



The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

Registered Charity 1010351

Broadway House, Peter St
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1PN

Annual General Meeting and Open Day

30 September 2023

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Broadway House, Peter St
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1PN

Open Day

Saturday 30 September 2023

10.00am to 4.00pm

Hosted by the Society's South Dorset Group

St. Aldhelm's Church Centre,
Spa Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5EW

Programme

- 10.00 Registration.
- 10.45 *Empress of Ireland* - Helen Baggott
- 12.00 Annual General Meeting. See pp.4-8
- Lunch Break
- .13.45 Display by Morris Dancers
- 14.30 *Life in Victorian Britain* - Paul Atterbury

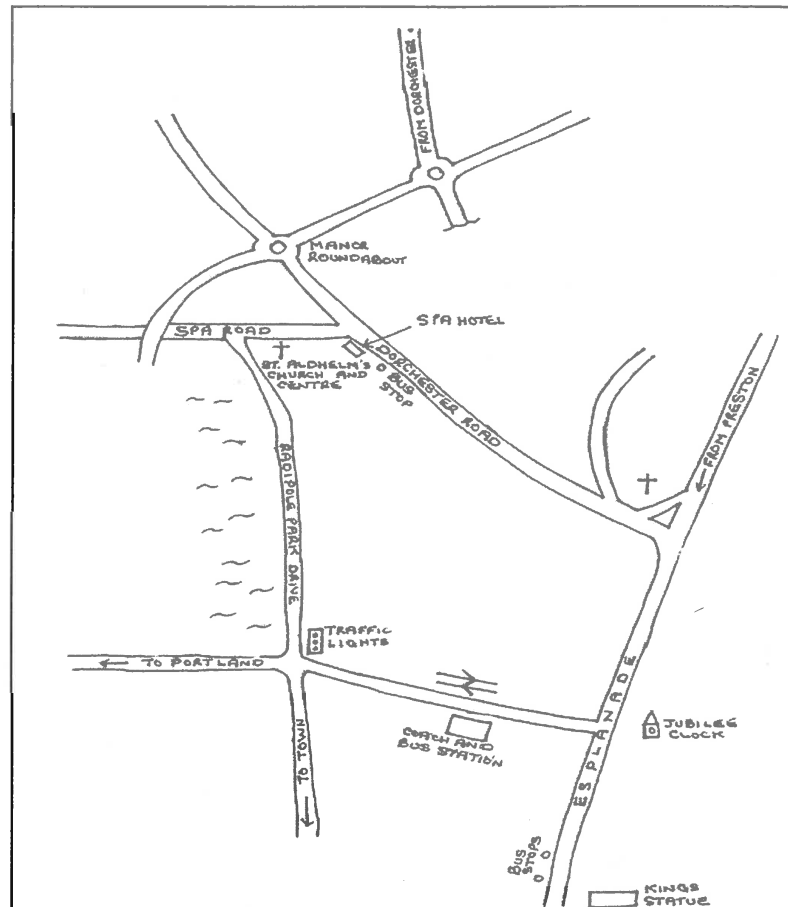
Refreshments and Lunch

Tea and coffee will be available except during the talks. Because there are so many places to eat nearby we have decided not to provide lunch but you are welcome to bring lunch to eat in the hall and there will be tea and coffee available. On the map opposite you will see the Famous Old Spa pub which is a 5-minute walk away; if you are planning to go there for lunch we recommend that you book as can get busy especially on a Saturday. A 10-15 minute walk away along Dorchester Road is a Morrison's with a restaurant and coffee shop, while the same distance away at Weymouth Gateway retail park there is a Dunelm's with a cafeteria, Costa Coffee and a McDonalds.

Access and Parking

There is disabled access and a disabled toilet. The Church Hall has parking spaces but if these are full there is on-street parking.

Location and Directions



DIRECTIONS

- By Rail:** Turn left out of station and then right onto the Esplanade. Take bus to Spa Hotel on Dorchester Road. Walk to SACC, Spa Road.
Or turn right out of station and walk up Radipole Park Drive to Church (approx. 20/25 mins).
- By Car:** From Dorchester, take relief road to Weymouth. At Manor Roundabout, take first exit onto Dorchester Road. Turn right into Spa Road, at Spa Hotel. SACC is approx. 300 yards on the left.
- By Bus:** To Spa Hotel on Dorchester Road. Walk to SACC, Spa Road.



The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

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Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1PN

The Annual General Meeting

To be held on Saturday 30 September 2023

**At St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road,
Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5EW**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 47th AGM (held at Glastonbury)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report *
7. Appointment of Examiners
8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee
9. Nominations for Vice Presidents and Life Members
10. Amendment to the SDFHS Constitution (see opposite)
11. Closure of Business

* Summary Accounts for 2022 can be found on pp.6-8. The Trustees' Report for 2022 and the full Accounts for 2022 can be downloaded from the Home Page of the Society's website: <https://sdfhs.org>

Item 10. Amendment to the SDFHS Constitution

Preamble

The Charity Commission recently published changes to the regulations governing charities, setting out the rules for paying for services rendered, and removing the requirement for “prior written consent”. The current SDFHS Constitution Article 9(a) states:

All income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion and execution of the objectives of the Society as defined in Clause 2 above, and **except with the prior written consent of the Charity Commission** no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly in any manner to any member of the Executive Committee or Society, provided that nothing herein shall prevent reimbursement of proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

The Society has applied for, and received, written permission from the Charity Commission to amend the Constitution as shown in the Proposal below. The SDFHS Executive Committee has approved this proposal to be brought before the AGM and the wording has been approved by the Charity Commission.

Note: The only proposed amendment to the Constitution is to Article 9(a), however the Charity Commission rules require that the wording of the complete Article 9 is voted.

Proposal (by Ted Udall, seconded by John Tanner) – that the SDFHS Constitution Article 9₄ be amended to read:

- a) All income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion and execution of the objectives of the Society as defined in Clause 2 above, and except as permitted by the Charity Commission guidance no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly in any manner to any member of the Executive Committee or Society, provided that nothing herein shall prevent reimbursement of proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- b) The Executive Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to all sums of money received and expended by the Society and the manner in respect of which such receipts and expenditures take place.
- e) The Society’s financial year shall commence on 1 January and accounts shall be prepared in relation to each calendar year. A copy of the Accounts shall be presented for approval to the members at the Annual General Meeting. A copy shall be made available to all Society members as soon as practicable. Where appropriate or necessary the Society’s accounts shall be audited or independently examined as required by law prior to being presented to the members.
- d) The Society Treasurer shall have authority to sign cheques up to an amount determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, but all cheques for greater sums than this shall be signed by two authorised signatories. who shall be approved by the Executive

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE SOCIETY AND FUTURE PLANS

The Society has no paid employees and is run entirely by volunteers from among its members. The Society's Research Centre fully reopened in October 2021 following the Covid-19 pandemic, and visitor numbers were initially low, though they picked up throughout the year. Requests for research continued to come in and, although their volume remained low, many of them involved more in-depth research than previously. Most meetings of the Society's Trustees continued to be held using internet connection, but the Society's regional groups within the two counties have now reverted to face-to-face meetings. The new initiative to encourage "out of counties" groups has proved quite successful with new groups both in the UK and overseas now conducting online meetings. In 2021, the Society began negotiations to expand into the ground floor of Broadway House; this should allow us to offer improved access and greater visibility, leading, it is hoped to increased membership. The Society continues to publish its quarterly journal "The Greenwood Tree".

Improvements and updates to the Society's website continued during 2022, under the guidance of Webmaster Chris Hall. The online shop initiated during 2016 has continued to prove to be very popular with members, increasing publications' sales and giving more options for the payment of subscriptions. Members can also book events, make donations and pay Research Fees securely through the shop. The Society maintains its use of social media with a Twitter account, a Facebook Page and a very active Facebook Group.

Volunteers continue to work on Projects that will be useful to researchers. Data continues to be placed online. The Photographic Database is growing rapidly with its collection of images of people and places associated with both Counties.

FINANCIAL REVIEW INVESTMENT POLICY AND RESERVES

Income for the year amounted to £65,597 (2021 - £67,164) of which £43,468 (2021 - £27,535) came from subscriptions (see accounting policies for change in when subscriptions are recognised), £6,218 (2021 - £6,249) from services offered by the society and £6,414 (2021 - £26,812) from bequests and donations. The charity incurred total expenditure of £44,812 (2021 - £44,346) giving a net increase in funds of £20,785 (2021 - £22,818).

A revaluation of the library was undertaken in 2014 to establish the veracity of the value of its contents as shown in the accounts. Using statistical sampling and validation, an internal valuation was undertaken in December 2014, which revealed that the contents were worth approximately £54,000. After due deliberation the Executive Committee decided to restrict the increase in value of the library stock to £6,500 in the Accounts, thus showing the asset as half its apparent value. A review was carried out as at 31 December 2017 at the time of the move to Yeovil and it was decided that an impairment to this valuation in 2017 of £3,000 should be made. The library is therefore currently valued at £24,000.

The Trustees have the power to invest the money of the charity not immediately required for its purposes in such investments or property as they think fit. Currently cash reserves are required to meet the day to day needs of the charity and therefore any cash not required for immediate use is held in Charity fund deposit accounts, which give immediate access to these funds.

The trustees aim to hold sufficient reserves to meet six months operating activity of the charity. As at 31 December 2022 balances held at the bank and on deposit totalled £153,311 of which £67,886 is restricted or has currently been designated for non-general purposes, including a contingency fund of £42,000. The society therefore holds £85,425 in general funds, which covers in excess of one year's operating activities at current levels.

The Trustees have continued to implement the strict budgetary controls adopted in 2014 and this has enabled the Society to generate a further surplus this year.

E A Udall

Trustee

Date: 10 March 2023

The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds	Restricted and designated Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Subscriptions		43,468	-	43,468	27,535
GiftAid on subscriptions		3,058	-	3,058	2,243
Society services		6,218	-	6,218	6,249
Legacies and donations	9	6,414	-	6,414	26,812
Miscellaneous services		479	-	479	173
Investment income		930	-	930	12
Books and publications		5,030	-	5,030	4,140
Transfer to income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		65,597	-	65,597	67,164
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure					
Greenwood Tree costs	3	16,719	-	16,719	16,558
Books and publications	3	2,448	-	2,448	866
Society services and projects	3	1,362	-	1,362	765
Group funding	3	400	-	400	864
Administrative expenses and depreciation (including Governance costs)	3 & 4	23,883	-	23,883	25,293
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3 & 4	44,812	-	44,812	44,346
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		20,785	-	20,785	22,818
Transfer between funds		367	(367)	-	-
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		98,865	68,253	167,118	144,300
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		120,017	67,886	187,903	167,118

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

All gains and losses have been dealt with in the above statement.

The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2022

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted and designated Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	24,000	-	24,000	24,617
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	6	8,556	-	8,556	9,378
Debtors	7	3,009	-	3,009	5,381
Cash at bank and in hand		85,425	67,886	153,311	143,740
		96,990	67,886	164,876	158,499
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	8	973	-	973	15,998
NET CURRENT ASSETS		96,017	67,886	163,903	142,501
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		120,017	67,886	187,903	167,118
ACCUMULATED FUNDS					
General funds		120,017	-	120,017	98,865
Designated funds	9	-	67,886	67,886	67,886
Restricted fund		-	-	-	367
	10	120,017	67,886	187,903	167,118

The financial statements on pages 7 to 15 were approved by the Trustees for issue on 10 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

R M Pettet

Trustee

E A Udall

Trustee