>3,485,396</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		<u>1,149,598</u>	<u>5,580,742</u>	<u>55,760</u>	<u>6,786,100</u>	<u>3,540,978</u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds general 2019 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
	Notes				
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	145,606	-	25,450	171,056
Charitable activities	4	490,046	1,591	12,472	504,109
Investments	5	2,131	-	-	2,131
Other income	6	7,058	-	-	7,058
Total income		644,841	1,591	37,922	684,354
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	7	2,016	-	-	2,016
Charitable activities	8	615,900	1,910	8,946	626,756
Total resources expended		617,916	1,910	8,946	628,772
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		26,925	(319)	28,976	55,582
Gross transfers between funds		6,326	-	(6,326)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		33,251	(319)	22,650	55,582
Fund balances at 1 January 2019		374,600	3,076,621	34,175	3,485,396
Fund balances at 31 December 2019		407,851	3,076,302	56,825	3,540,978

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		238,857		3,153,955
Investments	14		20,000		20,000
			<u>258,857</u>		<u>3,173,955</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	15	16,498		19,447	
Debtors	16	331,120		68,785	
Cash at bank and in hand		6,335,943		440,490	
		<u>6,683,561</u>		<u>528,722</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(156,318)		(161,699)	
Net current assets			<u>6,527,243</u>		<u>367,023</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>6,786,100</u>		<u>3,540,978</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	18		55,760		56,825
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	19	5,580,742		3,076,302	
General unrestricted funds		<u>1,149,598</u>		<u>407,851</u>	
			<u>6,730,340</u>		<u>3,484,153</u>
			<u>6,786,100</u>		<u>3,540,978</u>

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2020, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.


The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on **28/09/2021**


.....
Raymond O'Connell (Treasurer)
Trustee


.....
Edward Percival (Chair)
Trustee

Company Registration No. 115703

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	25		(191,495)		170,715
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(12,200)		(19,844)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		6,097,939		-	
Proceeds on disposal of subsidiaries		-		(20,000)	
Investment income received		1,209		2,131	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			6,086,948		(37,713)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			5,895,453		133,002
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			440,490		307,488
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			6,335,943		440,490

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Society of Genealogists is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the society's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The society is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the society. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.1.1 Basis of Consolidation

These accounts are for Society of Genealogists and do not include the results of its subsidiary Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited. on the basis that the subsidiary entity has not traded during the year and is to be formally wound up after the year end.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Donations are accounted for gross when receivable, so long as they are capable of financial measurement, recognises legacies when they have been informed they are to be in receipt of a legacy. This represents a change in accounting policy, as in previous years legacies were only recognised when there was adequate certainty and reliability of their value and could be accurately measured.

Grants receivable are recognised when there is reasonable assurance of their receipt, whether capital or revenue in nature. Grants are recognised on an accruals basis.

Membership income represents subscriptions for membership of the charity and is recognised in the period to which it relates.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

Event income represents sponsorship and entrance fees for events and is recognised in the accounts when the event takes place.

Genealogy income represents sum paid for specific genealogical consultation.

Bookshop, magazine and publications income represents income from sales of genealogy books and the Society of Genealogist magazine and is recognised on the day the sale takes place.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office and governance costs which support membership, library, event, genealogy and bookshop and publication activities. These costs have been allocated and apportioned to the various charitable activities. A percentage basis has been used to apportion the support costs to the charitable activities. Staff support costs are by time allocation and all other support costs are by space allocation.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets other than books and manuscripts are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, for items over £250. No depreciation is provided on freehold land or on books, manuscripts, and typescripts, since it is the Society's practice to maintain these in a continual state of sound repair and any depreciation involved would not be material. Provision will be made should any permanent diminution in the value of these documents occur. The Charity has chosen to take advantage of the transitional relief available on adoption of FRS102-1A and have elected to include the land and building at its valuation which is its deemed cost for the purposes of these accounts. The rates currently used are as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line per annum Where residual value exceeds cost there will be no depreciation
Fixtures, fittings & computer equipment	20% on books value per annum
Library	50% straight line per annum
Microfilm	10% on book value per annum

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

The investment in the subsidiary is stated at cost less provision for any diminution in value.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the society reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks of publications and other items for sale are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after providing for slow moving items.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The society has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the society's balance sheet when the society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.12 Taxation

No provision has been made for corporation tax or deferred tax as the charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt.

1.13 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.15 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.16 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are included in net outgoing resources.

1.17 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme. The pension costs charged to the SOFA represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

1.18 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is included in Resources Expended within administration costs.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

1.19 Debtors, cash and creditors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the society's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Valuation of the library

The valuation of the books which are included within fixed assets is a material figure in the accounts and is based primarily on the historical cost value that the society paid a number of years ago. Given that the majority of these items are not available to be purchased on the open market, it has been estimated that their value has not fluctuated since the original cost incurred by the society. For insurance purposes the library is valued at £2,937,887.

Valuation of Land and Buildings

Freehold land and building was included in the accounts at historic cost. No depreciation is charged on the building on the basis that the estimated residual value is in excess of the cost included in the accounts and depreciation would be immaterial. The Society has had the land and buildings in the accounts revalued, the valuation being £6,000,000 as at February 2019. This valuation is on a freehold vacant possession value and was conducted by Cushman & Wakefield. On adoption this valuation has become deemed cost.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds general 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Donations and gifts	72,799	145,606	25,450	171,056
Legacies receivable	57,601	-	-	-
	<u>130,400</u>	<u>145,606</u>	<u>25,450</u>	<u>171,056</u>

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4 Charitable activity income

	Membership income 2020 £	Library income 2020 £	Event income 2020 £	Genealogy income 2020 £	Bookshop and publications 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from charitable activities	362,894	4,604	93,636	6,038	27,519	494,691	504,109
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds - general	362,894	1,791	93,636	6,038	27,519	491,878	490,046
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,591
Restricted funds	-	2,813	-	-	-	2,813	12,472
	362,894	4,604	93,636	6,038	27,519	494,691	504,109

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Membership income £	Library income £	Event income £	Genealogy income £	Bookshop and publications £	Total 2019 £
Income from charitable activities	383,593	16,106	50,059	589	53,762	504,109
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	383,593	2,043	50,059	589	53,762	490,046
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	1,591	-	-	-	1,591
Restricted funds	-	12,472	-	-	-	12,472
	383,593	16,106	50,059	589	53,762	504,109

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds general 2019 £
Interest receivable	1,209	2,131

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds general 2019 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,265,334	-
Royalties	33,346	-
Other income	4,118	7,058
Furlough income	26,652	-
	<u>3,329,450</u>	<u>7,058</u>

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2020 £	Unrestricted funds general 2019 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	4,823	784
Staff costs	-	1,232
	<u>4,823</u>	<u>2,016</u>
Fundraising and publicity	4,823	2,016
	<u>4,823</u>	<u>2,016</u>

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8 Charitable activities expenditure

	Membership expenditure	Library expenditure	Event expenditure	Genealogy expenditure	Bookshop & publications expenditure	Total 2020	Total 2019
	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	£	£
Staff costs	45,430	180,515	55,949	-	45,847	327,741	271,862
Direct other costs	29,293	18,800	20,645	17,276	9,722	95,736	165,179
	<u>74,723</u>	<u>199,315</u>	<u>76,594</u>	<u>17,276</u>	<u>55,569</u>	<u>423,477</u>	<u>437,041</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	104,039	61,057	70,627	-	30,250	265,973	164,650
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	6,378	3,925	4,252	-	1,800	16,355	25,065
	<u>185,140</u>	<u>264,297</u>	<u>151,473</u>	<u>17,276</u>	<u>87,619</u>	<u>705,805</u>	<u>626,756</u>
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds - general	185,140	248,226	151,473	14,776	87,619	687,234	615,900
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	14,693	-	-	-	14,693	1,910
Restricted funds	-	1,378	-	2,500	-	3,878	8,946
	<u>185,140</u>	<u>264,297</u>	<u>151,473</u>	<u>17,276</u>	<u>87,619</u>	<u>705,805</u>	<u>626,756</u>

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8 Charitable activities expenditure

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Membership expenditure	Library expenditure	Event expenditure	Genealogy expenditure	Bookshop & publications expenditure	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	46,881	103,795	71,699	20,190	29,297	271,862
Direct other costs	72,626	35,248	44,378	-	12,927	165,179
	<u>119,507</u>	<u>139,043</u>	<u>116,077</u>	<u>20,190</u>	<u>42,224</u>	<u>437,041</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	27,880	106,210	16,830	-	13,730	164,650
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	9,775	6,016	6,517	-	2,757	25,065
	<u>157,162</u>	<u>251,269</u>	<u>139,424</u>	<u>20,190</u>	<u>58,711</u>	<u>626,756</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	157,162	240,413	139,424	20,190	58,711	615,900
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	1,910	-	-	-	1,910
Restricted funds	-	8,946	-	-	-	8,946
	<u>157,162</u>	<u>251,269</u>	<u>139,424</u>	<u>20,190</u>	<u>58,711</u>	<u>626,756</u>

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2020	Support costs	Governance costs	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	30,227	-	30,227	65,067	-	65,067
Depreciation	94,693	-	94,693	21,468	-	21,468
Premises costs	141,053	-	141,053	78,115	-	78,115
Audit fees	-	7,950	7,950	-	6,450	6,450
Legal and professional	-	8,405	8,405	-	18,615	18,615
	<u>265,973</u>	<u>16,355</u>	<u>282,328</u>	<u>164,650</u>	<u>25,065</u>	<u>189,715</u>

All support costs for 2019 and 2020 have been charged to unrestricted funds.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10 Net movement in funds	2020	2019
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	7,950	6,450
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	94,693	21,468
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(3,265,334)	-

11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the society during the year.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Direct charitable activities	14	14
Governance	2	2
Total	16	16

Employment costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	317,999	299,780
Social security costs	23,799	22,090
Other pension costs	16,170	16,291
	357,968	338,161

Remuneration paid to key management during the year was £135,358 (2019: £148,960)

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
90,000 - 100,000	1	-

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Fixtures, furniture, fittings and computer equipment	Library	Microfilm	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	3,159,869	601,106	225,927	159,405	4,146,307
Additions	-	9,885	2,315	-	12,200
Disposals	(3,159,869)	-	-	-	(3,159,869)
At 31 December 2020	-	610,991	228,242	159,405	998,638
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2020	327,264	522,876	-	142,212	992,352
Depreciation charged in the year	-	80,000	-	14,693	94,693
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(327,264)	-	-	-	(327,264)
At 31 December 2020	-	602,876	-	156,905	759,781
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2020	-	8,115	228,242	2,500	238,857
At 31 December 2019	2,832,605	78,230	225,927	17,193	3,153,955

The valuation of books, manuscripts and typescripts is a 1952 professional valuation amounting to £8,195. Additions since then have been included at cost. The insured value of books, manuscripts, typescripts, microform, plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings is £3,203,270 (2019: £3,026,023).

The freehold buildings were sold during the year and the sales proceeds are held as cash at the year end.

The majority of fixed assets of the society are used for direct charitable activities. The assets used for non-charitable activities are of immaterial values and therefore have not been disclosed separately in the financial statements,

14 Fixed asset investments

	Investment in subsidiary
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2020 & 31 December 2020	20,000
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2020	20,000
At 31 December 2019	20,000

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other investments comprise:	Notes	

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

14 Fixed asset investments

Investments in subsidiaries	24	20,000	20,000
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15 Stocks

	2020 £	2019 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	16,498	19,447

16 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	3,322	191
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	14,867	34,764
Other debtors	85,910	24,286
Building rent deposit	207,000	-
Prepayments and accrued income	20,021	9,544
	331,120	68,785

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Other taxation and social security		16,155	553
Deferred income		90,405	93,470
Trade creditors		35,746	45,930
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings		-	4,401
Other creditors		2,718	1,397
Accruals and deferred income		11,294	15,948
		156,318	161,699

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

18 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellows fund	226	-	-	-	-
Library funds	27,954	12,381	(4,232)	(6,326)	-
Binding funds	3,495	91	(2,214)	-	-
Transformation fund	-	25,450	-	-	-
Digitisation	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
	<u>34,175</u>	<u>37,922</u>	<u>(8,946)</u>	<u>(6,326)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>56,825</u>				

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellows fund	226	-	-	-	-
Library funds	29,777	2,813	(1,378)	-	-
Binding funds	1,372	-	-	-	-
Transformation fund	25,450	-	(2,500)	-	-
	<u>56,825</u>	<u>2,813</u>	<u>(3,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>55,760</u>				

The Fellows Fund is to be used by the Fellows for any purpose deemed appropriate.

The Library Funds are to be used specifically for library purchases. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

The Binding Funds are to be used towards the cost of binding records.

The Transformation Fund (formally the IT Systems Funds) is to be used towards the transformation programme.

The Digitisation Funds are to be used towards digitisation of library material.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

19 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2020	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land and Buildings	2,832,605	-	-	2,832,605	-	(2,832,605)	-
Library Fund (Books, Manuscripts, Microform)	244,016	1,591	(1,910)	243,697	(14,693)	1,738	230,742
Transformation project	-	-	-	-	-	1,350,000	1,350,000
Relocation fund	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000	4,000,000
	<u>3,076,621</u>	<u>1,591</u>	<u>(1,910)</u>	<u>3,076,302</u>	<u>(14,693)</u>	<u>2,519,133</u>	<u>5,580,742</u>

The Land and Buildings fund represents the funds of the charity that are tied up in the land and the buildings that the charity operates out of. The building was sold during the year.

The Library fund represents the funds of the charity that are to be used to add to the holdings of the library.

The Transformation project fund represents monies set aside from the sale of the property to be used in the multi-part transformation of the system and services of the Society.

The Relocation Fund represents monies set aside to acquire a new property and related moving costs..

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Designated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	8,115	230,742	-	238,857
Investments	20,000	-	-	20,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,121,483	5,350,000	55,760	6,527,243
	<u>1,149,598</u>	<u>5,580,742</u>	<u>55,760</u>	<u>6,786,100</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Designated funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	77,653	3,076,302	-	3,153,955
Current assets/(liabilities)	310,198	-	56,825	367,023
	<u>387,851</u>	<u>3,076,302</u>	<u>56,825</u>	<u>3,520,978</u>

21 COVID 19

Since the end of 2019 there has been a global COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in the Society, along with many other organisations having to suspend its physical onsite services. We found other ways to deliver some services and have been pleased with our members support. For 2021 because of our move to online delivery of education programmes we lessened the effect, just the usual ongoing downturn in membership. We are keen to see that membership will continue to support us moving forward are building new services to nurture, retain and recruit as many members as possible.

Because of the continuing pandemic it is not possible to predict the impact this will have on the society but it is felt with the sale of the building and relocation to new premises, there are sufficient cash reserves available to redevelop and grow the services we offer. On this basis no adjustments have been made to the accounts for possible impacts from COVID-19.

22 Related party transactions

Prior permission by the Charity Commission has been given for Trustees to receive lecture fees and any author royalties. In 2020 there were £0 payments (2019 - £0)

During the year there were no transactions between the Charity and its trading subsidiary. The amount owed to the charity by its subsidiary was £14,867 (2019: £30,363).

In December 2020 Laura Doyle stepped down as Trustee to take up the role of interim CEO.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

23 Status of the Society

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of members is limited to £2 each.

24 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate society financial statements for Society of Genealogists.

Details of the society's subsidiaries at 31 December 2020 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited	England	Provision of Genealogy services	Ordinary	100.00	

The aggregate capital and reserves and the result for the year of subsidiaries excluded from consolidation was as follows:

Name of undertaking	Profit/(Loss)	Capital and Reserves
	£	£
Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited	-	20,000

25 Cash generated from operations	2020	2019
	£	£
Surplus for the year	3,245,122	55,582
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,209)	(2,131)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(3,265,334)	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	94,693	21,468
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in stocks	2,949	1,195
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(262,335)	68,265
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,316)	25,794
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(3,065)	542
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(191,495)	170,715

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The society had no debt during the year.