

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 278815

Details

Other names	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, CAMBS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, CFHS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1979-12-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	44 Bentham Way Ely CB6 1BS
Phone	07891762250
Email	chairman@cfhs.org.uk
Website	www.chfhs.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE STUDY OF FAMILY HISTORY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY.

Activities: To record and preserve records relating to family history in the county of Cambridgeshire. To make those records available to the public. To educate the public in family history research.

Classification

- **How:** Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£37,448	£23,302	-	-
2024-12-31	£36,486	£36,625	-	-
2023-12-31	£40,766	£35,098	-	-
2022-12-31	£34,405	£30,636	-	-
2021-12-31	£37,562	£34,474	-	-
2020-12-31	£37,514	£51,293	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MRS Gillian Shapland	Chair	2014-07-01
CAROLINE NORTON		
David Copsey		2017-03-11
Leslie Potts		2019-11-09
Muriel Halliday		2012-04-06
Wendy Siddles		2017-03-11

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 278815

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Chairman's Report 2025/26

1 Overview

2026 is the 50th anniversary of the Society. The first meeting took place in November 1976, and the first journal was published in February 1977. Throughout the past 50 years, the Society has evolved and continues to be a significant influence on the family history community. We regularly monitor changing national and sector developments in the light of our overall aims, as set out in our constitution, linked from the front page of our website. Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. This year, the time gap between the speaker's talk and the AGM itself has been increased to ensure technical continuity and access both in the room and remotely. I have used the same headings for my report as in previous years although the order has been changed.

2 Meetings and Surgeries

The monthly afternoon face to face meetings in March library and the online meetings on Wednesday evenings continue to provide opportunities to learn from speakers and to meet other members. The online talks are recorded with the agreement of the speaker and then added to the members' section of the website for those unable to attend, and for future reference, although sometimes for a limited period only. Attendance averages around 30 people each month, but publicity of the July talk in the Lost Cousins Newsletter resulted in an attendance of more than 120. The online research surgeries focussing on a specific local Poor Law Union are well attended and the range of questions asked, and the ensuing discussion encourage sharing of local knowledge, information and stories. Monthly surgeries at Cottenham, Ely, March, St Ives and St Neots provide the chance to bring questions and to find answers to family research. Between all these meetings, members and non-members can ask our team of researchers for help. Many of these questions involve significant time and research skills to try to track down the information asked for. The Cambridge surgery has not had good attendance for some time, so from January 2026 it has been replaced by the opportunity to make an appointment.

All these events can lead to new members joining the Society, and to donations to further Society work.

3 Exhibitions and shows

The Society attends family history exhibitions and events in local communities. During the past year, we have had a stand at many venues including Denny Abbey, Houghton and Wyton, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Meldreth and St. Neots. All these events need a considerable amount of work to prepare, provide a staff rota, answer questions and liaise with others attending, but they are all well appreciated by members of the public, many of whom may not be aware of the Society.

I am writing this before the second regional Really Useful Show at St, Ives on April 18th organised by the East Anglian Group of the Family History Federation. Members of our committee notably our Publicity Officer and Secretary have led the enormous volume of work that goes into holding a successful fair with exhibitors and people attending from across the region and further afield. The last fair, the first after Covid, was a great success and I feel sure this will be too. More than 80 tables have been booked. Our Treasurer ensures that all the finances of this event are managed.

4 Partnership work

In July 2025, the long-awaited publication of all the parish register images for Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire held in the two archives offices at Ely and Huntingdon alongside Society transcripts of these registers went live on the Ancestry website. We receive regular payments from Ancestry as does the Archives service and are looking at the impact this has on our membership. Seeing the original image allows researchers to decide for themselves the significance and content of the original entry as well as publicising both the Archives and Society. We are currently looking at adding new content to the Find My Past website, from whom we also receive regular payments for the content we have previously provided.

The images from the three Spinning House volumes at the University Library are now freely available worldwide on the Cambridge Digital Library website, paid for by the Society. Our volunteers are currently working on creating a catalogue entry index to more than 1800 entries, first brought to our attention by a Society talk from one of our members in 2024, and the Projects Officer took part in a radio interview publicising what the Society is doing. Members attended a guided tour of the Curious Cures exhibition in the Library led by the exhibition curator. This provided a great insight into the medical issues for our ancestors in the medieval period. Free membership of the University Library continues to be available for Society members.

The Archives service are continuing work to provide a catalogue of the Duke of Manchester papers in their collection, an article in our journal shows the progress and the impact of this work. The Society pays for an additional member of staff for one day each week so this major gap in the Archives catalogue can be addressed. We monitor ebay and bid for important documents to be added to the Archives collection. Recent successful bids have added a handwritten census, land ownership and boundaries document for Elm parish, and early deeds for the Falcon Inn in Cambridge. The cataloguing of the large volume of Evans and Co solicitors' records is continuing; a spreadsheet of records indexed to date covering a large number of names has been added to the Society website; on completion, the full listing will be included in the County Archives catalogue.

The Library Service decided not to renew its subscription to Find My Past for financial reasons, and just to continue with Ancestry. This has an impact on our surgeries most of which are based in libraries, so the Society will now pay for this. As I write, this, the BACS transfer has just been made, so the availability should resume very soon. All libraries in the County continue to be Family Search Affiliate Libraries, allowing much fuller access to Family Search content than can be accessed from home.

5 Website

Regular meetings continue between committee members and Beachshore who host the Society website. Contiguous parish maps and lists have been enhanced, including those over the county border. Additional content includes new parish registers transcriptions, historical directories, church images, document and artefact retention guidance, and a clarification of the expenses claims procedure. The website remains a key part of Society business – future events, bookings, past recorded talks, policies, sales, journals and newsletters, membership management, committee and AGM papers. The website includes several million names in searchable databases. It is hoped that the online templates for Wisnus to progress and the import function for Name and Place will soon be ready.

6 Membership

During the year, Chris Norton took over from Sue Asbee as Membership Secretary, in addition to his shop responsibilities. The statistics of new members joining show that membership remains healthy. Some new members are taking advantage of the offer of free mentoring by a member of the committee. Facebook and other social media platforms encourage people to join the Society and are a valuable source for reaching large numbers and highlighting new developments. There are still a few members whose standing order payments are for outdated amounts. After several reminders, their membership is changed to e-journal or reading just the newsletters on our website where we do not have an e-mail address. We are not proposing any change to membership rates.

7 Projects

Several attempts have been made to arrange a meeting with Fenland District Council to discuss photographing the burial records for seven cemeteries and creating searchable transcripts for both the Council and our members. This would be a significant project for encouraging people to visit the area, to increase heritage awareness, and the Society would make a significant donation to the Council. The Society would undertake all the work. Despite contacting several people, lack of response means that it has not been possible to arrange this meeting.

Photographing further records at the Huntingdon Record Office allows more work to be undertaken, records transcribed and added to our website. Many of these records are not part of the Ancestry content.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2026

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2025 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter continues as our independent examiner for 2026.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

We have about 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. We are proposing that Joan Bennett is made an Honorary Life Member, she spent more than seven years in the important post of membership secretary.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

11 Five-year plan

We are still considering offering the Duke of Edinburgh awards as a family history experience and opportunity to foster an interest by young people. The five-year plan is on the website and the committee will be thinking about future work and projects at forthcoming committee meetings. We welcome suggestions and ideas to inform our decisions.

David Copsey

Chairman, March 2026

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Independent examiner's report

To: Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

This report on the financial statements of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society for the year end 31 December 2025, which are set out in the Annual Report is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and the examiner

As members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's unqualified statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Peter Rasberry, FCCA, FMAAT
Clenshaw Minns, 24 Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7QH

Dated _____

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Income statement

	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Membership sales	10,974.00	11,707.00
Sales, downloads and tokens	7,974.95	8,247.24
Donations	178.50	189.50
FFHS royalty income	13,594.47	16,329.57
Miscellaneous income	-	12.24
	<u>32,721.92</u>	<u>36,485.55</u>
<u>Cost of sales</u>		
Opening stock	744.70	819.50
Bookstall purchases and expenses	-	-
Closing stock	(635.80)	(744.70)
	<u>108.90</u>	<u>74.80</u>
Gross profit	<u>32,613.02</u>	<u>36,410.75</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Journal printing and expenses	6,216.49	6,178.13
Printing and stationery	204.28	801.12
Postage and telephone	100.15	110.71
Website	4,383.74	6,529.56
Fairs and conferences	20.00	35.00
Hall, speakers and branch costs	1,413.01	2,080.58
C.R.O. and other donations	6,504.87	22,696.00
Accountancy	846.00	810.00
Paypal and gocardless commission	492.30	464.05
General expenses and travel	1,485.98	1,336.45
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	1,526.22	899.52
	<u>23,193.04</u>	<u>41,941.12</u>
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>		
Interest received	4,725.94	5,391.04
Investment gains/(loss)	-	-
	<u>4,725.94</u>	<u>5,391.04</u>
<u>Net (loss)/profit</u>	<u>14,145.92</u>	<u>(139.33)</u>

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of financial position

	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Current assets</u>		
Stocks	635.80	744.70
Cash at bank and in hand	136,526.62	121,111.80
	<u>137,162.42</u>	<u>121,856.50</u>
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Trade creditors	1,160.00	-
	<u>136,002.42</u>	<u>121,856.50</u>
Net current assets		
	<u><u>136,002.42</u></u>	<u><u>121,856.50</u></u>
<u>Capital and reserves</u>		
Brought forward at 1 January 2025	121,856.50	121,995.83
(Loss)/Profit for the year	14,145.92	(139.33)
	<u>136,002.42</u>	<u>121,856.50</u>
	<u><u>136,002.42</u></u>	<u><u>121,856.50</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of members and authorised for issue on _____, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr D Copsey
Chairman
Charity Number 278815

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 278815

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Chairman's Report 2024/25

1 Overview

The Society has continued to provide the full spectrum of its activities to its members. We regularly monitor changing national and sector developments in the light of our overall aims, as set out in our constitution, linked from the front page of our website. Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. I have used the same headings for my report as in previous years although the order has been changed.

2 Exhibitions and shows

My report written in March last year mentioned the forthcoming St Ives show, the first Federation face to face event since 2020. The show was held in April just before last year's AGM, it was a great success and it was clear how those attending appreciated the chance to speak with exhibitors, and to examine products at first hand before purchase. It also provided the Society with the chance to speak to other Societies and exhibitors

We have had a stand at several other events during the year – local events at Steeple Morden Huntingdon and Cottenham; the regional fair at Ipswich; heritage open days.

Each of these events provides an opportunity to showcase the Society and attract new members but involves a significant amount of preparation as well as work on the day itself. These include liaison with the organisers; booking and paying for space; electrical cabling and wi-fi arrangements; transport of stock; parking; organising a staffing rota; responding to enquiries; after event follow up

3 Meetings and Surgeries

We have reduced the number of speaker talks held each month. The face-to-face talk in March library continues with the chance to chat to those attending, but we now only have one monthly online zoom talk so that our overseas and distant members can take part. The booking process through our website is easy, and results in an automatic zoom link, but we have recently arranged an email reminder a couple of days before each talk; this has increased the numbers attending. We have started to use AI to make the talk summaries that appear in the journal easier to compile, and the recordings of past talks continue to be available for members on our website. We also create a regular statistical analysis of numbers taking part so that we can monitor trends. All our events are mentioned in the monthly newsletters; members need to opt in to be notified of each new newsletter and can do this by editing their membership record on the website.

Our monthly or bi-monthly surgeries at Bar Hill, Cambridge, Ely, March and St Ives all continue to provide an opportunity to seek help and guidance. The Huntingdon surgery has been replaced from the start of 2025 by one in St Neots library, the first session was very well attended and kept us busy throughout. We have also started a series of locally themed online surgeries using the Poor Law Union boundaries to provide a focus. Research questions are submitted in advance and those taking part can also contribute their own knowledge.

We are sometimes asked by local groups to give a family history related talk and a committee member normally does this; an opportunity to make new contacts and recruit members.

4 Website

Our website continues to be the initial point of contact for much of the Society activity. We have regular meetings with Beachshore as part of our support contract to discuss issues and update as necessary. Day to day issues are quickly resolved through the support ticket process. The website administration manages a wide range of our work including membership reminders and changes; event details and registration; database searching; shop sales both physical and downloads. File management of our bi-monthly committee meeting papers and reports makes my task to write this annual report much easier. A new map now shows contiguous parishes and links to our data; adjoining parishes over the county boundary are shown. Journal indexing has been improved, historical directories added, surname interest searching made easier.

We have continued to work with Beachshore so that the full functionality of Name and Place can be accessible both to the committee and to members, and new resources added. Much of the work our project volunteers do cannot be made available until everything is working correctly; this is a major task because of the millions of data records we have. The work has taken longer than we anticipated, and we have therefore made an additional payment to Beachshore so they can allocate more resources to this vital work. We have been told that the work should be completed by the end of March.

5 Membership

Membership numbers remain healthy, new members join each month, many people first come into contact with us through social media channels including Facebook which we monitor and make regular posts. There are a small but significant number of members who have not updated their Standing Order payments to the correct amount despite several chasers. When we have an email address, these members will now receive the journal electronically instead of print; where there are no email addresses, the membership will be suspended. It is hoped these changes will encourage those affected to make the correct payments. Chasing on an individual basis involves a huge of time and effort. All members should please make sure contact details, address, email, phone, are up to date as this makes it easier to ensure you receive everything correctly. There are no changes to our membership rates for 2025.

New members are now offered the chance to be mentored by an experienced committee member; the arrangements are part of the joining process.

Joan Bennett, our Membership Secretary for the past seven years, and the first point of contact with many members, is standing down at this AGM. I should like to thank her for all her work in this key role. Sue Asbee will be the new Membership Secretary, the two are in regular liaison to ensure a smooth transition.

6 Partnership work

We continue to work with local and national partners so we can both contribute and learn.

The work on the County Archives cataloguing of the important Duke of Manchester papers paid for by the Society is continuing, one day each week ensures regular additions; the new display cabinet in the entrance foyer at Ely has a plaque acknowledging that it was funded by the Society. A behind the scenes tour for Society members included a look at conservation work. The Ancestry / Archives /Society project to publish Society parish register transcripts alongside archives images of the original pages is now scheduled for a 2025 launch. We receive an annual payment in recognition of the work we have done. We continue to monitor Ebay for potential items to add to the archives collections.

Following a Society approach to the Cambridgeshire public libraries, the libraries are now part of the Family Search Affiliate Libraries. This means that public library members can see huge numbers of original images taken by Family Search but only in the library with their personal Family Search log in details. We remain very grateful for the use of many libraries for meetings and surgeries.

Another show and tell tour of the University library was fully booked; the tour included a history of the building; displays of maps and archival documents of interest to family historians. The free issue of a library ticket for Society members continues, details of the process are in the journal. The Society has also paid the University to digitise the three volumes of the Spinning House records. Interest in these records of around 6000 women was apparent when we had a zoom talk from the author and Society member of a new book on the Spinning House. The content should be accessible on the Cambridge Digital library site before our AGM. We are continuing to type up University held records from the Consistory Court in preparation for a significant project that will involve several partners.

We have made a further donation to 14 local museums to follow on from the donation we made in 2020 when they were unable to open

The Family History Federation holds regular online meetings on themed topics and committee members normally attend the relevant events. They also provide insurance for any public events that we arrange or attend. The zoom meetings provide an opportunity to gather ideas from other members and to share what we are doing. The local East Anglia Group meets twice a year, with regular liaison between meetings when individual societies have issues they want to discuss with another member. We share online journals with other family history societies throughout the world.

The Society also contributes to national consultations about significant proposals. The government has abandoned the proposed destruction of original wills and is looking for alternative solutions. A burial and cremation Law Commission consultation is in progress; the Society response took account of the sensitivity of this challenging subject.

7 Projects

Progress on the Huntingdon parish registers has been delayed because of the ongoing work with Name and Place

We have approached Fenland District Council to arrange a meeting to talk about making the Councils' cemetery burial records more accessible, but a Council software upgrade means we will have to defer an initial meeting.

New content is added to the shop and the website as it becomes available and can be accessed. Examples include vaccinations, new parishes.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2025

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2024 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter continues as our independent examiner for 2025.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

We have just over 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. We are proposing that Jane Gilmour is made an Honorary Life Member, she is a former secretary and assistant editor.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

11 Five-year plan

2026 will see the 50th anniversary of the Society, and we have started to plan for this. We hope as many members as possible will take part in the events to celebrate this significant achievement.

A revision of our Research Strategy is in hand, building on experience from issues that arise from the enquiries we receive and the input of the research team. We are also looking at closer liaison with schools and how the Duke of Edinburgh awards could link to family history.

David Copsey

Chairman, March 2025

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Independent examiner's report

To: Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

This report on the financial statements of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society for the year end 31 December 2024, which are set out in the Annual Report is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and the examiner

As members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's unqualified statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Peter Rasberry, FCCA, FMAAT
Clenshaw Minns, 24 Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7QH

Dated _____

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Income statement

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Membership sales	11,707.00	11,710.00
Sales, downloads and tokens	8,247.24	9,634.87
Donations	189.50	115.00
FFHS royalty income	16,329.57	19,306.49
Miscellaneous income	12.24	-
	<u>36,485.55</u>	<u>40,766.36</u>
<u>Cost of sales</u>		
Opening stock	819.50	729.30
Bookstall purchases and expenses	-	-
Closing stock	(744.70)	(819.50)
	<u>74.80</u>	<u>(90.20)</u>
Gross profit	<u>36,410.75</u>	<u>40,856.56</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Journal printing and expenses	6,178.13	7,385.62
Printing and stationery	801.12	199.11
Advertising and publicity	-	-
Postage and telephone	110.71	361.02
Website	6,529.56	13,654.96
Fairs and conferences	35.00	30.00
Hall, speakers and branch costs	2,080.58	1,948.38
C.R.O. and other donations	22,696.00	12,058.09
Accountancy	810.00	810.00
Paypal and gocardless commission	464.05	515.86
General expenses and travel	1,336.45	1,246.40
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	899.52	974.99
	<u>41,941.12</u>	<u>39,184.43</u>
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>		
Interest received	5,391.04	3,996.45
Investment gains/(loss)	<u>5,391.04</u>	<u>3,996.45</u>
<u>Net (loss)/profit</u>	<u>(139.33)</u>	<u>5,668.58</u>

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of financial position

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Current assets</u>		
Stocks	744.70	819.50
Cash at bank and in hand	121,111.80	121,666.33
	<u>121,856.50</u>	<u>122,485.83</u>
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Trade creditors	-	490.00
	<u>121,856.50</u>	<u>121,995.83</u>
Net current assets		
	<u><u>121,856.50</u></u>	<u><u>121,995.83</u></u>
<u>Capital and reserves</u>		
Brought forward at 1 January 2023	121,995.83	116,327.25
(Loss)/Profit for the year	(139.33)	5,668.58
	<u>121,856.50</u>	<u>121,995.83</u>
	<u><u>121,856.50</u></u>	<u><u>121,995.83</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of members and authorised for issue on _____, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr D Copsey
Chairman
Charity Number 278815

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

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for the year ended 31 December 2023

Chairman's Report 2023/24

1 Overview

The Society has continued to provide the full spectrum of its activities to its members. We regularly monitor changing national and sector developments in the light of our overall aims, as set out in our constitution, linked from the front page of our website. Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. I have used the same headings for my report as in previous years; the more significant items come first.

2 New website

Our new website was launched in June 2023 built and hosted by Beachshore, and has had a major impact on many aspects of Society work. The new address is <https://www.chfhs.org.uk/>. For our members, the most significant change is that searching through our database then allows everyone to see all the transcribed information for any event, from more than four million records. The previous payment by using tokens to see the full record has been stopped. Some members do not yet seem to be aware of this change, and I hope this AGM report will encourage them to make full use of the enhanced access to further their knowledge and research. Non-members can use the search facilities to search for information and then make online purchases of downloads / CDs, books, maps and also membership so they can then receive all the member benefits listed on the website.

Other content in the members' section of the website includes policies, strategies and guidelines, past journals and newsletters, recordings of talks, member surname interests, and e-journals from other societies.

For our committee, the new website has changed the way we receive and store business information. The papers for the bi-monthly committee meetings are all filed together by meeting date and provide a permanent record of our work. Events are set up through the website, recordings made available to members. The new website has made the management of our work more transparent and easier to use. Role descriptions for committee post holders have also been updated, and a Knowledge Audit lists areas of expertise and interest for each committee member.

I should like to thank both Beachshore and our team for the huge amount of work involved in preparing and launching the new website. As with all new websites, there were initial issues that needed to be resolved, and we have worked together to solve these. There are still some issues that have held up the ongoing transcription and checking process for the final Wisbech Museum and Huntingdon records. We have applied a temporary fix, and I am very sorry for the disruption this has caused our volunteers who give their time and expertise freely.

I also need to thank ED2 for hosting the previous website for many years. Our webmaster still has access to the previous content when this is necessary.

3 Membership

The past year has seen a great increase in our membership. The new website allows us to generate daily and longer-term reports and we recruit between 30 and 50 new members each month. As with all societies, not everyone renews their membership, but the total number of members has grown by about 350 in the past twelve months, a 15% increase. A major reason for this is our increased social media presence particularly with Facebook, and the work that committee members do on a daily basis to post interesting content to a wide audience and promote an awareness of our work and encourage people to join the Society. We have written a Social Media policy to provide guidance in this rapidly growing area of our work; the policy is on the website. The dedicated telephone line number for contacting the Secretary was rarely used and the account has been dropped.

4 Exhibitions and shows

We had a booth at the online Really Useful Show hosted by the Family History Federation in November 2023. There are always new processes and procedures with online shows, and the small team staffing our booth attended several training sessions.

The number of physical family history exhibitions is starting to increase as we adjust to new ways of working. We had a stall at the Suffolk Family History Society fair in Ipswich, but most of our work has been concentrated on preparing for the Really Useful Show Live at St Ives on 20 April. The Society has been involved in two of the five working groups and the co-ordinating group. I am writing this report before the Show, and planning is nearing completion with more than 50 tables sold, the event will take place before our AGM. Several online planning meetings are held each month. This is the first family history physical event that the Federation has hosted for four years, and we are pleased that the East Anglian Group of Family History Societies has chosen a location in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. The initial suggestion for the Fair came from the meetings of the East Anglia Group, the group provides an opportunity to share practice amongst family history societies across the region.

5 Partnership work

Two member visits and tours of the Cambridge University Library and Archives took place in September and January. Both were fully booked, and several of those visiting applied for the free University Library membership offer available to our members. Both tours included displays of maps, family history sources, and a summary of the recently completed Ely and Wisbech Assizes cataloguing project, funded by the Society.

Society volunteers have just begun working on the preparation of Consistory Court records so that they are easier and therefore less expensive to catalogue. Both the Library and the Society are looking at a range of funding sources so this new large-scale project can be started.

The County Archives and Ancestry project to digitise all the parish registers in both Ely and Huntingdon Office and match these to Society transcripts is continuing. The completed work is projected to go live on Ancestry during 2024 and will have a significant impact on family history research in both Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. We have received our first annual payment from Ancestry for using our transcriptions. The Society made donations to the Archives Service to fund new laptops and we have been asked to purchase a display cabinet for the entrance foyer area at Ely. This will include a note that it was funded by the Society. The new cabinet should be ordered at the start of the financial year, although it is unlikely it will be delivered in time for attendees at our AGM in this year. We continue to monitor Ebay for potential purchases in liaison with Archives staff; sometimes the documents sell for very high prices, but successful bids are highlighted in the Archives reports to the CAGALS group at which the Society is a full member.

We have deposited older Society records including minutes of meetings and accounts in the Ely Archives office and developed a Retention Policy to provide guidance for both physical and digital content.

Continuing links with the County Library Service include using venues for surgeries and talks and the purchase of archival quality storage boxes for the Cambridgeshire Collection. Following an approach from the Society, the libraries have agreed to become a Family Search Affiliate Library. This will mean that the full range of Family Search resources will be accessible to everyone visiting the library including our members. Previously, it would have been necessary to make an appointment at a Family Search Centre for those records not freely available online for home access.

Other significant partners include the Museum of Cambridge, local museums and village societies. We attend events with these organisations on a regular basis. Our work with local schools was highlighted at the inauguration of a new community centre near Mill Road in Cambridge. The local community has continued its enthusiasm for how family history sources can contribute to an understanding of area and its history. I was one of several people interviewed by a sixth form student about the contribution that community history can make. Work is also ongoing with Stretham Primary School.

The Society has submitted a response to two recent issues – the proposal to destroy original copies of wills after they have been digitised, and the proposal to close the Bury St Edmunds Archives office and move the content to Ipswich. Many Cambridgeshire records are at Bury.

6 Projects

The final transcribing and matching work for the Wisbech and Fenland Museum parish register collection is continuing, as is the ongoing work to integrate the Huntingdonshire parish registers into the database search. As new records become available, they are listed on the home page of our website, for both members and others to see.

We have started to look at how Fenland cemetery registers can be more accessible and will be discussing this with all parties over the next few months.

7 Meetings and Surgeries

The series of talks held three times a month continue to attract our members from all over the world. The talks at March library provide an opportunity to chat with other members over a cup of tea or coffee, and the March group also organised a trip to the National Archives in Kew.

The talks at the traditional Huntingdon time are zoom only, and the Cambridge talks have now become zoom only from September 2023, as the numbers attending in person did not justify the hire costs of the venue. Most of the speakers give permission for their talks to be recorded, and these are then added to the members' section of our website. All talks are publicised in our monthly newsletters, and reports are included in each quarterly journal.

Surgeries continue to be held at Bar Hill, Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon, March and St Ives. Numbers attending each venue vary, but feedback from those helped confirms how widely appreciated the help, guidance and advice they receive is valued. Many of those helped donate to the Society or join as a new member.

Committee members have given a series of family history related talks to local groups, and radio interviews. We were chosen as the representative for the University Library family history constituency to help understanding of the needs of all categories of users.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2023

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2023 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter Rasberry continue as our independent examiner for 2024.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

We have just over 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. This year, we are not proposing any new HLMs.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

11 Five-year plan

We have significantly strengthened our approach to research, appointing a new Research Officer who is supported by research assistants, all of whom are experienced at answering the range of enquiries we receive. The research team now has access to a Society Ancestry account as well as the Find My Past account, so that we can research more widely the enquiries we receive, many of which are challenging, as the enquirer will have undertaken much preliminary work. The plan informs our work and is on the website.

David Copsy

Chairman, March 2024

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Independent examiner's report

To: Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

This report on the financial statements of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society for the year end 31 December 2023, which are set out in the Annual Report is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and the examiner

As members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's unqualified statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Peter Rasberry, FCCA, FMAAT

Clenshaw Minns, 24 Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7QH

Dated _____

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Income statement

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Membership sales	11,710.00	9,734.00
Sales, downloads and tokens	9,634.87	11,570.51
Donations	115.00	133.00
FFHS royalty income	19,306.49	12,967.49
	<u>40,766.36</u>	<u>34,405.00</u>
<u>Cost of sales</u>		
Opening stock	729.30	931.70
Bookstall purchases and expenses	-	91.30
Closing stock	(819.50)	(729.30)
	<u>(90.20)</u>	<u>293.70</u>
Gross profit	<u>40,856.56</u>	<u>34,111.30</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Journal printing and expenses	7,385.62	7,927.17
Printing and stationery	199.11	279.42
Advertising and publicity	-	50.00
Postage and telephone	361.02	415.98
Website	13,654.96	14,625.27
Fairs and conferences	30.00	-
Hall, speakers and branch costs	1,948.38	2,204.41
C.R.O. and other donations	12,058.09	157.50
Accountancy	810.00	810.00
Paypal and gocardless commission	515.86	556.01
General expenses and travel	1,246.40	1,070.89
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	974.99	729.08
	<u>39,184.43</u>	<u>28,825.73</u>
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>		
Interest received	3,996.45	799.87
Investment gains/(loss)		(2,316.02)
	<u>3,996.45</u>	<u>(1,516.15)</u>
<u>Net profit</u>	<u><u>5,668.58</u></u>	<u><u>3,769.42</u></u>

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Charity Number 278815

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of financial position

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Current assets</u>		
Stocks	819.50	729.30
Cash at bank and in hand	121,666.33	115,597.95
	<u>122,485.83</u>	<u>116,327.25</u>
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Trade creditors	490.00	-
	<u>121,995.83</u>	<u>116,327.25</u>
Net current assets		
	<u>121,995.83</u>	<u>116,327.25</u>
<u>Capital and reserves</u>		
Brought forward at 1 January 2023	116,327.25	112,557.83
Profit for the year	5,668.58	3,769.42
	<u>121,995.83</u>	<u>116,327.25</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of members and authorised for issue on _____, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr D Copsey
Chairman
Charity Number 278815

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

**Trading and profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Sales		34,405		37,562
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	932		974	
Bookstall purchases and expenses	91		198	
	<u>1,023</u>		<u>1,172</u>	
Closing stock	<u>(729)</u>		<u>(932)</u>	
		294		240
Gross profit		<u>34,111</u>		<u>37,322</u>
Administrative expenses				
Journal printing and expenses	7,927		8,649	
Printing and stationery	279		104	
Advertising and publicity	50		-	
Postage and telephone	416		441	
Website	14,625		12,068	
Fairs and conferences	-		100	
Halls, speakers and branch costs	2,204		1,300	
C.R.O. and other donations	158		7,890	
Accountancy	810		780	
Paypal and gocardless commission	556		726	
General expenses and travel	1,072		150	
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	<u>729</u>		<u>920</u>	
		<u>(28,826)</u>		<u>(33,128)</u>
Operating profit/(loss)		5,285		4,194
Other income and expenses				
Investment income				
Investment gain/(loss)	<u>(1,516)</u>		<u>(1,106)</u>	
		<u>(1,516)</u>		<u>(1,106)</u>
Net profit/(loss)		<u><u>3,769</u></u>		<u><u>3,088</u></u>

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

**Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Stocks and work-in-progress	3	729		932	
Cash at bank and in hand		115,598		111,626	
		<u>116,327</u>		<u>112,558</u>	
Net current assets			<u>116,327</u>		<u>112,558</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>116,327</u>		<u>112,558</u>
Capital account					
Brought forward at 1 January 2022			112,558		109,470
Profit/(loss) for the year			3,769		3,088
			<u>116,327</u>		<u>112,558</u>

I approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Date:

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Accountants' Report on the Unaudited Accounts to Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History

As described on page 2 you have approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 1 to 3. In accordance with your instructions we have compiled these unaudited accounts from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

Clenshaw Minns

Chartered Accountants
24 Market Place
Swaffham
Norfolk
PE37 7QH

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Chairman's Report 2022/2023

1 Overview

The Society has continued to provide the full spectrum of its activities to its members. We regularly monitor changing national and sector developments in the light of our overall aims, as set out in our constitution, linked from the front page of our website.

Our Patron, Nicholas, Lord Hemingford, died in December; amongst his many achievements and influences, he served as President of the Huntingdonshire Family History Society for more than 20 years. An appreciation was published in our journal.

Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. I have used the same headings for my report as last year.

2 Meetings and surgeries

Like many other organisations, our Society has noticed significant differences in attendance patterns at meetings; many people are still wary of attending public events, and others are not comfortable with zoom or other online meetings. Our previous venue in Cambridge, the Central Library, is difficult for wi-fi talks as the network is shared with students working in the main library. We looked carefully for another suitable venue in the middle of Cambridge with easy access to public transport. Face to face meetings started at St Andrews Baptist Church in September, when our President spoke about people involved with draining of the Fens. Surgeries resumed at the new venue at the same time.

During the Autumn, we emailed members about their preferences, suggestions and ideas for the pattern of meetings and surgeries that we offer. I am grateful to more than 140 people who responded, the results were analysed and discussed, and continue to inform our work. The responses showed how much our members value the Society. The current pattern for monthly talks is in person at March Library; hybrid at Cambridge; and zoom only using the traditional evening time for meetings formerly at Huntingdon. We will continue to keep this under review as circumstances change.

We have moved the Cambourne Surgery to Huntingdon Archives and Library, evidence from other family history societies shows the benefit of sharing a venue with the Archives service. Our other surgeries at Bar Hill, Cambridge, Ely and St Ives all continue, and the surgeries at March have just changed from once a month to twice each month.

3 Projects

The Duke of Manchester's collection of papers is the most significant in the County Archives that does not have a detailed catalogue. Work has now started on a part-

time basis to compile the catalogue funded by the Society and two other organisations. More than 500 items now have a searchable detailed online entry.

The second year of our Schools Project working with year 5 children examining local censuses and other records for the area where they live, began in Stretham with considerable help from our Honorary Life Member, Mike Petty. However, the unprecedented heat last summer stopped the work, so it is continuing this year. The momentum from the first year of the project in the Sturton area of Cambridge has continued with blue plaques on display in several local streets, a new community centre about to open, and a student interviewing children, parents and local historians about the impact of local history.

Many further parish registers from both Huntingdonshire and the Wisbech area are now searchable through Ancestor Finder.

4 Partnership work

The project to digitise all the parish registers held in the County Archives offices at Ely and Huntingdon and to link these to Society transcripts has now started. Image taking began last Autumn and was completed in April 2023; the matching of the transcripts and images will commence soon. The completed work for publication on Ancestry should be finished next year, and the Society will then start to receive royalty payments. We continue to search ebay to fund new acquisitions for the Archives, and also to give them items donated by our members that will enhance the collection.

We have continued to play an active role in the work of the Family History Federation including participating in national meetings sharing practice and problems with others having the same role; attendance at twice yearly meeting of the East Anglia Group comprising around 20 other societies.

All Society members can now have free access to the library at Cambridge University. This was one outcome of the funding we gave the University to catalogue the Ely and Wisbech Assizes records; this project is now completed, and the records can be searched online. Applications for membership are made online, and the collection of the card must be accompanied by a letter from our Membership Secretary. The process was described in an article in the Autumn journal.

We continue to work with the Museum of Cambridge and have joined the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. Committee members have given talks at local libraries through the Engage programme. We also have a close working relationship with the Cambridgeshire Collection staff; we know the new local studies head, Mary Burgess, well.

We have developed new contacts with local villages particularly through Facebook and have recently noticed that several people have joined the Society through these links.

5 Exhibitions and shows

The Society attended the online Really Useful Show in November, and many members went to the first face to face show held in our region at Ipswich in October, although

we did not have a stall. Several members have commented that they miss being able to attend fairs in person, so it is pleasing to note that there will be a major family history fair at the Burgess Hall in St. Ives on 20 April 2024. Five groups have begun detailed planning; we are contributing to two of these groups as well as the overall co-ordination. The show will be called the Really Useful Show Live with funding and support from the Family History Federation and will be the first of what is hoped to be a series of fairs at venues throughout the country. The most recent fair at the Burgess Hall in 2015 was organised by the Huntingdonshire Family History Society and was well attended.

6 New website

We have continued to work with Beachshore on the development of our new website. Work is nearing completion; the Name and Place software and other developments will make searching more productive and updating easier. When the new site goes live, there will be a new address, an opportunity to update your bookmarks. Access arrangements to records will also be improved.

7 Membership rates

The Society membership rates were last changed in 2014. Since then, there has been a large increase in postage and printing charges. This now means that we do not cover our basic costs for those choosing to receive the journal by post. We are therefore proposing an increase of £2.00 pa for all members, the new rates to come into effect on 1 July. The new rates will therefore be £9.00 for those having an e-journal; £12.00 for UK posted print journals; and £17.00 for overseas members receiving print journals. Life membership will continue to be based on ten times the annual rate. Please remember to adjust your payment arrangements to the new rates. The monthly newsletter is included with membership, but each person needs to opt in to receive this; you can do this online.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2022

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2022 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter Rasberry continue as our independent examiner for 2023.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

We have just over 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. I am delighted to announce two new Honorary Life Memberships for David Jordan and Margery Young. Both will receive a certificate.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

All committee members now have a new email address, @chfhs instead of @cfhs. Please update your contacts, details are in the journal. We are now using Microsoft Outlook to store our committee reports and files online.

11 Five-year plan

Last year I wrote about recruiting more volunteers, and we had a large response to our request for assistant researchers, more than 20 members expressed an interest. We now share the enquiries we receive amongst six experienced members, each have full access to our data, and the additional capacity means that enquiries can be answered more quickly. The plan informs our work and is on the website.

David Copsey

Chairman, April 2023

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

**Trading and profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Sales		37,562		35,078
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	974		181	
Bookstall purchases and expenses	198		832	
	<u>1,172</u>		<u>1,013</u>	
Closing stock	<u>(932)</u>		<u>(974)</u>	
		240		39
		<u>37,322</u>		<u>35,039</u>
Gross profit				
Administrative expenses				
Journal printing and expenses	8,649		9,668	
Printing and stationery	104		251	
Postage and telephone	441		596	
Website	12,068		11,771	
Equipment expensed	-		2,381	
Fairs and conferences	100		125	
Halls, speakers and branch costs	1,300		1,290	
C.R.O. and other donations	7,890		20,833	
Accountancy	780		780	
Paypal and gocardless commission	726		-	
General expenses and travel	150		1,290	
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	920		974	
Depreciation	<u>-</u>		<u>1,295</u>	
		<u>(33,128)</u>		<u>(51,254)</u>
Operating profit/(loss)		4,194		(16,215)
Other income and expenses				
Investment income				
Investment gain/(loss)	<u>(1,106)</u>		<u>2,436</u>	
		<u>(1,106)</u>		<u>2,436</u>
Net profit/(loss)		<u><u>3,088</u></u>		<u><u>(13,779)</u></u>

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

**Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Stocks and work-in-progress	3	932		974	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>111,626</u>		<u>108,496</u>	
		<u>112,558</u>		<u>109,470</u>	
Net current assets			<u>112,558</u>		<u>109,470</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>112,558</u>		<u>109,470</u>
Capital account					
Brought forward at 1 January 2021			109,470		123,249
Profit/(loss) for the year			<u>3,088</u>		<u>(13,779)</u>
			<u>112,558</u>		<u>109,470</u>

I approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

David Gpsey
CHFHS chairman

Date: 14/5/22

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Accountants' Report on the Unaudited Accounts to Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History

As described on page 2 you have approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 1 to 3. In accordance with your instructions we have compiled these unaudited accounts from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clenshaw Minns". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Clenshaw Minns

Chartered Accountants
24 Market Place
Swaffham
Norfolk
PE37 7QH

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Chairman's Report 2021/2022

1 Overview

The Society has continued to provide the full spectrum of its activities to its members, and during the past year, we have been pleased to resume face to face meetings as we work with changing national developments and local regulations. Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. I have used the same headings for my report as last year.

2 Meetings and surgeries

It is very pleasing to report that we are now largely back to the pattern of meetings, talks and surgeries that we had three years ago. There is, however, one significant difference – we can work more closely with our distant and overseas members through Zoom, and therefore have a wider audience and a more inclusive participation. Partly through circumstance, and partly through experimentation, we have three differing patterns for the monthly branch meetings and talks. At March, there has always been a strong social meeting element at the talks, helped by refreshments, so these are now taking place in the library with the speaker able to talk individually with those attending as well as answering questions. At Huntingdon, we have used the WI Hall to hold hybrid meetings, some members in the Hall with refreshments served, and some taking part by Zoom. This has been technically challenging, sometimes with the speaker in the room, and sometimes with the speaker elsewhere, but it has been a valuable learning experience, and something that points the way forward. At Cambridge, the very low capacity of the meetings room that we use made it impossible to hold face to face meetings. These are therefore Zoom only meetings. Although room capacity has just been increased, it is still much lower than it was, and there have also been significant increases in hire charges. We are currently looking at alternatives. Both face to face meetings and Zoom meetings have advantages and problems, and the Society needs to balance these to provide the greatest benefit to everyone. There is a growing resource of past talks on the members' section of our website, many are now recorded with the speaker's agreement, and provide the chance to see what you have missed, or to recheck the details of things you want to explore further.

Our surgeries allow both members and non-members to come with individual questions and problems and spend time looking at how to solve these. Sometimes, the answer is easy to find, sometimes it is more difficult, and sometimes, there are no obvious avenues as the records never existed, have not been kept, or are not accessible. Our surgeries at Bar Hill, Camborne, Ely, March and a new venue, the Norris Museum at St Ives, are now all back in operation, dates are advertised on our website and members of the committee staff each venue on the surgery days. We are looking to resume the Cambridge surgeries which are normally linked in with our talks.

We are very mindful that many of our members are still wary of going out and attending meetings. We keep a close watch on national guidance and have to fit around the local arrangements for each venue we use, so that we can work in a safe manner. I should like to thank all the venue providers that we use, they provide a key resource for Society activities. I do hope that those of you who have missed attending meetings will feel able to get back to coming out, meeting others safely, and enjoying yourselves.

3 Projects

The integration of the Huntingdonshire parish and other records continues, and a growing number of parishes can now be searched on Ancestor Finder. New parishes are highlighted on our website. The search and retrieval capabilities of our data is one thing that sets our Society apart from many others. The assizes cataloguing project at the University Library has been completed, and we are hoping to hold a publicity event in the coming months.

The image and transcription matching work for the parish registers in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum has always had a significant anomaly, half of the parishes in the collection are in Norfolk. We therefore excluded these from Ancestor Finder to avoid confusion. We have now made the decision to hand over the images and our transcript work to date to both Norfolk and Fenland Family History Societies. Both confirmed their interest, and the data has now been given to them, allowing us to concentrate on the remaining Cambridgeshire parishes, most of the work still to be done is on the early registers.

The second year of our schools project in partnership with Historyworks will be with children, teachers and parents at Stretham School. The work was postponed from 2021 because of the national situation. The opportunity to look at census house and people data in relation to the local community developed a great interest amongst everyone involved in the first year of the project in Cambridge, and I feel sure that there will be similar interest in Stretham.

There have been further additions to the parish register and other content of the Find My Past website from our earlier projects, and the Society continues to receive regular payments for the use of our data.

4 Partnership work

The County Archives service has plans to digitise all the parish registers in their collections at Ely and Huntingdon, and to link these with searchable transcripts. The work will be undertaken in partnership with Ancestry, and I attended an initial meeting recently to start looking at implementation. The Society has provided examples of its transcript and matching work to Ancestry as well as some income details, as future publication on Ancestry will have a significant impact on family history work across Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Both Ancestry and Archives recognise that the Society will need to have personal and financial recognition for its work. The project is still at an early stage, and further details will become known over the coming months.

The Society plays a full role in the national Family History Federation. Regional meetings are held twice a year with the other societies across East Anglia, there are

around ten in all, some local, some county wide. The various societies covering Cambridgeshire joined together to hear a talk soon after the launch of the 1921 census. We also take part in the regular FHF coffee mornings, although these are normally held in the afternoon or evening! Some of the meetings are themed, others more general, but all provide the chance to share experiences and learn from others. The Federation also provides us with insurance for our activities, an important safeguard.

We look regularly at ebay for potential purchases of local interest, and our successful bids result in new deposits for the Archives collection. The Society has provided funding to the Archives Service to begin the cataloguing of the Duke of Manchester papers, an important resource both for its local people, and for its wider role nationally and internationally. Archives are identifying further funding sources so that a cataloguer can be employed.

We have paid for a copy of the Doddington Manor 17th century map which includes names of landowners held in March Museum and associated posters. This will make the map more accessible and easier to read. We took part in the Heritage Open Day events at Cambridge library.

5 Exhibitions and shows

The number of events is increasing as there are lower costs and fewer venue issues for the organisers. The Society has been selective in choosing which events to attend, concentrating on those that provide the best opportunities for sharing what we do and recruiting new members, notably the FHF Really Useful Shows. Each event has different technical issues for those staffing our booths to learn, and the opening hours for virtual shows tend to be much longer, so we have rota timetables to share the work.

6 New website

We had to look again at commissioning a new website and invited several companies to tender. Two companies gave online demonstrations to committee members, and we have now begun work with Beachshore to develop a new website and data searching. Beachshore have developed websites for other family history societies, and we are working in partnership with Norfolk FHS as they have similar requirements; this will reduce the costs we pay. We have also been looking at publication cut off dates for personal data and have agreed to the 100/70/0 model for newly published baptisms, marriages and burials.

7 Membership rates

We are again not proposing any changes, our membership numbers remain healthy, and the change to an A5 journal size to save on postal charges has been well received. Postage rates are again being increased, so we will need to keep a close watch on our bookstall charges. Please make sure your membership details are accurate and make any changes to your website entry. If you do not already receive notifications of our monthly newsletter and latest events, you can add this to your preferences. This will ensure that you are aware of the latest talks, surgery dates and other events.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2022

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2021 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter Rasberry continue as our independent examiner for 2022.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

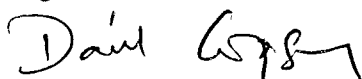
We have just over 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. This year, we are not proposing any new HLM's.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

11 Five-year plan

We received a number of suggestions for our five-year plan and some offers of help, both much appreciated. Our future work will include rationalisation of non-conformist and cemetery records; recruiting more volunteers, especially from younger age groups; further work on wills and digitisation.



David Copsey

Chairman, April 2022

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 278815

Accounts

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Members subscriptions		10,200		9,408
Sales, downloads and tokens		15,955		9,774
Donations		90		46
FFHS royalty income		8,769		7,731
Miscellaneous		64		635
		35,078		27,594
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	181		964	
Bookstall purchases and expenses	832		-	
	1,013		964	
Closing stock	(974)		(181)	
		39		783
Gross profit		35,039		26,811
Expenses				
Journal printing and expenses	9,668		8,048	
Projects	-		-	
Printing and stationery	251		1,597	
Advertising and publicity	-		-	
Postage and telephone	596		1,225	
Website	11,771		8,520	
Fairs and conferences	125		255	
Halls, speakers and branch costs	1,290		2,204	
C.R.O. and other donations	20,833		41,216	
Wisbech Museum costs	-		10,452	
Accountancy	780		792	
General expenses and travel	1,290		2,033	
Subscriptions, donations and expenses	974		949	
Expensed equipment	2,381		-	
Depreciation	1,295		432	
Profits on disposal of tangibles	-		-	
		(51,254)		(77,723)
		(16,215)		(50,912)

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 December 2020 (Continued)

Other income and expenses

Interest receivable

Investment income	2,436		1,594	
		2,436		1,594
Excess of expenditure over income		(13,779)		(49,318)

Cambridgeshire Family History Society

**Statement of financial position
as at 31 December 2020**

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets			-		1,295
Current assets					
Stocks		974		181	
Cash at bank and in hand		108,496		122,385	
		<u>109,470</u>		<u>122,566</u>	
Current liabilities					
Accruals		-		612	
Net current assets			<u>109,470</u>		<u>121,954</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>109,470</u>		<u>123,249</u>
Capital account					
Brought forward at 1 January 2020			123,249		172,567
Excess of expenditure over income for the year			(13,779)		(49,318)
			<u>109,470</u>		<u>123,249</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....

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Date:

Cambridgeshire Family History Society

Accountants' Report on the Unaudited Accounts to Cambridgeshire Family History Society

As described on page 3 you have approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 1 to 3. In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

Clenshaw Minns

Chartered Accountants
Norfolk House
24 Market Place
Swaffham
Norfolk
PE37 7QH

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Chairman's Report 2019

(a) A Virtual AGM, 9 May 2020

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be virtual, as it is not possible to meet in person. We have publicised this change in our journal and on our website, and confirmed that this meets the requirements of the Charity Commission. Minutes will be written and shared in the normal way. Because the meeting is virtual, my chair's report will include some items that would have been elsewhere on the agenda. The papers will be available to all members on our website by 25 April, and comments should be made in writing to our Secretary, Muriel Halliday, secretary@cfhs.org.uk as soon as possible and before 9 May. The AGM would usually include voting to approve various points, including approval of the last AGM and EGM minutes, nominations, annual subscription, constitution changes, acceptance of accounts, plus any motions submitted to our Secretary. As this will be a virtual meeting, we will not be making or recommending any significant change of direction, and it will be assumed that the voting is approved unless we have any written comments that suggest otherwise.

(b) An enlarged Society

When I heard that Huntingdonshire Family History Society (HFHS) was considering closing because it was unable to recruit new committee members, my first reaction was what will happen to all those family historians who live in Huntingdonshire or have family from the historic county. After the decision had been confirmed, we began working with the outgoing HFHS committee to create what, from 1 January 2020, has become the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society (CHFHS). We now cover the historic counties of Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdonshire. The change of name has been well received, and fits well with many of our close partners, including the Archives and Library services. The aim of both Societies was to achieve an orderly transition.

The majority of Huntingdon members have now joined CHFHS; the programme of meetings in Huntingdon is continuing; and work is in progress to integrate the significant range of HFHS work into the larger Society. One of the benefits for you all will be access to a wider range of information, resources, data sets, meetings and contacts. The President of HFHS, Nicholas, Lord Hemingford, has recognized the significance of the enlarged Society, and has become our Patron.

(c) A new County Archives Centre

The new County Archives Centre, adjacent to Ely railway station, opened in December, and the formal ceremony was held in February. The Archives service now has a building well suited to the range of Archives present and future requirements. We are planning group visits for our members when circumstances allow. The Huntingdon Archives Office continues to provide a full range of services. The Society has close links with both centres, which are so vital for family historians.

(d) The Ely Assizes cataloguing project

We have been working closely with the University Library to provide a detailed catalogue of these important records. After the launch meeting in November, Society members have been starting as volunteers alongside UL staff, and have been given the opportunity to improve their 16th and 17th century paleography skills. More than 3000 cases have been catalogued, with 10,000 names listed to date; the cataloguing is continuing through home working during the UL closure period.

(e) Wisbech digitisation

The scanning of the 32 parish registers held in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum was completed in December, 65,000 pages; and work continues to match the scans to existing transcripts or to create new ones. More than 195,000 names are now matched to scans and transcripts, and we are grateful to both the Norfolk and Fenland Family History Societies for their work to progress the project.

(f) Exhibitions

The Society had a stand at Family Tree Live in April; the Genealogy Show in June; and Roots Tech in November. Each of these provides an opportunity to market our range of work and resources; to network and share ideas and good practice with others, and to recruit new members.

(g) Honorary Life Memberships

The Society awards Honorary Life Membership to members who have made a significant and wide ranging contribution over many years to Society work. There are currently less than 20 HLM's, so this is not something that is given without careful thought. I am delighted to announce that the committee has approved the award of Honorary Life Membership to Richard Cook; Caroline Kessler; Mike Stephenson; Clive Thompson; Gill Thompson; and Honor Wayne. We cannot present these at our AGM, so each will receive a certificate soon afterwards.

(h) Constitution

The Constitution has been revised to reflect the inclusion of Huntingdonshire in our area of work. There are no other changes. A copy of the new Constitution is included with the virtual meeting papers. As soon as we hear from HFHS that their final processes have been completed with the Charity Commission, we will send the updated constitution to the Commission.

(i) Subscriptions

There are no proposed changes to our subscription rates for the forthcoming year. Each of the categories remains unchanged – home, overseas; printed journal, e-journal; annual, life. As this is a virtual meeting, it is particularly important that your own membership details are accurate. Please update as necessary, and particularly check that your e-mail address is correct. E-mail communication is by far the easiest way to contact members quickly, and if you have an e-mail address that is not on your membership record, please add it, by logging in to the members' section of our website. The website address is unchanged after our enlargement, www.cfhs.org.uk, and the format of e-mail addresses of the committee are also unchanged.

(j) Emergency General Meeting

We held an EGM on 9 November 2019 in Cambridge for the sole purpose of agreeing to move our AGM from March to May. This gives more time for the preparation and auditing of our accounts. The meeting approved this change, and the minutes of the EGM together with the minutes of the 2019 AGM are with the papers for our virtual AGM. The financial year remains unchanged, January to December.

(k) Accounts and independent examiner for 2020

As in previous years, our Treasurer has prepared accounts for 2019. They are included with the meeting papers, and have been audited by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter Rasberry continues as our independent examiner for 2020.

(l) Committee nominations

Our President, Elizabeth Stazicker, and our new Patron, Nicholas, Lord Hemingford, have both confirmed their willingness to continue. Committee members need to be proposed, seconded, and then agreed. The nominations are one of the AGM papers, and each post has an important role in the Society work. We are always looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the Society's work, and roles can be fitted around the time that people are able to give, and the skills and experience they have. This is one way in which you can make a difference to our Society. We are currently wanted someone to take arranging the speakers' programme at Huntingdon from September onwards. This should take no more than one hour a week, and there are plenty of potential speakers on our lists. Please contact me without obligation to discuss.

(m) Future projects

Our most recent committee meeting discussed a range of future projects. We have prioritized these, and will be starting work or discussing further with others as necessary. Details will be shared as soon as practicable. The start of one of these projects has been brought forward to allow working from home – work with schoolchildren to give them access and understanding of family and local history resources, and to learn more about their community. We hope that this will foster a lifelong interest in family history for some of those involved.

(n) Acknowledgements

My work as your Chairman cannot take place without the wide number of volunteers who give their time and expertise to the Society in a range of roles. The Society could not function without them, and the bi-monthly committee meetings as well as my report demonstrate just how much we owe to their dedication. Thank you.

David Copsey, Chairman, chairman@cfhs.org.uk

April 2020