

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>	
		(33,128)		(51,254)
Operating profit/(loss)		<u>4,194</u>		<u>(16,215)</u>
Other income and expenses				
Investment income				
Investment gain/(loss)	<u>(1,106)</u>		<u>2,436</u>	
		(1,106)		2,436
Net profit/(loss)		<u><u>3,088</u></u>		<u><u>(13,779)</u></u>

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

		2021		2020	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Stocks and work-in-progress	3	932		974	
Cash at bank and in hand		111,626		108,496	
		<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			3,088		(13,779)
			<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, reading "Clenshaw Minns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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