



Society of Genealogists

Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2015



Society of Genealogists

Founded 1911

A Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support the work of the Society of Genealogists. Your commitment is invaluable in helping to maintain the unique resources of our library and expertise which enrich the experience of family history researchers and enhance the wider world of genealogy. In particular, I would like to thank our CEO, June Perrin and her staff for working extremely hard to preserve this special organisation through the challenges of our ever-changing environment.

2015 has been an excellent year for the Society of Genealogists. Under the careful leadership of June Perrin, the staff have worked hard to return the society to a more stable financial state. I am pleased to report that the deficit, previously incurred due to changes beyond the organisation's control, is now well on its way to being eradicated, and the society will soon return to operating at cost, which will enable us to start investing in the future. After complex negotiations and endless paperwork, I am very confident that the airspace lease will reach a conclusion early in 2016, which should provide much needed capital for the future.

There has been significant progress this year throughout the work of the Society of Genealogists. In addition to our increasingly popular programme of lectures and courses, we have been collaborating with Pharos to offer an advanced level course of study, which will begin in 2016. In April we

enjoyed another successful *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live event in Birmingham, where we provided lectures, advice and an opportunity to engage with many family historians.

There have also been positive and necessary changes in the library. With the help of volunteers, the staff have completed the gargantuan task of surveying, sorting and emptying our storage facility, known as the Winter Palace, as the lease has now come to an end. This vital task has not only reduced costs to the society but, more importantly, is part of our ongoing plans to improve resource management. There has been considerable development of the website, through Phase 2, including the implementation of the online delivery of *Genealogists' Magazine*, which had an excellent response from those members wishing to receive digital copies of the publication.

There are many exciting opportunities ahead for the Society of Genealogists. Since the launch of our 'Shaping the Future' initiative, we have all been working closely together to develop a meaningful and effective strategy for the future, underpinned by our key objectives of providing online education and data to help all family historians in their research and to lead the field in genealogy. I have been delighted to have had the opportunity to work with such dedicated staff, Trustees and volunteers during an important phase in the organisation's history and I look forward to the next stage in the ongoing success of the Society of Genealogists.

Angela Buckley
Chairman
Society of Genealogists

Contents

2 A Message from the Chairman

Governance, Structure & Staff

4 Governance

4 Constitution and Organisation

4 Staff

5 Directors & Trustees

6 Trustee Recruitment, Induction & Training

6 Education, Enterprises, Finance & Library Committees

6 Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited

Future Plans

7 Strategic Overview

Objectives & Activities / Achievements & Performance

8 Objectives & Aims of the Society

8 Achievements & Performance

9 The Library

10 Membership

10 Publications

10 Electronic Publishing

11 Communication

11 Education, Lectures, Courses & Fairs

11 External Liaison & Media Coverage & Outreach

12 Premises

12 Fellowships & Awards

14 Volunteers

14 Fundraising

14 Finance

Governance

Patron

HRH Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia
from 25 June 2013

President

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

Vice-Presidents

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

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

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 2015 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 2015 is given on page 6.

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 to January 2015
Apprentice PA to the Chief Executive: Alice Jephart to February 2015

Genealogy

Genealogy Assistant: Virginia Gilman

Library

Deputy Librarian: Claire Bullen, BA
Library Assistant: Nick Fogg, MA, Dip Lib
Cataloguer (part-time): Angela Thomson, BA, MCLIP
Digital Archivist (part-time): Mel Skinner from September 2015
Apprentice Archivist: Jessica Wheatley to September 2015

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 2015

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.

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 a 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.

Amelia Bennett. Amelia has been a member since 2011. She volunteers in the Library and at external events. She is an experienced genealogist who has been researching both personal and others family history over the past twenty years. Amelia is active within the UK and international genealogical community. Within her professional life, as a nuclear safety engineer, she has been involved in strategic planning and can evaluate and analyse complex information. She has experience of problem solving, budgeting, marketing and networking.

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.

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, who, roughly 80 years later, 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 and elected to the Board of Trustees 2005–08, and re-elected in 2013. She has been involved in family history since childhood; and while working in North Africa co-organised an oral family history programme in the early 1960s. 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 and since 2000 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. Sue currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Society of Genealogists Education Committee.

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 Ancestors...' books. Roy ended his term on 30 June 2015.

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.

Mrs Diana Swinfield. 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 about fifteen years ago and has been involved with the Society as a volunteer for the past ten years. Diana has worked as a professional genealogist since 2006. She currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Society and Chairman of the Library Committee.

William Michael Wood, FSG, FInstSMM. Mike became a member in 1999, re-elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009. He has previously been Chairman of the Society for 5 years and 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. Mike's term ended on 30 June 2015.

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, Inductions & Training

The Society's Governing documents require all Trustees to become a Member once successful in applying for Board membership. By not having to be a member for a requisite time in advance it means particular skillsets e.g. marketing can be advertised far 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 in filling any specific skillset gaps on the Board.

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 focus on the well being of the Society.

Education, Enterprises, Finance & Library Committees

As at 31 December, 2015

Education Committee: Dr Nick Barratt (Chairman), Else A. Churchill, Dr Hugh Guilford, Mrs Sandra Guilford, David Horwill (Minute Secretary), Sue Hourizi, Dr Richard Sturt, OBE 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: Amelia Bennett, Frank Hardy, FSG, Sue Highley, David Horwill (Minute Secretary), Tim Lawrence, John Titford, FSG, Diana Swinfield (Chairman), Marcus Turner and William Michael 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

The Strategic plan adopted in 2014 is still in operation and available on the 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. The initial planning and commencement were all done in 2014 but as these things take time some features appeared in 2015 and some will appear in 2016. Minor (but time consuming) improvements were made in 2015 but the bulk of the work is due to finish in 2016. This will enable action to be taken on Membership facilities available.

As mentioned above Membership numbers will be improved in 2016 with the completion of the website developments. Work undertaken in 2015 included converting a fifth of the membership to receiving the *Genealogists' Magazine* online. This made a good saving on costs associated with membership.

Fundraising is still in abeyance but a substantial legacy was received in the last quarter of the year. A new legacy form was sent out and this may have helped with some of the bequests.

Partner service provided data licences are still experiencing a fall in income but the Society intends to create its own pay per view data services to replace this eventually.

The proposal to build flats on the top of the Society has progressed throughout the year and the Society is now close to signing the contracts. As part of the process a consultation evening was held and communication commenced with Members on their wishes in the form of a survey open to members and non-members. The survey provided useful information to the Board in shaping the future needs of the Society. It has also lead to more focused surveys on particular areas of operations which will all enable valuable feedback in service provision.

Operational focus in 2015 had to be on returning the Society to a break even position. Whilst the Society had been happy to operate on a deficit for a few years, in the economic downturn this could not continue. The CEO was tasked with a two year plan to turn this around. This has gone to plan in 2015 and 2016 is also on track to ensure the 2017 budget is at a break even position.

In 2015 the Society has:

- Continued with the phase 2 of the website to bring about better Membership facilities

- Continued the Friends of the Society and the Fund for the Future initiatives and reissued the legacy leaflet
- Added substantial data and images online in its own Members' Area
- Continued its extensive education programme including its summer schools
- Carried out preparation on the joint Pharos Advanced course to complement the current intermediate course we offer.
- 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. This year included a move to Birmingham for the event
- Continued to add to the vast array of resources in the Library with new special collections arriving almost weekly
- Commenced an assessment of the publication operations and moving them back in to the Charity as part of the charitable remit
- Monitored its activities via its Key Performance Indicators and monthly management accounts
- Consulted with Members on the major development proposal
- Consulted with Members and Non-members on the future shaping of the Society via open surveys
- Commenced on the two year plan to bring the Society back to a break even position
- Commenced work on emptying the external storage facility known as the Winter Palace to save on costs

Future

2016 will again be concentrating on bringing the Society back into a break even position. The Winter Palace will be completely emptied and returned to the landlord. Staff changes will be made to aid efficiency.

The new advance Pharos online course will commence as a follow up to our existing intermediate course.

Phase 2 of the website will be completed. This will enable 'Member only' areas on the website which will in turn give us the opportunity of commencing an extra stream of membership for online only (this will be in addition to full membership).

The Society will continue its liaisons with the Members on the future of the Society. This will be by a variety of methods including specific surveys on Education, Library, online facilities and any other specific areas that need to be covered.

Achievements & Performance

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

Objectives & Aims of the Society

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:

- maintains the foremost specialist library in the country
- provides a comprehensive programme of lectures, tutorials and courses
- publishes textbooks and indexes of genealogical material
- maintains co-operative relationships with allied organisations
- lobbies government and other relevant organisations on behalf of the genealogical community

The objectives we set ourselves for the year were to increase membership numbers, to increase lecture delivery, to increase accessibility to material by increasing data on-line, 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.

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 2015. An assessment is made each year on the continuing suitability of the Indicators and the Trustees monitor them regularly.

Setting the KPIs for 2015 was again conservative due to the economy but we had hoped the website improvements for membership would be done.

Membership had another fall from the start of the year; we had more leavers than newcomers. We are still optimistic we can turn this around. The improvements to the website needed will be added in 2016, we can then market a new membership stream that will hopefully reverse this trend. The numbers are very good considering we have done little marketing of Membership in 2015 whilst awaiting the website improvements.

Lectures have had a tremendous year. All the onsite courses have been very well subscribed as demand seems to be increasing. This too will be built on with more online education to be added in 2016.

Data Online has continued to perform well in 2015. Members benefit by new material being added weekly.

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

Key Performance Indicators:

Department	Objective	2014	2015	Target	Variance
Membership	To maintain numbers	10,197	9,712	10,597	-8.35%
Lectures	To achieve £30,500	£31,120	£35,359	£30,500	+15.93%
Lectures	To maintain numbers	1988	2425	2000	+21.25%
Data On-line	To add at least 500,000 names/images	843,000	667,404	500,000	+33.48%
Fundraising	To raise £33,000	£25,694	£56,059	£33,000	+69.87%
Customer Care	To achieve 95% satisfaction rate	96%	96%	95%	+1.05%
Cataloguing	To ensure material is catalogued within 3 months of receipt	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Sep 2015	+3 months

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

The economy still affects how much we can fundraise but a large bequest in the last quarter improved the figures in 2015. 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, 2016 will see improvements in services and cost cutting actions to ensure our future.

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

Library staff hours were reduced to 4 days a week in February as mentioned elsewhere, and we said goodbye to our digital archive apprentice Jess Wheatley at the beginning of September. Mel Skinner briefly took over Jess's duties before becoming the Society's new Membership Secretary in 2016.

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 2,867 new items were added to the library stock in 2015, including:

A large collection of naval books from the late Chris Watts. Victoria County History volumes for Derbyshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire and Yorkshire.

Pigot & Dean's directory of Manchester & Salford 1824-25
Staffordshire Monumental inscriptions from the Parish Register Transcription Society.

Hall's Ireland: Mr & Mrs Hall's tour of 1840.

Montgomeryshire Monumental inscriptions recorded by Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society.

First World War campaign medals DVD.

War diaries of the battalions who fought the great war on the western front.

Hampshire Bishop's Transcripts transcribed by R Hackman
Parrott one name society archive, covering all variants of the surname.

Essex marriage registers transcribed by Jack Baxter.

Herefordshire marriage index for the years 1538-1857.

London parish register transcripts provided by Cliff Webb.

Norfolk registers/Archdeacon's Transcripts from the Parish Register Transcription Society.

The consistory minutes & poor relief accounts of the French church at Thorpe-le-Soken.

Herefordshire Monumental inscriptions from Herefordshire FHS.

Somerset Monumental inscriptions transcribed by Mervyn Medlycott.

A subscription to the British Newspaper Archive was also taken out.

A complete list of all incoming items for 2015 can be found in the *Genealogists' Magazine* and they are all listed on the catalogue. The library now holds 142,953 items.

In addition to the book stock 2,067 documents were added to the Surname Document Collection over the course of the year, plus over 16,000 BMD certificates from the BMSGH.

The library collection was well used by members and day visitors. 1,379 sets of microfiche, 273 CDs and 298 books on closed access were consulted in 2015, in addition to 241 documents, 85 special collections, 58 roll pedigrees and 16 maps. The number of people consulting the main book collection was not monitored as it is on open access.

30 items were borrowed from the library, 180 digital camera/USB permits were issued and 27,950 searches were made in our online collections.

Binding and conservation

A total of 61 items were bound during the year at a cost of £1,430. Items that were too brittle to be rebound due to the acid content in their pages were transferred to closed access. Following Elizabeth Gray's retirement, Adrial Walton became the new book binding volunteer and attended a training course on the subject.

Publications

Cataloguing

At the end of the year there were 2,466 items shown as 'available on request' (down from 2,550 in 2014). These can be consulted by filling out a closed access slip in the normal way.

Projects

Amongst the projects completed in 2015 were indexes to the Apprentices of Great Britain record series, the Civil Service Evidences of Age collection, the Customs and Excise Staff Registers, the Irish Memorial Records volumes and the BMD certificates from the surname document collection, all of which have been added to SoG Data Online.

Current indexing projects include the following:

- Business index
- India Index
- Poll books
- Alumni Oxonienses (checking)
- National Roll of the Great War
- Monumental inscriptions

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 2015 was 9,712 (10,197 – 2014). The overall decrease in membership by 400 was not unexpected given the continued problems with the economy.

We had hoped to start the reversal of the drop in membership in 2015 but we had some delays on the website development needed to action this. The development is close to completion in 2016. Once we have this development we will be able to offer an additional stream of membership in the form of a purely online membership. This will be in addition to the current membership format not in replacement of it. To do this the web development needs to add extra content and security for the Members' Area.

Once this is complete we can carry out the necessary marketing to promote new members.

Membership fees have been increased by a nominal £1 to £52 for 2015. Day entry fees remain at £5 for two hours, £10 for four hours and £18 for a day.

One new title was published in 2015 along with one new edition of an existing title and various out of stock items were reprinted. Eight more of the Society's recent bestselling titles have been converted to eBooks for sale as electronic downloads from Amazon. Graham Collett 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 2015

My Ancestor was A Leather Worker, by Ian Waller

New edition in 2015

My Ancestor was Irish, by David Stuart

Electronic Publishing

48,694 items were scanned over the course of the year (33,693 documents and 15,001 book pages), plus a large number of card indexes connected to special collections.

136 datasets containing 517,187 names were added to the Society's collection of online records (SoG Data Online) during 2015, in addition to 150,217 digitised images. These included:

Apprentices of Great Britain series (final entries).
Civil Service Evidences of Age collection.
Coastguards Index.
Customs & Excise staff registers (index and images).
The Fall of Singapore (name index compiled by Stuart Morgan).
Holt hundred Monumental inscriptions (index and images).
Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918 (index and images).
Lawyers index, compiled by Tim Cockerill.
Monumental inscriptions recorded by A W Matthews (various counties).
National Roll of the Great War Sections 4 (Southampton), 5 (Luton), 6 (Birmingham), 7 (London) and 8 (Leeds).
Nottinghamshire parish registers: Holme Pierrepont, Holme by Newark, Kirklington, Keyworth, Kilvington, Kneesall, Keyworth, Lambley, Kneeton, Langford and Laxton (transcribed by John Mellors).
Poll books for Bristol (1830), Buckinghamshire (1831), Cambridgeshire (1830 & 1832), Cambridge University (1831), Canterbury (1835), Chester (1826), Colchester (1830), Derbyshire (1832), Durham (1832), Essex (1830), Hereford (1835), Hertfordshire (1832), Kent East (1832),

Education, Lectures, Courses & Fairs

Leeds (1834), Lincolnshire North (1852), Lindsey (1841), Maidstone (1832), Maldon (1826), Manchester (1832), Norfolk South (1868), Norfolk West (1835), Northampton (1790, 1820 & 1831), Norwich (1806 & 1857), Nottingham (1806), Nottinghamshire South (1846), Reading (1826), Rochester (1830), Truro (1832), Wallingford (1832).
Tunstead hundred Monumental inscriptions (index and images).

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 Guides and Hints and Tips were added to the Learn pages and these have proved popular pages on the site. Work continued on the second phase development of the website and working on integration and improvement of the various integral parts. The news pages are aggregated to social media outlets. The Genealogist maintains the Society's Twitter and Facebook Pages with both adding about 1000 followers a year. The Twitter account has reached over 6000 followers in 2015 and the posts on the Facebook page received the most boosts and likes ever. Members who have registered their emails on the website receive emailed news and information about publications and events and work has been ongoing to prepare a new newsletter for 2016 edited by Emma Jolly.

The Society's Members' email list is 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 465 current users at the end of 2015. 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 remains at the heart of the Society's charitable aim and objectives and this year's programme of events and courses proved very successful with both income and attendance well up on last year. Some 2,425 persons attended our visits, courses and lectures (1,988 in 2014) and many of the events in our programme were fully booked. We were pleased that the advanced evening class attracted sufficient numbers and was able to run after a few years' absence. The Society's annual Genealogy Getaway continues to offer students an opportunity to devote an entire week of study to their ancestry. This success reflected the hard work of our staff and speakers who continue to provide a broad and varied educational programme and the coming together of work on the website and mailings and the redesigned leaflets. Details of the year's events are published in the magazine, as an annual events leaflet and on the website.

The Society's programme of talks at *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live continues to be popular and an integral part of the show which this year moved to Birmingham. We are very grateful to those Society speakers who continue to support this endeavour.

The Society's partnership with the Pharos Tutors distance learning certificated courses goes from strength to strength. In addition to the Family History Skills and Strategies (intermediate level) modules, the pilot of the advanced course began at the end of the year after much preparatory work. Successful students having completed the intermediate course were welcomed to a celebratory event at the Society and many will go on to take the advanced modules.

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. A pilot programme of free half hour lunchtime talks has drawn good attendance and the orientation talks at the open days have been successful.

External Liaison, Media Coverage & Outreach

The Society of Genealogists remains very active in the genealogy community and continues to work closely with record offices and services providing resources for genealogists. Having watched very closely the developments in Parliament we were delighted to see the passing of the Deregulation Bill which potentially allows the General Register Office to issue information about birth, deaths and marriages on non - certified forms and possibly use digital media. However after attending a consultation meeting with

the GRO this goal seems some way off. The Genealogist and other members also attended an open consultation meeting on the future of the 2021 census.

After 5 years the Genealogist has retired from the National Archives' User Advisory Group but continues to attend occasional open user forums at TNA and also represents the Society and family historians at the London Metropolitan Archives' Academic and Family History User Forums. 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 Genealogist has attended and given talks about the Society at meetings of the Association of Pall Mall Libraries and the Society hosted a meeting of the City Archivists Group. The Society also hosted film crews for the filming of episodes of the BBC's Family Finders Television programme which featured several members and an American film company filmed sequences for a forthcoming show.

The Genealogist was a guest tutor for genealogy courses in Portugal and Salt Lake City. 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 shows in Woking and York.

The Society's Partnership with the UK's largest family history event *Who Do You think You Are?* Live continues. This year the show relocated to the NEC at Birmingham and proved very successful. Our stand and bookstall were busy. The Society continues to coordinate a well received programme of talks. The hard working team of volunteer experts who give one to one consultations remained equally popular in Birmingham.

The Genealogist continues to write a column for *Your Family Tree* magazine (which has changed publishers and is now called *Your Family History* magazine) commenting on topical news and events in the genealogy community. She gave several radio and print interviews during the year and contributed articles about the Society for various blogs and magazines.

In addition to the 25 regular Saturday library tours, special tours were given to U3A groups from Croxley Green, Borehamwood, Waltham Abbey, Bromley and Tring, as well as Strathclyde University and the City Archivists Group. Tours were also given on the New Members' Orientation Days and the Open Day. Special guided tours were given for members of Findmypast and the library hosted days for winners of competitions from Findmypast and Genes Reunited. The Library was also able to demonstrate in-house digitisation projects to Kent Archaeological Society and Guildhall Library.

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. These can be found on the Library Section of our website.

The Society also had its regular 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. 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 should be agreed by the time of the AGM in 2016. Consultation was continued with Members on the future of the Society with an initial general survey. This is being followed by specifically targeted surveys to enable the best decisions to be made for the Society long term.

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

Fellowship & Awards

Fellows

The Articles of Association of the Society prescribes 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; 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'.

The election of three new Fellows was announced at the AGM in 2015: Miss Sharon Hintze, Nicholas Spence and Peter Towey.

At 31 December 2015 there were two Honorary Fellows.

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

There were 74 Fellows:

John Addis-Smith, 1999
Colin Allen, 2002
Mrs Norma Allum, 1993
Michael Armstrong, 1994
Mrs Lydia Bierbrier, 2011
Dr Morris Bierbrier, 1993
Paul Blake, 1994
Brian Brooks, 1978
Christopher Broomfield, 2007
Robert Michael Bunting, 2007
Mrs Yvonne Jeanne Bunting, 2002
Michael Burchall, 1975
Dr Colin Chapman, 1990
Peter Christian, 2000
Patric Dickinson, 2000
Thomas Doig, 2013
Dr Andrea Duncan, 1998
Vic Gale, 1991
Michael Gandy, 1987
Paul Gorry, 1999
Mrs Jan Gow, 2012
Stephen Hale, 1989
John Hanson, 2005
Frank Hardy, 1998
John Harnden, 1999
Duncan Wilson Harrington, 2007
David Hawgood, 1987
Mark David Herber, 2007
Ian Jeffery Hilder, 2003
Miss Sharon Hintze, 2015
David Mervyn Horwill, 2007
Cecil Humphery-Smith, 1970
Kingsley Ireland, 1973
Keith Johnson, AM, 1992
Dr Anthony Joseph, 1970
Charles Kidd, 2000
Miss Patricia Kirkland, 1991
Brian Loomes, 1993
Mrs Susan Lumas, 1997
Miss Hilary Marshall, 2000
Sir Mervyn Medlycott, Bt, 1990
Nicholas Newington-Irving, 1999
Peter Nutt, 2004
Derek Palgrave, 1982

Mrs Pamela Palgrave, 2005
Peter Park, 1989
Eric Probert, 1994
Mrs Doris E Pullen, 1992
Prof Brian Randell, 2000
Richard Ratcliffe, 2001
Dr Colin Rogers, 1986
John Rowlands, 1995
Mrs Sheila Rowlands, 1995
Malcolm Sainty, AM, 1996
Mrs Beryl Schumer, 2008
Dr Michael Siddons, 1998
Paul Floyd Smart, 1988
Nicholas Spence, 2015
Dr Peter Spufford, 1969
David Squire, 1998
Miss Monnica Stevens, 1998
Dr Geoffrey Swinfield, 2012
Neville Taylor, 1995
Dr Stephen Taylor, 2006
Rt Hon the Lord Teviot, 1975
John Titford, 2004
Mrs Jean Tooke, 1992
Peter Towey, 2015
Ian Waller, 2011
Cliff Webb, 1981
James Willerton, 2002
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 2015, 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 third year to Wendy Hibbitt and Peter Higginbotham.

In 2015, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Sheryl Abrahart, Amelia Bennett, Pooler Clements, Ron Dunning, Frank Hardy, Barry Hepburn, Brenda Horwill, Mel Skinner, Ann Smith, Alexandra Thompson, Adrial Walton and Suad Younan.

Volunteers

During closed week in 2015 more shelving was put in the Upper Library to ease congestion and a start was made on clearing out our store (the Winter Palace).

In June one of our longest serving volunteers, Elizabeth Gray, retired after more than 20 years' service.

A volunteers' Christmas party was held in December to thank those who had helped the Society in 2015.

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

Little has changed in 2015 and we reiterate 2014's statement that despite assurances by the government that we were coming out of the economic downturn there was still no respite for interest rates. This makes it harder for Members to contribute any spare cash and it would be insensitive of the Society to continue a hard fundraising campaign.

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

The Friends of the Society initiative continued and in 2015 raised £6,847 (2014: £8,330).

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. Income during 2014 was a reasonable £2,458 (2014: £2,725).

Legacies did well with a generous bequest of £30,000 adding to the overall total.

Finance

Treasurer's Report

The Society set a deficit budget for 2015 with a plan in place to reduce this to breakeven by 2017. Good progress was made in this area but it did come at a cost of reducing some staff hours in addition to other cost cutting exercises. We did report on this necessity in the 2014 Annual Report due to the economy not picking up as expected.

The first year of cuts has mainly focused on cost cutting as the 'tools' on the website needed to increase the number of members (and hence income) are taking longer than anticipated to develop. These, however, are on track for 2016. Hence the two year breakeven plan is going well.

Returning the Society to running within its budget is essential to provide a secure future. It also means that any 'windfall' cash from possible developments can be planned for separately and sensibly to shape the future of the Society. More focused surveys are planned to involve the entire Membership on the direction the Society should be taking.

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

In 2015 a review was undertaken of the book sales operation within the trading subsidiary. Whilst it was clear this side of business was loss making it was still deemed important to the Society's vision and mission of educating people in genealogy as the books are purely based around this topic. The trading subsidiary could not support a charitable loss making function so the book operation was moved into the Charity. Further reviews under the Charity will still be necessary but it now sits where it belongs. This enabled the trading subsidiary to make a healthy contribution under gift aid to the Charity of £25,253.

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 £251,897. It is the Trustees' view that the balance of income and expenditure should be managed to maintain the appropriate level of free reserves.

Trustees' Responsibility Statement for the year ended 31 December 2015

The Trustees (who are also the directors of The Society Of Genealogists for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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 affairs of the charitable company and group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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 company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditor is unaware; and
- 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

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 April 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Angela Buckley

Angela Buckley
Chairman

26 April 2016

Laura Doyle

Laura Doyle
Treasurer

26 April 2016

Report of the Independent Auditor

to the Trustees of The Society Of Genealogists

We have audited the consolidated and parent charitable company's financial statements of The Society Of Genealogists for the year ended 31 December 2015 on pages 17 to 31. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

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

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement set out on page 3, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 auditor under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 154 of that Act.

My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements 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 financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company'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 financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify

material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2015 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Report of the Independent Auditor to the Trustees of The Society Of Genealogists.

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 Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the group and parent charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements 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.

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited

Statutory Auditors
Chartered Accountants
1-7 Station Road, Crawley
West Sussex RH10 1HT

Date:

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

Society of Genealogists

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2015

					(as restated)
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	31.12.15
		fund	fund	fund	31.12.14
	Notes	£	£	£	Total
					funds
					£
INCOME FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	56,059	-	-	56,059
25,694					
Charitable activities	4				
Membership income		403,516	-	-	403,516
413,891					
Library income		3,295	-	2,465	5,760
8,059					
Event income		63,109	-	-	63,109
68,010					
Genealogy income		3,270	-	-	3,270
2,136					
Bookshop, magazine & publications income		73,004	-	-	73,004
82,265					
Investment income	3	1,659	-	-	1,659
1,878					
Other income		4,325	-	-	4,325
4,483					
Total		608,237	-	2,465	610,702
606,416					
EXPENDITURE ON					
Costs of raising funds	5	5,685	-	-	5,685
6,412					
Charitable activities	6				
Membership expenditure		153,151	-	-	153,151
137,299					
Library expenditure		231,175	-	1,817	232,992
266,268					
Event expenditure		102,418	-	-	102,418
115,486					
Genealogy expenditure		19,932	-	-	19,932
21,087					
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure		116,226	-	-	116,226
156,418					
Total		628,587	-	1,817	630,404
702,970					
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(20,350)	-	648	(19,702)
(96,554)					
Transfers between funds	18	(855,796)	856,692	(896)	-
-					
Net movement in funds		(876,146)	856,692	(248)	(19,702)
(96,554)					
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,128,044	30,000	30,982	1,189,026
1,285,580					
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		251,898	886,692	30,734	1,169,324
1,189,026					

Society of Genealogists

Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 December 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.15 Total funds £	31.12.14 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	13	95,386	856,692	-	952,078	969,208
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		29,138	-	-	29,138	29,861
Debtors	15	50,391	-	-	50,391	47,322
Cash at bank		<u>202,799</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>263,533</u>	<u>275,711</u>
		282,328	30,000	30,734	343,062	352,894
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(125,817)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(125,817)</u>	<u>(133,076)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>156,511</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>217,245</u>	<u>219,818</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>251,897</u>	<u>886,692</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>1,169,323</u>	<u>1,189,026</u>
FUNDS	18					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					251,897	1,128,044
Designated fund					<u>886,692</u>	<u>30,000</u>
					<u>1,138,589</u>	<u>1,158,044</u>
Restricted funds:						
Restricted fund					<u>30,734</u>	<u>30,982</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>1,169,323</u>	<u>1,189,026</u>

Society of Genealogists

Charity Balance Sheet at 31 December 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.15 Total funds £	31.12.14 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	13	95,386	856,692	-	952,078	968,635
Investments	14	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
		115,386	856,692	-	972,078	988,635
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		29,138	-	-	29,138	-
Debtors	15	55,547	-	-	55,547	53,835
Cash at bank		<u>180,190</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>240,923</u>	<u>273,164</u>
		264,875	30,000	30,734	325,609	326,999
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(128,364)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(128,364)</u>	<u>(124,147)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>136,511</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>197,245</u>	<u>202,852</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>251,897</u>	<u>886,692</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>1,169,323</u>	<u>1,191,487</u>
FUNDS						
	18					
Unrestricted funds:						
General fund					251,897	1,130,505
Designated fund					<u>886,692</u>	<u>30,000</u>
					<u>1,138,589</u>	<u>1,160,505</u>
Restricted funds:						
Restricted fund					<u>30,734</u>	<u>30,982</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>1,169,323</u>	<u>1,191,487</u>

Society of Genealogists

Balance Sheet - continued
at 31 December 2015

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2015.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the charitable group keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and parent charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its consolidated surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable group.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable groups and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 April 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

Angela Buckley

.....
Angela Buckley - Chairman of Board of Trustees

Laura Doyle

.....
Laura Doyle - Treasurer

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015)', the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement 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 they have been informed they are to be in receipt of a legacy. This represents a change in accounting policy, as in previous years legacies were only recognised when there was adequate certainty and reliability of receipt and their value could be accurately measured. The accounting policy has changed on adoption of FRS 102.

Grants

Grants receivable are recognised when there is reasonable assurance of their receipt, whether capital or revenue in nature. Grants are recognised on an accruals basis.

Membership income

Membership income represents subscriptions for membership of the charity and is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Event income

Event income represents sponsorship and entrance fees for events and is recognised in the accounts when the event takes place.

Genealogy income

Genealogy income represents sums paid for specific genealogical consultation.

Bookshop, magazine and publications income

Bookshop, magazine and publication income represents income from sales of genealogy books and the Society of Genealogist magazine and is recognised on the day the sale takes place.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2015

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold land	- not provided
Freehold property	- 2% straight line (where residual value exceeds cost no depreciation is charged)
Furniture, fittings, fixtures, computers	- 20% on cost and 25% on cost
Plant and machinery	- 50% on cost
Microforms	- 10% Straight Line on book value

No depreciation is provided on freehold property or books, manuscripts and typescripts, since it is the Society's practice to maintain these in a continual state of sound repair and any depreciation would be immaterial. Provision will be made should any permanent diminution in the value of these assets occur.

Related party exemption

The charitable company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

Stocks

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Irrecoverable VAT is included in resources expended within administration costs.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds, which have been set aside by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

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

Financial instruments

The Society only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Operating leases

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

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.12.15 Total funds £	31.12.14 Total funds £
Grants and donations received	23,309	-	23,309	25,194
Legacies	<u>32,750</u>	-	<u>32,750</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>56,059</u>	-	<u>56,059</u>	<u>25,694</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.15 Total funds £	31.12.14 Total funds £
Interest receivable	<u>1,659</u>	-	<u>1,659</u>	<u>1,878</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Membership income comprises:

	2015 £	2014 £
Subscriptions	399,197	408,818
Entrance fees and lost cards	<u>4,319</u>	<u>5,073</u>
	<u>403,516</u>	<u>413,891</u>

5. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.15 Total funds £	31.12.14 Total funds £
Fundraising costs	<u>5,685</u>	-	<u>5,685</u>	<u>6,412</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

2015 Resources expended include:

	Direct staff costs £	Direct other costs £	Support costs £	2015 Total £
Charitable activities				
Membership expenditure	52,906	70,285	29,960	153,151
Library expenditure	106,111	27,504	99,377	232,992
Event expenditure	54,642	27,516	20,260	102,418
Genealogy expenditure	19,895	37	-	19,932
Bookshop, magazine & publication expenditure	<u>75,907</u>	<u>25,420</u>	<u>14,899</u>	<u>116,226</u>
	<u>309,461</u>	<u>150,762</u>	<u>164,496</u>	<u>624,719</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2015

2014 Resources expended include:

	Direct staff costs £	Direct other costs £	Support costs £	2014 Total £
Charitable activities				
Membership expenditure	52,094	53,428	31,777	137,299
Library expenditure	125,077	33,821	107,370	266,268
Event expenditure	60,884	32,991	21,611	115,486
Genealogy expenditure	21,087	-	-	21,087
Bookshop, magazine & publication expenditure	82,996	56,279	17,143	156,418
	<u>342,138</u>	<u>176,519</u>	<u>177,901</u>	<u>696,558</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

Support Costs for 2015:

	Staff costs £	Depreciation £	Premises costs £	Administration costs £	2015 Total £
Charitable activities					
Membership expenditure	15,940	1,730	4,541	7,649	29,860
Library expenditure	21,285	22,793	50,254	5,045	99,377
Event expenditure	9,552	1,732	4,614	4,362	20,260
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	8,203	1,152	1,624	4,020	14,999
	<u>54,980</u>	<u>27,407</u>	<u>61,033</u>	<u>21,076</u>	<u>164,496</u>

Support Costs for 2014:

	Staff costs £	Depreciation £	Premises costs £	Administration costs £	(as restated) 2014 Total £
Charitable activities					
Membership expenditure	16,813	2,006	4,739	8,219	31,777
Library expenditure	23,068	26,439	52,442	5,421	107,370
Event expenditure	10,101	2,009	4,814	4,687	21,611
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	8,643	2,484	1,695	4,321	17,143
	<u>58,625</u>	<u>32,938</u>	<u>63,690</u>	<u>22,648</u>	<u>177,901</u>

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.12.15 £	31.12.14 £
Auditors' remuneration - current year charity	4,000	3,600
Auditors' remuneration - current year Company	1,000	1,200
Auditors' remuneration - previous year under accrual	333	-
Auditors' remuneration - non audit services	492	1,725
Depreciation	<u>27,407</u>	<u>32,938</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The directors of the company, being members of the Board of Trustees, received no emoluments during the year (2014: £Nil). However, travelling expenses to the amount of £1270 (2014: £909) were reimbursed to 6 (2014: 4) committee members for travel to Society related activities.

10. STAFF COSTS

	31.12.15	31.12.14
	£	£
Wages and salaries	331,440	358,861
Social security costs	21,587	27,074
Other pension costs	17,099	20,542
	<u>370,126</u>	<u>406,477</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.15	31.12.14
Direct charitable activities	10.5	11.5
Fundraising	0.5	0.5
Governance	2	2
	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2014: none)

11. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Incoming resources	606,162	545,518
Gift aid from subsidiary company	25,253	-
	<u>631,415</u>	545,518
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>(628,328)</u>	<u>(636,502)</u>
Net incoming resources	(3,087)	(90,984)
Total funds brought forward	<u>1,191,489</u>	<u>1,282,473</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,188,402</u>	<u>1,191,489</u>
Represented by:		
Restricted income funds	30,734	30,982
Designated income funds	30,000	30,000
Unrestricted income funds	<u>1,127,668</u>	<u>1,130,507</u>
	<u>1,188,402</u>	<u>1,191,489</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

12. 2014 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND

	Unrestricted fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	(As restated) Total funds £
INCOME FROM				
Donations and legacies	25,694	-	-	25,694
Charitable activities				
Membership expenditure	413,891	-	-	413,891
Library expenditure	2,648	-	5,411	8,059
Event expenditure	68,010	-	-	68,010
Genealogy expenditure	2,136	-	-	2,136
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	82,265	-	-	82,265
Investment income	1,878	-	-	1,878
Other income	4,483	-	-	4,483
Total	601,005	-	5,411	606,416
EXPENDITURE ON				
Costs of raising funds	6,412	-	-	6,412
Charitable activities				
Membership expenditure	137,299	-	-	137,299
Library expenditure	259,403	-	6,865	266,268
Event expenditure	115,486	-	-	115,486
Genealogy expenditure	21,087	-	-	21,087
Bookshop, magazine & publications expenditure	156,418	-	-	156,418
Total	696,105	-	6,865	702,970
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(95,100)	-	(1,454)	(96,554)
Transfers between funds	2,031	-	(2,031)	-
Net movement in funds	(93,069)	-	(3,485)	(96,554)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	1,221,113	30,000	34,467	1,285,580
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1,128,044</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,982</u>	<u>1,189,026</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Plant & Machinery £	Books, Manuscript & Typescripts £	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings £	Microforms £	Total £
Cost or Valuation						
At 01.01.2015	938,015	63,753	216,924	531,381	159,101	1,909,174
Additions	-	-	2,124	7,871	282	10,277
At 31.12. 2015	938,015	63,753	219,048	539,252	159,383	1,919,451
Depreciation						
At 01.01. 2015	327,264	63,180	-	420,020	129,502	939,966
Charge for year	-	573	-	23,846	2,988	27,407
At 31.12. 2015	327,264	63,753	-	443,866	132,490	967,373
Net book value						
At 31.12. 2015	610,751	-	219,048	95,386	26,893	952,078
At 31.12. 2014	610,751	573	216,924	111,361	29,599	969,208

CHARITY	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Plant & Machinery £	Books, Manuscript & Typescripts £	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings £	Microforms £	Total £
Cost or Valuation						
At 01.01.2015	938,015	52,154	216,924	531,381	159,101	1,897,575
Additions	-	-	2,124	7,871	282	10,277
At 31.12. 2015	938,015	52,154	219,048	539,252	159,383	1,907,852
Depreciation						
At 01.01. 2015	327,264	52,154	-	420,020	129,502	928,940
Charge for year	-	-	-	23,846	2,988	26,834
At 31.12. 2015	327,264	52,154	-	443,866	132,490	955,774
Net book value						
At 31.12. 2015	610,751	-	219,048	95,386	26,893	952,078
At 31.12. 2014	610,751	-	216,924	111,361	29,599	968,635

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2015

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

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 insured value of books, manuscripts, typescripts, microform, plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings is £2,793,024 (2014: £2,679,070).

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 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 separately disclosed in the financial statements.

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

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Shares in group
undertakings
£

MARKET VALUE

At 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015

20,000

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 December 2015

20,000

At 31 December 2014

20,000

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Society of Genealogist Enterprises Limited

Nature of business: Providers of Genealogy material

Class of share:	% holding	31.12.15	31.12.14
Ordinary	100	£	£
Aggregate capital and reserves		20,000	17,537
Profit/(loss) for the year		<u>2,463</u>	<u>(5,571)</u>

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Group

	31.12.15	31.12.14
	£	£
Trade debtors	11,050	8,681
Other debtors	23,258	18,571
Tax	813	3,731
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>15,270</u>	<u>16,339</u>
	<u>50,391</u>	<u>47,322</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

Charity

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,468	1,814
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	14,105
Other debtors	23,257	17,925
VAT	14,845	3,652
Prepayments and accrued income	14,977	16,339
	<u>55,547</u>	<u>53,835</u>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Group

	31.12.15	31.12.14
	£	£
Trade creditors	15,932	24,357
Social security and other taxes	-	7,887
Other creditors	6,390	-
Accruals and deferred income	103,495	100,832
	<u>125,817</u>	<u>133,076</u>

Charity

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade creditors	15,181	19,686
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	8,919	-
Social security and other taxes	-	6,741
Other creditors	3,313	-
Accruals and deferred income	100,950	97,720
	<u>128,363</u>	<u>124,147</u>

Deferred income

	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income brought forward	87,075	97,498	87,075	94,443
Released to income in the year	(87,075)	(97,498)	(87,075)	(94,443)
Income deferred in the year	<u>92,981</u>	<u>87,075</u>	<u>92,981</u>	<u>87,075</u>
Deferred income carried forward	<u>92,981</u>	<u>87,075</u>	<u>92,981</u>	<u>87,075</u>

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2015

17. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The following operating lease payments are committed to be paid within one year:

	31.12.15 £	31.12.14 £
Expiring:		
Within one year	8,500	-
Between one and five years	<u>-</u>	<u>8,500</u>
	<u>8,500</u>	<u>8,500</u>

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Restricted funds of group and charity:

	At 01.01.2015 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31.12.2015 £
Fellows fund	226	-	-	-	226
Library Funds	24,743	2,452	(388)	(897)	25,910
Binding Funds	<u>6,013</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>(1,430)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,598</u>
	<u>30,982</u>	<u>2,467</u>	<u>(1,818)</u>	<u>(897)</u>	<u>30,734</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.

Designated funds of group and charity:

	At 01.01.2015 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31.12.2015 £
Development fund	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Library fund	-	-	-	245,941	245,941
Land and building fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>610,751</u>	<u>610,751</u>
	<u>30,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>856,692</u>	<u>886,692</u>

The Development fund represents funds put aside by the Trustees to be used in development of the charity.

The Library fund represents the funds of the Charity that are used to hold the Library.

The Land and building fund represents the funds of the Charity that are tied up in the land and buildings that the charity operates out of.

Society of Genealogists

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2015

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Prior permission by the Charity Commission has been given for the Trustees to receive lecture fees and any author's royalty payments.

20. STATUS OF THE SOCIETY

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

21. FIRST YEAR ADOPTION OF FRSSSE CHARITIES SORP

This is the first accounting period to adopt the new accounting standard FRS 102 and the revised Charities SORP (FRSSSE version). On adoption of the SORP the following changes have been made to the accounts:

Governance costs

Governance costs have been included as a support cost and allocated against charitable activities in line with other support costs. The impact on the SOFA for 2014 has been to remove the separate governance cost line of £30,489 and to spread this across the charitable activities. This change is purely presentational and has not impacted on the deficit made for the year or the overall Net Assets of the Charity.

Legacy income

Legacy income was previously recognised when there was adequate certainty and reliability of receipt and their value can be accurately measured. On adoption of the new charity SORP the policy for recognising legacies is now the earlier of:

- the date on which the charity is aware that probate has been granted;
- the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executors to the trust that distribution will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate.

This change has had no impact on the financial statements.