



Annual Report & Financial Statements **2014**

for the year ended 31 December 2014



SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

A Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to extend my very best wishes to all supporters of the Society of Genealogists. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to new members and I hope you enjoy taking part in our unique organisation. I am delighted to welcome a number of new Vice-Presidents, who have kindly offered to represent the Society: William Bortrick, Colin Chapman FSG, Miriam Margolyes OBE, Sir Mervyn Medlycott FSG, Dan Snow and The Rt Hon Lord Sudeley FSA. I would also like to express my thanks to the Vice-Presidents whose tenure has come to an end after many years of commitment, for which we are grateful.

2014 has been a very successful year for the Society of Genealogists. Our ever-popular events programme has provided a wide range of studies and experiences for all levels of family history research, including a new series of lunchtime lectures. The Society enjoyed excellent representation at the *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live shows, both in London and Glasgow, with well-attended workshops and Ask the Experts sessions. Plans are underway for a new Pharos Advanced Level course, which will provide in-depth study for those who would like to take their research even further. The second phase of our website has been initiated and this will expand the range of services offered to members, as well as encouraging new members to join the Society. The library has added free access to the British

Newspaper Archive and digitisation of our materials continues apace.

As with many charitable organisations, the Society of Genealogists faces considerable challenges in the rapidly changing environment of today's world, not least of all in ensuring that our finances remain stable. There have been difficult decisions to make and our CEO, June Perrin, has been working hard with her staff to manage a more varied income from our professional partners. There are many exciting opportunities ahead and, on the Board of Trustees, we have been formulating a clear and positive strategy for the future, which will include vital investment in our premises and our online presence. As many of you will know, we are currently considering an option to lease the airspace above the library for development. We held a meeting with members to explore the possibilities and we are firmly committed to working together to develop the right vision for the years to come.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to represent the Board of Trustees this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work more closely with my colleagues on the board, the staff and volunteers. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration to ensure that the Society of Genealogists remains the leading library and education centre for all family historians within the ever-expanding world of genealogy.

Angela Buckley
Chairman
Society of Genealogists

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Governance

Patron

HRH Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia from 25 June 2013

President

Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG, Clarenceux King of Arms 2010–

Vice-Presidents

To 24 June, 2014

The Rt Rev John K. Cavell, MA, Bishop of Southampton 1972–84

Fergus Gillespie, MA, FSA, Chief Herald of Ireland 2005–09

President Boyd K. Packer, BS, MS, EdD, Quorum of the Twelve 1970–

W. David H. Sellar, MVO, FRHistS, Lord Lyon King of Arms 2008–13

Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith, FSA, FRSA, FRHistS

Professor Peter Spufford, LittD, FBA, FSA, FSG

From 24 June, 2014

William Bortrick

Colin Chapman, FSG

Miriam Margolyes, OBE

Sir Mervyn Medlycott, FSG

W. David H. Sellar, Lord Lyon King of Arms 2008–13

Dan Snow

The Rt Hon Lord Sudeley, FSA

Constitution & Organisation

Constitution

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

The Board of Trustees

For the purposes of charity law, a Board of Trustees are directors of and administer the charitable company. The Board consists of up to 10 members who receive no emoluments for their service. As set out in the Articles of Association, the trustees are elected by the charity's members, serving for a term of three years and for a maximum of two successive terms. These trustees have the power to appoint an honorary treasurer and an honorary solicitor, who *ex-officio* serve as members of the Board. No honorary solicitor has been appointed for many years. The trustees also have the power to elect any eligible member of the Society to the Board to fill any casual vacancy arising between one Annual General Meeting and the next; any person so elected shall retire at the AGM next following their election but shall be eligible for re-election. The trustees serving during the year 2014 are listed on pages 5 and 6.

Committees

The Board of Trustees appoints other committees and working parties as it considers expedient from time to time. During the year there were four committees: Finance, Library, Education and Enterprises. A full list of members of committees for the year 2014 is given on page 6.

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

Reference and administrative details and advisors of the group.

Registered office: 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

Auditors: Richard Place Dobson, 1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HT.

Bankers: HSBC, 74 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7DA.

Solicitors: Field Fisher Waterhouse, 5 Vine Street, London EC3N 2AA.

Staff

Management team

Chief Executive Officer: June M. Perrin

Head of Library Services: Tim Lawrence, BA

Genealogist: Else Churchill, BA (Hons), Dip Lib

Administration

Finance Manager (part-time): Tim Hillyer

Membership Officer: Jacki Ellis

Events Co-ordinator: Lori Weinstein

Accounting Assistant (part-time): Elizabeth Little

Graphic Designer (part-time): Gerry McNee

Apprentice PA to the Chief Executive: Alice Jephcart from November 2014

Genealogy

Genealogy Assistant: Virginia Gilman

Genealogy Assistant: Vanessa Radelmiller to November 2014

Library

Deputy Librarian: Claire Bullen, BA

Library Assistant: Nick Fogg, MA, Dip Lib

Cataloguer (part-time): Angela Thomson, BA, MCLIP

Digital Archivist (part-time): Natasha Wakely to March 2014

Apprentice Archivist: Jessica Wheatley from November 2014

IT Manager: Chris Mappley FdSc, BSc (Hons), MSc

Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited

Chief Executive Officer: June M. Perrin

Bookshop Manager: Anthony Mortimer

Graphic Designer: Graham Collett

Accounting Assistant (part-time): Natalia Dzvelaia

Saturday Assistant: Catherine Martin

Directors & Trustees

Profiles of the Board of Trustees during 2014

Mark James Ayre, FRSA. Mark has been a member of the Society of Genealogists since 2012 and joined the Board of Trustees in January 2014. He is the Managing Director of a UK company providing bespoke services arranging cultural and heritage visits to the British Isles. His interest in genealogy began while listening to his grandfather's stories as a child. He is particularly interested in architecture and history, and enjoys adventure training, skydiving and travel. Mark currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Society of Genealogists Education Committee.

Dr Nick Barratt. Nick has been member since 2010. He currently works at The National Archives managing the Medieval & Early Modern, Legal, Maps, Plans and Photographs teams. He previously ran a Research Agency, acted as editor in chief of *Your Family History Magazine* and Executive Director of FreeBMD. He is also President of the Federation of Family History Societies, Vice President of AGRA and a Co-ordinator at Action for Archives. He has wide experience in the media (TV, press etc) and has written several books on genealogy.

William Bortrick. William became a member of the Society of Genealogists in 2003, was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2007, and served as Chairman to 24 June 2014, when his term ended. He has developed his interest in genealogy since boyhood and particularly in historical families worldwide. He was educated at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge (where he served as a member of the governing council). He is the Founder and Chairman of Burke's Peerage Foundation.

Mrs Diana Bouglas. Diana has been a member since 1998. She has a background in banking, local government, education and retail and was clerk to the governors and office manager at a school. She became interested in family history in the early 1990s and has been a volunteer with the Society since 2002. Diana has worked as a professional genealogist since 2006. She currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Society and Chairman of the Library Committee.

Mrs Angela Buckley. Angela has been a member since 2009. Angela is a freelance writer specialising in social and family history. She publishes articles regularly and a related blog. She has just written and published her first book and is now working on the second. Angela spent ten years teaching French and Spanish in a large comprehensive school. As Head of Modern Languages she managed the faculty for four years. Subsequently she worked as Lecturer in Languages Education at Oxford Brookes University and King's College London. Angela currently serves as the Society Chairman.

Dr Hugh Guilford. Hugh became a member in 1991 and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2007. He is a management consultant dealing with business strategy with a background as a chemist and is a member of the Monumental Brass Society. Dr Guilford's term ended on 24 June 2014.

Sandra Guilford. Sandra has been a member since 2010; she has a diverse background training first as a classical musician before becoming a biochemist. For many years she has been teaching or directing research in various universities. Sandra was a granddaughter of four immigrants to the US who left the Carpathian Mountains around 1900. Roughly 80 years later, she migrated in the opposite direction, to the UK. When she was a university student, she extracted facts and stories from her grandmother about the lives of two of the four families in Europe and set out on the path of a serious genealogical interest. Sandra was elected to the Board of Trustees on 24 June 2014.

Sue Hourizi. Sue became a member in 2000. She was elected to the Board of Trustees 2005-08, and re-elected in 2013. She has been involved in family history since childhood; while working in North Africa in the early 1960s she co-organised an oral family history programme. Her professional background is in secondary school language teaching, from which she retired as a Head Teacher. She has been researching in the SoG library since 1990. From 2000 she has been a member of the Education Committee and a volunteer in a number of working groups connected with it including the telephone help-line.

Roy Stockdill. Roy became a member in the Harrington Gardens days and again in 1991. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009, having served two terms previously. He is in his fourth term as a Trustee. He was on the Executive Committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies, edited the *Journal of One-Name Studies* for 10 years and is a Master Craftsman of the Guild. A former national newspaper journalist, he writes for *Family Tree Magazine* and also writes a blog for Findmypast on 'Famous family trees'. He is commissioning editor of the 'My Ancestor...' books.

Dr Richard Sturt, OBE, DCL, MA. Richard became a member in the 1970s and again in 2004 and elected to the Board of Trustees in 2010. He is a solicitor, and was Coroner for Kent for 22 years. He has served on the boards of the Civil Aviation Authority, National Air Traffic Services, the Consumer Council for Water, the East Kent Hospitals Foundation Trust, St John Ambulance for Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, of which he is now an Honorary Fellow. He was also Registrar of the Canterbury Diocese and legal secretary to the Bishop in Canterbury. His publications include works on maritime law, chancel repairs, disasters and water supply.

William Michael Wood, FSG, FInstSMM. Mike became a member in 1999, and was re-elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009. He had previously been Chairman of the Society for 5 years and was Chairman of the Society's trading company. He is also a very active member of his local U3A family history group. He has had over 30 years senior management experience in international sales and marketing, having trained initially as a chemist.

Dr David Wright, FSG. David has been a member of the Society for nearly 40 years, joining in 1976, and was elected a Fellow in 2009. A classical scholar, and a professional

genealogist and historian, he has lectured widely on genealogy and written several books on the subject. He still teaches Latin and palaeography. He has compiled the *London Probate Index 1750-1858*, the *West Kent Probate Index 1750-1858*, and the *East Kent Burial Index 1813-1841*. He has also catalogued Kent's extensive probate records and is currently indexing some of that county's Probate Act books. In his spare time he enjoys chess, bridge, philately, hill-walking and visiting remote places. David was elected to the Board of Trustees on 24 June 2014.

Trustee recruitment, induction & training

The Society's Governing documents require all trustees to have been a member for one full year before being able to apply as a Trustee. In 2014 the Board were successful in amending the requirement to have one year's membership of the Society as a stipulation before becoming a board member. This will enable particular skill sets e.g. marketing to be advertised for more broadly.

Recruitment currently takes place via the main instruments of communications with members i.e. the *Genealogists' Magazine*, the website and on the notice boards in the Society. Now we will be able to advertise externally too. Applicants wishing to put themselves forward are invited for an interview and fill in a form to ensure they satisfy the criteria of trustee along with a 200 word cv. Formal election takes place at the Annual General Meeting where all members have a right to vote.

The Society accepts it requires a good cross section of skills on its Board of Trustees to cover all the areas the Charity encompasses. Previously this has been carried out informally but in 2006 attention was paid to formalising processes to ensure there are no major gaps and that all Trustees are aware of their responsibilities. Formal interviews were held with all Trustees to assess their knowledge of the Society, the charity sector, the companies sector (all trustees are also directors as the Society is a Company Limited by Guarantee) and to assess their skill sets. A checklist was produced of documents to be issued and discussed as well as a skills audit to be completed. New job profiles were agreed and issued for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and trustees and issued to all. Ongoing it has been agreed any applicants from prospective trustees shall be subject to a formal interview process to assess suitability.

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

New trustees have an induction on all areas of operations and to assess the new skill sets being added to the Society. The whole process is another useful tool to aid focusing on the well being of the Society.

Education, Enterprises, Finance & Library Committees

As at 31 December 2014

Education Committee: Mark Ayre, Dr Nick Barratt (Chairman), Else A. Churchill, Sue Flockton, Dr Hugh Guilford, David Horwill (Minute Secretary), Sue Hourizi, Rosemary Morgan and Nicholas Spence.

Enterprises Committee: Dr Nick Barratt, Dr Hugh Guilford, June M. Perrin (CEO, Company Secretary) and Dr Richard Sturt, OBE (Chairman).

Finance Committee: Dr. Nick Barratt (Treasurer), Angela Buckley (Chairman), June Perrin (Chief Executive) and Tim Hillyer (Finance Manager).

Library and Records Committee: Diana Bouglas (Chairman), Frank Hardy, FSG, Sue Highley, David Horwill (Minute Secretary), Tim Lawrence, John Titford, Marcus Turner and Michael William Wood, FSG.

Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd

Directors of SoG Enterprises Limited during the year

Dr Nick Barratt, Dr Hugh Guilford, Dr Richard Sturt, OBE (Chairman).

Company Secretary: June M Perrin

Strategic overview

Present

During 2014 the Strategic Plan was updated to encompass the vision for the next few years. This document is available on the Society website.

The work on the new website continued and we have now commenced a 'phase 2' to improve on the initial launch and to add new features. We will also be making improvements to the data online area. The initial planning and commencement were all done in 2014 but as these things take time some features will appear in 2015 and 2016.

Although membership has fallen slightly the new online joining facility on the website made a promising start. Phase 2 will enable a whole raft of marketing to take place to improve membership.

Fundraising is still in the doldrums and legacy giving took a fall in 2014. A new legacy leaflet has been produced in the hope of reminding members to think of us when making their wills.

2014 was affected also by a tumble in partner provided services for data online. This affected the performance of the trading company and hence the gift aid to the Society.

Objectives & Aims of the Society

The proposal to build flats on the top of the Society has continued to be discussed and a meeting was held with members to update them on the issues surrounding this.

In 2014 the Society has:

- ◆ Carried out an assessment of requirements and commenced phase 2 of website improvements
- ◆ Continued the Friends of the Society and the Fund for the Future initiatives and revamped the Legacy leaflet
- ◆ Added substantial data and images online in its own Members' Area
- ◆ Continued its extensive education programme including two summer schools
- ◆ Continued its contract with the *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live show in order to maintain our high profile and input into the event
- ◆ Provided content and experts for a new *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live show in Glasgow
- ◆ Continued to add to the vast array of resources in the Library with new special collections arriving in large quantities
- ◆ Added to the staff with two apprentices in roles that will help both the apprentice and the Society
- ◆ Monitored its activities via its Key Performance Indicators and monthly management accounts
- ◆ Liaised with Members on the major development proposal

Future

A crucial part of 2015 and 2016 will be to bring the Society back into a break even position. With the economic downturn having gone on longer than anticipated the Society's reserves are being depleted. Several plans are in place for cost savings.

2015 will see the Society uploading phase 2 improvements and additions to the website.

The Society will continue its liaisons with the members on the future of the Society. This will be by a variety of methods commencing with an initial broad survey of the membership.

Once the phase 2 website improvements are completed we will be able to consider other forms of membership.

The Society will continue to prepare itself to embrace any opportunity to widen its delivery of genealogical knowledge and material.

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

- ◆ maintain the foremost specialist library in the country
- ◆ provide a comprehensive programme of lectures, tutorials and courses
- ◆ publish textbooks and indexes of genealogical material
- ◆ maintain co-operative relationships with allied organisations
- ◆ lobby government and other relevant organisations on behalf of the genealogical community

The objectives we set ourselves for the year were to maintain membership numbers, to increase lecture delivery, to increase accessibility to material by increasing data on-line, to maintain the numbers of day visitors, to continue providing excellent customer service, to improve accessibility by ensuring prompt cataloguing of library material and to follow a strategic plan with income generation as its major component.

Achievements & Performance

Detailed descriptions of the different departments' performance are made throughout this Annual Report. However, the trustees recognise the need to have some Key Performance Indicators to assess the Society is achieving its objectives.

The following Key Performance Indicators were approved and instigated in 2014. An assessment is made each year on the continuing suitability of the Indicators and the trustees monitor them regularly.

Setting the KPIs for 2014 was again conservative due to the economy.

Membership had a slight reduction; we had more leavers than newcomers. We are still optimistic we can turn this around. We are awaiting some improvements to the website interface before we can commence a marketing campaign. The numbers are very good considering we have done little marketing of membership in 2014.

Lectures have had a minor downturn. The summer schools were not quite as well attended in 2014. Overall income has increased due to an extra show in Glasgow.

Data Online has performed well again in 2014. Members benefit by new material being added weekly.

Paid day visitors continue to drop behind. We are hoping in 2015 that membership surveys will shed some light on this and we are hoping to assess if we can offer anything else to attract attendees.

Key Performance Indicators:

Department	Objective	2013	2014	Target	Variance
Membership	To maintain numbers	10,478	10,197	10,478	-2.68%
Lectures	To achieve £32,000	£34,446	£31,120	£32,000	-2.75%
Lectures	To maintain numbers	2089	1988	2000	-0.60%
Data On-line	To add at least 500,000 names/images	878,000	843,000	500,000	+68.60%
Paid Day Visitors	To maintain numbers	£3,665	£2,832	£4,000	-29.20%
Fundraising	To raise £40,000	£39,200	£25,694	£40,000	-35.77%
Customer Care	To achieve 95% satisfaction rate	96%	96%	95%	+1.05%
Cataloguing	To ensure material is catalogued within 3 months of receipt	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Sep 2014	+3 months

Customer care surveys continued and useful feedback comes from them to enable us to improve services. The new survey will be out this year.

Our main cataloguing continues to go well and the backlog is visible on the catalogue. Although all the items are not on the open shelves the Library staff can issue items as requested.

The economy still affects how much we can fundraise. We are mindful that many of our members are suffering from low interest rates on their reserves at present. Thanks go to our Friends, Fund for the Future donors and all general donors for their continued support.

Another mixed year with the continued struggling economy, as reserves are eaten into we have to tighten our belt accordingly. In 2015 we will be reassessing services we offer.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The purpose of the Charity is encapsulated in its objects to make available its resources to as wide an audience as possible, to encourage the study of Family History. One excellent example is the free Open Access area (sadly no longer facilitated by our Community Officer due to the grant ending) which provides a good resource to newcomers in starting their educational journey. By reading this report it will be clear what wide services the Society offers to ensure all the public can benefit from its services.

The Library

We said goodbye to our Digital Archivist Natasha Wakely at the end of March. Natasha had been with us for 2 years, helping with various aspects of the Society's digitisation programme. Jess Wheatley was appointed as a Digital Archive apprentice in November to take over some of Natasha's duties.

Acquisitions

Grateful thanks are due to all those individuals and organisations who have donated material to the library in the past year. Thanks are also due to Findmypast and Ancestry for providing access to their websites from the Society's library.

Altogether 2919 new items were added to the library stock in 2014, including:

Archdeaconry Court of Barnstaple wills
British Newspaper Archive (full online access)
Buckinghamshire coroner's inquests 1752-1817
County Monaghan burial index
Criminal cases on the Crown side of King's Bench: Staffordshire, 1740-1800
Dover apprentice enrolments
Glamorgan burial index covering 1838-1990
Hertfordshire settlement examinations index and removal orders index
Huguenot surname index (updated CD version)
Lincolnshire poor law material
London & Middlesex 1666 Hearth Tax returns
Methodist records for family historians
Militia lists & musters 1757-1876: a directory of holdings in the British Isles
Monumental inscription collections for Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, Somerset and Herefordshire
My Ancestor was a Woman at War

My Ancestor was in the Royal Navy: a guide to sources for family historians

Parish Register Transcription Society publications on CD

Quaker digest registers of births, marriages & burials for the Suffolk and Essex quarterly meetings

Rutland marriage index for 1538-1754

Sussex church court deponents 1556-1694

Tasmanian convict records

The family historian's enquire within (6th edition)

Tracing your ancestors' childhood: a guide for family historians

Victoria County Histories (9)

World War I campaign medals & war diaries on DVD

A complete list of all incoming items for 2014 can be found in the *Genealogists' Magazine*. The library now holds over 140,000 items.

In addition to the book stock 1,651 documents were added to the Surname Document Collection over the course of the year, and 25 collections of original research were received.

The library collection was well used by members and day visitors. 1,901 sets of microfiche, 471 CDs and 359 books on closed access were consulted in 2014, in addition to 328 documents, 90 special collections, 88 roll pedigrees and 15 maps. The number of people consulting the main book collection was not monitored as they are on open access.

60 items were borrowed from the library, 239 digital camera/USB permits were issued and over 30,000 searches were made in our online collections.

Binding and conservation

A total of 50 items were bound during the year at a cost of £1,132. Items that were too brittle to be rebound due to the acid content in their pages were transferred to closed access.

Cataloguing

At the end of the year there were 2,550 items shown as 'available on request' (down from 2,603 in 2013). These can be consulted by filling out a closed access slip in the normal way. Thumbnail images of the covers of some of the items in the library can now be seen on the catalogue.

Projects

Amongst the projects completed in 2014 were the Women in India index, the Kent Marriage index 1813-37, an index to the Male Servants Tax 1780 and a Coastguards Index originally compiled by Eileen Stage: all of these have been added to SoG Data Online.

Current indexing projects include the following:

- ◆ Business index
- ◆ India Index
- ◆ Poll books

◆ Alumni Oxonienses

◆ National Roll of the Great War

◆ Customs & Excise staff registers

◆ Irish War Dead

The next major project to be tackled will be an index to the Society's surname document collection.

Open Access area

The Society's Open Access area continued at the front of house to aid people getting started online.

Membership

Membership at the end of 2014 was 10,197 (10,478 - 2013). The overall decrease in membership by 281 was again not unexpected given the continued problems with the economy.

New marketing has still not taken place as we await the second phase web developments but when we do we hope to turn around the fall in members.

Membership fees have been increased by a nominal £1 to £51 for 2014. Day entry fees remain at £5 for two hours, £10 for four hours and £18 for a day.

Publications

Two new titles were published in 2014 along with one new edition of an existing title and various out of stock items were reprinted. Nineteen of the Society's recent bestselling titles have been converted to ebooks for sale as electronic downloads from Amazon. Graham Collett assisted by Gerry McNee continues to set and produce all the Society's publications and leaflets and acts as designer for the Society. The Genealogist and Roy Stockdill edit the 'My Ancestor...' series for publication working with Anthony Mortimer as Enterprises retail manager with assistance from Tim Hillyer and Sue Lumas as proof readers. Michael Gandy continues to edit the *Genealogists' Magazine* which is also made available in electronic form for members on the website as part of the SoG Data Online.

New publications in 2014

My Ancestor was in the Royal Navy by Ian Waller

My Ancestor was a Lunatic by Kathy Chater

New edition in 2014

My Ancestor was a Coalminer by David Tonks

Electronic Publishing

39,000 items were scanned over the course of the year (18,000 documents and 21,000 book pages) plus a large number of card indexes connected to special collections.

167 datasets containing over 843,000 names were added to the Society's collection of online records (SoG Data Online) during 2014, in addition to over 66,000 digitised images. These included:

Alumni Oxonienses Early Series surnames A-D
(index and images)
Apothecaries Index 1815-1840
Apprentices of Great Britain (nearly 200,000 new entries)
Bedfordshire Monumental Inscriptions transcribed by
A W Matthews
Brooks Davies special collection index
Cambridgeshire marriages not appearing in Boyd's
marriage index
Customs & Excise staff register volumes
Genealogist's Guide (George Marshall)
Indian Mutiny casualty roll index
Kent Marriage Index 1813-1837
Lacemakers' Index
Male Servants Tax 1780 (index)
Monmouthshire parish register transcripts (9)
National Roll of the Great War (index and images to parts 1-5)
Newcastle under Lyme wills
Northamptonshire parish register transcripts (20)
Poll Book indexes prepared by SoG volunteers (various)
Prerogative Court of York wills index 1800-1840
(surnames A-G)
Women in India Index

A complete listing of all the material now available can be found at <http://sog.ourarchives.info/bin/recordslist.php>

Communication

The Society's website continues to be the main medium for communication incorporating as it does front page news and regularly updated news and subject pages. New and Updated Record Guide and Hints and Tips were added to the Learn pages. The news pages are aggregated to social media outlets. The Genealogist maintains the Society's Twitter and Facebook pages with both adding about 1,000 followers a year. The Twitter account has reached over 5,000 followers in 2014. Members who have registered their emails on the website receive emailed news and information about publications and events.

The Society's members' email list is now administered by the Society's Network Manager Chris Mappley who also provides online technical IT support to members for the website. The email list remains active with some 470 current users at the end of 2014. The list enables members to seek advice and genealogical support from other members. Personal genealogical advice continues to be given by volunteers

manning the twice weekly telephone advice lines and the Saturday consultations in the Library. Details of how to gain help and advice or to sign up for the SoG email list can be found on the website or in the *Genealogists' Magazine*. The email list is a channel for members to speak to other members and is not an official line of communication with staff or officers of the Society, although some do post in a personal capacity. Information about contacting staff and trustees can be found on the website and in the *Genealogists' Magazine*.

Education, Lectures, Courses & Fairs

In accordance with its charitable aims and objectives the Society continues to maintain a broad reach with its varied genealogical education programme. The annual diary of events listed on the website and in the *Genealogists' Magazine* includes seminars, workshops, full and half day courses, short lectures and talks, visits and evening classes. The Society organises several streams of talks at the very popular *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live event which this year included an additional two day event in August in Glasgow on top of the London show at Olympia in February. The Society's two extensive Genealogy Getaway courses each enabled attendees to spend a week dedicated to their family history and education at the Society's Library.

A successful partnership with Pharos Tutors continues to offer students an intermediate level Family History Skills and Strategies distance learning course. Students having completed the eight modules attended the Society in July to receive their certificates at a third graduation ceremony. Work progressed throughout the year preparing and planning for an advanced level course to commence in 2015.

Sadly no outside group or overseas society joined the Society for a residential school this year. Despite this, income for events and courses overall held up remarkably well. Some 1988 (2089 in 2013) attendees came to events at the Society during the year.

Free talks on Using the Library Catalogue, Getting the Most from SoG Data Online and Volunteering at the SoG were given by the Head of Library Services. PowerPoint slides from these talks can be found on the Library Section of our website.

External Liaison, Media Coverage & Outreach

2014 has been another busy year for the genealogical community. The Society continues to work closely with record offices and services providing resources for genealogists. Having retired after 9 years on the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council for National Records and Archives, the Genealogist continues to represent family historians on the National Archives' User Advisory Group and the London Metropolitan Archives' Academic and Family History User Forums. The

Head of Library Services also represented the Society on the Committee of London Research Libraries in History and the London Learned & Professional Societies Librarians' Group.

The Society was featured prominently in the 100th episode of the BBC television programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* which screened the family history of the model and actress Twiggy. The Genealogist appeared in the US version of the show advising on the 17th century British roots of the TV actress Valerie Bertinelli.

The Genealogist gave regular outreach talks throughout the year including in Birmingham for the Birmingham Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, in Nottingham for the Guild of One-Name Studies, in Lincoln for the Echoes of our Past History Show and at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. She also gave two talks at the Back to Our Past genealogy show in Dublin.

The Society was represented by the Census Detectives (Jeanne Bunting and Graham Walter) at various events round the country and trustee Mike Wood and other members manned SoG stalls at family history shows in Woking and York. The Society took its stand and expert volunteers to Glasgow for a second *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live event for the year. This two day show proved very successful and a useful rehearsal for taking the SoG's show activities out of London to Birmingham in 2015. The Society's programme of talks and our valiant team of experts who give one to one consultations remained popular at Glasgow and in London.

The Genealogist continues to write a column for *Your Family Tree Magazine* commenting on topical news and events in the genealogy community. She gave several radio and print interviews during the year. During 2014 the Society laid out its policy regarding the General Register Office and access to certificates and liaised with Baroness Scott of Needham about the possibility of using a forthcoming Deregulation Bill to effect changes to legislation that might make access to certificates easier.

In addition to the 25 regular Saturday library tours, special tours were given to Berkhamsted U3A, the British Deaf History Society, the City Archivists Group, the Clan Home Association, the Metropolitan Police FHS, Thorley U3A, Thorpe Bay U3A, Tunbridge Wells U3A and Wokingham U3A. Tours were also given on the New Members' Orientation Days and on two Open Days.

The Genealogist gave guided tours for staff from Findmypast and the British Newspaper Archive in anticipation of the launch of free access to the British Newspaper Archive website on the new computers in the lower library sponsored by the Halsted Trust. Appreciation and thanks were given to Halsted Trust and BNA at the annual trustees' and volunteers' Christmas party.

The Society had its regular secondhand book stall at WDYT YA Live at Olympia to raise funds for the library. It also had a stand at Nunhead Cemetery open day, where Society literature and publications were available.

Premises

The usual Health and Safety assessments and fire risks have been undertaken during the year and thanks go again to Frank Hardy and Tim Hillyer for their assistance. Regular maintenance continues for all standard items e.g. lift, air conditioning, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, burglar alarm etc.

The major development project for building on top of the Society was close to conclusion in 2014 and a meeting was held with members to discuss all aspects of this and its implications for the future of the Society. As a result further communication will be held with members on the future direction of the Society starting with some general surveys.

The Irish Genealogical Research Society continue to have a temporary home at the Society whilst they look for new premises.

Fellowships & Awards

Fellows

The Articles of Association of the Society prescribe three 'classes' of members. They are Ordinary Members, Fellows and Honorary Fellows. The constitution sets a maximum of 100 Fellows and just 10 Honorary Fellows. Those put forward for fellowship must have been members for at least five consecutive years, but those proposed for honorary fellowship do not need to be members of the Society at the time of their nomination. Candidates for either honour must be proposed by not fewer than six Fellows and a secret ballot is then held among all the Fellows. Successful nominees must secure a two-thirds majority. In weighing their vote, Fellows must judge whether those proposed for fellowship have rendered 'distinguished services to the Society or to genealogy' and whether they wish to honour those proposed for honorary fellowship for their 'very distinguished services to genealogy'.

There were no new fellowships in 2014.

At 31 December 2014 there were two Honorary Fellows:

Anthony Camp, MBE, 1982
Jeremy Gibson, Fellow 1963, Hon 1999

There were 71 Fellows:

John Addis-Smith, 1999	Miss Patricia Kirkland, 1991
Colin Allen, 2002	Brian Loomes, 1993
Mrs Norma Allum, 1993	Mrs Susan Lumas, 1997
Michael Armstrong, 1994	Miss Hilary Marshall, 2000
Dr Morris Bierbrier, 1993	Sir Mervyn Medlycott, Bt, 1990
Paul Blake, 1994	Mrs Joy Wade Moulton, 1992
Brian Brooks, 1978	Nicholas Newington-Irving, 1999
Christopher Broomfield, 2007	Peter Nutt, 2004
Robert Michael Bunting, 2007	Derek Palgrave, 1982
Mrs Yvonne Jean Bunting, 2002	Mrs Pamela Palgrave, 2005
Michael Burchall, 1975	Peter Park, 1989
Dr Colin Chapman, 1990	Eric Probert, 1994
Peter Christian, 2000	Mrs Doris E Pullen, 1992
Miss Lydia Collins, 2011	Prof Brian Randell, 2000
Patric Dickinson, 2000	Richard Ratcliffe, 2001
Thomas Doig, 2013	Dr Colin Rogers, 1986
Dr Andrea Duncan, 1998	John Rowlands, 1995
Vic Gale, 1991	Mrs Sheila Rowlands, 1995
Michael Gandy, 1987	Malcolm Sainty, AM, 1996
Paul Gorry, 1999	Mrs Beryl Schumer, 2008
Mrs Jan Gow, 2012	Dr Michael Siddons, 1998
Stephen Hale, 1989	Paul Floyd Smart, 1988
John Hanson, 2005	Dr Peter Spufford, 1969
Frank Hardy, 1998	David Squire, 1998
John Harnden, 1999	Miss Monnica Stevens, 1998
Duncan Wilson Harrington, 2007	Dr Geoffrey Swinfield, 2012
David Hawgood, 1987	Neville Taylor, 1995
Mark David Herber, 2007	Dr Stephen Taylor, 2006
Ian Jeffery Hilder, 2003	Rt Hon the Lord Teviot, 1975
David Mervyn Horwill, 2007	John Titford, 2004
Cecil Humphery-Smith, 1970	Mrs Jean Tooke, 1992
Kingsley Ireland, 1973	Mr Ian Waller, 2011
Keith Johnson, AM, 1992	Cliff Webb, 1981
Dr Anthony Joseph, 1970	James Willerton, 2002
Charles Kidd, 2000	William Michael Wood, 2008
	Dr David Wright, 2009

Awards

The Board of Trustees is able to recognise the contribution of members, non-members and appropriate organisations through the award of a Certificate of Appreciation. His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent has graciously agreed that a special award may be made from time to time bearing his name. In 2014, the Prince Michael of Kent Award was not awarded.

The Society commenced a new award during 2013 to recognise individuals and organisations who did not qualify for Fellowship under the five year membership rule. It is for recognition of efforts and activities that have made some exceptional contribution to genealogy to the benefit of anyone wishing to study family history. The Certificate of Recognition was awarded in its second year to Jenny Bradley and Maureen Selley.

In 2014, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Dr. Hugh Guilford, Hilary Grant-Nelson, Nicola Gilbert, Suzanne Hatley, Phil Lobley and Louise Nicholson.

Volunteers

During closed week 12 volunteers spent 111 hours transferring the Civil Service Evidence of Age documents from Store A to the Winter Palace, rearranging the Special Collections, and creating more space in the Middle and Upper Libraries for new stock.

Megan Bradford, an intern from Brigham Young University, helped begin a project to digitise a series of Customs and Excise staff records and make them available on our website (SoG Data Online).

At the *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live show in London and Glasgow once again we had huge support from volunteers in various capacities at the show. This helped the Society achieve a huge PR boost in its delivery of speakers, experts and all round volunteers. Thanks go to all involved.

Sadly two of our long standing volunteers died this year - Tony Simpson who had helped with photography/scanning, and Les Muriel who had helped with transcribing and indexing.

A volunteers' Christmas party was held in December to thank those who had helped the Society in 2014.

Where possible we name volunteers throughout this report but when not possible we would like to thank all the volunteers that help us. They are greatly appreciated; the Society would struggle to exist without their generosity.

Fundraising

In 2014 despite assurances by the government we were coming out of the economic downturn there was still no respite for interest rates. Many of our Members will be seeing reduced income and returns from the drop in savings rates. This makes it harder for them to contribute any spare cash and it would be insensitive of the Society to continue a hard fundraising campaign. Inevitably income has suffered and we must combat this with more cost cutting where necessary.

Members have however continued to support us financially and we thank all those who can and do.

The Foyle Foundation's grant came to an end in 2014. Unfortunately we could not support a full-time role moving forward. Natasha was a tremendous help and will be missed; her work will be continued on a part-time basis.

The Friends of the Society initiative continued and in 2014 raised £8,330 (2013: £10,780).

The Society would like to encourage people to make a regular standing order donation of any sum small or large, monthly or annually with our Fund for the Future programme. Given the economy there has understandably been a slow response to the Fund and income during 2014 remained at £2,725 (2013: £2,820).

Legacies did not do well and we have reissued the legacy leaflet in the hope Members will think of us when drafting their will.

Finance

The Trustees are pleased to present the financial summary for the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Treasurer's Report

The Society ended the year 2014 with a deficit that was planned for; however, there were several areas of variance to the original budget. Whilst savings were made on areas of expenditure, income was much lower than forecast. This was predominantly due to diminished royalties from our data contract partner, and the continued low levels of fundraising (predominantly a drop in legacies, a factor that is always hard to predict at the start of the financial year when budgets are set).

It is clear that we should be wary of underpinning operating costs with revenue derived from data sales; our operating model is not that of a principal data content supplier. Instead, we need to work to the assumption that membership income remains our core source of funds and cut our cloth accordingly. With this in mind, we have had to make some difficult decisions about the way we structure ourselves financially over the coming years as we undertake a wholesale review of the future of the society. Further savings will be necessary in the short term. The reserves built up over the last few years have helped us 'weather the storm' but this cannot continue indefinitely.

Much has been made recently about a potential windfall through a potential premises development. This money can not and will not be used to prop up annual income and expenditure. Instead, any money generated through the sale or lease of airspace above our premises will allow us to invest in and support products and services that benefit our entire membership, not just those who can visit our premises in London. A review process will be initiated that develops a robust business plan that prioritises revenue generation via value-added services. This may mean changes to 'traditional' activities as we embrace the potential of online access and increased profile, noting that the way people share information and their experience often sits 'outside' paid membership or subscription models. We have a couple of years to plan this properly, and the process will include a full consultation with members in various formats to enable good decision making, as well as explore any options for collaboration should that be a route we wish to explore.

Investment powers

Under the memorandum and articles of association, the charity has the power to make any investment, which the trustees see fit.

Trading subsidiary

The charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary, Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited, undertook its fifteenth year of operating the commercial trading activities of the Society. The subsidiary gift aids any profits to the charity, and these additional funds are generated to meet our charitable objectives.

During the year the trading subsidiary continued to work hard but book sales were still down slightly. A large unexpected variation in income from our data partner, noted above, caused the trading company to perform at a loss in 2014. Things are already in hand to change this for 2015 as the Society will not support the trading company; unfortunately this means there is no gift aid available to the Society in 2014.

Strategic review, reserves policy and risk management

As part of the strategic review, the trustees continued the risk management strategy, which comprises:

- ◆ an annual review of the risks which the charity may face
- ◆ the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan, and
- ◆ the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of those risks materialise.

This exercise as well as being beneficial also complies with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities, 2005, by which the Charity abides. Many of the risks identified are standard risks such as financial and property loss which can be covered by insurance. However key risks identified were intellectual property theft and the erosion of the value of our assets by the continual growth of material online. The Society is addressing this seriously and has an active digitisation programme. Another key risk, already being felt, is that of reducing income under the current economic climate and this also is being dealt with under the revised Strategic Plan. In addition expenditure has been looked at to minimise outgoings.

The trustees have forecast the level of free reserves (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets, and designated and restricted funds) the charity will require to sustain its operations and make appropriate adjustments should there be a material reduction in the charity's income. The trustees consider that the most appropriate level of free reserves is a sum equivalent to six months of the charity's running costs estimated at £200,000. The current level is £285,390. It is the trustees' view that the balance of income and expenditure should be managed to maintain the appropriate level of free reserves.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Audit information

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- a) there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditor is unaware; and
- b) the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Small Company Rules

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 April 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Angela Buckley

Angela Buckley
Chairman

28 April 2015

Nick Barratt

Dr Nick Barratt
Treasurer

28 April 2015

Independent Auditors' Report

to the Members of Society of Genealogists

We have audited the consolidated and parent charitable company's accounts of The Society of Genealogists for the year ended 31 December 2014 set out on pages 16 to 26. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of The Society of Genealogists for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly we have been appointed as auditors under Section 44 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the accounts in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the accounts. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounts. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on accounts

In our opinion:

- ◆ the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the group and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and of the groups incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- ◆ the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ the group and parent charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime.

Darren Harding
.....

Darren Harding ACA, FCCA, DChA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
1-7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

Dated:

Richard Place Dobson Services Ltd is eligible to act as auditor in terms of the Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Society of Genealogists

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31st December 2014

	See note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2014 £	2013 £
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income					
Legacies		500	-	500	20,600
Grants and donations received		25,194	-	25,194	22,563
Interest receivable		1,878	-	1,878	1,899
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Membership income	2	413,891	-	413,891	413,154
Library income		2,648	5,411	8,059	17,835
Event income		68,010	-	68,010	67,045
Genealogy income		2,136	-	2,136	1,950
Other income from charitable activities		4,483	-	4,483	3,938
Magazine		6,326	-	6,326	8,606
Book shop		75,939	-	75,939	98,018
Total Incoming Resources		<u>601,005</u>	<u>5,411</u>	<u>606,416</u>	<u>655,608</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable Activities					
Membership expenditure		129,981	-	129,981	133,828
Library expenditure		247,515	6,865	254,380	253,438
Event expenditure		107,559	-	107,559	96,766
Genealogy expenditure		21,087	-	21,087	18,514
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure		153,062	-	153,062	147,264
Fundraising costs		6,412	-	6,412	10,103
Governance		30,489	-	30,489	29,513
Total Resources Expended	4	<u>696,105</u>	<u>6,865</u>	<u>702,970</u>	<u>689,426</u>
Net Incoming resources for the year before transfer		(95,100)	(1,454)	(96,554)	(33,818)
Transfers between funds	11a	<u>2,031</u>	<u>(2,031)</u>	-	-
		(93,069)	(3,485)	(96,554)	(33,818)
Fund balances brought forward at 1st January 2014		<u>1,251,113</u>	<u>34,467</u>	<u>1,285,580</u>	<u>1,319,398</u>
Fund balances carried forward at 31st December 2014		<u>1,158,044</u>	<u>30,982</u>	<u>1,189,026</u>	<u>1,285,580</u>

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities and arise from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of the financial statements.

Society of Genealogists

Balance Sheets as at 31st December 2014

		Group		Charity	
	See note	2014 £	2013 £	2014 £	2013 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	6	969,208	968,512	968,635	967,274
Investments	7	-	-	20,000	20,000
		969,208	968,512	988,635	987,274
Current Assets					
Stock of goods for resale		29,861	27,686	-	-
Debtors	8	47,322	51,143	53,835	87,430
Cash at bank and in hand		275,711	366,575	273,164	325,326
		352,894	445,404	326,999	412,756
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(133,076)	(128,336)	(124,147)	(117,558)
Net Current Assets		219,818	317,068	202,852	295,198
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>1,189,026</u>	<u>1,285,580</u>	<u>1,191,487</u>	<u>1,282,472</u>
Summary of Funds					
Restricted funds	10	30,982	34,467	30,982	34,467
Unrestricted funds	11	<u>1,158,044</u>	<u>1,251,113</u>	<u>1,160,505</u>	<u>1,248,005</u>
Total Funds		<u>1,189,026</u>	<u>1,285,580</u>	<u>1,191,487</u>	<u>1,282,472</u>

The Charitable Company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2014, although an audit has been carried out under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011. No member of the charitable company has deposited a notice, pursuant to Section 476 requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the consolidated charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for distribution by the Board of Trustees on 28 April 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Angela Buckley

Angela Buckley
 Chairman of Board of Trustees

Nick Barratt

Dr Nick Barratt
 Treasurer

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of the financial statements.
 Company Number 115703.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2014

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (2005) (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Basis of Consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of the Society of Genealogists and its subsidiary undertaking drawn up to 31st December. As permitted by Section 480 of the Companies Act 2006, no separate statement of financial activities for the Society of Genealogists is presented.

Incoming Resources

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are accounted for gross when receivable, so long as they are capable of financial measurement. The Society recognises legacies when there is adequate certainty and reliability of receipt and their value can be accurately measured.

Grants

Grants receivable are recognised when there is reasonable assurance of their receipt, whether capital or revenue in nature. Grants are not recognised until the conditions for their receipt have been complied with.

Resources Expenses and Basis of Allocation of Cost

Expenditure is included when incurred. Wherever possible costs are allocated directly to activities. Costs common to a number of activities are allocated on a basis appropriate to the cost, this includes proportion of space occupied or of time spent.

Governance costs

These represent costs attributable to the strategic direction of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than books and manuscripts are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. No depreciation is provided on freehold land or on books, manuscripts, and typescripts, since it is the Society's practice to maintain these in a continual state of sound repair and any depreciation involved would not be material. Provision will be made should any permanent diminution in the value of these documents occur. The rates currently used are as follows:

Freehold Building	2% straight line per annum Where residual value exceeds cost there will be no depreciation
Plant and machinery	50% straight line per annum
Furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and equipment	20% or 25% on book value per annum
Microfilm	10% on book value per annum

Exemption from preparing cash flow statement

The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small charitable company and group.

Foreign Currency translation

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

Pensions

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

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is included in Resources Expended within administration costs.

Operating Leases

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

Stocks

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

Investments

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

Taxation

The Society is a registered charity and avails itself of the exemptions available under the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Fund Accounting

The Unrestricted Fund consists of funds to be used for the purposes of the Charity at its discretion. Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The Restricted Fund consists of funds to be used for specific purposes determined by the donor.

2. Membership Fees	2014 £	2013 £
These comprise:		
Subscriptions	408,818	407,151
Entrance fees and lost cards	<u>5,073</u>	<u>6,003</u>
	<u>413,891</u>	<u>413,154</u>
 3. Staff Costs	 2014 £	 2013 £
Wages and salaries	358,861	339,908
Social security cost	27,074	25,880
Pension cost	<u>20,542</u>	<u>19,775</u>
	<u>406,477</u>	<u>385,563</u>

The average number of full time equivalent employees during the year was made up as follows:

	2014 Number	2013 Number
Direct charitable activities	11.5	11.5
Fundraising	0.5	0.5
Governance	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year (2013: none).

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

3a. Financial Performance of the charity

The consolidated statements of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited, results shown on pages 16 and 21.

The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:

	2014 £	2013 £
Incoming resources	545,518	568,417
Gift aid from subsidiary company	0	26,876
	<u>545,518</u>	<u>595,293</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	(606,013)	(598,361)
Governance costs	(30,489)	(29,513)
	<u>(90,984)</u>	<u>(32,581)</u>
Net incoming resources		
Total funds brought forward	1,282,473	1,315,054
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,191,489</u>	<u>1,282,473</u>
Represented by:		
Restricted income funds	30,982	34,467
Unrestricted income funds	1,160,507	1,248,006
	<u>1,191,489</u>	<u>1,282,473</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

4. Resources expended

	Direct Staff Costs £	Direct Other Costs £	Support Costs £	2014 Total £	2013 Total £
Charitable activities					
Membership expenditure	52,094	51,113	26,774	129,981	133,828
Library expenditure	125,077	30,059	99,244	254,380	253,438
Event expenditure	60,884	30,483	16,192	107,559	96,766
Genealogy expenditure	21,087	-	-	21,087	18,514
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	82,996	55,219	14,847	153,062	147,264
Fundraising costs	5,714	698	-	6,412	10,103
Governance	-	9,645	20,844	30,489	29,513
31 December 2014	<u>347,852</u>	<u>177,217</u>	<u>177,901</u>	<u>702,970</u>	
31 December 2013	<u>329,809</u>	<u>177,774</u>	<u>181,843</u>		<u>689,426</u>

<i>Support costs include:</i>	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Premises Costs £	Administration Costs £	2014 Total £	2013 Total £
Charitable activities						
Membership expenditure	14,074	1,980	3,822	6,898	26,774	26,737
Library expenditure	18,618	26,397	50,952	3,277	99,244	103,682
Event expenditure	7,134	1,980	3,821	3,257	16,192	16,358
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	7,388	2,471	1,274	3,714	14,847	14,182
Governance	<u>11,411</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>5,502</u>	<u>20,844</u>	<u>20,884</u>
31 December 2014	<u>58,625</u>	<u>32,938</u>	<u>63,690</u>	<u>22,648</u>	<u>177,901</u>	
31 December 2013	<u>55,754</u>	<u>32,411</u>	<u>69,877</u>	<u>23,801</u>		<u>181,843</u>

Included within the direct costs for managing and administering the charity are:

	2014 £	2013 £
Auditors' remuneration - current year Charity	3,600	2,425
Auditors' remuneration - current year Company	1,200	2,000
Auditors' remuneration - previous year Company over accrual	-	(1,050)
Auditors' remuneration - non-audit services	1,725	-

5. Trustees' expenses

The directors of the company, being the members of the Board of Trustees, received no emoluments during the year (2013: Nil). However, travel expenses to the amount of £909 (2013: £1,091) were reimbursed to 4 (2013: 4) committee members for travel to Society related activities.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

Group	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Books, Plant and Machinery £	Furniture, Manuscripts & Typescripts £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Microforms £	Total £
Cost or Valuation						
At 1st January 2014	938,015	62,608	213,952	502,586	158,379	1,875,540
Additions	-	1,145	2,972	28,795	722	33,634
At 31st December 2014	938,015	63,753	216,924	531,381	159,101	1,909,174
Depreciation						
At 1st January 2014	327,264	61,370	-	392,180	126,214	907,028
Charge for the year	-	1,810	-	27,840	3,288	32,938
At 31st December 2014	327,264	63,180	-	420,020	129,502	939,966
Net Book Value						
At 31st December 2014	610,751	573	216,924	111,361	29,599	969,208
At 31st December 2013	610,751	1,238	213,952	110,406	32,165	968,512
Charity						
	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Books, Plant and Machinery £	Furniture, Manuscripts & Typescripts £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Microforms £	Total £
Cost or Valuation						
At 1st January 2014	938,015	52,154	213,952	502,586	158,379	1,865,086
Additions	-	-	2,972	28,795	722	32,489
At 31st December 2014	938,015	52,154	216,924	531,381	159,101	1,897,575
Depreciation						
At 1st January 2014	327,264	52,154	-	392,180	126,214	897,812
Charge for the year	-	-	-	27,840	3,288	31,128
At 31st December 2014	327,264	52,154	-	420,020	129,502	928,940
Net Book Value						
At 31st December 2014	610,751	-	216,924	111,361	29,599	968,635
At 31st December 2013	610,751	-	213,952	110,406	32,165	967,274

The valuation of books, manuscripts and typescripts is a 1952 professional valuation amounting to £8,195. Additions since then have been included at cost. The freehold land and buildings were purchased in 1984 and based upon advice from a professional surveyor, £40,000 was ascribed to the cost of the freehold land. No depreciation is provided on this amount. The insured value of books, manuscripts, typescripts, microform, plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings is £2,559,070.

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

The freehold property is the subject of a legal charge dated 12th October 2001 in respect of all bank borrowings. Currently there are no such borrowings.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

7. Investments

At 31st December 2014 and 2013, the charity owned all of the issued ordinary share capital, consisting of 20 ordinary shares of £1,000 each, of the Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited, a company registered in the UK, which operates the trading activities of the group.

The trading results of the subsidiary company are set out as follows:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Turnover	137,327	163,936
Donation	-	-
Interest receivable	-	-
	<u>137,327</u>	<u>163,936</u>
Total income		
Cost of sales	42,782	44,640
Distribution cost	5,545	6,195
Administrative expenses	94,571	87,462
Corporation Tax	-	-
Donation to Society	-	26,876
	<u>142,898</u>	<u>165,173</u>
Total expenditure		
Net income from trading	<u>(5,571)</u>	<u>(1,237)</u>

At 31st December, the aggregate amount of this company's assets, liabilities, share capital and reserves was:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Fixed assets	572	1,238
Current assets	39,999	76,811
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(23,034)</u>	<u>(54,941)</u>
	<u>17,537</u>	<u>23,108</u>
This represented		
Share capital	20,000	20,000
Reserves	<u>(2,463)</u>	<u>3,108</u>
	<u>17,537</u>	<u>23,108</u>

8. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	8,681	6,381	1,814	504
Amount owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	-	14,105	44,163
Other debtors	18,571	17,888	17,925	15,889
Taxation and Social Security	3,731	3,101	3,652	3,101
Prepayments and accrued income	16,339	23,773	16,339	23,773
	<u>47,322</u>	<u>51,143</u>	<u>53,835</u>	<u>87,430</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	24,357	17,667	19,686	11,924
Amounts due to subsidiary	-	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	7,887	11,115	6,741	9,135
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	100,832	99,554	97,720	96,499
	<u>133,076</u>	<u>128,336</u>	<u>124,147</u>	<u>110,430</u>

9a. Deferred Income

	Group		Charity	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£
Deferred Income brought forward	97,498	93,786	94,443	82,944
Released to income in the year	(97,498)	(93,786)	(94,443)	(82,944)
Income deferred in the year	<u>87,075</u>	<u>97,498</u>	<u>87,075</u>	<u>94,443</u>
Deferred Income carried forward	<u>87,075</u>	<u>97,498</u>	<u>87,075</u>	<u>94,443</u>

10. Restricted Funds

Group and charity	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellows Fund	226	-	-	-	226
Library Funds	23,175	5,411	(1,812)	(2,031)	24,743
Binding Funds	7,316	-	(1,303)	-	6,013
The Foyle Foundation	<u>3,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,750)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>34,467</u>	<u>5,411</u>	<u>(6,865)</u>	<u>(2,031)</u>	<u>30,982</u>

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

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

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

The *Foyle Foundation* is a specific grant for the salary of a Digital Archive Assistant.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

11. Unrestricted Funds

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted charitable funds					
Designated development fund	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
General funds	1,218,005	518,740	(608,269)	2,031	1,130,507
Total unrestricted charitable funds	1,248,005	518,740	(608,269)	2,031	1,160,507
Non charitable funds (Subsidiary)	3,108	82,265	(87,836)	-	(2,463)
	<u>1,251,113</u>	<u>601,005</u>	<u>(696,105)</u>	<u>2,031</u>	<u>1,158,044</u>

11a. Transfers

A transfer took place of £2,031 representing items bought from the Library Fund that are not stated in the SOFA due to their purchase being capitalised.

12. Allocation of Group Net Assets

The group's net assets belong to the various funds as follows:

	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Fund Balance £
Restricted Funds	-	30,982	30,982
Unrestricted Funds			
Designated Fund	-	30,000	30,000
General Fund	988,636	141,871	1,130,507
Charity Only	<u>988,636</u>	<u>202,853</u>	<u>1,191,489</u>
Charity investment in Subsidiary	(20,000)	20,000	-
Non charitable funds (Subsidiary)	<u>572</u>	<u>(3,035)</u>	<u>(2,463)</u>
Group	<u>969,208</u>	<u>219,818</u>	<u>1,189,026</u>

13. Status of the Society

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

14. Commitments under Operating Leases

At 31st December 2014 the group has an annual commitment under non-cancellable operating leases of land and buildings of £8,500 (2013 - £8,500).

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2014 (Continued)

15. Related Party Transactions

Prior permission by the Charity Commission has been given for Trustees to receive lecture fees and any authors royalties. Hugh Guilford (Trustee) was owed £124 (2013: £0) for lectures in his professional capacity.

16. Capital Commitments

The Society has no current capital commitments.