

THE DE VERE SOCIETY

REPORTS OF THE 2022 AGM AND SPRING MEETING

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Alexander Waugh presented this report after a decision had been made for the third year running to conduct an email-based AGM, this having been approved by the Charity Commission, with **Saturday 19 March 2022** as the agreed date for members' responses to draft minutes, reports, proposals and nominations. Relaxation of restrictions was too late to change that protocol and the Committee voted in favour of a virtual Spring Meeting with the AGM report as the first item on the agenda as **Part A of the Spring Meeting** on **Saturday 2nd April 2022**.

The 2022 AGM agenda, draft minutes of the 2021 AGM, reports for 2021–22 by the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, the 2021 accounts, and nominations and proposals, having already been approved by all seven officers/members of the Committee, were circulated in February 2022 to 276 DVS members by email, and by post to seven who had not supplied email addresses (290 members in total). Responses and comments were returned by 34 members (this number excludes seven Committee members) to the Hon. Secretary by the due date of Saturday 19 March 2022. Members' votes and comments were circulated by email to the Committee for their consideration. Of all 41 total responses (including the Committee), which is twice the number required in the Constitution for a quorum, 21 were from the USA, Europe or further afield, compared with 52% of DVS members. The 2021 draft minutes were approved without correction: nine members said they were not present at that meeting. The signed minutes of the 2021 AGM, 2021–22 reports of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, and 2021 accounts, will be uploaded to the member-only section of the DVS website.

The DVS Constitution was amended by agreement at the AGM in 2021 before the Charity Commission advised the Society that two mandatory clauses had been omitted by oversight in the 1997 constitution, which is the one followed by the DVS but, because of this oversight, not held by the Commission. Clause 29 concerns changes to the 'objects of the Society' and Clause 30 to dissolution of the Society, which would also be relevant to merging with another society – and also concerns distribution of property and assets. The Commission agreed to waive retrospective changes to the 1997 constitution if the clauses were added to the 2021 Constitution and approved at the AGM. The clauses, accepted by the Committee and Trustees, were approved by 40/41 members; there was one 'don't know'. Two members at first questioned the changes, anxious that a merger or dissolution might be envisaged, and were reassured this was certainly not the case and that the new clauses were merely a necessary legal technicality.

The Committee regretted (as did those members who made voluntary comments) Kevin Gilvary's decision to stand down as Hon. President and he was thanked for his major contributions to the Society over many years as Hon. Treasurer, Vice-chairman, Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Hon. President. Charles Beauclerk, the Society's eminent founder, had kindly accepted the Committee's nomination to be Honorary President and was approved by 40/41 members, and is now enthusiastically welcomed. Regrettably, he was unable to speak at the Spring Meeting due to

illness, but highlights of an interview recorded in 2020 are reported on p.24–25, giving a fascinating insight into Charles' founding of the Society and the strength of his commitment to Edward de Vere.

Further terms of office for Alexander Waugh, Heward Wilkinson, Yvonne Cheal and Rosemary O'Loughlin as Chairman, Vice-chairman and Committee members respectively were approved: unanimously except for a single dissenting vote. Two new Committee members were unanimously approved: Richard Clifford, a 'brainy and witty' director and actor, well known to the DVS for his recitals at meetings, and Jan Scheffer, for decades a huge supporter of the DVS, a psychoanalyst and fan of the Rolling Stones. Both were welcomed to the team.

DVS Accounts for 2021

Bank Accounts		31.12.19	31.12.20	31.12.21	
		Close £	Close £	Close £	
Barclays community		£9,439	4,232	535	
Barclays saving		£9,263	88,301	170,310	
PayPal \$ & £		£6,118	4,216	12,203	
Barclays \$		£2,368	1,613	0	
Consolidated bank balance		27,189	98,362	183,048	
Bank Movement		1357	71,173	84,686	
Accounts		12m to Dec 2019	12m to Dec 2020	12m to dec 2021	Y on y change
Revenues					
PayPal subs (net of fees)		3,151	4,263	6,818	59.93%
Barclays £ subs		2,143	2,178	2,014	-7.54%
Barclays \$ subs		1,537	1,155	1,144	-0.97%
Over payment/rebate		-30	-225	43	
Unpaid subs due			5	150	
Gift aid accrued		300	329	350	
Total subs		7,101	7,705	10,518	36.51%
Shop (paypal)		0	0	809	
Book sales (portsea press)		268	0	174	
Interest income		37	16	9	
Total Revenues		7,406	7,721	11,510	49.07%
Operating Expenses					
Zoom & IT Subs		0	0	-2,251	
Printing		-3,122	-3,949	-4,515	
Paid Admin		0	0	-5,172	
Committee expenses		-1,659	-2,324	-2,467	
Conference and teleconference (net)		-771	-1,537	-3,324	
Digital marketing		-524	-374	0	
Shop		0	0	-280	
Bank charges		-44	-7	0	
Audit		-80	-90	-100	
Translation		26	36	7	
Total expenses		-6,173	-8,246	-18,102	
Operating surplus		1,233	-525	-6,592	
Investment expense					
Preprint & publishing		0	0	-15,160	
Research		-575	0	0	
Design, social media and SEO		0	-2,000	-6,900	
Website		0	-7,758	0	
Fixtures and hardware		0	-1,288	0	
Data privacy		0	0	-2,160	
Total investment		-575	-11,046	-24,220	
Net donations		1,000	80,967	115,380	
Surplus after investment and donations		1,657	69,396	84,568	
Reconciliation adjustments:					
Accrued income		-300	618	-171	
Portsea Stock sold	Dating	0	0	180	
Accrued expense		0	1,159	109	
Cash movement		1,357	71,173	84,686	
Check v bank statement			0	(0)	

Independent Examiners Report to the trustees of the De Vere Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the society for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on page 2 and 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 30 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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

Margaret Fowler
AAT Licensed Accountant
55 Gilmore Crescent
Ashford
Middlesex
TW15 2DD

4th February 2022

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		Close £	Close £	Close £	
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Barclays \$		£2,368.49	1,613	0	
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Accrued expense	See below	0	1,158.63	109
Cash movement		1,357	71,173	84,686
Check v bank statement			0.419793482	-0.01850186
Accruals	Analysis	FY19	FY 20	FY 21
Unpaid subs due		0.00	0.00	-150
Unpaid subs unwind		0.00	0.00	0
Gift aid accrued		-300.00	-329.00	-350
Gift aid unwind		0.00	947.00	329
Cash flow impact		-300.00	618.00	-171
Accrued expense				
Uniqueway	Conf	0.00	-1,026.00	-1168
Robin Philips Refund	Subs	0.00	-42.63	0
Audit	Audit	0.00	-90.00	-100.00
Unwind		0.00	0.00	1,158.63
		0.00	-1,158.63	-109.37