



SomerSet Record Society

Report of Council for the Year 2022

NOTICE

The 136th anniversary ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, in the Frome Memorial Theatre Complex, Christchurch St West, Frome BA11 1EB on Saturday, September 30th 2023, at 2-30pm

AGENDA

1. *Apologies*
2. *Election to chairmanship of Council and to chair of meeting*
3. *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 15th October 2022*
4. *To receive the Annual Report of Council for 2022 and Hon Editor's Report*
5. *To receive the Financial Statement for 2022 and Hon. Treasurer's Report*
6. *Election of Members of Council:* The following have nominated by Council
 - (a) *David Bromwich, David Victor and Adrian Webb retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election*
 - (b) *Melanie Devine and Phil Norrey*
7. Volumes: Record Series – vol. 100 and 101

Any other business

At the end of the meeting there will be a short break for refreshments and then Dr John Gaisford will give his lecture , "Cloth of Gold: how the Ashe family made their fortune on the Fromewater, 1627-1665".

Members are welcome to bring guests to the meeting. Institutional members should treat this as an invitation to their librarians or staff representatives.

18 August 2023

WILLIAM HANCOCK
Hon. Secretary

Somerset Record Society

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Founded 1886

For: The advancement of education and learning and promotion of public interest in local history and the preservation of ancient manuscript records relating to the County of Somerset by their transcription and publication, so that their contents may be made generally available.

CHAIRMAN

DR ROBERT DUNNING

COUNCIL

Mr DAVID BROMWICH	Dr ANDREW BUTCHER
Dr ROBERT DUNNING	Dr JOHN GAISFORD
Mr WILLIAM HANCOCK	Dr ADRIAN WEBB
Professor PETER FLEMING	Professor MICHAEL HICKS
Mrs FRANCES NEALE	Professor NICHOLAS ORME

Mr DAVID VICTOR

HON. EDITOR

DR. ANDREW BUTCHER

HON. TREASURER

MR DAVID BROMWICH

HON. SECRETARY

MR WILLIAM HANCOCK

WEBSITE MANAGER

MARK FRANCIS

HON. EDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/23

Two volumes published and available to members from the date of this year's Annual General Meeting:

SRS 100 *Records of agriculture, justice, religion and trade: A centenary collection* Edited by Robert Dunning & Andrew Butcher

List of contributors
Acknowledgements
Foreward

PART 1: ARCHIVES AND INTERPRETATION

- Chapter 1 The Birth of the Somerset Record Society, *Robert Dunning*
Chapter 2 An Early Account of the financial accounts of Wells Cathedral, 1292-3, mentioning an earlier Chapter House; chapels which were replaced when the Quire & new Lady Chapel were built, *Robert Dunning*
Chapter 3 The Court Rolls of the Manor of Allowenshay, 1501-1628, *Steven Hobbs*
Chapter 4 Evidence of Farming Practice in North & East Somerset c. 1550-1750, *Joseph Bettey*
Chapter 5 Somerset Residents at Exeter City Quarter Sessions, 1621-42, *Adrian Webb*
Chapter 6 Letters from Wells, 1683-1692, about the physical effects of the Monmouth rebellion, *Anne Crawford*
Chapter 7 i George Hayman of Youghal, Minehead and Bye Farm, Old Cleeve, *Phillip Ashford*
ii The 'waste book' (working account book) of George Hayman of Minehead, a late 17th century Minehead merchant trading to Ireland, 1675-1742, transcribed and edited by *Andrew Butcher*
Chapter 8 John Cannon's Somerset Topography: a reconsideration of the chronicles, 1684-1733, David Bromwich

PART II: THE TUDOR CHURCH IN SOMERSET - Introduction Robert Dunning

This part prints various texts about the church in Somerset 1554-1575, including the records of the courts where married clergy were dismissed and divorced in 1554, where men from all over the country, but many from the re-founded cathedral school at Wells, were ordained: and an enquiry into taxes paid by non-beneficed clergy reveals both a huge number of names of both clergy and laity, but the ways in which church services were somehow kept going in the previous twenty years of crisis.

TEXTS

- A Towards a Register of Bishop William Barlow *Robert Dunning*
B Deprived Clergy, 1554 *Robert Dunning*
C Proceedings Against Married Clergy, 1554 *Steven Hobbs and Robert Dunning*
D Ordinations, 1554-59 *Robert Dunning*
E Enquiry into Subsidies Payable by Stipendiary Priests, 1575, *Colin Brett, Steven Hobbs, Robert Dunning*

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SRS 101 *Clothiers and Merchants in Spanish Cloth, 1627-1665: The Ashe Family of Somerset, Wiltshire, and London, and their account books*, John Gaisford

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Maps, illustrations, tables and pedigrees
Abbreviations and contractions

Editor's note on transcription
Dedication

INTRODUCTION

Part One: The account books of the Ashe family
Part Three: Edward Ashe of Fenchurch Street, London
Part Five: Measures of success

Part Two: James Ashe of Westcombe, Somerset
Part Four: Jonathan Ashe of Leadenhall Street, London

THE TEXTS

James Ashe: Cloth Sales account, 1627-43, TNA C107/20/1
James and Grace Ashe: Waste Book A, 1643-9, TNA C107/17/6
Edward Ashe: Cash Book, 1645-55, TNA C107/17/5
Jonathan Ashe: Journal B, 1656-1660, TNA C107/18/1
Jonathan Ashe: Waste Book B, 1660-5, TNA C107/20/5

APPENDICES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pedigrees of the Ashe and Strode families | 2. Wills and inventories of the Ashe family |
| 3. Summary trading schedules: Cloth | 4. Summary trading schedules: Wool, oil and soap |
| 5. Paul Methwin's lease of Iford Mill | 6. Joseph Ashe's failed voyage to Flushing |
| 7. The Ashe portraits at Corsham Court | |

Brief biographies
Select bibliography
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Glossary of foreign, technical and obsolete terms
Index of Names
Index of Subjects

18 August 2003

ANDREW F. BUTCHER
Hon. Editor

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER AND SOCIETY NOTICES

Fellow Members

Welcome, whether in person or as a reader of this letter, to another Annual General Meeting.

Our formation, originally as a branch of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Somerset Record Society, 'to be called the Somerset Record Society', was announced to the members at SANHS annual general meeting at the Assembly Rooms, Weston Super Mare on 8 September 1885. The presidential address was largely taken up by what Lord Carlingford referred to as:

a project for the establishment of a small daughter society, a branch of the Somerset Archaeological Society, for the purpose of securing the editing and publication of some of the most interesting of the county records preserved in or relating to Somerset.

Our formation was then connected with the idea and hope of a new and complete history of the county. Accomplished thirty years later by the issue in 1906 of volume 1 of The Victoria History of the Counties of England's History of The County of Somerset and which continues, with the expected publication in November 2023, of volume 12, covering Minehead, Dunster and Carhampton.

The plan that had been brought to SANHS Council had been set out in a circular prepared by the Society's putative committee:

Our aim is- 1. To publish one volume or more per annum. 2. In the choice of records for publication, to keep in view the work of tracing the stream of county life and the devolution of property from the earliest documentary period. 3. In the treatment of records, to present them in such form as will preserve the important parts of the original wording, but to give also such translation and annotation as will open their contents to the general reader, and thus spread an interest beyond the narrow range of experts.

The introduction to volume 1, published in 1887, began:

The Society has been formed for the purpose of seeking out, editing and printing, such documents as bear upon the history of Somerset, and will aid the future historian of the County.

The subscription was then £1 1s, now £15. In 1887 £1 had the equivalent purchasing power of about £168. There were 115 subscribers.

The first *Report of Society*, or the first recorded, was given to the SAHNS AGM held on July 26th, 1887 by the Rev. J. A. Bennett, the first Hon. Secretary. We count our meeting on 30 September 2023 as the 136th anniversary of that meeting 137 years ago when volume 1 was exhibited and we entered upon the visibly productive period of our life.

The target set in 1885 was at least one volume a year. This year sees the publication of volume 100. The Society can be justifiably congratulated for past achievements, which is cause for celebration, but our focus has to be on the future. We have a continual need for fresh infusions of support. We always welcome proposals for future volumes and you will find a volume proposal form on our website. We also welcome volunteers to help us run the society.

In 2022 we published and dispatched to members a second edition to our Extra series *National, local, family: history from Somerset's bishops' registers, 1254-1559*. The next two volumes in our record series, *Records of agriculture, justice, religion and trade: A centenary collection* and *Clothiers and Merchants in Spanish Cloth, 1627-1665: The Ashe Family of Somerset, Wiltshire, and London, and their account books*, have been printed will be available shortly.

For the present year we have in preparation *Somerset Tudor Wills 1547-1603* by Colin Brett.

NOTICES

Annual General Meeting: At the meeting on 15 October 2021 at the Church Rooms, St John the Baptist, Axbridge William Hancock was re-elected and Emma Down retired, leaving two vacancies in the 12 members of Council. The draft minutes are set out on pages 8- 10.

Publications: The Hon. Editor's Annual Report sets out the current position in relation to the Society's publications. The volumes will be issued to members autumn 2023.

Council met on 22 November 2021 and 15 April 2023. The next meeting will be on 4 November.

The publication of the next records volume is expected to be 2024.

Awards and funding: Council would welcome proposals from individuals or groups, including those basing their studies upon their university advanced theses (M.A., PhD, etc). The Hon Editor should be contacted about this: editor@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk

Finance: The Hon Treasurer's report is on page 7 and the accounts are printed at page 16. The accounts were circulated to members of Council in April 2022. The Treasurer may be contacted at treasurer@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk

Membership Communications: The Membership and Marketing secretary's report is on page 7. The website continues to flourish now supported by our website manager, Mark Francis, a very welcome addition to the fold.

Correspondence with members: The 'Contact Us' page on our website is another means by which members can communicate with officers and their members of council.

Off the Record: This year our editor, Mrs Emma Cobbledick, has prepared a summer edition and it is a pleasure to thank for their contributions: Colin Brett, *A crew Lost at Sea*, Michael Hicks, *Pedes Finium: Revisiting of the Feet of Fines of Somerset*, and Adrian Webb, *Bishops' Transcripts for Bath and Wells*. I must also thank Emma for, as she noted last year, *Off the Record*, is an efficient way to communicate with members and raise the profile of the Society to non-members. Emma's report is on page 7. Back copies are available to be read and downloaded from the Somerset Record Society website <https://somersestrecordsociety.org.uk>. Members and non-members alike are asked to contribute articles. Submissions please to the editor by email at offtherecord@somersestrecordsociety.org.uk or post contributions to Mrs Emma Cobbledick, 28 Gale Way, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 5FB.

Volumes in stock: These volumes are listed on page 11 and are in the custody of the Hon. Secretary and the Hon Treasurer. The current pricing of volumes in stock to members is set out on that page.

Annual General Meeting 2023: Members will have received notice of the meeting on Saturday 30th September at the Assembly Rooms, Christchurch St West, Frome BA11 1EB. The Assembly Rooms are part of the Frome Memorial Theatre Complex and situated at the rear of the Frome Memorial Theatre with direct access to the complex's car park. An agenda accompanies this report. Please send apologies to the Hon. Secretary at secretary@somersestrecordsociety.org.uk

The talk by John Gaisford at this meeting has the title 'Cloth of Gold: how the Ashe family made their fortune on the Fromewater, 1627-1665'.

The doors to the Assembly Rooms will open at 2.00pm and the meeting will start at 2-30pm. The Assembly Rooms are a short 5 minute walk from the Town Centre.

Members coming by car will need to find somewhere to park. There is parking available at the rear of the Frome Memorial Theatre with additional street parking opposite the theatre in Park Road.

General Data Protection Regulation: Members' attention is drawn to the GDPR notice on page 17.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription was raised to £15 at the last Annual General Meeting with effect from 1 January 2023.

Thanks: I report with much regret the loss of three members of Council, who are stepping aside for differing reasons to make way for others: Mrs Frances Neale, formerly archivist at Wells Cathedral; Professor Peter Fleming, formerly of the University of the West of England; and Dr Andrew Butcher, who has served as our Honorary General Editor. They have all, in their different ways, made significant contributions to the Society and deserve our gratitude.

In closing this letter, I know that the Hon. Secretary shall be glad to receive any information, suggestions, and offers of assistance, and also to admit new members.

18 August 2023

ROBERT DUNNING
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2022, and the independent examiner's report on them, are attached. During 2023, up to 7th August, there have been receipts of £1293 and payments of £553, leaving a surplus of £740 and total funds of £86371. None of this is designated as capital, but £500 was bequeathed specifically towards publishing letters of the Bull family of Shapwick, and £10000 is designated as a reserve fund.

Membership at 31st December 2022 stood at 168, an increase of two over the previous year. We have learnt of the death of three members, Duncan Chalmers of Ilminster, Brian Luker of Wookey and Adrian Moon of Edington during the first half of 2023.

7th August 2023

DAVID BROMWICH
Hon Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Last year I wrote that 'a small group had been set up to look at the ways in which the Society can better promote its activities throughout Somerset.' While there is still much to be done to complete this task, I am happy to report that several steps forward have been taken.

Most importantly, we have recruited a Webmaster for our website. His name is Mark Francis and he has a great deal of experience in developing web based systems. If you have any questions about the web site, you can contact him at webmaster@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk. With Mark's help, over the past few months we have been able to update the entire site and make it more useful to both members and the public. Our aim is to ensure that it is always up-to-date and gradually expand its remit to a broader range of matters.

We have also introduced an occasional newsletter which I prepare. My aim is to supply a timely range of information about society matters to you, the member of the Society, with occasional small articles which I hope will be of interest to you. Off the Record will, of course, continue to be produced, but will stay a once or twice a year publication of rather more substance than the newsletter.

Supporting these, we have developed a system on a publicly available system known as Mailchimp. This is a well-known product that has been available for many years and is very widely used for our kind of purposes. It very carefully manages our membership information and does not share it with any other organisation. It has very powerful facilities that allow us to manage our activities in a safe and secure manner.

We encourage our members to allow us to add their names to our Mailchimp database so that we can circulate information to them in a timely and secure manner. To get your email address added, please email me at membership@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk

7 August 2023

DAVID VICTOR
Membership and Marketing

OFF THE RECORD

We are now regularly producing an edition of Off the Record, our newsletter, each summer to coincide with the AGM notice. Around 40 members receive this electronically. If you would like to receive Off the Record in electronic format please email membership@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk

If content allows, we would like to be able to offer another edition of Off the Record in the Spring, but we need some extra help. If you would like to help, please contact me at offtherecord@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk. Likewise, if you have an idea for an article or a new resource to promote on the history of Somerset, please use the same contact details.

12 August 2023

EMMA COBBLEDICK
Editor Off the Record

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the annual meeting held at the Church Rooms of St John the Baptist, Axbridge on Saturday 15 October 2022.

Members and guests present were around 20. Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Barry, Andrew Butcher, Michael Darch, Stephen Higgs, Mike Hurley, Michael Lewis, Nicholas Orme, John Page, Mary Siraut, Roger Stacey, David Victor and Adrian Webb.

Having been re-elected as Chairman, Dr Robert Dunning welcomed those present to the meeting.

The formal business of the AGM then followed, starting with a review of the previous year's AGM minutes, the Annual Report of Council and the Hon. Editor's Report which were all accepted by the meeting. Following this, the Statement of Accounts, together with the Hon. Treasurer's report were accepted by the meeting. Two members of Council were retiring by rotation, but eligible for re-election: William Hancock and Emma Down. In addition, there was a vacancy, but no nominations had been made to fill it. William Hancock was willing to stand again and was elected. Emma Down has retired.

Members then voted on the resolution that the Rules of the Society be amended by replacing the current annual subscription of £10 with an annual subscription of £15 which was carried unanimously.

The final item on the agenda was the Record Series and Extra Series. Dr Dunning reported that there were little bits that required to be done to SRS 100. It was sincerely hoped to fulfil the promise of it this winter. Meanwhile Council had decided to revive an Extra Series of volumes instituted by Sir H. C. Lyte's Historical Notes formerly connected with the Honour of Dunster. The Record Series has record titles that would seem foreign to general users, such as Pedes Finium. There was an opportunity here for historians to come forward and produce something useful that drew on those titles. The volume that had been published this autumn is National, local, family: history from Somerset's bishops' registers, 1254-1559 (see: SRS 1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 29, 30, 31, 32, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55 and 99).

That was the end of the formal business and there was a short break for refreshments.

Two talks were then given in the church of St John the Baptist. Dr Dunning, editor of SRS 99, gave the first. His text was *Getting Ordained in Axbridge in 1489 and 1493*. Two Bath and Wells diocesan registry files dating from the 15th century contain lists of men ordained to clerical office at the parish church of Axbridge, on 14 June 1489 and 1 June 1493. These give the date, place and celebrant to whom acolytes went to be received into Holy Orders, to become subdeacons, deacons, and eventually priests or did not. The ordained did not necessarily rise above minor orders but instead stayed as clerks. They became clerks to secular landowners and schoolmasters. Clerks were useful people, fairly literate, who could be treated as clergy which placed them in the advantageous position of not being punishable in the king's court. The date when the ordination ceremonies took place was generally somewhere around the Ember Days. These quarterly groups of days were when people were customarily ordained. But how did candidates going in search of a bishop know where the bishop would be unless they were around the liberties of Wells?

Ceremonies were often held at one of the chapels around the cathedral cloisters and elsewhere in Wells, but Axbridge would have been well received because the bishop, Thomas Cornish, happened recently to have been collated rector. He was not a diocesan bishop but a suffragan (from 1486), the titular bishop of Tenos. This was somewhere within the patriarchate of Jerusalem which had long been an empty title. The altar-tomb of Cornish (died 1513) is in the north transept of Wells Cathedral.

In 1489 74 men came to Axbridge to be ordained, 33 from Bath & Wells diocese and the rest from these dioceses, 33 Exeter, 4 Worcester (St Augustine's by Bristol), 2 Llandaff, 1 Salisbury and 1 Norwich. Each came with his letters dismissory, the approval of his bishop and his title, written evidence which approved of his respectability. Religious houses provided most of the evidence. Candidates will have needed to give satisfaction that they would not let the order down. The title will have come from somewhere he was known. For example, most Welsh clergy were delivered of titles by the Abbey of Margam and must have been charged some sort of fee to present his title. The bishop would have officiated together with a clerk or a registrar to take names down.

Most ordinands did not end up in important positions, but a candidate ordained by Thomas Cornish at Axbridge in 1493 did so. William Mors (Moris, Morys, Morreys), later a canon of Wells, came to be ordained as a deacon, when already rector of Porlock but not yet a priest. Mors was probably second generation Welsh in the diocese and a native of Croscombe. He is described as chaplain when instituted rector of Sparkford in 1485. He was ordained as an acolyte in the conventual church of St John's Hospital, Wells in 1490[91], next instituted rector of Porlock in 1491 at the age of 22. He made rector because his predecessor wanted to retire and took a pension from him. Mors was then ordained subdeacon at Ramsbury (diocese of Salisbury) after which deacon at Axbridge in 1493. He appears a rector of a parish in Berkshire in 1495 when he had become a Doctor of Laws, so must have been in Italy. To his rectory at Porlock, Mors joined that of Croscombe where in 1498. He was also a rector at St Benet Gracechurch, London in 1506 and was finally ordained a priest in 1508. A career man, Mors was also instituted vicar of Pitminster in 1509, vicar of St Cuthbert's, Wells in 1513 (and 1515) and vicar of Shipham in 1514. A canon of Wells, Mors obtained three dispensations for plurality and died in 1519.

Dr Jerry Sampson's talk *Axbridge 1530* was given by David Sampson, his son, due to Dr Sampson's indisposition.

In a talk illustrated by slides members and guests were transported back to the period immediately before the Reformation. They were given an insight into the ways in which the experience of the parish church of Axbridge then would differ from what we see now. In a wide-ranging talk Mr Sampson spoke about the retable and reredos, the rood, rood loft and tympanum, sculptures, cult images and the pix, as well as well as the architectural adaption of the church for ceremonies.

At Axbridge it was noted that the high altar would not have been the sole altar. There would have been a proliferation of subsidiary altars, driven in part by lay patronage and the need for chantries. This can be seen in the north nave aisle. The east end of the north nave aisle seems to have housed a Lady Altar, since the roof of the east bay was richly painted as a canopy of honour, and incorporates painted wooden sculptures of the Annunciation. However, midway down the aisle to the west is a second bay decorated

as a canopy of honour which incorporates an image of the Trinity, implying the site of a second altar of which little or no other trace has been identified. That the whole aisle was built as a single unit – rather than a western section housing the Trinity chapel, followed by an eastern ‘link’ with the Lady Altar – can be seen by the distribution of the masons’ marks which are the same throughout the aisle.

Behind or on top of the altar would have stood a retable or reredos of which there seems to be no surviving trace, but there is evidence for a tall reredos at the east end of the south aisle, where niches flank the late medieval east window. Exactly how window and reredos were integrated – whether they were successive or contemporary – is unclear and the insertion of the eighteenth century monument of Abigail Hooper, daughter of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, does nothing to ameliorate the situation.

Axbridge preserves only a small fraction of the visual element of colour which it had in the early sixteenth century. It has lost its colour scheme, but one lost item can certainly be visualised – a wall painting of St Christopher somewhere on the north wall. It was believed that the mere sight of St Christopher would protect the viewer from a ‘bad death’ on that day – that their venial sins would be purified.

There is documentary evidence for a tympanum bearing a Last Judgement above the rood loft in the south aisle, implying others in the arches to the north.

Axbridge would have celebrated Palm Sunday with one of the major processions of the church year; and like so many parishes, the proximity of a high cross seemingly unconnected with the Palm Sunday procession itself suggests that a more ‘secular’ component of these or other celebrations may have been operating in parallel in some way. The form of the porch probably precludes a masonry gallery, but a wooden version or a temporary gallery would probably have been provided, while the north aisle door opposite the south porch for segregating the two processions must have existed – probably blocked at the Reformation, and then finally abolished in the nineteenth century rebuilding. The churchyard cross would have provided the station for the coalition of the processions at the north-east of the church, and the rood-loft stair could have provided the position of the prophet. The rood-loft stair-turrets were clearly offensive to Protestant sensibilities, since there are obvious efforts to erase them.

It would be interesting to investigate further the functions of the penticed market cross. By analogy with the use of these structures with royal visits and the festivals of greeting and entry it is well worth suggesting a similar ‘secular’ parallel divorced from the ‘religious’ ceremonies. There appears to be little suggestion that they were associated with the church processions – at Cheddar for instance the penticed cross lies at a considerable distance from the church, and both Cheddar and Axbridge have their own churchyard crosses for Palm Sunday.

The meeting then concluded with the applause of all present.

7 August 2023

WILLIAM HANCOCK
Hon. Secretary

Somerset Record Society

Volumes in stock on 7th August 2023
with members' prices: postage as incurred extra

111	15	Gerard's description of Somerset (reprint)	5.00
1	27	Star Chamber proceedings	10.00
1	28	Quarter Sessions records, 3	10.00
1	36	Somerset pleas, 2	10.00
13	42	Somerset medieval calendars (offprint)	1.00
24	45	Mendip mining orders (supplement)	1.00
11	46	Wells city charters	10.00
74	47	Life of S. Wulfric (offprint)	1.00
8	51	Somerset enrolled deeds	10.00
38	63	Glastonbury chartulary, 2	10.00
10	64	Glastonbury chartulary, 3	10.00
1	69	Letters of Sir Francis Hastings	10.00
37	70	Bridgwater borough archives, 5	10.00
21	72	Wells Cathedral chapter act book	10.00
84	73	Medieval deeds of Bath and district	5.00
49	74	Diary of John Harington	10.00
147	75	Som Qtly Mtg of the Society of Friends	5.00
5	76	Somerset maps (with photocopied introduction)	10.00
16		Somerset delineated	10.00
233	77	Chantry grants	5.00
177	78	Wesleyans and Bible Christians	5.00
31	79	Monmouth rebels (reprint)	16.00
188	80	Trevelyan letters	5.00
231	81	Glastonbury Abbey records at Longleat House	5.00
306	82	Sir Stephen Glynne's church notes	10.00
104	83	Wookey manor and parish	5.00
104	84	Visitation and 'smale booke'	5.00
228	85	Forde Abbey cartulary	5.00
180	86	John Allen Giles' diary & memoirs	5.00
122	87	Wells Corporation properties	5.00
296	88	Tudor subsidies	5.00
264	89	Somerset wills, 1 (Monday)	5.00
124	90	Wells Convocation act books, 1	5.00
134	91	Wells Convocation act books, 2	5.00
3		Acland family maps and surveys	20.00
90	92	John Carter's records of Wells (cased)	22.00
126	92	John Carter's records of Wells (rolled)	7.50
56	93	Manors of Norton St Philip & Hinton Charterhouse	20.00
9	94	Somerset wills, 2 (Moger)	22.00
37	95	Church accounts	16.00
27	96	Crown revenues from Somerset and Dorset	12.00
69	97	Charts of the Somerset coast	36.00
74	98	Probate inventories	10.00
33	99	Bath and Wells ordinations	16.00
79 Extra Series	2	History from bishops' registers	14.00

Somerset Record Society
Report of Council
For the year ended 31 December 2022

Council present their report with financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2022. The statement has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and complies with the Society's governing document.

Constitution

The Somerset Record Society is an unincorporated association constituted as a trust. The internal organisation of the Society is subject to a set of Rules, a copy of which is sent to every member. The Society is a registered charity (Registration number 310292).

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the Society is the advancement of education and learning and promotion of public interest in local history and the preservation of ancient manuscript records relating to the County of Somerset by their transcription and publication, so that their contents maybe made generally available.

Achievements and Performance

During the year 2022, the Society continued its work of promoting public interest in local history through support given in the preparation of volumes for publication, in editing Somerset manuscripts and in compiling information as a tool for further research. The achievements include the editing of two volumes for publication in time for the Annual General Meeting 2023, a summer edition of Off the Record, the steps toward the inauguration of a members' newsletter and a review and refreshment of the Society's website. In October 2022 Emma Down stepped down from Council. We reported last year the ill health of the Honorary Editor and he has since given notice that he cannot produce any more. Pending the appointment of a successor, Council has assigned the responsibility for overseeing the production of volumes to the Chairman.

Structure, governance and management

The management of the affairs of the Society is vested in the Council, who are elected at the annual meeting for a term of three years. The officers of the Society are the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Editor, who are the ex officio members of Council and Council elects its own chairman. The Chairman and ex officio members hold the property of the Society. One other member of Council fulfil the roles of Marketing and Membership Secretary. The Society also has an editor of Off the Record and has contracted the services of a Website Manager who reports to a subcommittee of Council (the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Marketing and Membership Secretary). The Website Manager is not a member of Council.

Administration

The address of the Society for correspondence is Somerset Heritage Centre Brunel Way Norton Fitzwarren TA2 6SF.

Bankers

NatWest Bank, 2 Hendford, Yeovil, BA20 1TN.

Independent Examiner

Ian Coleby Engine House Cottage Creech St Michael Taunton TA3 5RA.

Investment

Subject to the restrictions contained in the Trustee Act 2000 the Council have unrestricted discretion in all matters concerning the investment of the Society's monies. Their policy is to invest to maintain a reasonable balance between capital and income.

Reserves

The policy of Council is to maintain substantial reserves to meet the cost of production, storage and dispatch of volumes, administration costs and new initiatives. The Council is confident that its assets are sufficient to meet our likely expenses in the short to medium term, and that the Society is currently in a healthy position as a going concern. The Council will continue to monitor any potential adverse effects on our finances arising from the Covid 19 pandemic.

Financial Review

The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 14. The publications produced by the Society require income to be generated by its investments at a level sufficient to supplement subscription income and

legacies to produce the income required to finance the publications. A reserve fund of £10,000 has since been designated by Council which is considered an appropriate level to meet the on-going objectives of the Society.

Risks

The Council have reviewed the risks applicable to the Society and consider that they are adequately provided for.

Current Activities

In the year under report the Society programme of preparing editions of unpublished manuscripts for publication slowed due to the poor health of the Honorary Editor but the work on the administration of the website was maintained and one edition of Off the Record was published. It intends to continue in the present year with the publication of a records volume with a view to returning to an annual series, with pursuing the preparation of occasional publications, such as a supplementary series 'Studies in Somerset History', and with its other customary activities. It also intends to conduct a review of the Society's rules because of recent legislative changes, including the enactment of the Charities Act 2022.

Appointment of Charity Trustees

All Council members are Charity Trustees within the meaning of section 177 the Charities Act 2011, that is to say the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity, and are elected and appointed in accordance with the constitution of the Society.

Public Benefit

Council have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance for the operation of the Public Benefit requirement and are satisfied that the activities of the charity undertaken during the year meet the Public Benefit test.

The public benefit lies in substituting easy-to-read print for often difficult handwriting, in adding indexes and other editorial input, and in making the resulting volumes available both for purchase by all-comers, and for consultation in public, academic and special libraries throughout the world, removing the need to travel to consult the original documents.

Charity Trustees

Mr DAVID BROMWICH
Dr ANDREW BUTCHER
Dr ROBERT DUNNING
Dr JOHN GAISFORD
Mr WILLIAM HANCOCK
Professor PETER FLEMING
Professor MICHAEL HICKS
Mrs FRANCES NEALE
Professor NICHOLAS ORME
MR DAVID VICTOR
Dr ADRIAN WEBB

On behalf of the Charity Trustees

William Hancock
Hon. Secretary

18 August 2023

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity 310292

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY – INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 2022. These show a deficit of £2521.95 with total cash reserves of £85630.80. This examination is in accordance with the guidance given in charity commission document CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: Directions and guidance for examiners.

No matter has come to my attention, in connection with the examination, which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect that the accounts have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

No matters have been brought to my attention that give me any cause for concern. Having examined the documents, I can confirm that the statement of account is in agreement with the supplied documents. I therefore conclude that the statement presents a true record of the Society's finances.

11 May 2023

Ian Coleby

Engine House Cottage
Creech St Michael
TAUNTON
TA3 5RA

Explanatory note from Hon. Secretary

The independent examiner's report to Council on his examination of the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December, is made to the Charity Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The work of the independent examiner is undertaken so that he may state to the Society's Charity Trustees those matters that he is required by law to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the independent examiner does not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society's Charity Trustees as a body, for his work, for this report, or for the statement he has made.

Responsibilities and basis for report

As the Charity Trustees of the Society Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

At the election of Charity Trustees an independent examination is carried out of the Society's annual accounts. A report in respect of the independent examination is required under section 145 of the Act where the gross income in a financial year exceeds £25,000 and in carrying out the examination the independent examiner has to follow all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act. The Society's gross income was below threshold for independent examination in the year ended 31 December, but a report is requested each year in accordance with the guidance given by the Charity Commission.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

Receipts and Payments Account for 2022

2021	Receipts	2022
1435.53	Current subscriptions	1361.81
190.00	Subscriptions in arrears	449.00
362.00	Advance subscriptions	435.00
175.80	Tax refunds on Gift Aided subs	326.02
2163.43	Total subscriptions	2571.83
-	Sales of vol. 99 (Ordinations)	358.18
-	Sales of extra series 2 (Registers)	263.44
917.87	Other sales	482.52
917.87	Total sales	1104.14
450.00	Donation	-
160.55	Postage refunded	122.95
216.00	Refunded editorial expenses	-
<u>5.63</u>	COIF Deposit Fund interest & miscellaneous	266.67
	Deficit for 2022	<u>2521.95</u>
<u>3913.48</u>		<u>6587.54</u>

Payments

-	Printing 250 vol. 99 (Ordinations)	3175.91
-	Printing 300 extra series 2 (Registers)	2542.37
643.00	Printing newsletters & membership forms	32.12
-	Editorial expenses	18.00
425.00	Meeting expenses	80.00
45.55	200 postal bags	-
552.54	Website development	44.24
436.59	Postage	<u>694.90</u>
<u>1810.40</u>	Surplus for 2021	
<u>3913.48</u>		<u>6587.54</u>

Statement of cash position

Current account 31.12.21	10486.14	Current account 31.12.22	7238.02
COIF Deposit Fund 31.12.21	27333.24	COIF Deposit Fund 31.12.22	27599.91
COIF Investment Fd 31.12.21	*50000.00	COIF Investment Fund 31.12.22	†50000.00
PayPal 31.12.21	<u>338.37</u>	PayPal 31.12.22	<u>792.87</u>
	88157.75		
plus an unrepresented cheque	<u>20.00</u>		
	88177.75		
less deficit for 2022	2521.95		
less a 2021 cheque now pres.	<u>25.00</u>		
	<u>85630.24</u>		<u>85630.80</u>
*cost price, market value	66189.24	†cost price, market value	66233.17

February 25th, 2023

DAVID BROMWICH Hon. Treasurer



Somerset Record Society

Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6SF

01823 680197

Registered Charity No. 310292

SRS Privacy Notice

This Privacy Policy sets out the basis by which the Society processes personal data.

Data Controller

The Somerset Record Society (SRS), registered charity no. 310292, is the 'Data Controller' for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Data collected by SRS

SRS collects the following personal data: your title, full name, postal address, email address, payment information and Gift Aid eligibility.

Storing and processing your personal data

SRS stores your personal data on the Society's membership database and may use it in the following ways:

- To process your membership payment each year.
- To process your Gift Aid payment every year (if relevant).
- To send you volumes, news and information of events and activities organised by SRS and other relevant organisations.
- To send you governance information including meeting dates, minutes and agendas.
- To notify you of volunteering opportunities.
- To contact you regarding fundraising.
- To profile member information for the purpose of skill sharing or fundraising.
- To update your information.

Third parties and your information

SRS uses third party providers to deliver part of the services it provides to you. SRS **will** never sell your information to third parties. The following third parties are currently used:

- PayPal, to process your shop purchases.
- NatWest, to process membership and other payments.
- HMRC to process Gift Aid payments
- Mailchimp to manage email communications.

Photography at SRS events

Photographs are taken at SRS events. The images may be used in SRS publicity, including press releases, on a SRS web site, in a Society e-bulletin and on a SRS Facebook page. The images will be stored on the hard drive of an SRS officer's computer. If you do not want to be photographed please let the event leader know before the start of the event.

Changes to your information

The Society will retain your information until you decide otherwise. If you would like to access the information the Society holds about you, or if you would like to change information that we hold, or, if you would like to cancel your membership, please contact the SRS honorary secretary c/o Somerset Heritage Centre or send an email to secretary@somersetrecordsociety.org.uk

The SRS Privacy Policy may change, in which case we will notify you.

7 August 2023

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

Formed in 1886 and registered as a charity 7 April 1964 with the following rules:

1. The name of the Society shall be the Somerset Record Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be the advancement of education and learning and the promotion of public interest in local history and the preservation of ancient manuscript records relating to the County of Somerset by their transcription and publication so that their contents may be made generally available.
3. Membership of the Society shall be open to individuals, societies and other bodies, interested in promoting the objects of the Society. Institutional members shall have the right to nominate one representative. No member shall be entitled to any personal profit from the activities of the Society.
4. The annual subscription shall be £1, 1s, 0d¹. Members whose subscriptions are not in arrear shall be entitled to receive one copy of each of the Society's publications issued during the period of their membership.
5. The Society shall be controlled by a Council of twelve elected members, who shall appoint an Honorary, Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Editor. The holders of these offices shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The Council shall elect its own chairman. One fourth of the elected members shall retire annually in rotation, but shall be eligible for re-election. The Council shall have power to co-opt temporarily any person likely to assist in the publication of any volume the Society may have in contemplation.
6. The Society shall each year call a General Meeting (of which not less than fourteen days notice shall be given) for the purpose of receiving the annual statement of accounts and a report on the work of the Society. At this meeting vacancies on the Council shall be filled. Nominations may be made by the Council, or by any two members whose signed proposal must have been sent to the Hon. Secretary not later than Dec. 31 preceding the annual meeting. The Council may also call such other general meetings as they may deem advisable.
7. Any alterations to these Rules shall be made to a General Meeting of the Society duly convened.
8. If the Council show resolve that the Society be dissolved it shall call a Special General Meeting of members, giving not less than fourteen days notice of such meeting and the purpose for which it is called. If the meeting decides that the Society be dissolved any assets remaining after the discharge of the Society's liabilities shall be applied in furtherance of educational and historical research in the County of Somerset compatible with the Charitable Trusts Acts and, if possible, in co-operation with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society

Rules adopted 11 May 1953

Registered charity 310292

¹ Annual subscription £15 from 1 January 2023