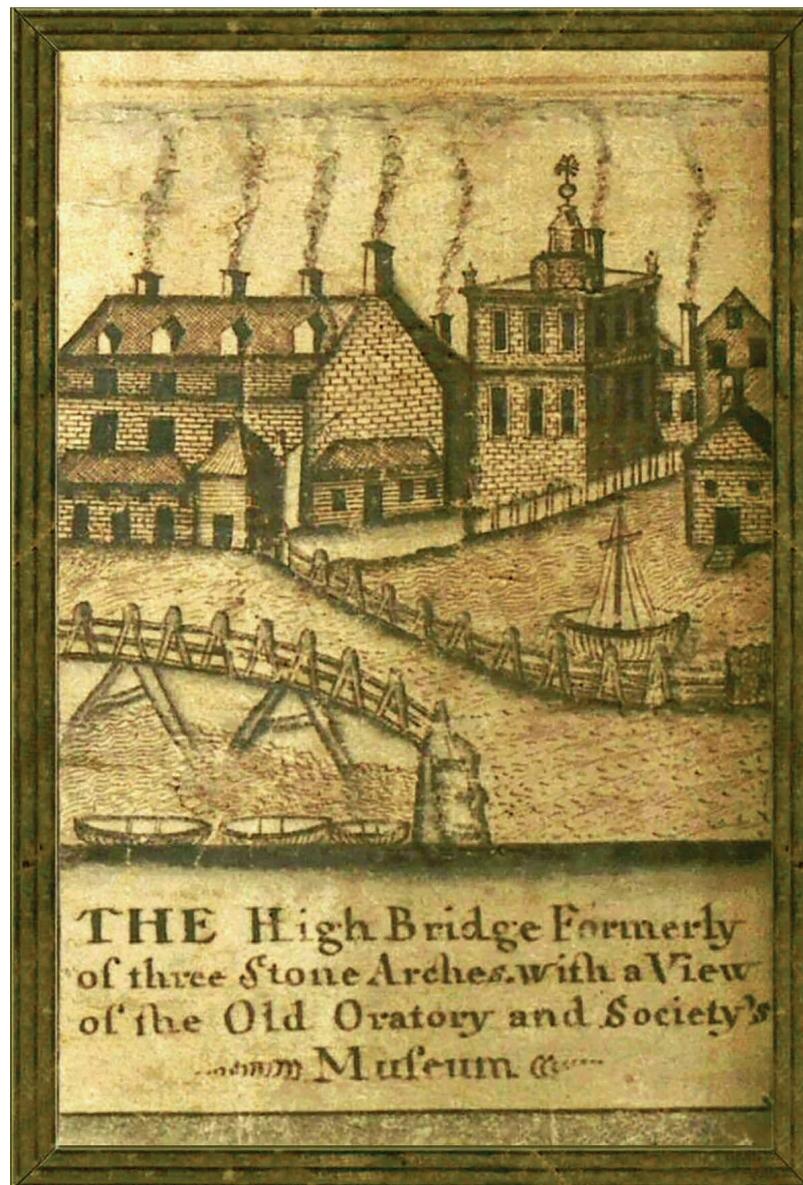


Spalding Gentlemen's Society  
2016 Annual Report and Accounts





## SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

### **Registered Office**

The Museum, Broad Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1TB  
Telephone: 01775 724658  
Email: [sgsinfo@btconnect.com](mailto:sgsinfo@btconnect.com)  
Website: [spalding-gentlemens-society.org](http://spalding-gentlemens-society.org)

Registered No. 543260

Charity No. 216131

### **Bankers**

National Westminster Bank plc  
Market Place, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1ST

### **Solicitors**

Maples Solicitors LLP  
23 New Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1DH

### **Accountants**

Duncan & Toplis  
Enterprise Way, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 3YR

*Cover image: Detail from John Grundy's 'A Plan of the Town of Spalding in South Holland Lincolnshire' (1732), showing the high bridge and Cox's Rooms, home to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society from 1755 to 1889.*

## Contents

About the Society	2
Members of Council and Other Officers	4
President's Letter	5
Secretary's Letter	7
Nick Casswell, 'Two Nursing Sisters'	9
Marion Brassington, 'Thomas Charinton – His Book'	15
Curators' Report	16
Librarians' Report	19
Philatelist's Report	22
Lecture Secretary's Report	24
Annual Outing	25
Membership Secretary's Report	26
Treasurer's Report	27
Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting <i>Approved at the 2016 Annual General Meeting</i>	29
Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting <i>For approval at the 2017 Annual General Meeting</i>	34
Unaudited Reports and Financial Statements	37

## About the Society

The Spalding Gentlemen's Society was founded in 1710 by Maurice Johnson II (1688-1755). Its current emblem, the water bouget, comes from Johnson's armorial bearings. The early eighteenth century was an exciting time of world exploration, scientific discoveries, and cultural and social change. The foundation of the Royal Society in 1660 had fostered an increasingly active scientific and intellectual culture in England, and those in the provinces played a full and active part in it. As a young lawyer in London, Johnson had participated in coffee house society and become a close friend of members of the Royal Society and of a group of antiquaries with whom Johnson would found the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1717. When he returned to Spalding in 1710, however, Johnson and other gentlemen began to meet every week to discuss cultural, scientific and antiquarian subjects, aided by correspondence with individuals throughout Britain and around the world. This small group formed the nucleus of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, the oldest provincial learned society in Britain.

Today, the Society continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings to discuss a wide range of topics. It owns its hundred-year-old premises in Broad Street, which houses a museum, library and archive of national and international importance.

The Society is a registered charity and is also incorporated as a not-for-profit Company limited by guarantee. Should the Society be wound up, the liability of members is limited to a sum not exceeding £2 per member.

### Objectives of the Society

Under the terms of its Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Society exists to

'promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and study' of the arts, humanities and sciences. The two most important ways in which the Society achieves this objective are: maintaining the museum, library and archive holdings; and an annual series of evening lectures, open to the public, delivered between September and March at Spalding Grammar School.

### Membership of the Society

Membership is open to anyone aged eighteen or over who supports the Society's objectives. The annual membership fee is at present £60, with £10 as a one-time joining fee.

Annual membership fees provide significant revenue to support the Society's work, almost all of which is undertaken by volunteers. Most volunteers are members of the Society. Society members have a crucial role to play in the election of the President and other officers and members of the Council of Management, the body that manages the Society's affairs. Council members are trustees and directors under Charity and Company laws, respectively. Thus it is that Society members have the privilege and the duty to ensure that Council remains true to the Society's objectives.

There are several ways in which members of the Society can benefit personally. There are opportunities to volunteer to assist with the many tasks that must be undertaken to keep the Society functioning, and volunteers can benefit from numerous opportunities for training provided. There is ready access for Members most Monday mornings between 9am and noon, and on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Access at other times may be arranged in advance.

**Access for Non-members**

Non-members are welcome to visit the Society for individual and group tours, and to undertake personal or scholarly research. Arrangements for such visits must be made in advance by contacting a Curator or Librarian. Individual visitors are normally welcomed if they wish to visit on a Monday morning, when small group visits can be accommodated. At other times, access will depend on the availability of volunteers.

The Society holds Sunday afternoon open days between September and April. Non-members are welcome to visit on these days, details of which are advertised outside the Society's premises in Broad Street.

**Public Lectures**

Details of upcoming lectures are available on the Society's website and are publicised in the local press. Admission for members and non-members is normally £2.50 at the door. On rare occasions, there may be a higher charge; if so, the relevant details are publicised in advance.

**Public Benefit**

Details of the public benefit provided by the Society in pursuit of its charitable objectives may be found in the 'Report of members of the Council' contained in the Unaudited Reports and Financial Statements contained in this Annual Report.

## Members of Council and Officers of the Society as of 31 December 2016

### Ex-Officio Members of Council

*Ex-officio members are elected at an AGM and serve a term of three years*

President	M. D. I. Chisholm
Vice-President and Chair of Council	T. Grimes
Vice-President	B. Jarvie
Vice-President and Lanternist	C. Baslington
Curator	M. Hollanders
Treasurer and Hon. Membership Secretary	S. Barsley
Secretary	N. Casswell
Librarian	D. M. Frazier Wood
Lecture Secretary	H. Fuller

### Representative Members of Council

*Representative members are elected at an Annual General Meeting*

Representative Member and Deputy Curator	I. Houlton
Representative Member	E. J. Sneath
Representative Member	S. Watson
Representative Member	R. West

### Co-opted Members of Council

*Co-opted members are appointed by Council to serve until the following Annual General Meeting, when they may be elected as Representative Members*

Co-opted Member	H. Violett
-----------------	------------

### Appointed Officers

*Officers of the Society are appointed by Council but are not members of Council*

Assistant Curator	P. Clay
Deputy Librarian	M. Brassington
Curator of Medals	M. Hollanders
Philatelist	G. Darley
Curator of Archaeology	R. Buck
Assistant Secretary	S. Martinelli
Communications Officer	L. Eldridge
Caretaker	G. Cupper

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

In 2015, the Society was awarded Arts Council accreditation for its Museum collection (not including the Library and Archives). The hard and focused work for accreditation triggered important and necessary changes at the Society, and has in turn made possible further exciting developments.

Accreditation provided propitious circumstances for Richard Scott, the Tenth Duke of Buccleuch, to agree in 2016 to become our Patron. The Second Duke was a friend of Maurice Johnson and was our first Patron, while the Ninth Duke accepted the role until his death in 2007. The Society is very fortunate that the present Duke is an ardent and much respected champion of heritage, its conservation and sharing, so his acceptance of the role is an important public endorsement of what the Society is and our efforts to improve the way we conserve the heritage in our care and make it more accessible to the public in conformity with our 1955 charitable purpose and the vision statement adopted in 2014.

The fortnight long exhibition of William Stukeley drawings in October at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum was generally regarded as a great success, providing an excellent example of the new energy and improved standing of the Society. We are enormously grateful to John Smith for his research on the drawings, preparation of new entries for the Society's catalogue and writing the exhibition catalogue. Likewise, without a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for conserving and mounting the drawings, plus clip in frames for exhibition purposes there would have been no exhibition. The Society is also much indebted to Julia Knight for her support for the project with HLF and for the assistance she and her colleagues at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum gave in mounting the exhibition there. Following upon the exhibition at Ayscoughfee of the recently acquired Johnson manuscript about the families of Lincolnshire, I believe the Stukeley exhibition was the most substantial temporary public exhibition of Society holdings since 1918 ("Drawings for Book Illustrations"), indicative of our intent to provide better access to our holdings in the future than has been possible in the past.

Late in 2016, the Society learned that it had been granted £31,500 to enable institutions like the British Museum to lend articles for public display. For such loans to be possible, high standards of security and environmental monitoring in at least one room are essential. This "Ready to Borrow" grant is Arts Council money administered by Museum Development East Midlands. It will enable us to acquire a state of the art secure display cabinet and also to install a system of remotely accessed environmental monitors throughout the building. Council will need to work out how to maximise access to these displays, in the short term and in the longer run. Nick Casswell was instrumental in obtaining this grant.

He is also taking the lead in another project. Council has agreed that professional advice is required to examine options for the Society's future. In a nutshell, we need to understand how the present building can best be used, the amount and nature of additional space needed and how options may be financed. Heritage Lincolnshire is assisting the Society in developing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the money to undertake this review. It is expected that the application will be submitted early in 2017.

Relevant to this review is the longstanding insurance claim about subsidence in the Maples Gallery. In the past, Council has been frustrated by the lack of progress but towards the end of 2016 the whole approach by the insurance company and the loss adjuster changed and it now

seems that there will be a resolution in 2017. What that resolution may be is currently uncertain, as is the manner in which it will intersect with the options appraisal. However, as a result of the long battle fought by Colin Baslington in particular, there does seem to be light at the end of the tunnel.

Though currently referred to as The Museum, the present building, erected a century ago, was designed to house the private collections of the Society, not as a museum in the modern sense with facilities for public access. Despite subsequent enlargement, it is now too small to provide proper storage for the holdings we currently have, there is gravely inadequate working space, inadequate space for temporary displays, and so on. In addition, there is a fundamental problem with the internal arrangement of space, an arrangement determined more than a century ago and presenting problems in the light of modern needs.

As noted, the accreditation achieved in 2015 does not extend to the Library and Archive holdings, for which the criteria are more stringent. In particular, the environmental requirements for paper and parchment are more demanding than for most Museum items; and access to precious books and documents must be closely controlled. To obtain accreditation for the Library and Archive, there would have to be physical separation from the Museum displays, within the existing building or by using the existing building in conjunction with space elsewhere.

It might seem that there are so many inter-locking problems that no solution could be envisaged. However, to accept that pessimistic view would almost certainly mean the Society would wither and fold. The last few years have shown that significant change is possible, change permeating the Society and change in the way the outside world perceives us. The task is to build upon this energy and these achievements: the art is to find ways forward that the Society will accept and work for, and that will be supported by the public and by relevant bodies. This is an exciting challenge.

The regular programme of public lectures, with the recent addition of an annual special lecture, is a core feature of the Society. Harrison Fuller has arranged an outstanding array of lecturers during the year, with good audience numbers. With limited capacity in our own building, opening these lectures to the public has meant they are given elsewhere, mostly at the Grammar School.

Heartfelt thanks are due to all the volunteers who have actively assisted in myriad ways running the Society and caring for our holdings – colleagues on Council, those who assist with the care and documentation of our collections, those who act as guides and stewards, and others. There are two individuals I particularly wish to mention – Marilyn Hollanders and Ian Hoult, respectively Curator and Deputy Curator. They took over at very short notice and have completed their first full year with considerable distinction as we approach the Museum accreditation review in 2018.

Finally, a thank you to the membership at large; your support is essential and invaluable.

**Michael Chisholm**

## Secretary's Letter

On becoming Secretary of the Society at the 2016 AGM I was more fortunate than a good many recent predecessors in enjoying an orderly and structured entry to the post. The administration of the Society has benefited enormously from Michael Chisholm's tenure in that role and he has been most generous with his advice and support. This report breaks from tradition in that it has been edited by our librarian, Dustin Frazier Wood. My workload has also been lightened by the continuing excellence of Bruce Jarvie as Minutes secretary. The Society's internet and email communications have been managed expertly by Lesley Eldridge, while Sue Martinelli remains at the helm of our website.

It is the area of communications that has occupied much of our thinking. We recognise how important it is to keep in touch with our membership in the first instance as well as reaching out to new audiences, either as prospective members or the wider public. The cost of postage dictates that our traditional mailings must be restricted. In the past our activities could be flagged up well in advance in a single mailing with this report that gave notice of the Annual Outing and our lecture programme. We have found that the emailed lecture notices are helpful and effective reminders.

Some members without email, or who visit the Museum infrequently, may be unaware of our Coffee House series that runs on the first Thursday of the month between September and April. These are organised by members for members under the eye of Tom Grimes and are designed to shed light and stimulate discussion on parts of our collections or the Society. These are arranged at shorter notice, the programme is shown on the museum notice board and circulated by email. Refreshments are served after the short presentation and these events are the most 'social' and convivial of the activities we organise. We are first and foremost a 'society' not a museum or a library. Participation in the Coffee House has been enjoyed by new and older members alike, in a way that very closely resembles the meetings attended by Maurice Johnson so many years ago.

The success of the Coffee House underlines the importance and utility of email and electronic communication.

I would strongly urge all members to provide us with an email address so that we can advise you of forthcoming events and any urgent messages. Please send your address to [sgsinfo@btconnect.com](mailto:sgsinfo@btconnect.com).

A further benefit is that you will receive our quarterly newsletter, which provides an update on what is happening in the Society. We are sensitive to the fact that people do not like being bombarded with messages and we will endeavour to avoid cluttering up your inboxes. For those without email it is more difficult to keep in touch but if you have contact with a member who does have the facility perhaps you could arrange to be kept informed via that route. We now have a Facebook page managed by Harrison Fuller, which offers a more current presence and may be a preferred source of information for those used to social media. For the nervous and uninitiated (myself included) you do not have to subscribe to our feed or join Facebook to access the page.

We are conscious of the need to keep members engaged but only as active as they wish to be so. We are keen to recruit new volunteers to help with activities like stewarding and publicity but recognise that does not suit everyone. We have a core of longstanding members we seldom see but whose support for the Society through membership and subscription is hugely appreciated and without whom we would struggle to thrive.

Our membership offer and structure will be explored over the next year as we embark on a review of our Articles and Memoranda. We have been made aware that our constitution has not been reviewed extensively since 1955. This has been a barrier to the progress we have been seeking with grant applications to HLF and other bodies. Our planned Transition Grant application to HLF ran out of time when that strand closed. It has been realigned to the Resilient Heritage strand which we are continuing to develop with the help of Heritage Lincolnshire. This has taken a great deal longer than expected; the difficulty reflects the complex and unusual nature of our organisation.

The President alludes to the support we have received from Museum Development East Midlands. The support offered from that quarter has been quite immense. If the problems we face are complex and unusual the training and advice provided from MDEM gives us the confidence to meet these challenges and maintain the progress of the Society.

**Nick Casswell**

## Two Nursing Sisters

As a young boy I was intrigued by my father once telling me, "Of course, your Aunt Madge got a medal from Hitler." If the intention was to stimulate an interest in elderly relatives it was a very good button to press. That particular medal, those accompanying it and related documentary material concerning Aunt Madge and her sister were later deposited at the Society.

Mary Theodora Casswell (Theo) and Margaret Russell Casswell (Madge) were two of the daughters of George and Ann Mary Casswell of Bank House, Gosberton, now a nursing home. It was a large family, seven sons and seven daughters in all. George was a tenant farmer and grazier who had been Captain in the Lincolnshire Volunteers, though he never left home to fight. On his retirement from the Volunteers he was awarded the title of Major, a title he used proudly for the rest of his life. He was a prominent figure in the area, active in parish affairs and Chairman of Spalding Rural District Council for many years. Ann Mary bore children at the rate of nearly one a year between 1879 and 1898. Theo was the fourth born in 1883, and Madge fifth in 1884.

There were not many positive role models on offer to girls as Theo and Madge grew up beyond those of wife and mother. In a commonplace book of Theo's the dread of becoming an Old Maid comes through very strongly.

There was one shining exception to this pattern, the Lady of the Lamp, Florence Nightingale, who captured the imagination of her time and of later generations. Major Casswell would have delighted in the path Theo and Madge took. From the Army's perspective too Theo and Madge were good material. Nightingale herself had pronounced farmers' daughters to be the most suitable women for military nursing.

She wanted women of high moral character and social graces. Pictures of Bank House show an Edwardian idyll with gardens ready for afternoon tea, croquet and tennis. The girls would play the piano and engage in polite drawing room conversation. At the back of the House one would have seen a different picture. It was a working part of the farm with livestock accommodation including the facilities for slaughtering and butchering animals and poultry. The children would have been accustomed to rolling up their sleeves and being part of this less dignified world. A squeamish girl would be no use as a farmer's wife, far less an Army nurse.

The sisters received a good education and then applied for nursing training, Theo at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Madge at Leeds General Infirmary. These were not soft options and for a reason. Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service nurses were only accepted from a few major metropolitan hospitals. It was considered that only these would offer the depth of experience necessary for military duty. Theo submitted her application to QAIMNS in January 1910, Madge in December 1912. The QAs were an elite unit. The success rate for applications was low. Impeccable references would be required before the applicant was summoned for interview. The face had to fit. Suspicions of a 'common' background, parental illiteracy or a hint of untidiness were grounds for rejection. It was the older sister, Theo, who seemed the more likely to go far. The admission register for the QAs records 'She is an excellent nurse and has the judgement and capacity for management and supervision'. This sort of comment was given to a small percentage of applicants – generally referees are quoted simply as 'reporting favourably'. At the outbreak of war there were just 297

nurses on the full time staff of the Queen Alexandras. Madge and Theo were two of a small and hard-pressed band.

For this information and much else I am indebted to the website 'Scarletfinders' researched and created by Sue Light. It concentrates on the corps of professionally trained nurses rather than volunteers and reservists. Sue Light has answered many queries and sent me details of the acceptance of Madge and Theo into the service. The site is an outstanding example of an online free-to-use historical resource created out of a passion for the subject. One outstanding pillar of her work has been the transcription of the entire War Diary of the Matron-in-Chief in France, Maud McCarthy, throughout the war and beyond. Sadly Sue Light died last year but her scholarship remains accessible.

The service records for WWI nurses have done considerably better than most of the soldiers' records. Most Army records were destroyed in the Blitz but nurses' records survive. They were weeded in subsequent years and are somewhat uneven, but there are 243 pages of service history at the National Archives for Madge (WO/399/1394) and 43 pages for Theo (WO/399/2181).

The two women embarked with the BEF in August 1914 (and thus later became eligible for the 1914 Mons Star). The details of where individuals served and in what units are recorded on Army form B103. Unfortunately, in all the records I have seen the first years of service are filled in retrospectively and early deployment details lost. In Madge's case we can find a bit more by looking at the qualification-for-pension documents that specifically record mobilization with General Hospital No 9 on 14 August 1914. The forms B103 show a simple listing of deployment dates with Unit names. In Theo's case we find more personal information in the Matron-in-Chief's diary.

The Matron-in-Chief was a remarkable woman, in post from the outbreak until 1919. She was the only staff officer of the original BEF to stay in post until the end of hostilities. Maud McCarthy was an Australian with incredible stamina and organisational ability. Her diary covers everything from tracing a missing cap badge to organising the visit of the King (WO95/3988-91). She reports on inspecting medical units all over northern France. Sometimes there are glimpses of what she thought about the wider war and some of its main characters. It is a brilliant account from someone with real insight reporting from just slightly off the main stage. Bear in mind she would have needed prior knowledge of planned military operations in order to allocate resources. She would also have had a better idea than anyone about the true scale of casualties.

Theo's first recorded overseas posting is at 10 Casualty Clearing Station Hazellbrouk in Flanders. CCS's were the closest that nurses were sent to the front line, often about 20 to 30km behind the front. While serving here her prospects were totally transformed when she was swept off her feet by RAMC Captain Arthur Dennis, an officer at the Clearing Station. In October 1915 she dutifully reported her engagement to Maud McCarthy. It was not quite professional suicide. The protocol required an immediate withdrawal from the forward position to a Base Hospital. This was standard procedure: in such situations both partners were not permitted to work in the same war zone. One, always the woman, was removed to a Base position. In Theo's case this was the splendid No 3 General Hospital at Le Treport. The hospital was housed in a high quality hotel overlooking the sea. Theo received a 'Mention' in Sir John French's Despatch of 13 November 1915. It is clear that she intended to work for as long as she could and that she wished to see out the duration of the war. Theo's

engagement is the most prolonged that I have found in the record; many nurses left the service to get married. Normally the resignation is at the same time or very soon after the engagement. Her dedication was rewarded again in Douglas Haig's Despatch of 13 November 1916. However over Christmas 1916 it was decided that the wedding could not be postponed further and Theo attended an interview with Maud McCarthy on 14 January 1917.

'I interviewed A/Sister Caswell, QAIMNS who asked if she might be permitted to send in her resignation in consequence of her approaching marriage so that she might be released in April. She would then like if possible 2 months leave without pay and to be permitted to be again employed, but in the Home Service. I advised her to put the matter up officially and I would forward and recommend it without delay.' (Diary of Maud McCarthy, *Scarletfinders*)

Theo planned to get married, take the leave and continue in the service at Home. This was an arrangement that had been agreed with previous brides-to-be and promised the best of both worlds. McCarthy had some faith in Theo even though she took a dim view generally of nurses putting marriage before their military duty. A problem blew up at General Hospital No 16 and on 17 February she sent Theo to take over the running of the hospital to cover for a sick Matron. It was at this point that Theo's good fortune ran out. As correspondence started with HQ about leave arrangements McCarthy fell ill with acute appendicitis and was absent from her post until 29 March. The officer in command of General Hospital No 3 approved the leave recommendation; the GoC Medical Services approved the recommendation; acting Matron-in-Chief Ethel Becher turned it down. She was determined to make an example,

presumably to discourage any further matrimonial plans from the staff. This was devastating for Theo's career. Her resignation was accepted but there could be no resumption. Her military service was at an end.

Madge does not feature at all in the McCarthy diary. Her record shows a typical sequence of postings for a service nurse: Casualty Clearing Stations, Stationary Hospital, General Hospital, Ambulance trains. Recent research by Sue Light has revealed that her original deployment (with General Hospital No 9) was conducted with six other units under secret orders in August 1914. The secrecy was to conceal the logistical arrangements supporting a planned attack to drive the Germans out of France and Belgium. As we know, things didn't work out that way. McCarthy indicates at a later date that the destination was Amiens. This would have taken Madge very close to the fighting and may add some credence to the story told in the family that she had been at Mons. Like her sister, she was mentioned in the Despatch of 30 November 1915 and again in November 1916. These mentions were a source of understandable pride to their father, a fact recorded in the *Lincolnshire Free Press* of the time. She remained in France until November 1917. At this point in the war a number of Army units were sent to northeast Italy to bolster the fight against the Austrians. Medical support was needed and Madge joined Ambulance Train No 21 to Italy. Attached to 11 General Hospital, she was posted to Istrana, just to the east of Lake Garda, to serve CCS 24. This was within twenty miles or so of the active front line and it was here that she gained her Associate Royal Red Cross Award.

In July 1918 she got a plum job. She was made Matron of an Officers Convalescent Hospital in Portofino and was in post there at the time of the Armistice. It was obviously a happy time and a joyous

occasion. When she retired back to Spalding at the end of her career she named her new home 'Portofino'. Nursing the wounded and those coming down with influenza kept her in Italy until March 1919, when she returned home. As a full time QA staffer, her job, unlike many thousands of reservists and volunteers, was secure. Ahead of her was a recognised profession offering job satisfaction and security. After the horrors of the war the next few years offered a much more appealing work environment. There were Home postings in the UK but during the 1920's much of her time was spent on Hospital ships in the Mediterranean. These were convalescent cruises for the most part. A surviving photo album of her time on the Hospital ship 'Suntemple' would suggest that it resembled a holiday cruise. As well as pictures of colleagues, it shows all the standard tourist shots that are taken today.

Of course there was hard work, but it was not a bad way to earn a living and see the world. Madge went on to serve in Egypt and Hong Kong as well as spells in the UK at Cosham, Colchester and Millbank HQ. She was not a high flyer, failing her Matron's written exam in 1924. And her career nearly ended early in 1933. She did pass her exams in 1932 and was put on warning to go to India in July 1933. It was not a popular posting. She requested retirement on 21 August. On 11 September she was told that she was not needed in India but should prepare herself for the Mediterranean station. That same day she withdrew her application to retire! Her next posting was to the military hospital in Gibraltar. Madge served as Matron here until November 1937. It was in May of that year that events occurred which have been well described by previous curators John Moon and Roy Oldfield concerning the German ship 'Deutschland'.

The Deutschland was hit by Republican bombers during the Spanish Civil War,

causing serious casualties. Germany had no local facilities and it was agreed for humanitarian reasons that the British would offer medical help at Gibraltar. The Hospital at Gib was already under strain tending to casualties from the Royal Navy ship 'Hunter', which had hit a mine a few days earlier. A request was put in for reinforcements and four nurses were sent on a hair raising overnight flight by seaplane from London to assist. Madge was not one of those pioneers but was already supervising the operation in Gibraltar. As recognition for their services Matron Casswell and twelve nurses were awarded the Ladies Cross of the German Order of the Red Cross. Decorations were presented on board the Deutschland's sister ship by the German Admiral of the Fleet 'and there was dancing'! In 1938 Madge wrote to Buckingham Palace asking permission to wear the medal – permission was granted.

Madge returned to home service at HQ Millbank in November 1937. She was Matron there until she retired at the end of April 1939. She had enjoyed a fulfilling and fascinating working life, enviable to many women of the time. As a final postscript, the May 1939 edition of *Nursing Illustrated* had a feature extolling the attractions of the Armed Services as a wonderful career path for nurses. The front cover photo is of Matron Casswell quietly working at her papers, a fine tribute to the career of a very determined lady.

But what of Theo? She had drawn a line under her career at the time of her marriage. While it is tempting to see this as a result of a harsh bureaucracy, in truth the birth of her son, David, in November 1918 would have required her to leave the service anyway. Captain Dennis would have seemed a good catch: his father was a well respected canon of Southwark Cathedral and well provided for. Theo moved into the Dennis household at The Rectory Cheam while husband Arthur returned to France. At

some point in the next few months things went wrong. Once again eyes met across the operating table and Arthur's affections turned from his pregnant wife to a French nurse closer to. At what point this relationship became more widely known is not clear. The marriage survived for a few unhappy years but it was dissolved in the manner of the time. In a divorce application of April 1924 the register of the Imperial Hotel Russell Square for 19-21 December 1921 showed Major Dennis signing in with a woman he falsely claimed was his wife. Adultery was not contested and the divorce granted. Given Major Dennis' background this must have been quite a scandal. It was perhaps for the best that Major Casswell had gone to his grave in 1918.

There was a modest settlement of £60 per annum. Theo was left a single mother with no secure employment or easy way of gaining it. The end of the war saw the need for nurses reduce massively. Many women who had tasted life beyond the home and a glimpse of a career were left out of work and with reduced prospects of marriage or any form of security.

Theo turned for support to an old friend from her nurse training days in Glasgow. Known as 'Chiz', Glaswegian Lizzie Chisholm had also joined up during the war. She had not served with Theo but had actually worked alongside Madge for a time in Rouen. Chiz was also looking for work and with Theo set up some Tea Rooms in Tewkesbury, which they kept running for a few years. It was an enjoyable time but the educational needs of young David had to be considered and in 1927 the business was sold and Theo took up the position of School Matron at Summer Fields School in Oxford. Appreciation for her work was shown when she left in 1935 by the presentation of an inscribed silver salver. While she was there she was responsible for the wellbeing of two very famous actors, Christopher Lee and Patrick

Macnee. Both these gentlemen might have been able to offer some recollections of Matron Dennis and it is a regret that I did not try and contact them until too late. That is perhaps the Golden Rule of family history research.

Theo retired in 1935 and returned to Gosberton. Her son enjoyed the friendship and company of his farming cousins much to the delight of his mother. Theo and her son lived in a cottage near the farm until David signed up for the RAF reserves in July 1939.

David's skills as a photographer suited requirements for aircrew and he commenced training as an Observer. On 18 August 1940 his plane was flying over Cambridgeshire when it collided with another aircraft. Both planes crashed near Madingley. There were no survivors. The news devastated Theo and her relatives.

Theo was looked after by her brother and other family and lived alone in the cottage until shortly before her death in 1969.

After her retirement Madge came back to 'Portofino' where she lived with another of her unmarried sisters, Kitty, until her death in 1971.

Madge's group of medals comprise:

1. The Associate Royal Red Cross Medal (on this the words Faith Hope and Charity are on the reverse, on the miniature set the medal shown is incorrect being the full Red Cross Medal with words on the enamelled front);
2. The 1914 Star (again the miniature is incorrect showing the 1914-15 Star)
3. The British War Medal;
4. The Allied Victory Medal (the oak leaves denote mentions in despatches, only one regardless of number of mentions)
5. George 6<sup>th</sup> Coronation Medal;
6. The QAIMNS Medal;
7. The Ladies Cross of the German Order of the Red Cross (the miniature again is

not accurate, it looks a rather generic version perhaps due to its rarity).

The Society holds the Mentions in Despatch certificates for both women with the printed signature of Winston Churchill Minister of War, copies of their medal cards, and the German Red Cross certificate with the printed signature of Adolf Hitler. For one individual to have commendations from both Churchill and Hitler is a rare if not unique distinction.

The whereabouts of Theo's medals are unknown.

#### Notes on material and sources

The SGS holds Madge's Medals and miniatures. Father George's Lincolnshire Volunteer Badge is also on display. Our Archive holds the correspondence with Buckingham Palace and some family photographs.

A wealth of printed material is available on World War One nursing, fiction and non-fiction and quite a lot in between. Lyn Macdonald's *The Roses of No Man's Land* is a worthy contribution. That book and nearly all the diaries that have come to light concern the Volunteers and Reservists. Full time members of the armed forces, including QAIMNS, were forbidden to keep personal diaries and that was taken seriously.

The QAIMNS have been well served by Sue Light. Her website [www.scarletfinders.co.uk](http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk) has been kept up since her death and is highly recommended. It has pointers for researchers as well as a mass of primary source material painstakingly transcribed from a range of archives. Her articles are well researched and particularly valuable in puncturing the sentimental mythology that has developed around the topic. However wonderful the women may have been they did not undergo

the relentless ordeal under fire endured by the men at the front. The loss of most of the serving men's records tends to skew the available perspective. Canadian war records do survive and can be obtained from the National Archive in Ottawa. Madge and Theo's brother Wilfred had emigrated before the war but came back to fight for the Empire. His service record shows a very grim experience and he received no plaudits or special mention.

The National Archives holds individual nurses' records under WO/399/suffix 1394 for Madge, 2181 for Theo. The Queen Alexandra's Admission register is WO/25/3956. The Register of Royal Red Cross Awards is WO/145/1.

The National Archives are currently digitising Official Unit diaries from WW1 under WO95. These contain very little information on individuals. Madge was awarded her ARRC Medal while at Istrana but the diary WO95/4207 gives no details of the how and why. It is unusual in that it does give details of her arrangements for compassionate leave on the death of her father.

'Mentions in Despatches' were posted in the *London Gazette* but no details of the circumstances are given nor are available elsewhere.

The transcription of Maud McCarthy's War Diary to be found on Scarletfinders is a very important document and ranks as one of the most comprehensive prime source accounts of the war. It is highly recommended.

**Nick Casswell**  
**Secretary**

*The article above has been adapted from a presentation given as part of the Coffee House series of talks at the Museum.*

## ‘Thomas Charinton – His book August 12, 1797’

– a rental of his estate.

The Society has been fortunate in acquiring the above manuscript together with a hand coloured map showing the three ecclesiastical parishes of Spalding: St Mary & St Nicolas, St Paul’s and St Johns. These have been donated by Sally Lang, a Canadian, who is the great-granddaughter of Reverend Richard Guy Ash, Vicar of St Paul’s church, Spalding from 1880 to 1935. Reverend Ash was the great nephew of Miss Charlotte Charinton, a wealthy benefactress who financed the building of the church of St Paul’s with its Vicarage and Schoolroom, and who placed him in the post as the first Vicar.

In 1856, Charlotte Charinton inherited the whole of her father Thomas’ estate, the value of which was estimated to be approximately £100,000. Thomas had disinherited his elder daughter, Sarah, because she had eloped with a bricklayer, John Amory, against her father’s wishes.

This manuscript will throw light on the lands that Thomas owned and, to some extent, on how wealthy Miss Charinton became, although by all accounts she lived very frugally. With her inheritance she helped to restore many churches in the area including Gedney Hill (where she had

lived as a child), the roof of which had fallen in after being struck by lightning, Fleet, Holbeach, Cowbit (where her parents had married); St Mary & St Nicolas Parish Church, Spalding, and the Chancel of St Peter’s Church, Spalding, now demolished. She gave an acre of land at Holbeach St John’s for the building of St Polycarp’s Mission Chapel.

When she died in 1888, Miss Charinton left her estate to be shared between Reverend Canon Moore, Vicar of St Mary & St Nicolas, Spalding, who had acted as the steward of her land and properties, and Mr Algernon Peckover, a banker of Wisbech. This arrangement was much to the latter’s embarrassment, as he no doubt felt that it should have gone to the family of her sister Sarah, namely Reverend Richard Guy Ash. Although the Ash family contested the will, the case was settled out of court and Reverend Ash received some remuneration.

A stained glass window was installed in Gedney Hill church in memory of Thomas Charinton, and the pulpit was dedicated to him for his work as a feoffee of the Gedney Hill Charity.

**Marion Brassington**  
Deputy Librarian

## Curators' Report

The following individuals and organisations visited the Society during 2016:

Ayscoughfee Hall School  
Deepings 41 Club  
Chatteris Museum  
South Holland Rotary  
Walking for Health  
The Duke of Buccleuch  
St John's School  
Duncan & Toplis

Hunstanton U3A  
Belton in Rutland History Society  
Mayflower Probus Club  
Sezanne France  
Surfleet Ladybirds Club  
Lady Boston  
Rutland History Group  
Friends of Norman Cross

During 2016 approximately 627 visitors came through the door to look at our collection of books and artefacts. We did not have as many groups as anticipated, as we had expected building work to take place in May and had to decline many requests that we hoped to rearrange for later dates. This meant that societies made other arrangements for the year and could not slot us in when we contacted them after finding out that the repairs to the building would not take place this year. We also were not able to have the September Open Day, again due to the uncertainty of the building repairs. We did open the doors to the public on the third Sunday of the month at the beginning and end of the year. Attendance figures were highly variable and difficult to predict. We wish to thank all the Stewards who attended and gave their time to show people around.

In July, Sharon and Ian Hoult represented the Society at a stand at the Spalding Grammar School's fete. With the use of some display boards kindly loaned to us by Ayscoughfee Hall, Sharon put on a display of old photographs and details of the Society. Sharon also had a banner made that advertised the Society's name and logo.

We have now purchased our own set of display boards that can be used in the

museum and when the Society attends other functions. The banner is currently used on Open Sundays, when it is attached to the outside railings and makes the building stand out for visitors.

Chain Bridge Forge made five 3D models for us based on objects in our collections. These include a mammoth tooth, bronze socketed axe, palstave axe, a wooden Egyptian shabti and a Megalodon tooth. Originally bright blue in colour, the models have now been painted to look like the originals, and are able to be handled by schoolchildren and other visitors.

In August, after reading an article in *The Voice* newspaper, the Society contacted a gentleman who was planning to dispose of finds relating to an archaeological dig in Pinchbeck. The Society obtained many silver coins and metal items ranging in date from the Roman period to Victorian times that are now being catalogued. We also removed many trays of tiles, pottery shards, glass, masonry, bottles and the bones of three cows to safe storage. During 2017 we will be holding a work party to examine and sort these boxes. If there are any budding archaeologists who would like to help, please contact the Curators for details.

We hope to be able to put on a joint exhibition at Ayscoughfee Hall during the

Festival of Archaeology in July 2017 using some of the finds from the Pinchbeck dig.

Also in August we were asked to mount an exhibition at Ayscoughfee Hall for their 1940's weekend. We were able to loan them numerous items, including the Taku flag and plaque, medals, ARP memorabilia, incendiary bombs (deactivated, of course!) and newspapers from the 1940's.

Museum Development East Midlands and East Midlands Museum Service have held courses throughout 2016 that have been attended by many of the Society's volunteers. These useful courses have included HLF Transition Funding, Caring for Photographic Collections, Mounting and Display of Objects and Caring for Textiles, to name but a few.

One course that was very useful and thought provoking was run by EMMS at Rockingham Castle with some of their staff and members from the REDS (Regional

Emergency Disaster Support) team. This course trained volunteers how to handle an emergency after a catastrophe of a flood or fire. We were told how to organise a salvage team comprising of an Overall Leader, Salvage Leader, Welfare and Safety Officer and workers, nicknamed 'Minions', to move, carry and catalogue. Using wet items, paintings, furniture, etc., we were then put into teams and shown how to safely move items to a secure storage area where a team catalogued and put the damaged artefacts in order for conservation at a later date.

Volunteers have continued to photograph, catalogue, label and conserve some of the items in our museum. This is an on-going job and there is still a lot to do. We wish to thank all of our volunteers for giving their support and time to help with the day to day running of the museum.

**Marilyn Hollanders  
Ian Hoult**

## Museum Acquisitions and Loans 2016

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Donor</b>
10 January	Electrical Trades Union Badge, c.1950	Terry Carter
	LNER Railway Service Badge, c.1939-45	Terry Carter
11 February	Agfa camera in case, c.1940	Brian Green
21 February	Wooden hand-held washing board	Oles Klibanecz
	4 Metal arrow heads, Iron Age (?), from Burger Land	Oles Klibanecz
22 February	Model of Birch's Mill made of cork, c.1880-95	Robin Colyer
23 February	Pair of Jaeger WWII Pilot's (?) Sunglasses	Peter Gorman
23 March	Wheat from an Egyptian mummy	Anonymous
	Photo of RAF personnel dated 15 February 1919	John Moon
	Oak Leaf for Sgt D R Smith RAF, and letter dated 9 May 1967	John Moon
	Newspaper cutting from <i>The Times</i> dated 27 October 2014	John Moon
31 March	Italian WWII flag from the Fall of Gondar, 27 November 1941, with regimental badges drawn by W Walker	P Mercer
23 June	78rpm record and cover, 'When the Saints Go Marching In' (1955)	S Thompson
8 August	[On Loan] Women's Land Army badge, c.1940, with 4 black and white photographs of Women's Land Army members	Heather Violet
	George V coronation medal	Keith Seaton
15 August	22 photos of Spalding and other local towns, in gilt frames	John Lyon
26 September	Clock by Ingram of Spalding with pendulum, weights and cabinet door	E Townsend
3 October	WWII WRVS/Civil Defence aluminium teapot, c.1940	C J Wood

## Librarians' Report

Our focus in 2016 has been on cataloguing the Society's collections of books and manuscripts, a task that continues to advance thanks to the efforts of numerous new and longstanding volunteers. We have also introduced new ways of making the library and archive collections available to increasing numbers of researchers while ensuring that each and every item in our collections is carefully preserved (and in some cases conserved) for the future.

Beginning in early summer, volunteer Will Shire and member Susan Richardson took up the Herculean task of inventorying the pamphlets collection and packing each pamphlet in new archival envelopes and boxes. They have turned up some wonderful material, including several items nearly 400 years old. Judith Withyman has continued her invaluable work listing and carefully repacking the numerous collections of archival material in the Cadas Room and Turner Gallery, and Spalding Grammar School student Ella Holbrook has carefully entered each item into a searchable spreadsheet. Diana and Michael Honeybone began the process of organising the collection of 18<sup>th</sup>-century manuscripts in the strong room. At the end of the year a team of volunteers was formed to undertake a full reordering of the archive.

One of the library's key features – the card catalogue – received its final entry in December. Although the card catalogue will remain available, from January 2017 all new library accessions will be entered in the digital catalogue. This change coincides with a new library management policy that focuses on scholarly works relating to the Society's collections and history, publications relating to local history and

culture, maps and manuscripts. An archive catalogue is currently being prepared, and updated versions will be made available at regular intervals.

As anyone who has visited the library or archive will know, space is at a premium. In order to ensure that the library serves the members and underpins the collection, we have instituted new policies for collecting new and rare books, prints, maps and manuscripts; for deaccessioning materials that are seldom or never used; and identifying those materials that need conservation. Materials removed from the collections will be made available to members, who are asked to consider making a donation to fund conservation efforts.

The year has seen a number of notable acquisitions. A manuscript rentals book and map of the estates of Thomas Charinton and his descendants arrived from Canada (see Marion Brassington's article, above). Member Richard Price donated his library of new and antiquarian books relating to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, a highly valuable collection that will support continuing research on the period of the Society's foundation. Additional items of note include archaeological schema of Trinity Bridge in Crowland, a book of cuttings compiled by Major M. Shadford, and the minute books of the Spalding and Pinchbeck Oddfellows.

Members who have not visited the website recently should note that we also have a new, dedicated email for library and archive queries. Anyone wishing to arrange a research visit or to inquire about the collections should contact us at [sgslibrary@btconnect.com](mailto:sgslibrary@btconnect.com).

**Dustin Frazier Wood**  
**Marion Brassington**

## Library Acquisitions 2016

- Elven, J. P., *The Heraldry of Crests* (London, 1829)
- Beardsley, M. L. and N. Bennett, eds, *Grateful to Providence: The Diary and Accounts of Matthew Flinders*, 2 vols (Lincoln, 2007)
- Beddard, R., *A Kingdom without a King: the journal of the provisional government in the revolution of 1688* (Oxford, 1988)
- Bond, M., *Guide to the Records of Parliament* (London, 1973)
- Bowle, J., *John Evelyn and His World: A Biography* (London, 1981)
- Brears, C., *Lincolnshire in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries* (London, 1940)
- Buccleuch, R., *Boughton: the house, its people and its collections* (2016)
- Cartwright, M. D., *Fish, Fowl and Foreigners: the changing way of life in the Fens* (n.d.)
- Clark, J. K., *Goodwin Wharton* (Oxford, 1984)
- Colvin, H. M. et al, eds, *The History of the King's Works V: 1660-1782* (London, 1976)
- Cruikshanks, E., et al, eds, *The House of Commons 1690-1715*, 5 vols (Cambridge, 2002)
- Ditchfield, G. M. et al, eds, *British Parliamentary Lists 1660-1800: A Register* (London, 1995)
- Farmer's Weekly, *Farmhouse Fare: A New Economy Edition* (1940)
- Gardiner, S. R., *School Atlas of English History* (London, 1891)
- Gough, R., *The History of Myddle* (London, 1983)
- Green, D., *Queen Anne* (London, 1970)
- Gregg, E., *Queen Anne* (New Haven, 2001)
- Hainsworth, D. R., ed, *The Correspondence of Sir John Lowther of Whitehaven 1693-1698* (London, 1983)
- Hainsworth, D. R. and C. Walker, eds, *The Correspondence of Lord Fitzwilliam of Milton and Francis Guybon his Steward 1697-1709* (Northampton, 1990)
- Hickman, D., *Lincoln Wills 1532-1534* (Lincoln, 2001)
- Holloway, Julia B., *Twice Told Tales: Historic Walks in Spalding*
- Hortwitz, H., ed, *The Parliamentary Diary of Narcissus Luttrell 1691-1693* (Oxford, 1972)
- Horwitz, H., *Revolution Politicks: The career of Daniel Finch Second Earl of Nottingham 1647-1730* (Cambridge, 1968)
- Jackson, C. J., *English Goldsmiths and their Marks* (London, 1949)
- Johnson, M., *Armes and Memoires of Ffamilies in Lincolnshire – Facsimile Edition* (SGS, 2016)
- Jones, D. L., *A Parliamentary History of the Glorious Revolution* (London, 1988)
- Kamen, H., *Philip V of Spain: The King Who Reigned Twice* (New Haven, 2001)
- Kenyon, J. P., *Robert Spencer Earl of Sunderland 1641-1702* (London, 1958)
- Leslie, N. B., *The Succession of Colonels of the British Army from 1660 to the Present Day* (London, 1974)
- Lever, T., *Godolphin: His life and times* (London, 1952)
- Macnail, A., *William Hayward's Map of the Fens c.1604 – Facsimile* (Andrew Macnail, 2016)
- McInnes, A., *Robert Harley: Puritan Politician* (London, 1970)
- Murdoch, T., ed, *Boughton House: The English Versailles* (London, 1992)
- Rowse, A. L., *The Early Churchills: An English Family* (London, 1956)
- Sachse, W. L. *Lord Somers: A Political Portrait* (Manchester, 1975)
- Schwoerer, L., ed, *The Revolution of 1688-1689: Changing Perspectives* (Cambridge, 1992)
- Shakespeare, W., *Complete Works* (Miniature, with bookcase)
- Smith, D. C., *A Georgian House on the Brink* (Spalding, n.d.)

Walker, W., *A dictionarie of English and Latine idiomes and phrases* (London, 1670)  
Ward, A. W., *The Electress Sophia and the Hanoverian Succession* (London, 1909)  
Withyman, J., *Geese, Gowts and Galligaskins* (Spalding, 2012)  
Wright, N., *Treading the Boards: Actors and Theatres in Georgian Lincolnshire* (Lincoln, 2016)

## Archive Acquisitions 2016

Maj. S. M. Shadford, Book of Cuttings (c.1880-1910)  
Minute Books of the Spalding Oddfellows Lodge, 6 vols  
Thomas Charinton, 'Thomas Charinton – his book – a rental of his great estate', 1797  
Manuscript map of Spalding and surrounding parishes  
Sally Lang, MS genealogical collections relating to the descendants of Thomas Charinton  
Christine Mahany, Plans and Drawings of Trinity Bridge, Crowland, with corresponding slides

## Philatelist's Report

In 2016, Royal Mail issued fourteen commemorative stamp sets and three Post & Go sets. These issues, with additional commentary, are displayed in the small display cabinet in the lobby.

The first issue of the year, on 7 January, was titled 'Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition'. This set consisted of eight stamps depicting scenes from the expedition.

17 February 2016 was a red-letter day for Royal Mail, as it celebrated the quincentenary of its founding. Of the six stamps issued, one celebrated the establishment of the office of 'Master of the Posts' by King Henry VIII in 1616, while others depicted a packet ship, a Penfold pillar box, River Post and a mail coach. The final stamp, depicting Medway Mail Centre, demonstrated Royal Mail's presence in the twenty-first century. A special miniature sheet celebrated a selection of distinctive Post Office posters. The Post & Go 'Royal Mail Heritage' stamps were also issued on this date.

The March issue celebrated the following British Humanitarians: Nicholas Winton, Sue Ryder, John Boyd Orr, Eglantyne Jebb, Joseph Rowntree and Josephine Butler.

The quatercentenary of Shakespeare's death was marked on 5 April with a set of eight stamps. The first class stamps feature quotations from eight of Shakespeare's plays, one sonnet and the narrative poem 'Venus and Adonis'.

To celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, six stamps were issued. The stamps depict the Queen: with her father, attending the State Opening of Parliament in 2012, with Princess Anne and Prince Charles in 1952, visiting New Zealand in 1977, with the Duke of Edinburgh in 1957 and with Nelson Mandela in 1996. The

miniature sheet bore a 'four generations' portrait of the sovereign, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince George of Cambridge.

The 'Animal' miniature sheet of 17 May depicted the following animals against a jungle backdrop: woodpecker, snake, chimpanzee, bat, orangutan and koala.

On 21 June, 'The First World War - 1916' set was issued. These stamps show a poppy, and other poignant and thought provoking artefacts and memorials. A miniature sheet comprising of four stamps depicting 'The Post Office At War, 1914-18' was also issued.

The Pink Floyd special stamps, issued in early July, feature six of the band's iconic album covers. On 28 July the Beatrix Potter set was issued. The six special stamps feature original illustrations of Peter Rabbit, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Squirrel Nutkin, Jemima Puddle-Duck, Tom Kitten and Benjamin Bunny.

August's 'Landscape Gardens' celebrated the work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The stamps featured Blenheim Palace, Longleat, Compton Verney, Highclere Castle (the setting for TV's Downton Abbey), Alnwick Castle, Berrington Hall, Stowe and Croome Park.

On 2 September the Great Fire of London set was issued, charting, in almost cartoon style, the course of the fire of 1666. September's Post & Go issue featured six ladybirds: Seven-spot Ladybird, Fourteen-spot Ladybird, Orange Ladybird, Heather Ladybird, Striped Ladybird, and Water Ladybird. On 15 September the Agatha Christie stamps were issued, and the stamps depict key scenes and principal characters from six novels.

20 October saw 'The Mr Men & Little Miss' set issued. All ten special stamps feature illustrations from the books and

characters: a novel addition to Royal Mail's stamp program.

On 14 November 'Hibernating Animals', the last Post &Go set of the year, was issued.

The final issue of the year was the Christmas set, which celebrates 'the great traditions of a British Christmas', featuring,

for example, a robin redbreast.

I would wish to thank all members who have donated stamps to the society, especially Roy Willingham, who has donated a large collection. I hope members continue to enjoy the various stamps that are displayed each month.

**Gary Darley**

## Lecture Secretary's Report

2016 was a mixed year for the Lecture Programme. Attendance for the main lecture season held at the Spalding Grammar School was down by a considerable amount, however that is balanced by the event held at the South Holland Centre to celebrate Maurice Johnson's birthday. When including that event with the audience numbers, a total of 1,158 people attended the lecture season.

To begin with the main programme at the Grammar School: compared with 2015, there were 130 fewer attendees in 2016 over the season as a whole. While this may not seem to be a significant figure, it marks a loss of revenue and, more importantly, a loss of people engaging with the Society. 43.5% of the attendees were non-members, a decrease of 4.5% from the previous year. In order to further develop we need to seek to engage the public. It is partly for this reason that the lecture programme for 2017-18 will commence at 7.30pm.

The event held at the South Holland Centre however, paints a different picture and alters the average attendance for the 13 events across the year. I am pleased to

report that the Brian Blessed lecture was a sell out with all 340 seats sold. Brian was well received by the audience and gave a colourful account of his life on stage and screen as well as his adventures to Everest and the North Pole. Following on from the success of this event, the June Lecture for 2017 will feature writer and broadcaster Germaine Greer. Tickets are available from the South Holland Centre box office, in person, over the phone or 24 hours a day online.

I am also pleased to report that we have maintained our good relationship with the students at the Grammar School and we have a new group providing refreshments this year. They are raising money for a trip to the Himalayas and I am pleased we are able to support this enterprise.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Colin Baslington, the Spalding Grammar School, The South Holland Centre, The Spalding Guardian, The Voice and to the everyone who has attended a lecture.

I look forward to you welcoming you to the 2017-18 season.

**Harrison Fuller**

## Annual Outing

The Annual Outing took place on 5 July, when we visited two historic sites: Doddington Hall and the Newark Civil War Centre.

Doddington Hall, near Lincoln, is a fine late Elizabethan mansion with a mellow brick exterior and walled courtyards. It was extensively redecorated internally in the eighteenth century, and has been little changed since. The Hall has been occupied by the same family for the last 400 years, and contains a fascinating collection of furniture, weapons, paintings, ceramics, textiles, household objects and porcelain.

Our party were greeted with tea and

coffee before the tour and took lunch in the restaurant before moving on to Newark.

The National Civil War Centre is a very new museum incorporated into the buildings of a Jacobean School and an adjoining cinema. The Museum tells the story of the Civil War over the whole country, but concentrating on the events that took place in the Newark area.

Some more energetic members took advantage of the Civil War Trail, a walk around the Civil War sights in the centre of Newark.

A total of 23 members and guests took part in the outing.

**Tom Grimes**

## Membership Secretary's Report

In May 2016, the Trustees held an open evening to welcome new members to the Society. During the evening Alastair Goodrum kindly gave a talk on 'Old Spalding and the Surrounding Area', illustrated by photographs from the Society's archive. Afterwards, new members were introduced to the history of the Society and its collections. The evening proved most enjoyable and very informative. I would like to thank my colleagues who helped to make the evening so successful.

The Society has been pleased to welcome the following new members during 2016:

T Bacon	G Cupper	S A Lesage
J Bailey-Scott	C Dahl	S E Middleton
R Bailey-Scott	P D Dewar	M B O'Bee
R M Baker	M E Evans	A Percival, LVO
J H Bowkett	P Frazier Wood	S C Richardson
P Bridge	A Grimes	J A Sills
M Burrell	J D R Healey	J F H Smith, BEM, FSA
L E Carter	P H Hill	S Speechley
L M Clarke	S A L Hoult	S Thompson
S Colby	P A James	E S Wood
G W Cree	D J Lawrence	

The following are no longer members of the Society:

J Bennett	A Chapman	J Gant
R J Bennett	S A Cooper	N R Gant
S R Bishell	C L Dearnley	G R Hastings
R H Chalkey	S R Freeman	G N Hawley

**Susan Barsley**

## Treasurer's Report

The Society made a surplus of £1124 during 2016. This comes despite a reduction in subscription income from £20,560 in 2015 to £17,638 during 2016. Gift Aid in 2016 amounted to £3,544, including £416 received as a tax rebate under the small donations scheme. Gift Aid income provides a significant revenue to support the Society's work and future development.

Donations to the Society increased even though visitor numbers were down. This results in part from a generous donation from our accountants, Duncan and Toplis, in return for the Society's help with their networking evening.

In 2015 we received a grant of approximately £10,000 to fund the conservation and exhibition of drawings by William Stukeley, the costs of which were incurred in 2016. This year we received a grant from the East Midlands Development Network towards the cost of developing business plans and governance. This grant will be used to fund costs in the 2017 financial year. Grant funding provides an increasingly important source of revenue for the Society, and supports projects that span multiple years.

The public lecture programme made a profit of £628. Included in this figure is £180 received from lectures given to Tom Grimes to other clubs and societies.

Thanks go to members who sold their books at two lectures and kindly donated a portion of their profits to the Society.

The buildings insurance premiums increased from £2833 in 2015 to £4921 in 2016, an increase lower than anticipated thanks to the discount offered by our broker to charities.

These financial results are in line with the budget agreed by Council.

The value of shares held by the Society increased by approximately £11,000 in 2016. There was a reduction in the number of shares held in Johnson Matthey plc and Intercontinental Hotels plc due to share consolidation in both companies. We now hold 765 shares of Johnson Matthey and 259 shares of Intercontinental, and received cash amounting to £2736. Cable and Wireless plc was taken over by Liberty Global; we received a cash payment of £2078. Details of the Society's investments appear on the next page.

I wish to thank Members on behalf of Council for their continued support for the Society.

Any member who has not completed a Gift Aid declaration form and would like to do so will find a copy of the form on the Society's website. Forms are also available from the Membership Secretary.

**Susan Barsley**

## Spalding Gentlemen's Society Investment Performance 2016

Listed Investments	Shares	Cost £	2016 Market Value £	2015 Market Value £
Mitchells & Butlers	441	34	1,106.47	1,521.89
InterContinental Hotels Group plc	259	43	9,422.42	8,266.38
Cable & Wireless Communications plc	3,188	3,701	0	2,368.68
BAE Systems plc	871	110	5,151.97	4,351.52
Reed Elsevier plc	1,558	2,830	22,575.42	18,649.26
Lloyds Banking Group plc	4,275	2,175	26,72.30	3,123.74
Diageo	500	5,142	10,550.00	9,282.50
Glaxo SmithKline plc	851	5,079	13,292.62	11,684.23
Johnson Matthey plc	765	4,982	24,342.30	21,548.27
Unilever	350	6,139	11,523.75	10,242.75
Banco Santander	93	0	385.25	314.81
GKN plc	636	2,870	1,758.01	1,634.52
Centrica	3,433	6,477	8,036.65	7,487.37
Legal and General Group	3,591	5,471	8,891.32	9,616.70
National Grid plc	1,289	6,183	12,266.12	12,084.38
J Sainsbury	1,071	4,293	2,670.00	2,771.75
BP plc	850	4,876	4,331.60	3,009.00
BT Group plc	1,535	4,965	5,631.92	7,240.60
Firstgroup plc	780	4,962	808.08	836.94
Scottish and Southern	450	4,964	6,988.50	6,876.00
British and American Tobacco	165	4,962	7,625.48	6,222.15
G4S plc	1,050	2,900	2,467.50	2,367.75
			<b>162,497.68</b>	<b>151,501.00</b>
<b>1 Jan 2016 – Market Value</b>	£151,501.00			
<b>Change in Market Value</b>	£10,996.68			
<b>31 Dec 2016 – Market Value</b>	£162,497.68			

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

---

**Presiding Officers Present:** M.H. Snowdon\* (President) in the Chair; M.D.I. Chisholm\* (Hon. Secretary); S.M. Barsley\* (Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Membership Secretary)

**Present:** C.E. Baslington\*(Hon. Lanternist), J. Bennett<sup>a</sup>, M. Brassington<sup>β</sup>, T.E. Carter<sup>a</sup>, F.N. Casswell\*(Chairman of Council), A. Chapman<sup>a</sup>, J.C. Chisholm, P. Clay<sup>a</sup>, J.R. Cooke<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Cooke<sup>a</sup>,  
<sup>\*</sup> Council D. Frazier-Wood<sup>a</sup>, S. Freeman\*(Acting Assistant Lecture Secretary), H.A. Fuller\*(Acting Lecture Secretary), J. Gant\*, N. Gant\*, P. Gorman<sup>a</sup>, T. Grimes\*(Hon Curator and Vice-President 3), M.J. Hollanders\*(Assistant Curator and Curator of Medals), D. Honeybone<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Honeybone<sup>a</sup>, I. Hoult (Assistant Curator)\*, B.P. Jarvie\*, R. Lewis<sup>a</sup>, D. Mossman\*(Vice-President 2), G.A. Petch<sup>a</sup>, E.J. Redshaw<sup>a</sup> (Curator of Natural History), E.J. Sneath<sup>a</sup>, A. Stennett<sup>a</sup>, G.R. Tresidder\*(Senior Vice-President), S. Watson\*, P. Wensor<sup>a</sup>, R. West\*,

**Totals** 35, of whom Council: 17: Members: 17 Other: 1

The meeting was opened at 19:32 hours by the Chairman - the President, M.H. Snowdon - declaring that a quorum was present and giving a warm welcome to all those attending.

**The ordinary business of the meeting was as follows:**

1. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from: T. Barker, R. Bird, D. Casswell, The Lord Cormack, P.C. Dorr\*, M. Egar, E. Hall, Rt. Hon. J. Hayes, MP, C.J. Lewis, N. Ryan, R. Willingham. Total: 11
2. **Minutes** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held of Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014 had been previously circulated with the Annual Report 2014. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by S. Watson and seconded by N. Casswell that the meeting approve the Minutes of the AGM of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This motion was **carried** nem con.
3. **Matters arising from the previous Minutes** The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the previous Minutes. There were none.
4. **Annual Report** The Annual Report and Accounts for 2014 had been previously circulated. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by B.P. Jarvie that the meeting accept the Annual Report 2014. This motion was **carried** nem con.
5. **Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet** The Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2014 had been previously circulated in the Annual Report 2014. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by S. Barsley that the meeting adopt the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2014. This motion was **carried** nem con.
6. **Election of Officers** The Hon. Secretary advised the Chairman that there had been no additional nominations to those notified on the Agenda previously circulated. It was not deemed necessary for the President to retire from the room, and it was decided the vote for elections would be taken "en bloc".  
Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the President is elected for one year and other officers are elected for three years.  
The Chairman then read out the nominations that had been put forward.
  - a) The Office of President is held for one year and is eligible for re-election. **M. H. Snowdon**, the retiring President, confirmed his willingness to stand. It is proposed he be elected.
  - b) A **Vice President** serves for three years and is not eligible for re-election at the meeting at which he or she retires. The Senior Vice-President, Miss G. Tresidder, retires and is not eligible for re-election. **C. Baslington** has confirmed his willingness to stand. It is proposed he be elected.
  - c) The Officers of the Society are elected under Article 38 (C) of the Articles of Association for a period of three years.
    - i) **The Honorary Curator.** **T. Grimes** retires, is eligible for re-election, and has signified his willingness to serve. It is proposed that he be elected

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

---

- ii) **The Honorary Librarian.** N Ryan retires and is leaving the area. D. Frazier-Wood has indicated his willingness to serve. It is proposed that he be elected.
  - iii) **The Honorary. Lecture Secretary.** D. Mossman retired last year and H. Fuller has served as Acting Lecture Secretary and has indicated his willingness to serve. It is proposed that he be elected.
  - iv) **The Honorary Lanternist.** C. Baslington retires and has signified his willingness to serve. It is proposed that he be elected.
  - v) **The Honorary Membership Secretary.** S. M. Barsley retires and has signified her willingness to serve. It is proposed that she be elected.
  - vi) **The Keeper of Coins and Tokens.** M. H. Snowdon retires and has signified his willingness to serve. It is proposed that he be elected.
- d) One third of the **Representative members** retires by rotation at the Meeting and is eligible for re-election. Those members co-opted during the year also retire and are eligible for election. There are three Representative Member vacancies on Council. It is proposed that N. Casswell and S. Watson who retire be re-elected and that S. Freeman, currently a co-opted Representative Member, be elected. All three have indicated their willingness to serve.

*At this point Mr. G.A. Petch asked why the new Headmaster of the Grammar School was not being elected as Librarian. The Hon. Secretary explained that the monies from property that used to support the Headmaster's salary have been subsumed elsewhere and the Governors felt that they could not continue to make it a condition of appointment to the post of Headmaster. D. Frazier-Wood, the new recommended incumbent, was undertaking his own research and also assisting in the Library work. Mr Petch thanked the Secretary, Mr. Watson proposed and Mr. Petch seconded that a letter from Council be sent to the new Headmaster to invite him to become a member to maintain the ancient connection. This The Secretary agreed to do.*

**Decision:** It was proposed by Mr. R. Lewis and seconded by Mr. G.A. Petch that the officers and representative members recommended under sections a-d be severally elected to their respective offices "en bloc". This motion was **carried** nem con.

**Note:** *Any member qualified to be present and vote at the meeting may nominate any member for any of the Society's positions. Such nominations had to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary to be received not later than the 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting [Friday 17 April 2015] together with a written consent to act from the person so nominated. Such nominations shall be offered for proposal at the meeting. [A copy of the nomination form was sent to every member.]*  
*[A full list of Officers and Council members as of the end of this AGM appears under **Addendum 1.**]*

7. **Appointment of Accountants** The meeting is recommended to re-appoint Messrs. Duncan & Toplis as reporting accountants and authorise the Council to determine their remuneration. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by G.R. Tresidder and seconded by S. M. Barsley that Messrs. Duncan & Toplis, the Society's reporting accountants, be so re-appointed and that Council be authorised to determine their remuneration. This motion was **carried** nem con.
8. **Date of AGM** The meeting was invited to consider and confirm the date for the next Annual General Meeting. The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that the equivalent date for next year would be Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. However, Easter would be at the end of March which would not leave enough time to despatch the necessary reports and paperwork to members in a timely fashion. Consequently he recommended Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for the next AGM.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by M.D.I. Chisholm and seconded S.M. Barsley that the next Annual General Meeting should be held in the Society's Lecture Theatre at 19:30 hours on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. This motion was **carried** nem con.
9. **AOB** Mrs J. Chisholm asked whether the meeting would consider adding to the AGM a social event with perhaps a talk to make it a more attractive event to the membership. Following this Mr. R. West suggested that Council consider inviting the Curator of sister institutions in the local area to give that talk or a similar one to better inform members as to what was available. The Hon Secretary welcomed those suggestions and promised to place them before Council, in addition asking members to let him have any further similar suggestion by post or e-mail. There were no other items of business.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

---

*The formal business of the meeting was concluded at 19:50 hours.*

**10. Informal  
Presentation  
and  
Discussion**

The Hon Secretary outlined to the meeting that six members of Council would give a "bullet-point" review of current matters before Council, attempting to bring the meeting up-to-date with the progress of the Society.

**a) Michael Chisholm - Accreditation**

- Last Tuesday [21<sup>st</sup> April], the Accreditation assessor informed him that she would recommend the Society's Museum for Accreditation. However, the final decision is down to the Accreditation Panel whose decision will be known on 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- Accreditation is a kind of quality Kite Mark to enable the Museum to move forward.
- Success will open many doors for the Society, not least of which would be the access to various grants.
- There has been much work by many people but a special thank you must go to the person who started this particular ball rolling, Gillian Tresidder.
- A round of applause was directed to Miss Tresidder.

**b) Nick Casswell Sunday opening**

- Council decided to open to the general public on one Sunday afternoon per month for an experimental period, starting this last January.
- The visitor numbers have been steady rising to a maximum of 50 in one afternoon. We do not want too many visitors as we would have to turn people away, being restricted by the number of volunteer guides available.
- Many thanks to the volunteers and Julia Gant and her team for the organisation.
- Please do come to visit us and bring a friend or two.
- The Donations box has been well used.

**c) Colin Baslington - The Building Insurance Claim**

- This has been going on for the past four years, so a brief summary of events.
- It was noticeable that several defects were becoming much worse i.e. cracking in both ground and first floors in the Cadas Room, Maples Gallery & Turner Room together with 150mm (6") fall across the Maples gallery floor causing twisting to bookcases and cabinets; ingress of damp and creepy crawlies; masonry cracking through the full width of some walls.
- The drains were examined and found to be cracked and leaking into the subsoil thereby reducing the ground bearing capacity at foundation level. The drains are 'out of level' in places and prone to blockages.
- We informed our Insurers and made a claim for Subsidence Damage. After much discussion and debate it has been agreed we have a claim for "for damage caused by leaking drains". A decision we were not unhappy with as we face a smaller excess.
- A contractor has been appointed by the Loss Adjuster handling the claim and we are still negotiating with him as to just what the remedial work will be.
- Several areas of work are currently being investigated such as re-routing drain runs so as NOT to pass under the building, together with the removal, storage of artefacts off site and return of same on completion; also replacement of the electric under floor heating in these two areas.
- At some point in the near future, the Maples & Turner Galleries plus the Librarian's Room will be cleared and sealed off for work to be carried out.
- Progress is very slow as the Loss Adjuster seems to have little grasp of what is entailed in the remedial works of a Grade II listed building such as ours.
- Our Insurers are well aware of our concerns as I have made official complaints at the long delays between correspondence and decisions being made.
- Finally I would like to thank my colleague Sandy Watson for his considerable support and help on this project. His input has been invaluable
- Later on Mr. R. Chapman asked whether costs were known and whether the Insurance Company was being difficult.
- Mr. C. Baslington replied that the cost of removal of the artefacts from the affect area was known at £27,250 but the Society would not be privy to the costs of the repair work to the building as this was a matter for the Insurance Company. However, he was quite determined to ensure that the Insurance Company and the Loss Adjuster met all their liabilities, managed the situation correctly and in a timely fashion and set the building to rights.
- This was met with hearty approval from the meeting.

**d) Harrison Fuller - The Proposed Maurice Johnson or Founder's Lecture.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

---

- The Andrew Graham-Dixon Lecture attracted 370 people some travelling from 2 or 3 hours away.
  - This has given encouragement to Council to propose a special lecture – The Maurice Johnson or Founder's Lecture – out of the normal season but near to his birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> June.
  - This would enable us to book lecturers we might otherwise not be able to get. E.g. one of our proposed lecturers is Jewish and cannot come on a Friday night or Saturday.
  - The lecture would be held at the South Holland Centre which would give it greater prominence and advertising and ticket sales would be through their Box Office.
  - This year's "trial run" would be a lecture on the "Westminster Psalter" given by Mr. Alex Summers, a book conservator and would take place at the Parish Church on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets would be available at the door. Everyone was welcome.
  - This style of lecture should enable the Society to raise more money for its funds.
- e) **Julia Gant – Events and publicity**
- A Quarterly electronic Newsletter had been introduced for members which may become available on the web-site.
  - The Coffee-House Evenings had been introduced once a month.  
After Coffee there was a short presentation from a member, normally about some aspect of the collections and then a question and discussion session.
- f) **Nigel Gant - Initiatives with volunteers**
- The Society has, for many years, relied on the work and commitment of its volunteers.
  - Apart from conducting groups around the Museum there are many more tasks that require assistance.
  - The Society is endeavouring to put its volunteers on a more "professional" footing.
  - A recent meeting for volunteers has brought 12 more into the fold.
  - The Annual Report posting contained an appeal for more people to come forward from the membership and if anyone here would like to help please contact Nigel.

The Chairman invited comments and discussion, a summary of which appears below:

- **Publicity**
- Mrs. D. Honeybone offered congratulations and thanks to all who had contributed to "moving the Society forward". She asked how publicity was being managed.
- Mr. N. Casswell and Mrs J, Gant outlined the use of the Local Press and "The Voice"; the Free Press was being contacted through Mr. T. Grimes; the Society worked closely with Ayscoughfee Museum; use was made of the web-site "Culture24" which had brought in a number of attendees for the Andrew Graham-Dixon lecture.
- Mr. G.A. Petch asked whether use could be made of the local TV station – through its News features.
- Mrs. J. Gant advised that a prospective member for this year was professionally involved in publicity and the Society hoped to make use of her skills.
- Dr. M.J. Honeybone advised that he had been researching in the Library and Archives for some 20 years and the Society had a unique history and development in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries which had already been communicated to the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries. He asked for approval to take this history to similar institutions on the European and World stage. This was heartily endorsed.
- Mr N. Casswell advised the meeting of the outing to Lincoln where members and their guests would be able to see some of our Museum's artefacts on display in the major exhibitions there. This was another way in which the profile of the Society could be positively raised. [The cut-off date for participation was 15<sup>th</sup> May and members were not to worry about the matter of Lincoln Hill - transport was being addressed!]
- **Buildings and Space**
- Mr. S. Freeman asked whether some clarity could be brought to the various recent press articles about a potential move for the Museum.
- Prof. M.D.I. Chisholm advised that information about such matters had to remain confidential for the time being. He could report that Council has selected a preferred option but members should not make assumptions about what that might be.
- Meanwhile, Accreditation [if it is granted] would come with a list of "improvements" to be made and the Society would have to demonstrate progress at the time of the triennial review of such Accreditation. One of those "improvements" would be the acquisition of more

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

---

“space” but the attainment of Accreditation would be of benefit to the Society in applications for capital investment.

- Miss G. Tresidder reminded the meeting that the Museum Collection was of “National Importance” and we should be seeking to gain that official designation, which would open doors to other financial support.
- Prof. M.D.I. Chisholm reminded the meeting that the Accreditation was only for the Museum. If that was successful then he expected Council would turn its attention to doing something similar for the Archive and Library. These were steps on the way to the coveted “National” status.
- Mr. T. Grimes advised that it was even possible for some parts of a Museum / Library / Archive to be designated as being of national importance. But it should be borne in mind that one of the key requirements was to display items by “Age”. In our current circumstances that was a major problem and so there remained much work to do and many grants to seek.
- A member asked whether the “Bird Collection” would be returning to Spalding with the advent of new space.
- Mr E.J. Redshaw advised the meeting that the Bird collection had followed the bird's eggs and “skins” collections to Leicester University [This University was chosen because institutions closer to Spalding were not interested in acquiring the material.]. All three collections were given on a “Donation” basis and it was highly unlikely that the collections would return to Spalding.

There were no further comments or suggestions but it was open to members to communicate further points to the Hon. Secretary in the normal way.

**11. Close**

Having thanked everyone for their attendance, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:28 hours.

Minutes recorded by B. Jarvie - 24th April 2015

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

---

**Presiding Officers Present:** *D. Mossman\* (Senior Vice-President) in the Chair; M.D.I. Chisholm\* (Hon. Secretary); S.M. Barsley\* (Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Membership Secretary)*

**Present:** *C.E. Baslington\* (Vice-President 3 and Hon. Lanternist), M.C. Blake<sup>a</sup>, G.G. Buck<sup>a</sup>, M. Bullock<sup>a</sup>, T.E. Carter<sup>a</sup>, D. Casswell<sup>b</sup>, F.N. Casswell\* (Chairman of Council), H.A. Casswell<sup>b</sup>, J.C. Chisholm<sup>a</sup>, P.G. Clay<sup>a</sup>, J.M. Cooke<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Cooke<sup>a</sup>, P.C. Dorr<sup>a</sup>, L.A. Eldridge<sup>a</sup>, H.A. Fuller\* (Lecture Secretary), P. Gorman<sup>a</sup>, P.N. Green<sup>a</sup>, M.A. Grimes<sup>a</sup>, T. Grimes\* (Vice-President 2), D.E. Hemmant<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Hollanders\* (Acting Curator and Curator of Medals), D.E. Honeybone<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Honeybone<sup>a</sup>, I. Hoult\* (Acting Deputy Curator), S.A.L. Hoult<sup>a</sup>, D.S. Jacobs<sup>a</sup>, P.A.J. James<sup>a</sup>, B.P. Jarvie\*, R.W. Lewis<sup>a</sup>, E.A. Napier<sup>a</sup>, W.I. Naylor<sup>a</sup>, G.A. Petch<sup>a</sup>, E.J. Redshaw<sup>a</sup>, S.C. Richardson<sup>a</sup>, E.M. Royce<sup>a</sup>, E.J. Sneath<sup>a</sup>, M.H. Snowdon\* (President and Curator of Coins and Tokens), G.R. Tresidder<sup>a</sup>, H.J.I. Violet<sup>a</sup>, A.B. Watson\*, R.C. West\*.*

**Totals** 44, of whom Council: 13: Members: 31

The meeting was opened at 19:30 hours by the Chairman - the Senior Vice-President, D. Mossman - declaring that a quorum was present and giving a warm welcome to all those attending.

**The ordinary business of the meeting was as follows:**

- 1. Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from: *The Very Revd. T. Barker, P. and R.H. Buck, M. Byrd, A. Chapman, The Lord Cormack, P.R. Francis, S. Martinelli, M. McGregor, Revd. J.C. Moon, The Lord and Lady Taylor of Holbeach, P. Thompson, S. Thompson, N.D. Trawford, Total: 15.*
- 2. Minutes** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held of Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015 had been previously circulated with the Annual Report 2015. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **F.N. Casswell** seconded by **G.A. Petch** that the meeting approve the Minutes of the AGM of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This motion was **carried** nem con.
- 3. Matters arising from the previous Minutes** The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the previous Minutes.  
**P.C. Dorr** asked who had assumed the role of security officer after the resignation of **N.R. Gant**. The Secretary responded Council would deliberate on role of Security officer at its May meeting. In the meantime "Front Door Key Security" was being undertaken by The Chairman of the Council: **F.N. Casswell**. There were no other matters.
- 4. Annual Report** The Annual Report and Accounts for 2015 had been previously circulated and was to be received by the meeting. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments on the report. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **S. Watson** and seconded by **C. Baslington** that the meeting receive the 2015 Annual Report. This motion was **carried** nem con.
- 5. Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet** The Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2015 had been previously circulated in the Annual Report 2015 and was to be received by the meeting. The Chairman asked whether there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by the **R.W. Lewis** and seconded by **G.R. Tresidder** that the meeting receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2015. This motion was **carried** nem con.
- 6. Election of President** Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the Office of President is held for one year. The current President, **M.D.H. Snowdon**, was not offering himself for re-election. The Secretary had previously advised the Chairman that there had been no additional nominations to those notified on the Agenda: **M.D.I. Chisholm** and **T. Grimes**, both having confirmed their willingness to stand. Each candidate had circulated a short statement with the AGM paperwork [copies of which appear under **Addendum 1**]. There then followed a short session to enable the membership present to question the candidates.  
The Chairman and Returning Officer for the election, **D.M. Mossman**, asked for the ballot to commence during which it was not deemed necessary for the candidates to retire.  
The Returning Officer stated that the number of votes recorded was as follows: **M.D.I. Chisholm: 26; T. Grimes: 18;** and declared that **M.D.I. Chisholm** was elected President for the ensuing year.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

---

7. **Election of other Officers** Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the other officers are elected for three years. The Chairman then read out the nominations that had been put forward.
- a) A **Vice President** serves for three years and is not eligible for re-election at the meeting at which he or she retires. The Senior Vice-President, **D.M. Mossman**, retires and is therefore not eligible for re-election. **B.P. Jarvic** has confirmed his willingness to stand. It was proposed that he be elected. The motion was **carried** nem con.
  - b) **The Honorary Secretary, M.D.I. Chisholm** is standing down. **F.N. Casswell** has confirmed his willingness to stand. It was proposed that he be elected. The motion was **carried** nem con.
  - c) **The Honorary Treasurer, S.M. Barsley**, retires and is eligible for re-election. It was proposed that she be re-elected. The motion was **carried** nem con.
  - d) **The Honorary Curator**. With the resignation of **T. Grimes** as Honorary Curator, Council appointed **M.J. Hollanders** as Acting Curator and she has signified her willingness to continue to serve. It was proposed that she be elected. The motion was **carried** nem con.
  - e) **Representative members of Council**. The Articles of Association provide that one third must retire each year, currently meaning three individuals. They also provide that vacancies may be filled, not that they must be filled. The prescribed number of Representative Members is a maximum of nine and a minimum of five. Any members co-opted during the year also retire and are eligible for election.  
The current Representative Members number nine of whom **R. West, I. Hoult** and **S. Watson** will continue to serve. **J. Gant, N.R. Gant** and **S. Freeman** have resigned and the above elections in respect of **F.N. Casswell, M.J. Hollanders** and **B.P. Jarvic** have removed them from the office of Representative Member. It was proposed that a) the retiring Vice-President, **D.M. Mossman** and b) **Cllr. E.J. Sneath** be elected (she is a County and SHDC councillor and Heritage Champion for the latter.) Both had indicated their willingness to serve. The motion was **carried** nem con.
- Notes:** *These changes maintain five Representative Members of a possible nine. Council had decided that no further nominations would be made and that the remaining vacancies stay unfilled for the present, with the intention that Council may exercise the power to co-opt one or two individuals who would, prospectively, be proposed for election next year. Council would be looking for individuals with relevant skills, knowledge or experience.*
- [The following paragraph was included in the AGM papers.]*  
*Any member qualified to be present and vote at the meeting may nominate any qualified member for any of the Society's offices. Such nominations have to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary to be received not later than the 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting [Friday 22 April 2016] together with a written consent to act from the person so nominated. Such nominations shall be offered for proposal at the meeting. [A copy of the nomination form was sent to every member.]*  
*Council asks that anyone nominated should supply a written statement about themselves, plus a photograph, so that copies may be provided to those attending the AGM.*  
*[A full list of Officers and Council members as of the end of this AGM appears under Addendum 2.]*
8. **Appointment of Accountants** The meeting was recommended to re-appoint Messrs. Duncan & Toplis as reporting accountants and authorise the Council to determine their remuneration. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **S.M. Barsley** and seconded by **M.D.I. Chisholm** that Messrs. Duncan & Toplis, the Society's reporting accountants, are so re-appointed and that Council be authorised to determine their remuneration. This motion was **carried** nem con.
9. **Date of AGM 2017** The meeting was invited to consider and confirm the date for the next Annual General Meeting. The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that the equivalent date for next year would be Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017.  
**Decision:** It was proposed by **P.C. Dorr** and seconded by **J.C. Chisholm** that the next Annual General Meeting should be held in the Society's Lecture Theatre at 19:30 hours on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017. This motion was **carried** nem con.
10. **AOB** The Chairman asked if there were any other business.
- a) **M.J. Honeybone** proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring President **M. D.H. Snowdon**. This was heartily endorsed by the meeting nem con.
  - b) **G.A. Petch:**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Spalding Gentlemen's Society held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
Agenda by order of the Council - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

---

- i) The ban on bags in the Museum. He understood that exceptions are perhaps made for ladies' handbags but there was no similar guidance for "man bags". There was some discussion and acknowledgement made that discretion was needed but there was a general need for security with respect to the collections. The matter was referred to Council for further consideration.
- ii) The Fire extinguishers standing on the floor. He understood that they should be positioned at a height of 1 metre above the floor to make their use easier. **M.J. Hollanders** stated that during the last inspection, the Fire Officer had not commented on the Extinguishers. The matter was referred to Council for review.
- c) **M.D.I. Chisholm** reported that a recently deceased Society member had presented a box of books to the Library. Unfortunately, in the collection were some volumes that belonged to the Society and should not have been removed. Borrowing was not now allowed from the Library and he asked that members check for any books that might belong to the Society and to return them. The Society would be very grateful.
- d) **H.J.I. Violett** asked whether more time could be made available to volunteers on a Monday for those who wished to spend more time at their tasks. It was reported that opening up for most of Monday was under consideration and the matter would be referred to Council.
- e) **T. Grimes** asked to remind everyone about the Annual Outing as more participants were required.

*The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 20:10 hours.*

Minutes recorded by B.P. Jarvie – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 543260  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 216131

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2016  
FOR  
SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Statement of Trustees Responsibilities	4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 12
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	13 to 14

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

The Council of Management, who are trustees and directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present to the members their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and statements of the charity.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The Society's object is: "To promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and study" of what are now known as the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. To this end, the main current activities are: to maintain the freehold premises housing a museum, library and archives and maintaining and enhancing the holdings contained therein; and the mounting of public lectures. The Society was recognised by the Master of the Rolls, under 1926 national provisions, as a local depository for manorial documents.

##### **Public benefit**

Public benefit was provided in several ways during 2016, firstly by the maintenance and augmentation of the collections, some of which are of national and international significance. Work continues on the records, to make the holdings more readily usable. The Librarian and Curator received a considerable number of specific enquiries from members of the public; these were dealt with directly or passed to other volunteers.

The Society's collections have been augmented by donations and loans during the year. Other items offered to the Society during the past year are currently being assessed for possible accession. Further public benefit has been served by the charitable activities shown below.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

Over the year, approximately 627 members of the public visited the premises for one purpose or another, The Society was also open to the public on the third Sunday of the winter months. Sixteen group visits were hosted by appointment. We were unable to participate in Heritage Open day due to anticipated building work. This also obliged us to reduce the number of organised visits.

Society members can readily access the facilities on Monday mornings between 9.00 a.m. and noon, and on Thursdays between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. At other times, they must make prior arrangements. Members of the public are welcome for individual and group visits, and for scholarly work, but should be in touch beforehand to make the necessary arrangements. The best time for non-members to come is on a Monday morning, when group visits are not accepted; at other times, access will depend on the availability of volunteers.

In August the Society lent a number of items to Ayscoughfee Hall Spalding. These were to support a 1940's exhibition and included militaria, costume and photographs. In October the Society mounted a display of original William Stukeley drawings that had been conserved under a Heritage Lottery grant. These were shown in Ayscoughfee Hall and attracted an audience of 336.

Twelve public lectures were held at the Grammar School in Spalding, covering a wide range of topics. Everyone pays for admission, the normal charge now being £ 2.50. The Society organised a special Founder's Lecture in June. This was aimed at a more general audience than our regular programme. The event was a talk from actor and explorer Brian Blessed, It was held at the South Holland Centre and sold out generating a small surplus for the Society . The lectures were advertised on the Society's website, in the local press and by other means. Altogether, lecture attendance was 818 for the regular series, and 340 for the additional lecture.

Members of the Society have given lectures to interested groups on its own history and related matters.

Further details of the public benefit provided may be found in the Members' Annual Report for the year.

The Members of Council consider that the Society has achieved its objective during the year.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

The operating surplus for the year was £1,024.

##### **Investment policy and objectives**

The Society takes appropriate investment advice from its investment committee before amending its investment portfolio. Investments are acquired and held in accordance with the general powers given in the Trustee Act 2000.

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

Factors taken into account in deciding the level of reserves include the need to cover fluctuations in expenditure and the need to have sufficient funds available to finance any potential capital expenditure. The Society is dependent upon the income arising from its investments to fund its core activities and therefore does not consider its investments at 31 December 2016 of £162,498 to be part of free reserves. At the year end, free reserves were £86,192 and it is considered that this is a minimal requirement to cover likely expenditure needed to maintain the charitable status.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The immediate requirement is to match income to the running costs of the Society. Income is heavily dependent on membership subscriptions.

In the medium term other revenue streams are being explored to reduce the dependency on one source. Grant assistance has been sought to develop other sources of income and widen the revenue base. Grant funding has been obtained from the MDEM/Arts Council Ready to Borrow fund to finance capital projects within the building. An insurance claim for structural difficulties is at an advanced stage. This will impinge on future capital requirements as yet unknown.

Long term Council are working towards major capital funding to improve and expand the Society's accommodation. This is covered in the Vision statement produced in 2014.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Structure**

Spalding Gentlemen's Society is a company limited by guarantee and registered under the Companies Act 2006, registration number 543260. The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 13 January 1955, as subsequently amended. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the object of the Society, and no portion shall be paid or transferred to any member. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £2. The company has obtained the consent of the Registrar of Companies to be exempt from the requirement to use the word "limited" in its name. It is a registered charity, number 216131. Members of Council are trustees for charitable purposes. Membership of the Society is open to all on payment of the annual membership fee. There are some 311 members; 32 joined during 2016.

About forty volunteers assist Council with the daily affairs of the Society.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new council members**

Members of Council are elected at an Annual General Meeting. Any casual vacancy other than the President and Vice Presidents may be filled by the Council who may also co-opt and appoint two additional Members of Council. Any member, so appointed, shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for election at that Meeting. Members of the Society may put themselves forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of Representative Members of Council and the President shall retire and are eligible for re-election.

Members of Council are mainly retired, and have acquired appropriate skills and experience. Courses and on-going updated information are available from professional, historical and heritage bodies and training is taken when considered necessary.

##### **Induction and training of new trustees**

New members are advised of the statutory responsibilities of Trustees and provided with induction information. New and old Trustees are encouraged to participate in training programmes. In 2016 7 members of council and 2 other volunteers participated in courses provided by Charity and Heritage sector suppliers. The courses ranged from Governance and Fundraising to more specialist curatorial topics such as museum documentation and object handling. Two trustees attended a course on Emergency Planning.

Council makes an audit of skill sets available and is proactive filling gaps in its expertise. The membership is researched to locate these skills and by encouraging engagement seeks to increase the potential Trustee pool.

##### **Risk management and mitigation**

The main risk to the Society is the condition of the building, in particular the degradation of the Maples Room floor and soil structures beneath the foundations. These issues were tabulated in a Surveyor's report received in December 2016. These risks are being addressed in a current insurance claim. Further maintenance costs associated with a 100 year old listed building are likely to exceed current revenue and provision is made from reserves. This position is not sustainable long term and is being addressed in our planning, (see above).

The importance of the building and contents are fully recognised. The Ready to Borrow grant will fund improvements to security and environmental management of the collection.

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

The second major risk to the Society is ensuring a proper succession of Trustees. The demands of managing important heritage assets are onerous. Like many of our sector partners the governance and management of the organisation is largely unpaid and dependent on volunteers. Day to day management and strategy tasks fall on a dedicated team whose time cannot be taken for granted. Few members join the Society in order to undertake administrative duties but recognise the paramount importance of good governance in ensuring its survival and progress. Tasks are divided into working groups and there is a strong culture of mutual support and encouragement. The training and mentoring provided by Museum Development East Midlands in particular is a powerful source of practical help and motivation.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

543260

**Registered Charity number**

216131

**Registered office**

Broad Street  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 1TB

**Trustees**

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

PRESIDENT - M D I Chisholm ScD FBA  
VICE PRESIDENTS - T Grimes (Chairman of Council), C E Baslington, B P Jarvie  
HON. TREASURER - S M Barsley  
HON. SECRETARY - F N Casswell  
HON. CURATOR - M Hollanders  
HON. CURATOR OF COINS & TOKENS - M H Snowdon  
LIBRARIAN - D Frazier Wood  
HON. LANTERNIST - C E Baslington  
HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - S M Barsley  
HON. LECTURE SECRETARY - H Fuller  
REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS - R C West, A B Watson, I Hoult, E J Sneath,  
CO-OPTED MEMBER - H J I Violett

**Independent examiner**

Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

**Bankers**

NatWest Bank plc  
Market Place  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the members of council on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
F N Casswell – Hon Secretary

## **SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Spalding Gentlemen's Society 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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 set out on pages six to twelve.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of the independent examiner's report**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)

have not been met; or

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

David Gratton BSc FCA  
Duncan & Toplis Limited  
Enterprise Way  
Pinchbeck  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE11 3YR

Date: .....

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total £	2016 funds £	Total £	2015 funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	24,698	-	24,698		27,641	
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Museum		-	2,000	2,000		11,095	
Lecture series		8,429	-	8,429		3,310	
Investment income	3	9,002	-	9,002		5,814	
Other income		<u>1,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,593</u>		<u>1,838</u>	
<b>Total</b>		43,722	2,000	45,722		49,698	
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>							
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Museum	4	27,178	9,719	36,897		28,664	
Lecture series		<u>7,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,801</u>		<u>3,103</u>	
<b>Total</b>		34,979	9,719	44,698		31,767	
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>13,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,364</u>		<u>(3,827)</u>	
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		22,107	(7,719)	14,388		14,104	
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>							
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		575,542	9,767	585,309		571,205	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>597,649</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>599,697</u>		<u>585,309</u>	

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total 2016 funds	Total 2015 funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	9	349,059	-	349,059	349,059
Investments	10	<u>162,498</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,498</u>	<u>151,501</u>
		511,557	-	511,557	500,560
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	11	637	-	637	706
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>88,790</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>90,838</u>	<u>87,526</u>
		89,427	2,048	91,475	88,232
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(3,335)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,335)</u>	<u>(3,483)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>86,092</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>88,140</u>	<u>84,749</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>597,649</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>599,697</u>	<u>585,309</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>597,649</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>599,697</u>	<u>585,309</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds	13			597,649	575,542
Restricted funds				<u>2,048</u>	<u>9,767</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>599,697</u>	<u>585,309</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 479A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to subsidiary charitable companies for the year ended 31 December 2016.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company 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 charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its 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 company.

The financial statements were approved by the council of members on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Professor M D I Chisholm – President

.....  
Mrs S M Barsley – Hon. Treasurer

.....  
F N Casswell – Hon. Secretary

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**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 (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Subscriptions, donations and legacies**

Annual subscriptions, donations and legacies are included in the statement of financial activities at amounts receivable for the year.

Life membership subscriptions received are credited to the statement of financial activities in twelve annual instalments.

**Gifts**

Gifts of exhibits and books to the society are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Investment income**

Investment income and interest is accounted for when receivable.

**Grants**

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

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

**Tangible fixed assets**

As explained in note 9 Heritage Assets have not been capitalised or depreciated as no reliable value can be attributed.

There is no depreciation of fixed assets as tangible fixed assets are periodically revalued to market value, and with high residual values depreciation would be an immaterial amount.

**Taxation**

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

**Fund accounting**

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

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.

Spalding Gentlemen's Society has designated funds which are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes. They include amounts equivalent to the net book values of fixed assets and investments used to enable the Society to continue to carry out its charitable mission.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

**Investments**

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Donations	3,236	2,334
Gift aid	3,544	4,357
Subscriptions	17,638	20,560
Joining Fees	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>
	<u><u>24,698</u></u>	<u><u>27,641</u></u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Dividends	8,714	5,457
Deposit account interest	<u>288</u>	<u>357</u>
	<u><u>9,002</u></u>	<u><u>5,814</u></u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs (See note 5)	Totals
	£	£	£
Museum	27,209	9,688	36,897
Lecture series	<u>7,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,801</u>
	<u><u>35,010</u></u>	<u><u>9,688</u></u>	<u><u>44,698</u></u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other 3	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Museum	<u>712</u>	<u>8,976</u>	<u><u>9,688</u></u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2016 nor for the year ended 31 December 2015.

**Trustees' expenses**

Members of council received £4,623 (2015 £2,962) during the year as reimbursed expenses. All members of council are unpaid providing their services voluntarily.

No employees received total emolument of more than £60,000

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

7. STAFF COSTS

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

	2016	2015
Administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	27,641	-	27,641
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Museum	-	11,095	11,095
Lecture series	3,310	-	3,310
Investment income	5,814	-	5,814
Other income	<u>1,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,838</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,603</b>	<b>11,095</b>	<b>49,698</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Museum	24,158	4,506	28,664
Lecture series	<u>3,103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,103</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,261</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>31,767</b>
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>	<u>(3,827)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,827)</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>7,515</b>	<b>6,589</b>	<b>14,104</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>568,027</u>	<u>3,178</u>	<u>571,205</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><b>575,542</b></u>	<u><b>9,767</b></u>	<u><b>585,309</b></u>

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016	<u>300,000</u>	<u>49,059</u>	<u>349,059</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2016	<u>300,000</u>	<u>49,059</u>	<u>349,059</u>
At 31 December 2015	<u>300,000</u>	<u>49,059</u>	<u>349,059</u>

The historical cost of the freehold properties is £4,402. Freehold property is included in the financial statements at the Members of Council estimation of market value based on a valuation obtained from R Longstaff & Co on 28 March 2013.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

The Museum collection is a Heritage Asset which has been amassed over the last 300 years mainly by way of gift and is of such extent that neither cost nor market value, are readily ascertainable. The Society has omitted the Museum collection from the balance sheet as permitted by SORP (2005) paragraph 283. The cost of additions to the museum collection has not been capitalised, being written off in the statement of financial activities as museum expenditure. Gifts of exhibits during the year to the Society are not included in the statement of financial activities. The museum collection is on exhibit in the Museum and is available for scholastic research and visits by arrangement with the curator.

No depreciation is charged because the annual depreciation and related accumulated depreciation is immaterial owing to the high estimated residual values of tangible fixed assets.

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 January 2016	151,501
Disposals	(2,369)
Revaluations	<u>13,366</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>162,498</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2016	<u>162,498</u>
At 31 December 2015	<u>151,501</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016 £	2015 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>637</u>	<u>706</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016 £	2015 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>3,335</u>	<u>3,483</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.16 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.16 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	74,982	8,743	83,725
Designated fund	<u>500,560</u>	<u>13,364</u>	<u>513,924</u>
	575,542	22,107	597,649
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Museum collection	9,767	(7,719)	2,048
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>585,309</u>	<u>14,388</u>	<u>599,697</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	43,722	(34,979)	-	8,743
Designated fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,364</u>	<u>13,364</u>
	43,722	(34,979)	13,364	22,107
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Museum collection	<u>2,000</u>	<u>(9,719)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,719)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>45,722</u></u>	<u><u>(44,698)</u></u>	<u><u>13,364</u></u>	<u><u>14,388</u></u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2016.

15. FIRST YEAR ADOPTION

The company has adopted FRS102 for the first time in the year ended 31 December 2016. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS102.

**SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>				
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Donations	3,236	-	3,236	2,334
Gift aid	3,544	-	3,544	4,357
Subscriptions	17,638	-	17,638	20,560
Joining Fees	<u>280</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>
	24,698	-	24,698	27,641
<b>Investment income</b>				
Dividends	8,714	-	8,714	5,457
Deposit account interest	<u>288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>357</u>
	9,002	-	9,002	5,814
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Lecture receipts	8,429	-	8,429	3,310
Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>11,095</u>
	8,429	2,000	10,429	14,405
<b>Other income</b>				
Other Income	2	-	2	248
Retail sales	667	-	667	-
Society outing	<u>924</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>924</u>	<u>1,590</u>
	<u>1,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,593</u>	<u>1,838</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	43,722	2,000	45,722	49,698
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Rates	1,005	-	1,005	1,053
Insurance	4,921	-	4,921	2,833
Light, heat and water	2,963	-	2,963	3,100
Postage, stationery & printing	2,344	349	2,693	2,128
Repairs and renewals	3,701	-	3,701	2,668
Conservation and preservation of artifacts	434	8,356	8,790	275
Magazines and books	130	-	130	136
Conservation of books and archives	1,685	-	1,685	1,511
Cleaning	76	-	76	53
Catering	82	138	220	94
Philately and medals	180	-	180	192
Training	72	-	72	916
Subscriptions and donations	773	-	773	724
Lecture fees and expenses	<u>7,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,801</u>	<u>3,103</u>
	26,167	8,843	35,010	18,786
<b>Support costs</b>				

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
<b>Support costs</b>				
Telephone	712	-	712	463
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Wages	3,842	-	3,842	4,692
Sundries	177	284	461	13
Accountancy fees	612	-	612	552
Legal and professional	364	592	956	3,594
Outing Costs	1,013	-	1,013	1,089
Computer and office costs	<u>2,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,092</u>	<u>2,578</u>
	<u>8,100</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>8,976</u>	<u>12,518</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>34,979</u>	<u>9,719</u>	<u>44,698</u>	<u>31,767</u>
<b>Net income before gains and losses</b>	8,743	(7,719)	1,024	17,931
<b>Realised recognised gains and losses</b>				
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(2)	-	(2)	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	13,366	-	13,366	(3,827)
	<u>22,107</u>	<u>(7,719)</u>	<u>14,388</u>	<u>14,104</u>

The Society maintains membership in a number of Societies and Associations related to our objectives and the contents of our collections. We currently subscribe to and receive the publications of the following organisations:

Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries  
The Bibliographical Society  
British Archaeological Association  
British Numismatic Society  
British Record Society  
British Records Association  
East Midlands Museum Service  
English Place-Name Society  
Fenland Archaeological Trust  
The Harleian Society  
Lincoln Record Society  
Lincolnshire Heritage Forum  
Lincolnshire Methodist History Society  
Museums Association  
The Orders and Medals Research Society  
Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

The Society also receives the following publications, either by donation or subscription:

*The Antiquaries Journal*  
*Archaeology*  
*The Bentleian*  
*Genealogists' Magazine*  
*Lincolnshire Life*

