

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(Company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st March 2007

The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NS
Telephone 01380 727369



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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity Number 1080096 Company Registration Number 3885649

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007

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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LEGAL INFORMATION

Constitution

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 3885649, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and a charity, registration number 1080096. The members of the society are subscribing members, in the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the Society) are its trustees for the purpose of charitable law and throughout the report are referred to collectively as "the trustees". As set out in the Articles of Association twelve trustees are elected by the membership, one third retire each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. In addition up to five trustees may be nominated, two by Wiltshire County Council, and one each by Devizes Town Council, Kennet District Council and the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The trustees have the power to co-opt additional trustees who serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting at which they may be nominated and elected. The maximum number of trustees at any time is twenty.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

W A Perry, MSc

Deputy Chairman

D Roseaman, BSc(Eng), CEng, MIMech E

Elected Trustees.

Miss A E M Arrowsmith, BSc (Hons) Microbiology (Lon) (Died 6/10/06)

Lt Col R C Chamberlain (elected 30/09/06)

Dr C R Chippindale, BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA (elected 30/09/06)

Miss K A Fielden, BA, D Phil (elected 30/09/06)

J Gunter, BA (Hons), MA

Mrs V A Knowles

Mrs W P Lansdown, FCA (Company Secretary and Honorary Treasurer)

A Reynolds, BA, PhD, FSA, FSA Scot (elected 30/09/06)

Mrs J Triggs

Nominated Trustees:

Cllr N Fogg

Cllr A Molland

P R Saunders, BA, FSA, FMA, FRSA

Cllr Mrs J Swabey

Cllr Mrs K J Walling, BA (Hons), PGCE

Member Kennet District Council

Member Wiltshire County Council

Director, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Member Wiltshire County Council

Member Devizes Town Council

SOCIETY STAFFING, FORMAL AND HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AS AT 31st MARCH, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF. Museum

Curator	Paul Robinson, BA, PhD, FSA, AMA
Assistant Curator	Lisa Webb, BA (Hons), MA
Education/Outreach Officer	Ali Siviter, BA, MA
Documentation Officer	Roger Watson, BA

Library

Sandell Librarian	Lorna Haycock, BA (Hons), PhD, DipELH, Cert Ed, FRHistS
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Administration

Volunteer Co-ordinator	Heather Ault, BA (Hons)
Administrative Officers	Margaret Clarke, Karen Jones, BA (Hons)
Accountancy Assistant	Rosalie Humphrey
Shop Manager/Receptionist	Diann Barnett, BA
Receptionist (Saturday)	Jean Volpi
General Assistant	Jim Dibdin

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS

Auditors	David Owen & Co , 17, Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1BA
Bankers	Lloyds TSB plc, 38, Market Place, Devizes, SN10 1JD
Solicitors	Wansbroughs, Northgate House, Devizes, SN10 1JX
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine	
Editor	Andrew Reynolds, BA, PhD, FSA, FSA Scot
Assistant Editor	Stuart Brookes, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, PGCTiLL

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

General Programme Organiser	Kate Walling
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REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NS

VOLUNTEERS 2006-2007

Miss Juliet Allan	Mrs P Brazier	Miss Sarah Cox
Miss Katy Allen	Mrs Catherine Brown	Mrs Janice Dando
Mrs Livvy Ainge	Mr D A Brown	Dr M Darby
Mr Don Ainge	Mrs Daphne Bryant	Dr J N D'Arcy
Mrs Myra Annable	Ms L Burden	Ms S Davies
Mrs Zoe Aspinall	Mr R Canham	Mr B K Davison
Mrs Leslie Baker	Miss Helen Cave	Miss Heidi Dawson
Miss Emily Basford	Dr A Chadburn	Mr Andrew Day
Ms Isabelle Bedu	Dr John Chandler	Mr R Day
Mr P B Bell	Mrs N S T Clarke	Mr & Mrs J De Normann
Dr Martin Bell	Dr Rosamund Cleal	Mr R A Dewhurst
Dr J D Belt	Mr Philip Cole	Mrs Rachel Diddams
Mr Anthony Bolland	Mrs Judith Colls	Miss Janet Dore
Mr H Bradford	Miss M I Cooper	Mrs Jane Duffen
Miss Gemma Bradley	Mr Mark Corney	Mr Stephen Durant
Miss Catherine Braley	Mr B Coupe	

VOLUNTEERS 2006-2007 (continued)

Dr J Elliott	Mr D J Mattock	Mrs Anne Shepherdson
Ms P M Eyre	Miss Josephine May	Mrs Peggy Shergold
Ms Lynne Farrow	Prof & Mrs S McGrail	Mr R J Skinner
Mr D Field	Mrs Margaret Melsom	Mrs Pamela Slocombe
Dr Kate Fielden	Mr Robert Moody	Mrs Anne Smith
Mrs Joy Francis	Mrs Meriall Moore	Mr Mike Smith
Mrs Joan Friend	Ms S A Morgan	Mrs Penny Smith
Mrs Phillida Frost	Mrs Alison Morison	Mrs Wendy Smith
Mrs Barbara Fuller	Mrs Barbara Morrison	Mr Nicol Smith
Mrs Marion Geeves	Mr Nick Morrison	Mr Richard & Dr Phillida Sneyd
Mrs Audrey Gibbs	Mrs Mary Mortimer	Mr Alessandro Sogos
Mr Bobby Gibbs	Mrs Christine Mudge	Miss Caroline Sogot
Mr Peter Goodhugh	Mrs Debbie Munro	Miss Eilon Souter
Rev Dr J W F Gosling	Miss Elizabeth Murray	Mr Tony Spencer
Mr R Groatorex	Miss J Northey	Mr & Mrs C C Spillane
Mr Thomas Green	Miss Virginia Novarra	Mrs Penny Spink
Dr Eric Gruber Von Arni	Mrs Gill Ody	Mrs Jean Springett
Mr P Hadley	Mr & Mrs B D Oram	Ms Christina Staff
Mrs Patricia Hallam	Mr R Osgood	Ms Susie Stidolf
Mrs Christine Hannington	Mrs Christine O'Sullivan	Mr Eric Stanford
Mrs Elizabeth Hargreaves	Mr M Papworth	Mr Mike Stone
Mr & Mrs Richard Hatchwell	Mr D Parker	Mrs A Summers
Ms Marilyn Hayes	Mrs Margaret Parkinson	Mrs Gill Swanton
Mrs Molly Heath	Mr R W Parrack	Prof & Mrs L Symon
Mr J A Hinchliffe	Mr J R Paton	Mr Philip Taverner
Mr Michael Hiscock	Mr J F Phillips	Mrs Gina Tay
Mrs Merlys Howells	Miss Jean Philpott	Mr & Mrs Teale
Mr & Mrs M J Hudson	Miss Edith Pickering	Mr Colin Thomas
Mrs Ros Humphrey	Mr C J Pollard	Dr J Thomas
Mr Robin Jenkins	Dr David Pollard	Mr A H Thomsett
Mrs Carole Jones	Mrs M Pomeroy-Kellinger	Mr Peter Tolhurst
Rev & Mrs G H Jones	Ms Cynthia Poole	Mrs F J Tomaselli
Miss Louise Jones	Mr James Powell	Lady Nancy Tomlinson
Mr Jim Keates	Mr D A Powney	Mr & Mrs P Q Treloar
Mrs Jasmine Kendall	Mrs Mary Rennie	Mrs Marianne Walker
Lord Kennet	Mrs Dorothy Robertson	Mr & Mrs P J L Wallis
Mr J W Lambert	Mr Tim Robey	Mrs Joyce Walsh
Mr & Mrs A H Lancashire	Mrs D Robinson	Mr Bryn Walters
Mr Arthur Lansdown	Mrs Doris Roddham	Mr John Watts
Mr Peter Lavis	Mrs Helen Rogers	Mrs R Webb
Miss Traci Law	Mrs Eileen Rollo	Mr & Mrs R Webber
Mr A J Lawson	Miss Susan Rooke	Mrs Barbara Welfare
Mrs Diane Lloyd	Mrs Judith Roseaman	Mrs Wendy Weller
Mr E G Look	Mr Rick & Mrs Marion Rowland	Mrs S Wheeler
Capt F D Lowe	Mr Anthony Sampson	Ms K Whitaker
Miss Eleanor MacGregor	Miss J M Y Sanders	Mrs Lucy Whitcher
Ms Stella Maddock	Dr Nan Saunders	Miss Jennifer Wildblood
Mr D G Magill	Mr Peter Saunders	Mr David Williams
Ms Liz Maisonpierre	Mr Hugh Seymour	Mr M R Williams
Dr Andrew Martin	Dr Colin Shell	Mrs Sylvia Young
Ms Jean Martin	Mr Den Shelton	Mrs Karin Zeidler

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2006-07 was something of a mixed year for the Society. We had a number of successes and achievements, notable among them the major upgrade of the art gallery and lecture room, with new lighting and air-conditioning and storage cupboards for the archive collection of the Devizes Gazette and related newspapers, which incorporated, at long last, a purpose built show case for Horatio, the Devizes Lion. As the Curator records later in this report, we were fortunate too in acquiring a number of important and attractive objects for the collection. Everyone will have their own view on which is the most interesting. My own vote goes to the enigmatic 'Macklin' album of drawings of the area around Erlestoke, purchased with the help of a generous grant from the National Art Collections Fund (it can be seen on our website - search for Macklin under Art Collections at www.wiltshireheritagecollections.org.uk). The Library too benefited from several gifts of books. Visitor numbers totalled a very encouraging 21,285, only slightly down on the 22,611 in 2006-07 despite a substantial rise in the Museum admission charge.

After protracted negotiations with the Charity Commission, we were finally able to launch our long awaited Endowment Fund last autumn. It has already got off to a good start with donations of £7,000 up to the end of March (much more has been received since), and the gift (also only taken onto the balance sheet in April) of an industrial building in Warminster most generously donated by one of our life members, which we plan to sell in due course for the benefit of the Fund. An appeal to members for the Endowment Fund and for general funds was made in April 2007 and has proved very successful. I will give an update of the response in the next issue of Trilithon.

We were very pleased to welcome delegates to the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA) annual conference, hosted by the Wessex Region, to lunch and a tour of the Museum and Library on 7 October, and hope they enjoyed their visit. We were honoured to have Michael Ancram, MP for Devizes, as our guest speaker at our annual dinner in March, and greatly indebted to Professor Mike Parker-Pearson for giving our annual fundraising lecture on 9 December.

We were saddened, shortly after her re-election as a trustee at the AGM, by the sudden death of Ann Arrowsmith, who generously left a bequest of £5,000 (which will be credited in the 2007-08 accounts). The Society also benefited during the year from the three legacies mentioned in last year's report which had been received by the old Society in 2005-06.

I should like to record our gratitude to all the organisations who gave us financial support during the year, we received grants from Wiltshire County Council, Kennet District Council and the McLaren Foundation towards general running costs, from the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums Improvement Fund, Viridor Credits under the Landfill Tax Credits scheme and several local companies towards the lecture room and art gallery project, the MLA Designation Challenge Fund for audience development, the Pilgrim Trust for documentation work, and residual grants from 2005-06 from the Garfield Weston and Foyle Foundations and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust for education and outreach. The National Art Collections Fund, the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund and the Headley Trust all gave generous grants towards the purchase of objects for the collections (details in the Curator's report). We are most grateful for all this help, without which we would not have been able to achieve much of what we do.

However, notwithstanding this support, 2006-07 was still a very challenging year financially. Grants from both the County and District Councils were less than the previous year, and initial budgetary projections predicted a deficit in the year of some £52,000. A thorough review of the finances of the Society was undertaken with the aim of limiting the deficit to £20,000 in 2006-07 and balancing the budget within five years. The review identified areas where savings could be made, where expenditure could be delayed until funding was available and a range of potential new sources of income. All of the recommendations are being implemented. The year ended with the operating deficit restricted on the general fund to £15,288, which reflects great credit on all concerned. However, we are still making no provision for updating the Museum displays or improving facilities which are essential if we are to continue attracting visitors. Hence our concern when the County Council decided to withdraw totally their grant for 2007-08. Whilst that decision has been reversed future funding from the Council remains very uncertain.

I would like to thank our members for their support throughout the year - it gives great encouragement to our staff and trustees.

Bill Perry

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March, 2007

Legal and administrative information set out on pages 2 and 3 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects for which the Society is registered are to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit

To achieve this the Society

Maintains a museum, library and art gallery and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities

Provides lectures and visits on topics and places of interest, both inside and outside the county, to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage

Operates an archaeological field group which encourages members to become involved actively in the current archaeological scene in the county

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate the local environment and to explore their creative powers

ORGANISATION

The Company is administered by a Board of Trustees of up to twenty members. The Curator is the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chairman. There are sub-committees for Archaeology, Building and Monuments, Finance, Fund-raising, Marketing and Membership, Industrial Archaeology, Library, Natural History, Programme, Publications, and Stonehenge, an Archaeology Field Group and a working group on the Disability and Discrimination Act all of which report to the Board. Reports from the Curator, the Librarian, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, the Education Officer and these committees and groups are included below

CURATOR'S REPORT

The number of visitors to the Museum in 2006-07 was 21,285, a slight decrease on the record number of visitors who came the previous year. The visitors' book confirms that a significant number of these came from many different countries around the world including the Far East, the Indian sub-continent and America. Visitors include a high proportion of schoolchildren, mainly but not entirely from Wiltshire. The number of visitors to the website continues to increase, particularly those searching the collections.

With the exception of Roger Watson, who joined us as our new Documentation Officer in April 2006, there have been no changes of staff in the year. We are most grateful to Philip O'Brien who returned to the museum for a month in March 2007 as 'relief' cleaner.

Following the spring-cleaning in early 2006 of the Natural History Gallery, Lisa Webb and Heather Ault led a team of staff, volunteers and conservators from Wiltshire County Council who carried out a similar, long overdue exercise on the Recent History Gallery, greatly improving its appearance.

Documentation project

During the year the Museum received funding from the Pilgrim Trust, a charity established to help preserve Britain's national heritage, in order to continue the work of documenting the collections, which began in 2004

One of the main tasks of the Documentation Officer has been to transfer the existing MODES database (which ran on stand-alone PCs only) to the improved MODES XML network compatible software and install the new software onto computers around the building, so that it is accessible over the museum's network to all staff and volunteers. He is also responsible for maintaining the functionality of the database and adding records to it, as well as increasing the number of digital images used to illustrate some of the more important items that appear on the 'Search the Collections' part of the website

During the past 12 months the documentation team, Lisa Webb, Roger Watson and Heather Ault, together with some 30 volunteers, who have together contributed 2,900 hours of their time, have created a further 11,200 MODES records with 500 accompanying digital images for the website. This brings the overall number of MODES records on the database to 61,800, with a total of 2,000 digital images

In November of last year another batch of data was uploaded to the website. Included were records for all the objects in the Roman and Henge Galleries, and part of the Iron Age Gallery, with images for almost every object. Records and images for the recently acquired Macklin album of pencil drawings and the Warren Jones Collection of ceramics were also included in the upload, as well as records for artefacts excavated from the Roman villa at Atworth and part of the Blacknall Field Early Saxon cemetery

The Volunteer Co-ordinator, Heather Ault, has been documenting the Aldbourne hoard of Roman coins. The hoard comprises 5,260 coins, requiring approximately 1,000 MODES records, 500 of which have been entered onto the database. Heather has also recruited a number of new volunteers to catalogue finds from important excavations at Cunetio and West Kennet Long Barrow, as well as two volunteers to make further digital images of objects in the galleries and the small finds in the reserve collection. One of these volunteers travelled all the way from the USA in order to gain experience working with British archaeology

2006-07 has been a very productive and successful year for the Documentation Project. The staff and volunteers have made good progress in reducing the documentation backlog and increasing public access to the collections via the Internet. This is a great achievement for a Museum with modest resources and collections both extensive and of national importance. The work is by no means finished, however, and will continue for several more years yet

Conservation

The staff of the Conservation Laboratory of Wiltshire County Council have continued to make regular visits to the Museum and Library to monitor and report on environmental conditions in the stores and galleries which might affect objects in the collections and to assist and advise the staff. This included help in the spring cleaning of the displays in the Recent History Gallery. They provided useful training for the staff and volunteers in Museum housekeeping

Items that have been conserved during the year have included the inscribed Roman silver finger ring from the Bishops Cannings hoard and the Roman bronze statuette of *Fortuna* or *Abundantia* from Urchfont, both of which will go on display. The Saxon iron spearhead from Kingston Deverill was also conserved to ensure that it remains stable. More recent objects conserved include a Victorian child's shoe from the former Unicorn Inn and an early 19th century adult's shoe found in the Kennet and Avon Canal, which may be one of the earliest items of clothing which has survived from Devizes. An emergency repair was also made to the tail of Horatio, the Museum's lion

The Conservation Laboratory has also provided helpful scientific assistance. A collection of Roman silver coins from the collection was examined to determine whether or not they were plated (and so counterfeit). An early 17th century silver thimble was X-rayed and examined to clarify for a researcher how it had been made

Researchers

Dr T Dickinson (University of York), Anglo-Saxon style 1 metalwork. S Haynes (Devizes), Erlestoke House garden. Ms C Stevenson (University of Exeter), West Overton G66 grave group. Dr R Cleal (Alexander Keiller Museum), pottery from Avebury henge ditch. F Howell (University of Bradford), Blacknall Field human remains. V Sykes (University of Bristol), Robin Tanner. Dr P Wilby (British Geological Survey), William Cunnington II's fossil collections. F Ellicott (University of Salford), Digitisation of the Museum collection. P Tubbs (University of Bristol), the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age in the Pewsey Vale

E Kingston (University of Bristol), Bronze Age artefacts Prof M Parker Pearson and Patricia Mahoney (University of Sheffield), M Hamilton (University of Wales) and M Jay (University of Durham/Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig), Beaker people project P Shallcross, Bronze Age 'incense cups' J Masters (Cardiff University), Bronze Age cremation burials Jenna Morgan (Birmingham University), Blacknall Field human remains H Bentley, P Murphy, Dr Wei-Jung Liang (Bournemouth University), Blacknall Field human remains A Lawson, Late Bronze Age metalwork K Waddington (Cardiff University), Potterne prehistoric settlement J Dando (University of Bristol), Medieval floor tiles R Bishop (University of Bristol), early Saxon swords J Anderson (Swindon College), Medieval metalwork Dr R Davis (Nottingham University), Middle Bronze Age spearheads S Driscoll (AC Archaeology), Prehistoric and Medieval pottery in Wiltshire J Watson and P Webb (Open University), XRF analysis of Bronze Age bracers and other stone artefacts Dr F Rof, R Ixer (University of Leicester), Dr Ann Woodward, Prof J Hunter and D Bukach (University of Birmingham), Leverhulme Early Bronze Age Research Project

Major Loans

Two important loans from the collection were made during the year

April 2006 – November 2006

Loan of Neolithic pottery and flints from Whitesheet Hill and Stourton to the National Trust, Stourhead, for an exhibition

September 2006 – March 2007

Loan of the Early Bronze Age grave group from Bush Barrow and the Beaker gold disc from Mere for an exhibition centred around the Nebra 'sky disc' at Basel, Switzerland

Exhibition

The following exhibitions were held during the year

Art Gallery

13 May - 2 July

'Homage to Eve' Paintings by the Brotherhood of Ruralists in memory of Eve Machin

7 July - 10 September

'Wiltshire Crop Circles'

15 September - 29 October

'Flowers and Gardens' Recent botanical paintings by Wendy Trinder

11 November - 31 December

'Resonance' Paintings and artefacts by Sue Bradshaw

17 January - 18 February

'Aerial photographs and Archaeology – 100 years of Discovery' An exhibition by English Heritage to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first aerial photograph of Stonehenge

24 February - 9 April

'Thomas Hardy's Landscapes' An exhibition of drawings by Rob Pountney

Old Entrance Hall

28 April - 28 August

'Wiltshire Poets of World War I'

5 September - 12 November

An exhibition for the Devizes Food Festival

24 November - 21 January

Children's Christmas Quiz

31 January - 21 April

'The Collecting Bug'

Staff Publications

Lorna Haycock

'Faith, Hope and Charity urban collectivism in late Georgian Devizes', *WANHM* 100 (2007), 136 – 153

'On the Crest of the Hill Devizes Grammar School 1906-1969' (Hobnob Press, East Knoyle 2006)

'Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine and its Editors 1854-2006', *WANHM* 100 (2007), 210-4

Paul Robinson

'Some early petrological analyses of Neolithic and Bronze Age lithics in Wiltshire Heritage Museum' *WANHM* 100 (2007) 187 – 191

'The North Italian fibula from Avebury Down' *ibid* 196 – 7

COLLECTIONS TRUST

The Society is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust in which ownership of the Museum and Library collections is vested, the Curator's report on additions to the Museum Collection is included here

Museum Acquisitions

A number of historically important and visually attractive acquisitions have been made this year. They include six items which had been classed as 'treasure' under the Treasure Act (1996) – a Medieval silver finger ring from Malmesbury (2003, T325), a Medieval silver gilt finger ring from Rushall (2004, T336), a fragment of a Medieval silver gilt finger ring from Brixton Deverill (2003, T394), a hoard of Roman coins from West Lavington (2004, T336), a Medieval silver ear-scoop and toothpick combined from Durnford (2002, T255), and a Medieval gold link from a collar of Ss from Urchfont (2005, T442 - pictured right). It is clear from this that in the future a high proportion of the significant additions to the Museum collection will be objects which have gone through the 'treasure process'. All were purchased, apart from the Brixton Deverill fragment which was donated by B Read.

Major grants were received from the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund in respect of the Malmesbury finger ring, the link from the collar of Ss from Urchfont and for the Macklin album of early 19th century drawings of Erlestoke and other nearby villages. The Headley Trust, which assists museums in acquiring items of 'treasure', also generously supported the acquisition of the first two items, while the National Art Collections Fund grant-aided our purchase of the Macklin album of drawings.

A number of members of the Society and members of the public very kindly presented objects to the Museum, to whom – as ever – we are very grateful.

There have been no natural history acquisitions, while additions to the Library are included in the Librarian's report.

Archaeology

The lack of space in which to store our reserve collections continues to prevent us from accepting the large assemblages of often extremely important finds from excavations undertaken in the county. We were able, however, to accept assemblages from small projects such as watching briefs and site excavations. These included the assemblages from Long House, Ashton Keynes, Quakers' Walk, Devizes and Latton.

A number of Neolithic flints found in Devizes were acquired. These were scrapers from Northgate Street, and Southbroom Junior School and a 'knife' from the Fairway, given by C Thomas and D Parker respectively and are important additions to the evidence for habitation in the area of the town in early times. Dr K Boughey presented two flint axeheads from Aldbourne and Ms L Moore, a flint 'knife' and a chert blade from Manningford Bruce. Mrs M Geeves donated a flint flake from Heddington.

There were only two later prehistoric finds. Mrs Geeves also donated an early Bronze Age tanged and barbed arrowhead from Cherhill while Mr R Parkinson presented an important Bronze Age slate whetstone from Bishops Cannings. Similarly only two Roman finds were acquired – a small collection of Roman pottery and a flue tile from Alton Barnes and a delightful miniature votive bronze altar from an unknown site in Southern England donated respectively by Mr Carson and Mrs Fuller.

The important acquisitions of Medieval jewellery from Wiltshire have been described in the previous section.

Recent History

The more recent acquisitions again fall into three categories – objects relating to the local history of Devizes and its immediate neighbourhood, objects relating to Stonehenge and fine and decorative art items.

Several items were acquired which relate to Devizes shops and tradesmen of the 19th and 20th centuries. They include a box for holding gloves sold by Charles Sloper and son, and a lemonade bottle of Edwards, Chymists (sic) Ltd at Devizes, given respectively by J Dewey and C Thomas. J Gibbs donated a packet for tea sold through Devizes Co-op. Purchased items include a china mug with a stamp showing that it was sold by Tytherleighs and a tankard commemorating the centenary of Wadworth's brewery in 1985. More unusual items were a scarf from Devizes Grammar School given by M Goodger, and a delivery bicycle ridden by Andrew Cook for W R Cook & Son loaned by Andrew Cook. These are however overshadowed by the plated trophy cup sponsored by Rawlings and Phillips, the Devizes seed merchants, awarded

annually by Devizes Borough Council for their annual gardens competition and the air-raid siren used at Broadleas Park donated by Lady Ann Cowdray. These will all be useful in helping to plan a gallery on the history of Devizes in the future.

Further additions were made to our collection of ephemera relating to Stonehenge. An Arcadian China hatpin stand with a coloured transfer print depicting Stonehenge was purchased, while B Edwards presented a lapel badge from c 1980 depicting the monument as well as a collection of scout and guide badges from the county which depict Stonehenge and other subjects which are characteristic of the county or parts of it, such as Salisbury Cathedral and Devizes Market Cross.

One of the more important acquisitions was a Poole Pottery "Stonehenge Dish" which was purchased at auction (pictured right). It is one of an edition of 25 made by Alan White, head of design of the pottery. Poole Pottery has made a number of large plates which depict Stonehenge and we are extremely pleased to have added such an attractive work by an important master potter to the collection.

A study of a nude figure in bronze resin by the sculptor, David Backhouse, who was born in Corsham and acknowledged as one of the leading English sculptors of the present day, was purchased. M Mortimer donated a mug from the Graham Newing pottery at Westbury.

Numismatics

Again only a few additions were made to the collection. They include however some important and interesting items. Two locally found items were a Roman silver denarius of the Emperor Elagabalus found in Devizes, which is an important addition to the number of finds of Roman date found in the town and a 17th century farthing token of John Frey. These were given respectively by R Pearce and A J Ruddle. A complete hoard consisting of 73 Roman coins struck in the late 3rd century found at White Hill, West Lavington, an area where there was an important settlement in Roman Times, was purchased together with the pot which held it.

The sale in London of the collection of tokens formed by the late Barry Greenaway enabled us to acquire nine Victorian public house tokens not previously represented in the collection made for the Red Lion at Avebury, the Northey Arms at Box, the Pack Horse and Royal Oak Inns at Corsham, the New Inn, Royal Oak and the Ship Inns at Trowbridge and The Bell Inn at West Overton. A paper token of The Bull at Downton was given by Duncan Pennock.

Two commemorative medals were purchased. A medal of the Wiltshire Friendly Society which still has attached to it the fragile black ribband from which it was suspended is a very rare survival. Two medals of gilded copper designed by F Halliday and commissioned by the Salisbury jeweller (and newspaper proprietor) James Bennett in 1830, which are housed in a maroon leather case, of exceptionally fine quality, may be a presentation piece to a city or cathedral dignitary (pictured left).

The most unusual item was a 17th century German jeton found at Minety and donated by R Cox. It depicts, on one side, a merchant seated at his counting table on which are placed his account book, his counting tokens and his purse.

Art

Twenty-three individual items were acquired plus the 'Macklin album' containing 91 pencil drawings and a silhouette of Joshua Smith.

- *Cutting water bedding on the river bank, The Overturned Cart and View of Salisbury Cathedral across the river*, three monochrome watercolours by William Bothams (c 1890). Given by R Hatchwell.

- *Sid Douse, Town Crier of Devizes*, oil, unsigned, (c1970) Given by Devizes Town Council
- *Stonehenge with a bell barrow in the foreground*, watercolour by James Bridges (c 1830) Given by R Hatchwell
- Illustration for Eve Machin's poem 'Fox in the Night' by Ann Arnold Drawing with watercolour Purchased from the exhibition at the Museum by the Brotherhood of Ruralists
- *The Homestead* (Wick Lane, Devizes), watercolour by Ray Smith (1981) Given by M Clark
- *Martinsell Hill and View of the Watermeadows and the River Nadder*, two watercolours by D Grant King Gift by the executors of his estate
- *Red Kite over Avebury*, acrylic, by David Alderslade (2006) Given by Sonia Jacob, John Boyce and Malcolm Smith on behalf of the Wiltshire branch of the NACF
- *Fieldfares and Redwings in the Snow, Avebury in the Snow and Silbury Hill*, three watercolours by Helen Stanford (2006) for the WANHS Christmas card Gift of the artist
- Album of 91 pencil drawings chiefly of Stoke House, Erlestoke and the neighbouring villages (mostly c 1818) The album is inscribed by A A Macklin, who may be the 'Amelia' whose signature is on some of the drawings Purchased
- Set of 7 reproductions of drawings depicting Amesbury in the early 20th century by Bill Toop (1979) Gift of Ms Maggie Goodger, from the estate of Tom Blake
- *Sloperton Cottage*, process engraving, unsigned (c 1800) Gift of Penno Robson
- *Silbury Hill*, monochrome print with added colour by Lorraine Walcroft (1986) Gift of the artist
- Six silhouettes of members of the Ford family of Upavon Mill English school (early 19th century) Bequest from Mr Michael Wedge-Ford

Paul Robinson, Curator

SANDELL LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The year 2006-07 has been overshadowed by the unexpected death of our enthusiastic and supportive Library Committee Chairman, Ann Arrowsmith, who did so much to advance the interests of the Library

Efforts have continued to publicise the Library, especially in view of the closure of the Record Office during a five month period in 2007 Leaflets on different aspects of the Library collections have been produced and have been distributed to various targeted bodies and societies During Devizes Festival Week last June an exhibition of Devizes photographs was mounted in the Lecture Hall The Library was represented at the Wiltshire Family History Society Open Day at Swindon and at the 'Join the Club' event at the Museum in January 2007 Displays of Library material were mounted for the visit of the Council for British Archaeology and for the Chris Chippindale lecture on Philip Crocker as well as for the regular series of Saturday lectures A course of Sunday literary lectures was started in November, featuring writers represented in the Library collection The first two, on George Eliot and George Herbert, proved popular, and further lectures will be held in the autumn

Several talks on the Library collections have been given to local societies and to a group of Devizes School pupils, while an induction day was held for new Society members in March The Librarian made a contribution to the Radio Wiltshire web pages on the abolition of the slave trade and its connection with the county The refurbishment of the Lecture Hall, completed this year, has enabled us to store a large part of our bound volumes of the *Devizes Gazette* properly and to make them easily accessible to readers Indeed the acquisition of these newspapers has helped to boost our visitor numbers

We are always grateful for gifts of books and photographs to add to our collections The bequest of books from the estate of Robert Sellwood has strengthened our architecture section and Professor Peter Fowler has donated to us a wide variety of valuable books on archaeological topics John Leach has given us some interesting old Devizes photographs, some of which will feature in an exhibition at the end of 2007 The late Tom Blake has left us a large collection of books, notes and pamphlets on Wiltshire buildings and churches as well as personal memorabilia

Preliminary meetings have been held to discuss the possibility of putting the Library indexes on the web, which should make the collections better known Further exploratory work to obtain funding for this project is continuing and it is hoped that progress will be made during the coming year

Thanks are due, as always, to the splendid team of Library volunteers who help to maintain a service to members and the public for five days a week and who deal with the many housekeeping tasks inevitable in a library of this size and importance This is much appreciated Finally may I remind members of the rich collections available to them and assure them that they are always welcome in the Library

Recent Library Acquisitions

32 books on archaeology and history, donated by Prof Peter Fowler
32 books on history and architectural history, bequeathed by Robert Selwood
72 guide books, pamphlets and local history books, bequeathed by Tom Blake
Allason-Jones, L. (Tempus, 2005), *Women in Roman Britain*
Baillie, M G L (Batsford 1995), *A Slice through Time, Dendrochronology and precision dating*
Chippindale, C, and Tacon, P (CUP, 1998), *The Archaeology of Rock Art*
Field, D, (Tempus, 2006), *Earthen long barrows, The Earliest Monuments in the British Isles*
Hicks, I, (WRS, 2006), *Early Motor Vehicle Registration in Wiltshire 1903-1914*
Ingram, M, (CUP, 1987), *Church Courts, Sex and Marriage in England 1570-1640*
Kelly, C, (ed) (OUP, 2007), *Mrs Duberly's War Journal and Letters from the Crimea*
Loveday, R, (Tempus, 2006), *Inscribed across the Landscape, the Cursus Enigma*
McIntyre, M (Tempus, 2006), *The Wiltshire Regiment 1914-1959*
McLean, T, (Barrie and Jenkins, 1989), *Mediaeval English Gardens*
Miles, D, (Phoenix, 2006), *The Tribes of Britain*
North, J, (Harper Collins, 1996), *Stonehenge Neolithic Man and the Cosmos*
Ride, D, (Tempus, 2006), *In Defence of Landscape, an Archaeology of Porton Down*
Rogers, K, (Trowbridge, 2006), *Power in the Trowbridge Woollen Industry*
Slocombe, P, (Wiltshire Buildings Record, 2006), *Architects and Building Craftsmen with work in Wiltshire, part 2*
Stanier, P, (Halsgrove, 2006), *Wiltshire in the Age of Steam*

Lorna Haycock, Sandell Librarian and Archivist
Val Knowles, Library Committee Chairman

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

This year has proven once again to be a year of good progress in all volunteer activities and the Museum has continued to receive an extraordinary amount of support from its volunteers across the board

For the first time I have actively recruited volunteers from abroad to assist in the work taking place in the Museum, and as a result of this we welcomed a student from Sardinia in January of last year to assist with recording objects in the Roman collection for the Documentation Project. I also recruited another volunteer from the USA who stayed with us for a month to record digital images of objects in the galleries in September

Numbers of student volunteers have also increased over the last year, and we have welcomed several to work alongside the Curators. On top of this, students continue to volunteer to assist with the Documentation Project work, which gives them good object handling experience whilst helping the Museum document the collections at the same time. We continue to encourage students of archaeology, history, ancient history and related disciplines to come in to the Museum to gain a broad experience of the work that goes on here in order to help them with their own career development and keep young people interested in working in Museums.

Our more well-established volunteer initiatives continue to work and progress well also. Sunday volunteer cover for the Museum for example will celebrate its sixth anniversary in July of this year, - a tremendous achievement given how many more visitors Sunday opening brings to the Museum.

Weekday front of house cover continues to progress smoothly as well, although this is an area which will see more recruitment work over the coming year. Indeed volunteer recruitment efforts for the Museum will largely focus on this area, together with fundraising and marketing positions, couriers, and administration roles. However, having said that, volunteers continue to come forward to assist with a great variety of jobs in the Museum including helping at events such as family days and exhibition previews, at mailings and so on as well as working in more specialised areas with the staff.

Volunteer hours for 2006-07 were a massive 7,501 - so a big thank you to all our volunteers for their generous and wonderful efforts on the Museum's behalf

Heather Ault, Volunteer Co-ordinator

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has seen the delivery of a very successful schools programme, as well as a number of very well attended events and activities. We have seen new audiences coming to the Museum due to increased awareness of the services.

692 children have visited the Museum in school groups and the Education Officer has delivered sessions to another 968 children in an outreach capacity to schools. Focussing on the museum collections, children have had the chance to handle authentic and replica artefacts and take part in art, craft and role play. Sessions have been linked as closely as possible to the National Curriculum to ensure they appeal to teachers and are seen as a valuable resource to schools. The newsletter distributed to Wiltshire schools has proven an effective way to market the service we offer.

The education service has also provided sessions for, AS and A level groups, degree level students and adult learners with tours of the collections and handling sessions.

This year family activities have again included family days, holiday activities and 'Young WANHS' activities. Altogether, these activities attracted 958 children. National Archaeology Day started well with good numbers coming along to take part in the activities. However, the torrential rain meant that the day soon became a bit of a wash-out! The Tudor and Victorian Family Days were both very successful, with a good number attending not just from Devizes but from all over the county. The key was again linking these days to curriculum topics and publicising the events through a magazine distributed to all primary school children in Wiltshire. We have also had a 'Lion Day' to celebrate keeping Horatio in the Museum and there have been 16 well attended holiday sessions linked to the permanent and temporary exhibitions in the museum.

Young WANHS has continued to go well this year with 11 sessions led by voluntary organisations, re-enactors and artists. A large number of new younger members have joined recently, ensuring the continuation of the club in the coming years.

There have also been a number of educational partnerships with other organisations, including one between the Museum and Devizes Leisure Centre to add a cultural aspect to their 'Activate' summer holiday programme for children. The Museum took part in the Devizes Area Youth Festival and has also worked with the Devizes Strong Children project for a Family Learning Day which encouraged people to become involved in different activities provided throughout the town. There are more similar partnerships planned in the coming year.

We have provided five work placement opportunities for secondary school students giving them the chance to gain experience of museum work. Three of these students have volunteered with educational activities since. I would like to thank them for doing this as they have been of considerable help.

Overall, the year has been very successful, with the Education Officer post being made permanent. This allows the continuation of the service and therefore a chance to build upon the good work that has been done in the previous two years.

Ali Siviter, Education Officer

ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

In addition to receiving reports of activities within the county the Committee has been considering issues such as the reburial of human remains, storage of archaeological archives, education and care of the cultural heritage.

Members of the Committee are involved in the very important North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) pilot initiative to record archaeology in woodland. Other AONB projects in progress emphasise the importance of the historic environment.

Avebury World Heritage Site information includes the forthcoming publication of a Residents' pack, updating of the Research Agenda and the engineering works at Silbury Hill

CBA Wessex hosted the National CBA Members' weekend in October 2006. The theme was the 20th anniversary of the inscription of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site onto the WHS list. The weekend, which included a visit and lunch at the Society's Museum, was a huge success – testament to a partnership forged between many organisations. CBA Wessex, National CBA, WANHS, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, English Heritage, the National Trust and many individuals who gave their time and expertise. The lunch hosted by WANHS was much appreciated – the *al fresco* arrangements gave the event a great party atmosphere whilst the visitors enjoyed the collections in the building. My time as CBA representative for Wiltshire comes to an end in May (though I still have jobs to do!) and I have put forward John Winterburn's name as my successor. If he is elected the Society will retain a direct link with CBA.

The Committee is organising two conferences to promote archaeology in Wiltshire together with fund-raising for the Society: the first will be in Devizes on 24 November 2007, the second in Chippenham in November 2008.

I am very grateful to all Committee members for the time they give and particularly to the members of the Field Group who are assisting with secretarial recording of the meetings.

Gill Swanton, Chairman

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Membership of the Field Group just keeps on growing but it is still good to see new faces and with so much going on we are not at risk of having too many people.

The major project at Tilshead continued with a series of excavations over the Easter and August Bank Holidays. The Easter dig, back on the north side site where we had dug the previous year, was very rewarding, exposing an Iron Age round house, with a child's burial and associated pottery finds. For the August dig trenches were put in across WANHS Chairman, Bill Perry's field on the south side of the village but with less spectacular results. Most of the finds seem to relate to the backyard of a pub that used to exist on the site, but at least Bill had some good beds prepared for his potato crop!

Less strenuous endeavours included a walk on the Marlborough Downs looking for axe polishing stones – *polissoirs* – used in the Neolithic, indoor workshops on illustrating flints, a talk on lost Tudor mansions, and field-walking near Calne. The Field Group also provided labour on the Stonehenge Riverside Project run by Mike Parker-Pearson and about which Mike spoke at the December Chairman's lecture.

The new "big thing" for the Group is to start a massive undertaking auditing the woods of Wiltshire for archaeological remains. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty board has pioneered a method for surveying in woodlands and have trained several members of the Field Group on the techniques. West Woods has been selected as the first target and after 5 days of surveying some 10 hectares have already been surveyed – with only about another 350 hectares remaining to be audited before we move on to the next wood. So far the results have been more interesting than startling but the group is now getting a better idea how to use this new method which will speed up work when we return to the project in the Autumn.

A host of varied activities are planned for 2007, building on previous work and starting new ventures. The Field Group is open to members of any ability who has an interest in archaeology, everyone is welcomed.

Jim Gunter, Archaeology Field Group Leader

BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS COMMITTEE

The Committee has met three times. We are now seeing fewer applications affecting alterations to Listed Buildings in Wiltshire following the widespread use of 'e-planning' which allows proposals and plans to be examined via LPA websites and only significant or controversial plans to be downloaded. Some 45 applications have been scrutinised and responses sent on five. In some cases, our concerns have been met through discussion with the relevant case officer.

During the year we have commented on a new application for a Westbury bypass which would affect significant archaeological remains along the proposed route as well as the settings of the Westbury White Horse and other Scheduled monuments. We submitted written evidence to the Public Inquiry into proposals for housing and conversion of two listed buildings to dwellings at the former RAF Yatesbury Airfield.

Committee representatives enjoyed a site visit to South Wraxall Manor to look at the conservation and repair work and consider, with other conservation bodies, proposals for alterations at the nearby Manor Farmhouse

We continue to represent the Society on the Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) Management Plan Steering Committee and were pleased to see minuted agreement by local stakeholders on shared concerns about the weakening of the Plan's protection for the WHS by the removal from the Plan of the concept of the WHS as a 'cultural landscape' and of the recognition of the whole WHS landscape as being of outstanding universal value. We commented on proposals by the National Trust for car parking and camping at Avebury.

We have received a wide range of new planning documents for consultation, on a number of which we have sent our views.

Kate Fielden, Chairman

FUNDRAISING, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Fundraising – We continue to run a number of sales at the Museum and attend events in Devizes and beyond. Each event allows us to increase awareness of the Museum and to raise more money. I would like to thank members who support these activities by donations of goods or by coming to the events.

Marketing – The marketing effort has again been focused on ensuring that we exceed the County Council target of 20,000 visitors. For the third year running we have had over 21,000 visitors. A great deal of hard work throughout the whole year goes into ensuring that we make the most of what we do. The increase in admission charges from £1 to £4 inevitably reduced the number of paying visitors but income generated was greatly enhanced as intended. This loss of numbers was made up in other ways.

The exhibitions of Ruralist paintings and Crop Circle photographs both proved very popular and drew new audiences. To get the most from these exhibitions we linked both with activities for youngsters and had a special lecture on Crop Circles.

In terms of getting the Museum better known in the community we continue to receive a great deal of favourable newspaper, radio and TV coverage. This year we have seen the number of mentions of the Museum rise by almost 50% to over 140 – nearly three every week. This is down to a combination of the number of 'good news stories' we generate and the considerable efforts of Karen Jones, one of our administrative officers, who produces most of the press releases.

Membership – This year we have seen a gentle increase (25) in membership, which now stands at 1,162. A membership drive, the higher profile of the Society and a good lecture and exhibition programme have all persuaded people that we are worth supporting. A few members leave each year because they have moved away or can no longer come to the Museum. Retaining membership allows you to keep in touch with the Society's activities and what is going on in the world of Archaeology, History and Natural History in the County. Membership also provides essential support for the Museum and Library.

My thanks go to the committee, all of our helpers, our members and the staff for their support during the year.

Doug Roseaman - Chairman of the FMM

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for our committee. Preparations for our share in organising the national conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology at Lackham College in 2008 have continued. Our secretary Nicol Smith and I visited the college last summer with AIA officials to discuss the facilities which will be required. The revised date for the conference is Friday 22 August to Thursday 28 August 2008. We have begun to approach speakers and plan the local visits to be offered. Mike Stone of Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre has been co-opted to the committee to help with preparations.

Alongside the preparations for the conference itself, we have been collating material for the gazetteer of Wiltshire I A which will serve as a conference handbook and will also be available for general sale. We are being much assisted in the task by the publication in late 2006 of Peter Stanier's '*Wiltshire in the Age of Steam*' a general history of the county's I A.

A conference in South Somerset in February on the flax and hemp industries initiated research on those industries in Wiltshire. Amongst discoveries of various centres of rope-making, sack making and flax milling, the Second World War and 1950s flax mill in London Road, Devizes was of special interest and has now been photographed and studied. It is likely to be demolished shortly for redevelopment.

Finally, preparations have begun for our next Biennial Symposium at the Wharf Theatre, Devizes on Saturday 13 October 2007

Pam Slocombe, Chairman

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The programme committee has had yet another good year with a full event list of talks, coach outings, own car trips and a very successful trip to Rome in November

There have been as usual a range of lectures to cover all interests, from 'The Dawn of Archaeological Graphics', '19th Century Villages' and 'The Great Civil War' by Professor Ron Hutton - which was a sell out - to excellent lectures on Devizes and 'No 8 Long Street' which were both fully booked

The outings covered a large proportion of the county and further afield. A walk on Salisbury Plain led by Roy Canham was as popular as ever and visits to other destinations such as Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Avebury, and a special trip to visit the Oxford University dig site at Marcham combined with a visit to the White Horse and hill fort at Uffington, were also well attended

Further afield Tom Barklem took members on a field tour to Rome. With his vast knowledge of the city, snippets and wry humour it was a marvellous holiday, which included an opportunity to visit the Terracotta Warrior exhibition. The weather was great, the food superb, the company excellent - what more could anyone ask? We do send Tom our best wishes for a full recovery in the near future

It is with sadness we note the passing of David Williams on 14 May 2007, a leading light on the programme committee for many years, nothing was too much trouble and everything organized impeccably, he will be much missed

Kate Walling, Chairman

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Although *WANHM* reached a major milestone with the publication of Volume 100, there has been no other output on the publications front in 2006-07. Our long awaited monograph on *Blacknall Field* is still in preparation. It has been delayed while we awaited DNA testing to determine the sex of the skeleton from grave 19. At 1.86m tall this individual was classified as probably male, but had been buried with female grave goods (dress brooches). Confirmation that this was indeed the skeleton of a man, would have been important evidence to support the theory that cross-gender identity was not unknown in Saxon times! The long awaited report has, however, indicated that the individual was probably female notwithstanding her stature (and perhaps thereby deprived us of a sensational discovery that might have led to increased sales of the book?). We hope that the monograph is now back on track for publication later this year

Bill Perry, Chairman

STONEHENGE COMMITTEE

As in the past, the work of the Stonehenge Committee has alternated between periods of quiet and periods of frenzied activity

In April the Committee advised the Board on a response to the Government's consultation paper on options for upgrading the A303 within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site which would be cheaper than the scheme put to public inquiry in 2004. The Board accepted the committee's advice that none of the options were acceptable and that if a suitable long-term solution was not affordable at present, low-key interim improvements should be put in place until funding was available for a scheme worthy of this iconic landscape. Although a ministerial decision was promised for July 2006, to date (March 2007) none has been announced

In May English Heritage resubmitted to Salisbury District Council a planning application for a new Visitor Centre and Land Train system identical in all respects to one which the council had formally rejected ten months earlier. On the advice of the committee, the Board urged the District Council to reject the application as it had done before. In the event, however, the council reversed its earlier decision and allowed the application. The application was then called-in for public inquiry by the Secretary of State

In an attempt to avoid such an inquiry, English Heritage then withdrew the application which had been called-in and appealed against Salisbury District Council's rejection in 2005 of the same application. Although the council agreed not to defend the appeal, the manoeuvre was unsuccessful and the application went to public inquiry in December 2006. On behalf of the Society, the committee fielded two expert witnesses who gave evidence as to why the application should be rejected. Details of the Society's case can be found on the website

A decision was announced on the 28 March 2007 by Ruth Kelly, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, that the Visitor Centre appeal be allowed and planning permission be granted, subject to a number of conditions. Amongst these, the scheme can only proceed if the Government approves the published A303 Stonehenge Improvement road scheme of 2000. This includes a flyover at Countess Road, a 2.1km bored tunnel, a bypass round Winterbourne Stoke and junction improvements at Longbarrow Crossroads.

Brian K Davison, Secretary

TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- 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 company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the company's financial position and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects are costed initially and reviewed regularly. The Board continued to employ Gerrard Ltd to manage the investment portfolio with the primary investment objective of the client agreement being to achieve a balanced return from income and capital with a medium level of risk. The management of the equity portion to be benchmarked against the FTSE All-share index with a target to exceed that index.

The Society does not hold any indemnity insurance against any liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by a Trustee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessments for all galleries are reviewed regularly and a risk assessment is made of all activities undertaken. On the financial side a budget is prepared each year assessing the likely income receivable and costs of activities, which is monitored carefully.

RESERVES AND FUND-RAISING

This has been another challenging year for the Society. When the original budget was submitted to the Board in February, 2006, it was resolved that the deficit should be limited to £20,000 and that major building work would only be done if grants could be secured. As it was not possible to get these grants the work was not done, however, it is necessary and it cannot be delayed indefinitely. The Society was very fortunate to receive a grant from the McLaren Foundation of £10,000 and other significant increases in income have come from the Sandell Trust and legacies transferred from the Old Society, these have helped to achieve a reduced operating deficit for the year despite the costs of £8,500, borne by the Society, for the Lecture Hall and Art Gallery renovation.

The total net incoming resources shown by the accounts include £7,807 for restricted funds, primarily the endowment fund which was established in the year. These funds are not available to the Society and must therefore be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position. On this basis the net increase in the funds attributable to the Society is £10,154. As stated last year the final results are very dependent on the performance of the investment portfolio. In general the market has recorded increases and these are reflected in the realised profits of £5,444 and the unrealised profits of £23,622. However the markets are very volatile and unrealised profits can become actual losses when the time comes to sell. If the unrealised profits are ignored the overall result of the operations in the year, ignoring restricted funds, is a deficit of £13,468.

Whilst these results suggest a fairly stable position for the Society there are a number of adverse factors which must be considered. In December the Wiltshire County Council decided that there would be no Society grant for 2007-08. Subsequently this decision was reversed but the threat remains and the

prospects for the long-term continuation of the grant are extremely debateable. Fund-raising is continuing focused on three objectives, meeting ongoing expenses, the Board's stated aim of achieving reserves to provide six month's cover for operational expenses and providing for development and improvement costs. Many of the galleries need renovation and redisplay and do not reflect the current understanding of prehistory. No provision has been made to meet these costs but it is essential that a programme is devised and activated to ensure that exhibits are attractive and give up-to-date information which is helpful to all visitors whatever the reasons for their visits. The Society is established to educate the public by **promoting, fostering interest in, exploration research and publication** on the archaeology, art, history, and natural history of Wiltshire and this must never be forgotten or overlooked.

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan has been updated to provide details of the work to be undertaken during 2007-08. Progress is reviewed on a regular basis and action taken where it appears that the stated aims may not be achieved.

RELATED PARTIES

For many years the Society has enjoyed a close relationship with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum as demonstrated by the reciprocal arrangement for free entry to the museums for members of each organisation and the presence on our Board of their Director, Peter Saunders, whose wise advice is much appreciated. Discussions are continuing with them and with English Heritage on the possibility of exhibiting some of the Collections at the proposed new Visitor Centre at Amesbury. The proposed A303 road alterations are still under discussion, the Society has made representations with other bodies and developments are awaited. The support of Wiltshire County Council and Kennet District Council in providing funding to the Society is gratefully acknowledged together with the contributions to the Board of their and the Devizes Town Council nominated trustees. In December Devizes Town Council resolved to give a grant of £3,000 to the Society for 2007-08 and this was followed by a small grant from Bishop Cannings Parish Council. The support of these local councils is much appreciated and it is hoped that further cooperation will show real benefits for the community at large. The Wiltshire County Council conservation staff have continued to give great support and help to the Society. The assistance and advice given during the year by the staff of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the South West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has been most helpful and it is hoped that these partnerships continue and develop in the future. The Board are aware that progress through partnership is the most effective pathway to success and will be pursuing every available opportunity to achieve new associates.


AUDITORS

David Owen & Co. were re-appointed as auditors of the company at the Annual General Meeting and have expressed their willingness to continue to act.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small entities.

The Trustees have taken all steps which they ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information. So far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware.

Approved by the Trustees on 22nd June, 2007 and signed on their behalf by



6th July, 2007

W A Perry
Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

NEW MEMBERS

Ms H Armstrong, Codford St Mary, Miss H Armstrong, Market Lavington, Mr R Arnold, Edington, Major J Bailey, Upavon, Dr V R & Mr R Bainbridge, Hilperton, Mr G Barfoot, Chirton, Mr R Bateman, Wakefield, Miss S Beckett, Swindon, Lt Col I Branton & Ms J Johnson, Malmesbury, Mr R Broadhead, Calne, Ms E Bryant, Sturminster Newton, Mr & Mrs C Callow & Family, Devizes, Mr R Canham, Bradford on Avon, Mr & Mrs A Carter, Devizes, Ms S Cole, Swindon, Revd J Dearnley, Monmouth, Mr A Doherty & Ms S L Halliwell, St Helens, Mr & Mrs J Down, Devizes, Mr J Drew, Bromham, Ms J Duffen, Devizes, Mrs L Dyson, West Lavington, Mrs C & Mr J Fitzmaurice, Devizes, Ms C French, Corsham, Mr J Galvin-Wright, Mr & Mrs M Garrard, Swindon, Mr & Mrs F Giles, Semington, Mr D J Godwin, Salisbury, Mrs H Haywood, Calne, Miss A D Hindle, Figheldean, Mr T Hollier, London, Miss E R Hooper, West Lavington, Mr J Kelland & Ms S Burton, Trowbridge, Mr & Mrs D Kendall, Devizes, Ms H A Ledgard, Amesbury, Mr J H Leech, Devizes, Mrs D Lloyd, Potterne, Mr N M Lloyd, Potterne, Dr P J Mitchell, Hullavington, Ms S A Morgan, Swindon, Mr & Mrs S Mort-Adams, Warminster, Dr & Mrs M Mortimer, Tarrant Hinton, Mrs M Pearce & Mr R Brebnor, Devizes, Mr & Mrs B Percival, Devizes, Mrs E Porter & Mr C Knott, Devizes, Ms J Poulter, Wallingford, Mrs E & Mr D Randolph, Westbury, Ms S Rasey, Devizes, Mr & Mrs R Riordan & Family, Easterton, Mr J Sanigar, Devizes, Mr P Scrivens, Alderbury, Mr P J A Shelley, Salisbury, Ms D Shipp, Hullavington, Silbury Chartered Accountants, Chippenham, Mr & Mrs R Simpson, Devizes, Mr S J Slater, Warminster, Mr A Sommerlad, Amesbury, Mr A Strutt, Malmesbury, Mr B P Trowbridge, Chippenham, Ms L Walker, Durrington, Mr & Mrs A Wallace, Devizes, Mr A D Watkins, Melksham, Mrs S & Mr M Wigley, Brinkworth, Ms J Wildblood, Devizes, Mr R Williams, Devizes, Mr D Wilmot, West Lavington

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES from 1 January 2007

Member	£33 50
Member & Partner	£43 00
Family (2 adults and children)	£44 00
Student	£18 50
Member Organisation	£38 00

A Corporate membership is available to businesses

Subscriptions run for twelve months from the first day of the month following that in which you joined

Student membership is open to individuals enrolled on a full-time accredited course of study or on a part-time course of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in the areas of the Society's interest

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We have audited the financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31st March 2007 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities the company's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the information contained in the Trustees' Report and consider whether it is consistent with the financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

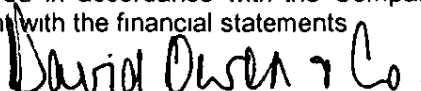
BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st March 2007 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, the information given in the Trustees Report is consistent with the financial statements.



David Owen & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor

17 Market Place
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
6h July, 2007

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007

		Unrestricted Funds			Total Funds 2007	Total Funds 2006
	Note	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	£	£
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
Incoming Resources						
From Generated Funds						
Voluntary Income	2	83,437	386	7,016	90,839	86,356
Activity Generated Funds	3	26,821	301	213	27,335	50,761
Investment Income	4	34,708		588	35,296	34,102
From Charitable Activities						
Grants and Contributions	5	130,695			130,695	143,695
Admissions		7,420			7,420	4,577
Education Receipts		4,570			4,570	2,789
Programme Committee	16		11,459		11,459	19,252
Contributions from Archaeological Projects					-	1,325
Total Incoming Resources		287,651	12,146	7,817	307,614	342,857
Resources Expended						
Cost of Generating Funds	7	22,289			22,289	21,581
Cost of Charitable Activities	8	248,305	15,770	10	264,085	311,322
Governance Costs	9	32,345			32,345	36,039
Total Resources Expended		302,939	15,770	10	318,719	368,942
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the Year		(15,288)	(3,624)	7,807	(11,105)	(26,085)
Other Gains and Losses						
Gains on Investments - realised	12	5,444			5,444	21,172
Gains on Investments - unrealised		23,622			23,622	89,226
Net Resources Incoming/(Expended) before transfers		13,778	(3,624)	7,807	17,961	84,313
Transfers between Funds	16	2,000	(2,000)		-	-
Net Movement in Funds		15,778	(5,624)	7,807	17,961	84,313
Fund Balances brought forward at 1 st April 2006		128,215	52,297	18,368	198,880	114,566
Total Funds carried forward at 31st March, 2007		143,993	46,673	26,175	216,841	198,879

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2007.

	Notes	2007		2006	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		106,640		108,095
Investments	13		810,545		799,108
			<u>917,185</u>		<u>907,203</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	1	11,868		15,979	
Debtors	14	19,780		46,978	
Owed by Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society		19,030		9,900	
Cash at Bank and on Deposit		<u>68,925</u>		<u>63,405</u>	
		119,603		136,262	
Restricted Fund Assets					
Endowment Trust Fund		<u>7,016</u>			
		126,619			
LIABILITIES					
Creditors due within one year	15	<u>53,900</u>		<u>71,522</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			72,719		64,740
NET ASSETS			<u>989,904</u>		<u>971,943</u>
RESERVES AND FUNDS					
Unrestricted Funds					
Capital Reserve			773,063		773,063
Revenue Funds					
General		143,993		128,215	
Designated	16	<u>46,673</u>		<u>52,297</u>	
			190,666		180,512
			<u>963,729</u>		<u>953,575</u>
Restricted Funds	17		<u>26,175</u>		<u>18,368</u>
			<u>989,904</u>		<u>971,943</u>

The notes on pages 23 to 29 form part of these accounts

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 22nd June, 2007, and signed on their behalf

W A Perry, Chairman

W P Lansdown, Honorary Treasurer

W A Perry
W P Lansdown

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2007

1 Statement of Accounting Policies.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Accounting and Reporting by Charities', and applicable accounting standards. Where necessary the headings laid down in the Act have been adapted to meet the special activities of the Company. The Company qualifies as a small company under the Act and the trustees have elected to take advantage of the exemption under FRS 1 not to prepare a cash flow statement.

Company Status

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are subscribing members. In the event of the Company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 a member.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £4,000 are capitalised and included at cost. Grant funded purchases are written off in the year of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Freehold Land	Nil
Freehold Buildings	over 50 years
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	over 5 years

Investments

Realised gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on the basis of the due date of payment.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale and unsold publications. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow moving stock.

Incoming Resources

Legacies are taken into account when received and if not given for specific purposes are utilised either for general expenditure or for the specific purposes which the trustees believe the Testator would have approved.

Donations of items for resale are included in receipts when received.

Subscriptions are spread over the year in which they are received. No life membership subscriptions were received in the year.

All receipts and expenditure are shown in full in the accounts.

Grants - where a grant is, wholly or partly, in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the following financial year the appropriate sum is deducted from income and included in liabilities as grants received in advance. Conversely in the following year this procedure is reversed with grants being withdrawn from grants received in advance and treated as income of the current year. The amounts involved are shown in Note 5.

Allocation of Expenditure

Throughout the financial statements, where it is necessary to allocate staff or other costs over objective heads (i.e. Museum, Library etc.), this has been done on the assessment of the Curator and the Treasurer.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2007

Note 1 (continued)

Pensions

At 31st March, 2007, pension provision for one employee was made by membership of the Wiltshire County Council Pension Scheme and for four employees by membership of The Pension Trust Scheme. All other employees have been offered membership of the Pension Trust Scheme but did not wish to join. Employer's contributions are charged to employee costs as incurred. Contributions to the Wiltshire County Council Scheme were £9,469 (2006 £12,631) and to the Pension Trust Scheme £3,114 (2006 £2,557). The Wiltshire County Council Scheme is a defined benefit scheme, but a multi-employer scheme. Although the Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities the County Council's Actuary has indicated that the most recent revaluation on 31st March, 2004 revealed a deficit on the fund with a funding level for the Company of 68.4% and a deficiency of £188,000. Pending the revaluation due on 31st March, 2007, the Trustees have agreed to make lump sum payments in addition to the contributions related to employees pay. As the assessment by the actuary is not a FRS17 valuation the Trustees have resolved that the deficit should be shown by way of note and not incorporated into the accounts until the position can be reviewed after the next revaluation when market conditions may be different from those ruling in 2004. At 30th September, 2005, there was a potential liability of £1,601 should the Society withdraw from the Pension Trust Scheme. The Trustees have resolved that other than in exceptional circumstances only the Pension Trust Scheme which is a defined contribution scheme will be offered to new employees.

Capital Reserve

The Capital Reserve shown in these accounts arises from the transfer of assets, reserves, funds and liabilities from the original Society and represents the balance on the General Fund at the 22nd November, 2003.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund has now been set up as a charity to raise and hold capital the income from which will be used to support the activities of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. The Company is the corporate trustee of the Fund which shares the Company's charity registration number. Under the terms of the charity registration the accounts of the Fund are included in the Company's accounts but as a separate charity these funds do not form part of the Company's assets.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections Trust

The Company is the Corporate Trustee of the Collections Trust which owns the Collections. On 3rd March, 2004, the Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction under Section 96 (5) of the Charities Act 1993 stating that the Collections Trust shall be treated as forming part of the Company for the purposes of registration and accounting. The Direction points out that the Company will be the reporting charity and the Collections Trust will be the linked charity. However "the Company does not hold the endowment of the Collections Trust as corporate property. The Company is the trustee of the endowment and holds the property in trust. At no time can the endowment of the Collections Trust be considered an asset of the Company." Accounts for the Collections Trust have now been set up within the Company's books and separate bank accounts have been established. Acquisitions for the collections are made by the Collections Trust. The Collections Trust Accounts are included as a separate schedule with these accounts.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2007

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2007	Carried Forward 2007	Total 2006
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources							
From Generated Funds							
2. Voluntary Income							
Membership Subscriptions		26,286			26,286		25,132
Donations and Tax Refunds		17,921	386	7,016	25,323		29,474
Income transferred by Old Society							
Sandell Trust		34,130			34,130		31,750
Legacies		5,100			5,100		-
		<u>83,437</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>7,016</u>	<u>90,839</u>		<u>86,356</u>
3 Activity Generated Funds							
Shop Sales	6	13,562			13,562		16,583
Other Sales		8,171	301	213	8,685		8,929
Fund-raising Events		5,088			5,088		25,249
		<u>26,821</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>27,335</u>		<u>50,761</u>
4. Investment Income							
Income from Investments		33,095		588	33,683		32,375
Bank Interest		1,613			1,613		1,727
		<u>34,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>35,296</u>		<u>34,102</u>
5. Grants and Contributions							
Wiltshire County Council		25,340			25,340		26,060
Kennet District Council		9,800			9,800		11,600
Heritage Lottery Fund - Finds Liaison Officer		-			-		34,324
Education Officer							
Garfield Weston		8,000			8,000		7,000
Foyle Foundation		8,000			8,000		7,000
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust		3,000			3,000		2,000
MLA DCF Project		-			-		41,451
DCMS Wolfson		24,550			24,550		7,846
Landfill Tax		13,512			13,512		-
Donations re Lecture Hall		5,148			5,148		-
Pilgrim Trust re Documentation		20,000			20,000		-
MLA Data Collection		790			790	10,200	-
Wiltshire Studies Sponsorship		2,355			2,355		5,469
English Heritage		-			-		872
McLaren Foundation		10,000			10,000		-
Other Grants		200			200		73
		<u>130,695</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,695</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>143,695</u>

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2007

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2007	Total 2006
6 Shop Sales						
Shop sales		13,562		13,562		16,583
Less Purchase cost		8,127		8,127		8,592
Gross Profit		5,405		5,405		7,991
Less Shop costs		(94)		(94)		343
		<u>5,529</u>		<u>5,529</u>		<u>7,648</u>
Gross Profit % on sales		<u>41%</u>		<u>41%</u>		<u>48%</u>
7. Cost of Generating Funds						
Cost of Sales						
Shop		8,033			8,033	8,935
Other sales		419			419	590
Salaries		2,252			2,252	2,413
Members' services		3,053			3,053	3,612
Marketing		2,367			2,367	3,088
Fundraising costs		1,686			1,686	948
Support costs		4,479			4,479	1,995
		<u>22,289</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,289</u>	<u>21,581</u>
8 Cost of Charitable Activities						
Museum Services		148,972			148,972	167,145
Library Services		37,962	1,831		39,793	34,650
Educational work		26,952			26,952	20,449
Pilgrim Trust Project		23,994			23,994	43,569
DCF Data Collection Project		792			792	9,003
WANHM		9,633			9,633	9,552
Designated Funds	16					
Publications			4,452		4,452	227
Archaeology Field Group/Other			40		40	1,528
Programme Committee			9,447		9,447	15,798
Restricted Funds	17					
English Heritage				10	10	8,048
Oexmann				-	-	1,353
		<u>248,305</u>	<u>15,770</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>264,085</u>	<u>311,322</u>
After Sponsorship Grants of £2,355 the net cost of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine (WANHM) to the Company's General Fund was £7278 (2006 £4083)						
9 Governance Costs						
Employee costs		25,986			25,986	26,003
Volunteers travel expenses		11			11	33
Trustee travel		43			43	-
Legal fees		315			315	4,017
Audit Fees		3,750			3,750	3,525
Support costs		2,240			2,240	2,461
		<u>32,345</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,345</u>	<u>36,039</u>

Volunteers' travel expenses of £5,434 have been allocated to the separate activities in the current year

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2007

	Total 2007	Total 2006
10 Staff costs		
Wages and Salaries	136,576	159,651
Social Security costs	9,776	11,250
Pension costs	12,583	15,188
	<u>158,935</u>	<u>186,089</u>
Costs attributable to activities:		
Museum	91,618	124,145
Library	18,313	18,452
Outreach	20,766	15,076
Cost of Generating Funds	2,252	2,413
Management and Administration	25,986	26,003
	<u>158,935</u>	<u>186,089</u>

No employee received emoluments for the period exceeding £60,000

The average number of employees in 2007 was 4 full time and 8 part time (2006 - 5 full time and 9 part time)

11. Trustees' Remuneration

The Trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year Out of pocket travel expenses reimbursed to trustees were £43 (2006 nil)

12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipm't	Total	2006
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost at 1 st April, 2006	72,750	72,750	7,345	152,845	152,845
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 st April, 2006		37,580	7,170	44,750	43,295
Charge in year		1,455	-	1,455	1,455
Accumulated Depreciation at 31st March, 2007		<u>39,035</u>	<u>7,170</u>	<u>46,205</u>	<u>44,750</u>
Net Book Value at 31 st March, 2007	72,750	33,715	175	106,640	108,095

To give a consistent view the assets transferred from the original Society have been included at the values in its books The property was valued professionally in 1987 at £145,500, now divided between land and buildings The Trustees are of the opinion that the costs of revaluation would not provide sufficient benefits to justify the expenditure involved

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2007

	Total 2007	Total 2006				
13. Quoted Fixed Asset Investments						
Market Value at 1 st April, 2006	799,108	741,703				
Purchases	147,913	125,377				
	<u>947,021</u>	<u>867,080</u>				
Sales	165,542	178,370				
	<u>781,479</u>	<u>688,710</u>				
Net gains						
Realised	5,444	21,172				
Unrealised	23,622	89,226				
	<u>810,545</u>	<u>799,108</u>				
Market value at 31 st March, 2007	<u>810,545</u>	<u>799,108</u>				
Historical Cost of investments (including from the original Society) at 31 st March, 2007	<u>641,444</u>	<u>643,426</u>				
14 Debtors						
Donations and Grants receivable	-	32,770				
Trade Debtors	3,457	4,433				
Debtors and Prepayments	8,397	8,738				
Gift Aid refund receivable	6,346	-				
Other debtors	1,580	1,037				
	<u>19,780</u>	<u>46,978</u>				
15 Liabilities* Amounts falling due within one year						
Grants received in advance	10,200	30,000				
Trade Creditors	3,230	6,173				
Accruals	7,968	5,399				
Taxes including NIC and VAT	4,860	3,654				
Donations for expenditure in 2007/08	2,024	5,833				
Prepaid membership subscriptions	18,471	17,618				
Programme Committee	679	1,374				
Other creditors	6,468	1,471				
	<u>53,900</u>	<u>71,522</u>				
16. Designated funds						
	Incoming Resources					
	Balance 1 st April 2006	Grants and Legacies	Other Income	Inter-Fund Transfers	Expenditure	Balance 31 st March 2007
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Archaeology Festival Fund	393					393
Improvement Fund	11,112					11,112
Library Fund	15,866		386		(1,831)	14,421
Publications Fund	22,002		301		(4,452)	17,851
Archaeology Field Group	906				(40)	866
Programme Committee	2,018		11,459	(2,000)	(9,447)	2,030
	<u>52,297</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,146</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(15,770)</u>	<u>46,673</u>

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2007

The purpose of the designated funds (which may be changed by the Company's Board of Trustees) is currently	
Archaeology Festival Fund	Established to celebrate the 150 th anniversary of the founding of the original Society by organising a Wiltshire Archaeology Festival
Improvement Fund	Established by the original Society to finance improvements to the Galleries
Library Fund	To finance items of library conservation and management
Publications Fund	To finance publications The expenditure is the cost of a write down in the value of stocks
Archaeology Field Group	To finance archaeological activity
Programme Committee	To finance members' events and generate funds for the Society

17 Restricted Funds

	Incoming Resources					Balance 31 st March 2007
	Balance 1 st April 2006	Grants	Other Income	Inter-Fund Transfers	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Annable Memorial Fund	417					417
English Heritage Fund	4,027		213		(10)	4,230
Oexmann Fund	13,924		588			14,512
	18,368	-	801	-	(10)	19,159
Endowment Trust Fund			7,016			7,016
	18,368	-	7,817	-	(10)	26,175

The restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes

Annable Memorial Fund	To provide an appropriate memorial for the former curator, Mr Kenneth Annable
English Heritage Fund	To finance specific publications and projects
Oexmann Fund	To finance a biennial art exhibition

These fund balances at 31st March, 2007, are held as part of the Company's overall assets and cash at bank

Endowment Trust Fund	This is a separate charity, of which the Company is the corporate trustee It is established to raise capital, the interest from which will be paid to the Company for its general use The funds are invested separately and do not form part of the Company's fixed assets
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WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS TRUST

Linked Charity Number 1080096

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2007

	2007			2006
	£	£	£	£
	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	
Incoming resources				
Disposals of Duplicate Books	43			
Grants for Acquisitions	2,355			
Donations to Museum and Art Collection Fund				
Museum	-			122
Library	23			-
		2,421	2,421	
Bank Interest		162	162	218
Total incoming resources	<u>2,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,583</u>	<u>340</u>
Resources Expended				
Acquisitions				
Museum costing less than £1,000	2,449			763
Library	784			334
		3,233	3,233	
Primrose Fund			-	153
Total Resources Expended	<u>3,233</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,233</u>	<u>1,250</u>
Excess of Income over (Expenditure)	<u>(650)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(650)</u>	<u>(910)</u>
Balances brought forward at 1 04 06	7,610	2,455	10,065	10,975
Balances carried forward at 31 03.07	<u>6,960</u>	<u>2,455</u>	<u>9,415</u>	<u>10,065</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2007

HERITAGE ASSETS

Additions to Collections	5,160	
Less Grants	1,425	
		3,735

CURRENT ASSETS

Sundry Debtor	1,425	
Cash at Bank	4,255	
		5,680
		<u>10,065</u>
		<u>9,415</u>
		<u>10,065</u>

Represented by
Museum and Art Fund
Restricted Funds

6,960	7,610
2,455	2,455
<u>9,415</u>	<u>10,065</u>

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS TRUST

Linked Charity Number 1080096

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2007

No value has been placed on the collections held prior to 1st April, 2005. To establish a value would involve significant costs, onerous compared to the additional benefit derived by users of the financial statements. The collections are therefore deemed inalienable or historic for the purposes of Financial Reporting Standard 15. The SORP recommends that with effect from 1st April, 2005, collections acquisitions are capitalised and stated at cost as Heritage Assets. The Trustees have adopted an accounting policy whereby acquisitions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised but are written off in the year of acquisition.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 st April, 2006	Income and Donations	Grants	Expenditure	Balance at 31 st March, 2007
Medieval Fund	75				75
Primrose Fund	2,380				2,380
Restricted Funds	<u>2,455</u>				<u>2,455</u>

The Trustees were conscious of the need to computerise the Library catalogue, which was presently still primarily on a card index and therefore only available to visitors to the library in person. Once computerised it would be placed on the internet and this would enable people to see from home what it is held in the Library and hopefully provide an incentive for people to visit Devizes and see the original documents. Like the documentation of the Museum collection, this would be an expensive project and would only proceed if a grant were obtained to cover the cost. A preliminary study had been carried out and the Board had approved this in principle, but this would be a long-term project and the catalogue would not be on-line for some time.

The Chairman thanked and paid tribute to those members who had responded generously to the appeal last year, and also thanked Sir David Attenborough for his extremely successful lecture, which had resulted in a lot of money being raised. As a result of this, and a substantial rise in the Stock Market, there had been the first favourable financial outturn for a number of years, with only a modest deficit of £6,000 on the general fund being recorded and a surplus when gains on investments were included. But, one good year did not mean that the Society was 'out of the wood'. There was still a substantial challenge to face. The local authorities had reduced their grants and hard work would continue to ensure the Society remained solvent.

Straying beyond the year under the review, in April a major project to refurbish the lecture room and art gallery had commenced. In the lecture hall cupboards to house the collection of Wiltshire and Devizes Gazette newspapers were built and air conditioning, digital audio-visual equipment and adjustable lighting were installed. Air-conditioning and adjustable lighting were installed in the art gallery. A connecting door between these two rooms had also been created, which would enable larger groups of people to be accommodated for special occasions, such as previews.

The modernisation of the Museum's facilities was important to meet modern expectations and funding from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund and the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme had enabled these works to be carried out. Unfortunately a funding request to install a toilet for wheelchair users on the ground floor, install a wheelchair lift down to the Natural History Gallery, create a proper kitchen and cleaner's room and refurbish the existing toilets in 2007 had been turned down by the DCMS. This was a disappointing setback but we had been successful in the previous two years and DCMS had received many requests. We would need to identify other sources of funding as the project was essential. This was disappointing as the Society attempted to comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking a number of people. Firstly, all the staff, who worked extremely hard for the Society, which was most fortunate in the calibre and dedication of the people who worked in the Museum and Library. There had been some staff changes in the year with Andrew Martin and Philippa Luscombe, employed on the documentation project, leaving at the end of March when their contracts ended. A new part-time Documentation Officer, Roger Watson, who had previously worked for the National Trust's Fox Talbot Museum at Lacock, was recruited. He was doing an excellent job and the Chairman was grateful for his expertise on computers and databases.

Secondly, the Chairman thanked all the volunteers, because without their help the Society could not run the Museum or Library, or indeed the programme of events for Society members. There were currently nearly 200 volunteers who helped in many ways – receptionists, library assistants, cataloguers, event organisers, envelope stuffers, couriers etc. Together they contributed nearly 8,000 hours of their time to the Society, for which the Board were most grateful. The Chairman reported that Mrs Diane Lloyd, who had been Programme Bookings Secretary for 14 years, had decided it was time to retire. The meeting thanked Diane for all her hard work in taking bookings, organising coaches and overseas travel and looking after the records for all this. A letter of thanks would be sent to Mrs Lloyd.

Finally, the Chairman thanked his co-Trustees who put in large amounts of time. Although he felt it was invidious to single out any one in particular he had to note that he relied on the hard work of the Treasurer/Company Secretary, Wendy Lansdown, who put in long hours every week looking after the finances and accounts. The meeting applauded this comment.

Every year a number of trustees had to stand down. Mr John Stewart had completed six years as a Trustee and was ineligible for re-election and the Chairman thanked him for all he had done, for example in organising the production of a replica gold lozenge medallion. Clare Conybeare had also decided not to seek re-election due to the competing demands of family and career. It was hoped that she could be persuaded to stand for election again in the future when she had more time available. Ms Conybeare was thanked for her valuable contribution to the Board. Seeking re-election were Judith Triggs, who had reached the end of her three years as an elected Trustee and Colvin Chamberlain who was co-opted by the Board last year.

b Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that the accounts presented to the members were in a slightly different format from previous years. A new Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) had been introduced from 1 April 2005 and the Society was obliged to use this for the presentation of its accounts. The changes were essentially cosmetic with income grouped in a slightly different way from previously and expenditure described by different headings, and with a slightly different analysis. However, basically, the Society continues to report to its members the income received and how it had been spent.

The generous response of members to the special appeal was welcomed. It was pointed out that whilst there had been an increase in the value of grants received many of these were for projects which required a financial input from the Society and that the level of support from local authority had declined. A grant received from the McLaren Foundation at the end of the year had been carried forward to 2006-07 to help with costs in that year.

Although the accounts portrayed a healthy financial situation this was influenced heavily by the inclusion of unrealised profits on investments amounting to £94,770. Without this there would have been a deficit on the General fund of £5,918 which had been converted to a small surplus of £5,544 after transfer from the Fabric Fund and the Programme Committee.

Since the incorporation of the Society the unrealised profits on investments which were included in the General Fund balance were £153,848 without these there would be a deficit on the Fund of £25,633. As profits were realised they were reinvested and therefore did not contribute to a positive cash flow, investments were realised if funds were required.

On the Balance Sheet the debtor figure was inflated by amounts owing for grants which had since been received. The Cash at Bank and on Deposit was funds available to meet the costs of the Lecture Hall renovation which had been paid out shortly after the end of the year.

The Credit figure includes Grants received in advance and the portion of the annual membership subscription which had not elapsed at the end of the year.

Overall the year was reasonable, but the Society still faced great challenges in the future, in common with most other museums. The Trustees were aware of these, and a review committee had been set up to consider the structure of the Society and the way it operated to ensure that it met the needs of its members and the public as effectively and efficiently as possible within its financial constraints.

Proposed by Mr D Roseaman and seconded by Mr J S S Stewart that the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006, together with the Auditors Report be received. The resolution was passed nem con.

06/06 Election of Trustees

The Chairman advised the meeting that there were five vacancies for positions on the Board, and five nominations had been received. In addition to Lt Col Chamberlain and Mrs Triggs, who were standing for re-election, the Society was fortunate in having three highly qualified candidates for the other vacancies. Dr Chrs Chippindale had been a member of the Society for 25 years and had been editor of *WANHM* for some time. He was an author and, as curator of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology, had experience of museum management. Dr Kate Fielden was also a former editor of *WANHM* and was currently chairman of the Society's Buildings and Monuments Committee. She had been a Trustee and member of the old Council in the 1990s, before the restructuring, and had many years experience of the Society, its problems and all the intricacies of its constitution. Dr Andrew Reynolds was Reader in Medieval Archaeology at University College, London and was the current editor of *WANHM*. All would bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board.

Proposed by Mr J S S Stewart and seconded by Miss S Rooke, the meeting duly elected Lt Col Chamberlain, Dr C Chippindale, Dr K Fielden, Dr A Reynolds and Mrs J Triggs to the Board of Trustees nem con.

07/06 Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mrs G Swanton and seconded by Mr M Teale, the meeting unanimously re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration.

08/06 Financial Review and establishment of an Endowment Fund a Financial Review

Mr D Roseaman reported to the meeting about the review of the Society's finances which had recently taken place. The 2006-07 budget had shown a potential deficit of £56,000, but the Board had requested a small team of Trustees to undertake a full financial review of the Society, with the aim of reducing the deficit to £20,000 in the 2006-07 financial year, and to balance the budget within three years. Partway through the review Wiltshire County Council asked the Trustees to consider a situation where all local authority funding was withdrawn within five years.

The reasons for the Society being short of money were outlined to the meeting. Firstly, grants from the County and District Councils had fallen by more than half in cash terms, and substantially more in real terms, over the past ten years - a loss of more than £35,000. Secondly, there was a shortfall in the County Council's Pension Fund to which the Society now had to make extra, substantial, annual contributions - £6,700 in 2006-07 and £23,000 in five years time. Finally, the cost of running the Museum continued to rise at a rate roughly double the government inflation figure.

The review had been undertaken in two stages. The first stage had been to examine the 2006-07 budget line by line to find ways of limiting the deficit to £20,000. That target would be achieved by deferring some expenditure, by increasing income and by making some savings. For example the re-building of the car park wall would be deferred for another year and to increase income the free entry to the Museum on Monday would be withdrawn and a charge would be made for child visitors. It was anticipated that the introduction of charges for Mondays would raise approximately £1,500 per annum. The second stage of the review considered how a balanced budget could be achieved in the future and began by splitting the budget heads into cost centres. This showed which parts of the organisation were generating income and which were not. It also showed how income generated compared to expenditure for each centre.

The costs of projects were isolated from the general day to day running costs. Members were possibly unaware of the costs involved in some of the improvement work carried out in recent years. Whilst all of the projects had attracted external grant funding, none had fully covered the total costs involved. For example, a grant received from the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums Improvement Fund enabled the Museum to fit new handrails to the staircases,

improve lighting and put clearer print notices in some of the display cases, all to help the Museum become more compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. However, the grant made no allowance for the £5,000 cost of curatorial project management time. Another grant from the Designation Challenge Fund enabled the Museum to begin cataloguing the collections, an important project as it was a requirement of Museum registration and accreditation. Again, however, the grant did not make full allowance for time spent by the curatorial staff or volunteer co-ordinator on the project, nor any volunteer travel costs or overheads. These costs had been estimated at £10,000 per year for each of the two years of the project. The current documentation project, funded by the Pilgrim Trust, did not cover curatorial time of £7,500 each year.

Reviewing general day-to-day costs the review team agreed that staffing was now at such a low level that any further reductions would seriously affect the Society's ability to continue to deliver its current service – both to members and to the public. Two staff posts were cut a number of years ago to save money and any further cuts would limit the Society's ability to take advantage of future opportunities for improvement and might jeopardise existing or future income streams.

Therefore, if staff cuts were not to be made then there needed to be an increase in income and savings made elsewhere. To achieve a balanced budget at the five year point the review identified sources of net additional income of £72,000 per year. By way of example it was hoped to raise additional core income from a number of outside organisations who might support our work, from general fundraising (including annual and legacy appeals to members) and from increased charges for services. The Endowment Fund was ready to be launched and it was hoped this would provide a significant new source of income. There would continue to be a tight control on expenditure and additional use would be made of volunteers. The review had also identified a need to examine the way the Society operated and ensure it is best suited to current and future needs and it was anticipated this would start soon.

If county and district council grants were completely withdrawn within five years the Society would have to find an additional £35,000 per annum of income to maintain the same level of service. Whilst potential sources for this had been identified it would be difficult to raise the sum involved. The review also looked at the public support received by other museums. Currently the Wiltshire Heritage Museum costs the public purse £35,000 per annum. For that the taxpayer receives a museum, and all its resources, open seven days a week, nearly 365 days a year, with one day a week free entry. The comparisons are interesting. Chippenham Museum, which is owned and operated by Chippenham Town Council, received £180,000 per year and Trowbridge Museum £140,000 per year. Outside the county the Museum at Dorchester, which is also run by a County Society, received £100,000 from their County Council. Other counties had museum budgets running to six, even seven, figures. Clearly Wiltshire Heritage Museum was an absolute bargain as far as the public purse was concerned. Devizes Town Council currently allow the Society to use the Town Hall for free on three occasions each year and they gave a grant of £100 in 2005-06.

Everyone was aware of the financial problems that faced the county and district councils, but that did not help us, and individual officers and councillors were very supportive of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, and many are members of the Society. Maybe the Society should aim to gain more public grass roots support which could influence elected members both locally and nationally to give higher priority to the Museums' needs.

The aim of the review had been to see that the Society, Museum and Library were financially sound for the future. It would be a lot of hard work but we were used to that. Mr Roseaman thanked members for their support over the years – they were very valuable, particularly if they remained members.

b Endowment Fund

The establishment of an Endowment Fund had been suggested a number of years ago to provide permanent income to assist with the Society's annual running costs, but not allow the capital to be spent 'on this year's fashions'. The setting up of the Fund had been held up by legal technicalities, but it had now been set up as a subsidiary charity sharing the Company's charity number. The Declaration of Trust had been agreed by the Board of Trustees in August 2006 and been forwarded to the Charity Commission.

The Endowment Fund would remain a separate fund and capital ring-fenced. Income would be invested to generate funds, Trustees would not be able to spend the capital. The Endowment Fund would be shown on the Balance Sheet of the Society, as a separate line and the notes to the accounts would explain that. If the Company became insolvent the funds could be passed to a similar organisation as they would not be assets of the Company. The funds would initially be invested in bonds but in the longer-term stock-brokers would be employed to manage the fund.

An appeal for contributions would be made later in the year. Legacies were another important source of income and these too could be made to the Endowment Fund. Information on both would be sent to members in the coming months.

09/06 Special Resolution to amend the Memorandum of Association

Proposed by Mrs V A Knowles and seconded by Lt Col R C Chamberlain the meeting **AGREED** that the following amendments be made to the Memorandum of Association of the Society (the "Memorandum") -

1 **THAT** Clause 4.9 of the Memorandum be deleted and replaced with the following clause

"4.9 To co-operate with governmental and local authorities and with other charitable organisations having similar objects and to establish, promote, support or assist such charitable organisations (including by assisting in the raising of funds for such other charitable organisations) and to purchase, acquire or undertake all or any of the property, liabilities and engagements of such charitable organisations and institutions,"

- 2 **THAT** the draft Memorandum (in the form attached to these Resolutions) be adopted as the Memorandum of Association of the Society with effect from the date of these Resolutions

10/06 The on-line catalogue of the Society's collections

Mr Roger Watson, the Museums' Documentation Officer, briefed the meeting on what the documentation project was, how far it had progressed and how it was being made available on the Society's website – www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk - and gave a presentation showing the type of entries available and how to access them

The website was a positive tool in enabling a wider public to view the Society's collections and encourage them to visit the Museum or carry out research in the Library. Only low-resolution images were put on the website so there was potential for earning income from the sale of better quality images if required.

11/06 The Stonehenge World Heritage Site

Dr Colin Shell gave a brief summary to the meeting of the historical background of the Society's role with the Stonehenge site. Stonehenge had been important to the Society for a long time and an image of it was used on the front cover of the first volume of the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* in 1851. In 1883 the Society objected to the construction of a railway across the landscape. In the 1920s there were concerns that the World War I airstrip near Stonehenge would be purchased and developed, destroying the setting and siting of Stonehenge. In 1927 Ben Cunnington (who was the Museums' curator for 60 years) decided that there should be some action to save the landscape and launched an appeal with Mr W Heyward Bell, President of the Society at that time. Mr Heyward Bell died during the appeal and to commemorate his interest in archaeology his family provided a donation which funded the purchase of some land, later conveyed to the National Trust. There was a commemorative plaque to Mr Heyward Bell in the landscape. The Society also preserved finds and archaeological reports from excavations around Stonehenge and ensured they remained in Wiltshire. The proposed road schemes, particularly the 2.1km dual carriageway, directly affected the land the Society had been involved in helping to purchase.

Mr Brian Davison reported that this was the fifth AGM he had spoken on the proposed road scheme for Stonehenge! Members had also been kept advised of the situation through the years via the Annual Reports, Trilithon and briefing note in the AGM papers.

The Department of Transport had been expected to announce a decision in the summer of 2006 on their choice of road scheme, but to date had not done so. One road scheme (the long-bore tunnel) had been ruled out as too expensive and the other four had been largely condemned. Whatever decision was taken the National Trust was likely to seek a judicial review. In the meantime English Heritage required improved access at Countess Roundabout for their proposed visitor centre, the planning application for which had now gone to a public inquiry, which would probably further delay a decision about the road. The Society would be represented at this public inquiry.

The Stonehenge landscape was a World Heritage Site and must be protected. We were lucky that Stonehenge was in our county and that WANHS was the county archaeological society, which was involved in protecting the site in 1927. If we did not protect the site for future generations who would?

In reply to questions from the meeting it was reiterated that the Society would not consider any scheme that would impair access to the site, the debate was more about the manner of that access. The Society had not yet put forward an alternative solution of their own, pending the outcome of decisions by the Government on the road scheme and visitor centre planning inquiry.

A number of influential archaeologists had backed the English Heritage proposals, who appear to be some under time pressure to have a new visitor centre built. The road scheme was a necessity for this, and whilst the schemes suggested are not necessarily viewed as good, they are considered the best on offer at present. However, Stonehenge had existed for thousands of years and WANHS for 150 – the Society was for the long term and should not be pressurised by the transient needs of English Heritage.

Proposed by Ms C Conybeare and seconded by Mr J S S Stewart the meeting **AGREED (nem con)** **THAT THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BE SUPPORTED**

- 1 To reaffirm its position that there should be no development within the World Heritage Site or adjoining it that compromises its status as an internationally important archaeological landscape,
- 2 To maintain the Society's current policies regarding the upgrading of the A303 and the creation of a new visitor centre at Countess East until such time as ministerial decisions are announced,
- 3 To work with the major conservation bodies and other appropriate partners to identify and support interim traffic measures which will not compromise the landscape of the World Heritage Site and which will not prejudice an acceptable and sustainable long-term solutions, and
- 4 To consult members if it considers new or amended policies to be appropriate, in the light of future ministerial decisions or other significant developments

12/06 Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked Lt Col R C Chamberlain for overseeing the production of the Society's Christmas cards again this year and thanked members for attending the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 4.40 pm

Date of next Meeting **Saturday 6 October 2007** (To be held at the Town Hall, Devizes, Wiltshire)

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