

3885649

**WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**
(Company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31st March 2008

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



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 2008

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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 of whom 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 three 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

Treasurer:

Mrs W. P. Lansdown, FCA. (Company Secretary)

Elected Trustees:

Lt. Col. R. C. Chamberlain
C. R. Chippindale, BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA
Miss K. J. Fielden, BA, D.Phil.
J. Gunter, BA (Hons), MA
N. B. Harte, DSc(Econ), FRHist, FSA, (elected 6/10/07)
Mrs V. A. Knowles, MIL, Dip. COT, (re-elected 06/10/07)
A. Reynolds, BA, PhD, FSA, FSA Scot.
P. R. Saunders, BA, FSA, FMA, FRSA, (elected 6/10/07)
Mrs J. Triggs

Nominated Trustees:

Cllr. C. Callow, BSc, ARCS, MBCS, (from 22/6/07)
A. X. T. Green, BA, MA, AMA, (from 26/10/07)
Cllr. N. Fogg (to 22/6/07)
Cllr. A. Molland
Cllr. Mrs J. Swabey
Cllr. Mrs K. J. Walling, BA(Hons), PGCE, (to 22/6/07)

Member Devizes Town Council
Director, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Member Kennet District Council
Member Wiltshire County Council
Member Wiltshire County Council
Member Devizes Town Council

**SOCIETY STAFFING, FORMAL AND HONORARY APPOINTMENTS
AS AT 31st MARCH, 2008**

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

STAFF: Museum

Acting Curator	Lisa Webb, BA (Hons), MA
Education Officer	Ali Siviter, BA (Hons), MA
Documentation Officer	Roger Watson, BA, BFA (Hons)

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	William Black

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

REGISTERED OFFICE

41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire. SN10 1NS.

VOLUNTEERS 2007-2008

Mr & Mrs D Ainge
Miss Juliet Allan
Miss Katy Allen
Mrs Myra Annable
Mrs Zoe Aspinall
Mrs Leslie Baker
Miss Emily Basford
Mr P B Bell
Dr J D Belt
Mr Anthony Bolland
Mr H Bradford
Lt Col I Branton
Mrs P Brazier
Mrs Catherine Brown
Mr D A Brown
Mrs Daphne Bryant
Ms L Burden
Mr Roy Canham
Miss Helen Cave
Dr John Chandler
Mrs N S T Clarke
Dr Rosamund Cleal
Mrs Judith Colls
Ms C Conybeare
Miss M I Cooper
Mr B Coupe[†]
Miss Sarah Cox
Dr M Darby
Dr J N D'Arcy
Mr B K Davison
Miss H Dawson
Mr R Day
Mr & Mrs J DeNormann
Mr R A Dewhurst
Mrs Rachel Diddams
Miss Janet Dore
Mrs Jane Duffen
Mr Stephen Durant
Mr Brian Edwards
Mr P Elvin
Ms Lynne Farrow
Mr D Field
Mrs Joy Francis
Mrs Joan Friend
Dr Phillida Frost
Mrs Barbara Fuller
Mrs I Geddes
Mrs Marion Geeves
Mrs Audrey Gibbs
Mr Bobby Gibbs
Mr C Gingell
Mr Peter Goodhugh
Rev Dr J W F Gosling
Dr Eric Gruber Von Arni
Mr P Hadley
Mrs Patricia Hallam
Mr & Mrs Richard Hatchwell
Ms Marilyn Hayes
Mrs Molly Heath
Mr M Heaton

Mr J A Hinchliffe
Mr Michael Hiscock
Mrs Patricia Howard
Mrs Merlys Howells[†]
Mr & Mrs M J Hudson
Mrs Rosalie Humphrey
Mr Robin Jenkins
Mrs Carole Jones
Rev & Mrs G H Jones
Mr Jim Keates
Miss M Keepin
Mrs Jasmine Kendall
Lord Kennet
Mr J W Lambert
Mr & Mrs A H Lancashire
Mr Arthur Lansdown
Mr Peter Lavis
Mr A J Lawson
Mrs Sally Lewis
Mrs Marlene Lewis
Mr E G Look
Capt F D Lowe
Ms Stella Maddock
Dr Andrew Martin
Ms Jean Martin
Mr D J Mattock
Miss Josephine May
Prof & Mrs S McGrail
Mrs Joyce McMurray
Mrs Margaret Melsom
Mr Robert Moody
Miss J Moody
Mrs Meriall Moore
Mrs Alison Morison[†]
Mrs Mary Mortimer
Mrs Christine Mudge
Miss J Northey
Mrs Gill Ody
Mr & Mrs B D Oram
Mrs Christine O'Sullivan
Mr M Papworth
Mr D Parker
Mrs Margaret Parkinson
Mr R W Parrack
Mr J R Paton
Mr J F Phillips
Miss Jean Philpott
Miss Edith Pickering
Mr C J Pollard
Mrs Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger
Ms Cynthia Poole
Mr Dennis Powney
Mrs J Ralph
Miss H Reed
Mrs Mary Rennie
Mrs Dorothy Robertson
Mrs D Robinson
Mrs Doris Roddham
Mr Ken & Mrs Helen Rogers
Mrs Eileen Rollo

Miss Susan Rooke
Mrs Judith Roseaman
Mr Rick & Mrs Marion Rowland
Mr Anthony Sampson
Miss J M Y Sanders
Mr Hugh Seymour
Mr B Sheldrake
Dr Colin Shell
Mr Den Shelton
Mrs Anne Shepherdson
Mrs Peggy Shergold
Mr R J Skinner
Mrs S Slathia-Foster
Mrs Pamela Slocombe
Mr Mike & Mrs Anne Smith
Miss Gemma Smith
Mrs Wendy Smith
Mr Nicol Smith
Mr Richard & Dr Phillida Sneyd
Miss Ellen Souter
Mr & Mrs C C Spillane
Mrs Penny Spink
Mrs Jean Springett
Ms Christina Staff
Mr Eric & Mrs Helen Stanford
Ms Susie Stidolph
Mr Mike Stone
Mrs Pat Straw
Mrs Gill Swanton
Prof & Mrs L Symon
Mr Philip Taverner
Mrs Gina Tay
Mr Michael & Mrs Sue Teale
Mr Colin Thomas
Dr James Thomas
Mr A H Thomsett
Mr Peter Tolhurst
Mrs F J Tomaselli
Lady Nancy Tomlinson
Mr & Mrs P Q Treloar
Miss Sally Tye
Mrs Marianne Walker
Mr & Mrs P J L Wallis
Mrs Joyce Walsh
Mr Bryn Walters
Mrs R Webb
Mr & Mrs Roy Webber
Mrs Barbara Welfare
Mrs Wendy Weller
Mr D West
Mrs Jirina Wheatley
Mrs S A Wheeler
Ms Katy Whitaker
Mrs Lucy Whitcher
Miss Jennifer Wildblood
Mr David Williams[†]
Mr M R Williams
Mrs Karin Zeidler

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The year ended with an interregnum. Paul Robinson, our Curator, retired at the end of February 2008 and his successor is not due to take up post until late May.

We owe Paul a tremendous debt of gratitude for all he did for the Society in his 22 years as Curator and 12 years as Assistant Curator before that. During this time he oversaw the renovation and redisplay of the Recent History, Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval Galleries and was responsible for acquiring many interesting and important objects for the collection. It is perhaps a fitting end to his career that in his last week before retirement he was able to complete the acquisition of the major hoard of Roman coins from Alton Barnes, containing two coins of a type that has never been found before (more about this on page 11).

We look forward to welcoming David Dawson as the new Director of the Society and Museum. David joins us from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council where he was involved in the setting up the Portable Antiquities Scheme and was responsible for exploiting digital technology to improve public access to museum and archive collections, including international co-operation in this field. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and an Associate of the Museums Association, David has previous experience as a field archaeologist and as a museum curator in Kent and Oxfordshire. He also worked for a while for the Museums Documentation Association as an adviser on computerised Documentation systems and related standards. He thus comes to us with a wide range of experience in museum management, from practical curatorial work to national and international policy and the use of information technology. He will be joining us at the end of May and he and his family plan to move to Devizes as soon as they can.

The change of job title from Curator to Director reflects the fact that as the senior member of the Society's staff, David will be responsible not only for the care and interpretation of the collections, but also broader issues relating to the management of the Society, including forward planning, marketing and public relations and fundraising.

As members are aware, during the year we and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum were the subject of a scrutiny of our activities by Wiltshire County Council that would determine the Council's policy on future grant funding. We were pleased that the review recommended that we should continue to receive funding at the present level, though the transition to a new unitary local government structure in Wiltshire means that arrangements from 2009 onwards will remain somewhat uncertain until the new Council is in place. The review also made recommendations of ways the two museums might work more closely together and we shall be discussing these further with the County Council during the coming year. Meanwhile we would like to gratefully acknowledge all the grant funding we received in 2007-08 from the County Council, Kennet District Council, Devizes Town Council, Roundway Parish Council, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Pilgrim Trust, the Ernest Cook Trust and the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon. We are also most grateful to members who supported our appeal last April for both the General and Endowment Funds. The Endowment fund in particular is making good progress with an end of year balance of £83,788, having benefitted from the proceeds of the sale of a small industrial property which one of our members gave to the fund a year ago. We are also grateful to Richard Oexmann for a further endowment of \$20,000 to cover future costs of the Oexmann Art Competition (see report on page 14).

During the year, helped by money received from legacies, we were able to upgrade the Society's computer network, installing a server and faster cable connections between different parts of the building. Also much effort was devoted to fundraising for badly needed improvements to visitor facilities at the Museum, particularly the construction of additional toilets including a wheelchair-accessible toilet; the planned work also includes improvements to access between the Henge and Temporary Exhibition galleries and refurbishment of the latter with new lighting and new display cases. I am pleased to report that we have now secured grants (payable in 2008-09) for the whole of the estimated £130,000 cost of the work and we plan to undertake this around the end of this calendar year. We are particularly grateful to Kennet District Council who have given us a capital grant of £70,000 towards the project, without which it would not be possible. Other money has been promised from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums Improvement Fund, the Margaret Guido Charitable Trust, the Samuel William Farmer Trust and Viridor Credits and Hills Waste Solutions under the Landfill Communities Fund scheme.

Disappointingly the outturn for the year was another substantial deficit on our operational account, although, as stated on the Financial Review on page 19, this was within the budgeted figure. The Balance Sheet shows a significant reduction in net assets over 2007, largely due to the major fall in the value of our investments in line with market movements. We shall continue in 2008-09 to make every effort to increase income and reduce the ongoing deficits.

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, 2008.

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 consisting of twelve elected by the membership of the Society, two nominated by Wiltshire County Council and one each by Kennet District Council, Devizes Town Council and Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum: an additional three members may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next Annual General meeting. An induction session and other training is provided for all trustees to familiarise them with the organisation of the Society, its Memorandum and Articles of Association, their legal obligations under company and charitable law, the current forward plan and the financial position and budget.

At 31st March, 2008, the Acting Curator was the senior member of staff responsible for the ongoing operations in consultation with the Chairman; a Director had been appointed and will be employed from 26th May 2008. The Chairman's letter gives more details.

There are separate sub-committees, responsible for reporting to the Board, for Archaeology, Building and Monuments, Finance, Fund-raising, Marketing and Membership, Industrial Archaeology, Library, Natural History, Programme, Publications, and Stonehenge; and the Archaeology Field Group. Reports from the Curator, the Librarian, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, the Education Officer and these committees and groups are included in this report.

CURATORIAL REPORT

The number of visitors to the Museum in 2007-08 was 20,736, a slight decrease on the number who came in the previous two years. Again a fair proportion of these were visitors from abroad, not just from Europe (France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands), but also from Australia and New Zealand, Eastern Europe (the Czech Republic, Poland and Lithuania), the Americas (Canada, USA and Mexico) and from China. The range of countries illustrates the international appeal of the collections, and indeed a large proportion of the enquiries received by the Museum now come from abroad. The number of children visiting the Museum or using the collections continues to grow as do the number of families visiting whether on 'ordinary' days or on the successful Family Days held during the year. Use of the website continues to increase and we hope that these will lead to actual visits in due course.

The only staff change was the retirement of the Curator at the end of February.

Funding from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) enabled us to employ a Museum Consultant to carry out an audience development project, in conjunction with all the staff, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer and Ms Clare Conybeare. The aim of the project was to develop a stronger community base for the Museum and Library by involving more local people, both as visitors and potentially in other roles. The project sought to find out why people didn't visit, what would encourage them to come and then how their visit could be enhanced. A number of special events took place during the autumn and winter at which visitors were asked a series of questions about their visit. These events were followed up by a series of focus groups which looked at issues in more detail. The project was very interesting and a wealth of information was gathered. The Consultant has made a number of recommendations which the staff and Board of Trustees will be reviewing and implementing in the coming months.

Following the successful spring cleaning of targeted areas of the Museum in 2006 and 2007, Lisa Webb and Heather Ault carried out a long overdue 'blitz' on the Museum stores, greatly improving their appearance and working conditions.

Documentation Project

Work on documenting the Museum collections on a computer database (MODES) continued with financial support from the Pilgrim Trust. During the year the Pilgrim Trust generously agreed to extend this funding to a third year (2008-09).

In the year under review the main task of the Documentation Officer, Roger Watson, has been to upgrade the MODES database from MODES for Windows to MODES XML. Unlike MODES for Windows, MODES XML is a client-server system where multiple users can have concurrent access to the same data file. It also has improved security and allows the efficient processing of large files. Roger has been responsible for maintaining the functionality of the new 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 year, project staff, Lisa Webb, Roger Watson and Heather Ault together with a team of twenty five volunteers, who have collectively contributed 3,030 hours of their time, have created a further 12,202 MODES records with 800 accompanying digital images. This brings the overall number of MODES records on the database to 73,861, with a total of 4,535 digital images.

In December of last year another batch of data was uploaded from the database to the website, adding a further 11,700 records and 1,100 digital images. Included were records for all the objects in the Neolithic and Medieval Galleries, and part of the Saxon Gallery, with images for almost every item. Some records for Maud Cunnington's excavation at Woodhenge, the finds from Stuart Piggott's excavation at West Kennet Long Barrow and the artefacts found at the Romano-British settlement at Chapperton Down (reported in Volume 100 of *WANHIM*) were also included in the upload, as were records for two archaeological assemblages recently deposited with the Museum, one from a Saxon settlement at Collingbourne Ducis and the other from a multi-period site at Westbury Chalk Quarry.

There have also been some minor changes made to the way the 'search the collections' part of the website looks and works from the point of view of the end user - there is now a new feature which highlights records in blue if the object in question is on display, or is special in some way. Also, the user is no longer restricted to searching for objects by collection (e.g. archaeology, recent history, natural history, etc) as it is now possible to do a search across all the collections files, which is particularly useful if someone wishes to see everything that the Museum holds from a specific parish for example - be it archaeological or more recent. Finally, for the first time it is possible to search for an item using its accession number. To see the newly uploaded data and view the changes made to this part of the Museum's website please go to - www.wiltshireheritagecollections.org.uk

The Volunteer Co-ordinator, Heather Ault, has completed the documentation of the Aldbourne hoard of Roman coins, which comprises 5,260 coins and required approximately 1,000 MODES records. Heather is now working towards ensuring that the Art Collection is fully catalogued and on the MODES database and three volunteers have been specially recruited to help her.

All in all, 2007-08 has been another 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 which are both extensive and of national importance.

Conservation

In 2007 the Wiltshire County Council Conservation Laboratory moved from Salisbury to the newly built Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. As a result the Museum could only be allocated 110 hours of conservation time (although actually receiving 187½ hours!). The staff of the Conservation Laboratory continued to make regular visits to the Museum and Library to monitor and report on environmental conditions in the stores and galleries and to advise and assist the staff.

Ms Helen Wilmot, senior conservator, carried out a detailed survey of the extensive and extremely important collection of the human remains housed in the Museum. Her valuable report will be crucial to our deciding the best way they are stored and used in the future as soon as their documentation on to computer of the museum collections has been completed. Ms Wilmot also prepared a condition report on the objects to be loaned to the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Academy of Arts (see Major Loans below) reporting on their condition and weaknesses and highlighting the particular problems which might be met either in transit or while they were on display.

Two objects were conserved and returned to the Museum – an early Iron Age pot from All Cannings Cross and a Roman jar from Casterley Camp hillfort.

Researchers

Jennie Anderson (Swindon College), Anglo-Saxon and Medieval metalwork; Sue Bartlett (Reading University), early history of the museum. Tom Brindle (Kings College, London), Roman Wiltshire; Steven Cartwright (Oxford University), the Bronze Age flint 'cups' from Upton Lovell G2a; Simon and Caroline and Simon Chenery (British Geological Survey), Stonehenge and Bronze Age settlement; Mike Corfield, Bush Barrow; Lisa Fisher (Sussex University), Bronze Age pottery in Wiltshire; Richard Grose, Grose Herbarium; Andrew Lawson, Manton Copse Late Bronze Age hoards; Mark Maltby (Bournemouth University), Bronze Age animal bone and identification of grave goods; Jane Masters (Cardiff University), Bronze Age cremations; Dr T S N Moorhead (British Museum), Late Roman coins; Martin Smith (Birmingham University), human remains from Lanhill long barrow; Tom Thear and Peter Vellet (Winchester University) analysis of use-wear on Bronze Age axeheads; Lorna Tilley (Australian National University, Canberra), human remains from Severn-Cotswold chambered tombs; Kate Waddington (Cardiff University), late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age middens; Keith Walton (Swindon College), Medieval brooches; Michael Wolf (New College, Swindon), illustrations and typology of Mesolithic tools; Dr Ann Woodward, Dr David Bukach and Prof John Hunter (Birmingham University), Leverhulme funded project on Early Bronze Age grave goods.

Major Loans

Six important loans were made from the collection during the year:

- o *September 2007 to December 2007:*
Loan of John Britton's 'Celtic' Cabinet and the gold objects and amber necklace from the barrow Upton Lovell G2e (Golden Barrow) to the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Academy of Arts, for inclusion in the exhibition *Making History: Antiquaries in Britain, 1707-2007*, marking the tercentenary of the founding of the Society of Antiquaries.
- o *July 2007 to April 2008:*
Loan of stone artefacts from the barrow Upton Lovell G2a (the 'Shaman's burial') to Dr C A Shell for scientific examination at Cambridge University.
- o *July 2007 to August 2008:*
Loan of 59 late Roman copper alloy coins from the Bishops Cannings Hoard to Dr T S N Moorhead (Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum) for scientific analysis as part of a project to identify variations in the alloys of coins struck at different mints.

- o *December 2007 to May 2008:*
Loan of 19th century drawings of Chippenham town centre to Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre for a temporary exhibition on Chippenham in the early 19th century.
- o *February 2008 to June 2008:*
Loan of two Neolithic cremation burials from the excavation at Woodhenge by Mrs M E Cunnington, to Dr J Pollard, (University of Bristol) and Professor M Parker Pearson (Sheffield University), for detailed examination and radio-carbon dating.
- o *March 2008 to August 2008:*
Loan of approximately 1,000 coins from the Alton Barnes Hoard, acquired in February 2008, to Dr T S N Moorhead (Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum) for research and completion of the catalogue.

Exhibitions

The following exhibitions were held during the year:

Art Gallery

14 April – 20 May	'Landscape Painted and Pieced', paintings by Peter Fowler
3 June – 8 July	'Oexmann Art Award Competition exhibition'
20 July – 27 August	'All about Stonehenge', paintings from the Museum collection
3 – 30 September	Biennial exhibition of prints by Devizes Camera Club
6 October – 25 November	'Monochrome Paintings', an exhibition by Anthony Williams
4 December – 30 March	'Devizes Then and Now', photographs from the Library collection.

Temporary Exhibitions Gallery

31 January – 21 April	'The Collecting Bug', private collections formed by members of the public
28 April – 25 July	'A Victorian Castle in Devizes: an exhibition about the Castle and its people'
3 August – 13 January	'Fossils: a children's guide to identifying Wiltshire specimens'
19 January – 27 April	'Sport: a history of the clubs in and around Devizes'

Staff Publications

Lorna Haycock 'The Jackson Letters: a postscript', *WANHM* 101 (2008), 260

Paul Robinson 'Some Hertfordshire Finds in the Stourhead Collection', *WANHM* 101 (2008), 251-3

COLLECTIONS TRUST

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

Museum Acquisitions

Archaeology

As in previous years a number of historically important objects which in most cases are also visually attractive were acquired during 2007-08. They included six items which had been declared 'treasure' under the Treasure Act (1996). These are a 7th century Anglo-Saxon gold bead from Ogbourne St Andrew (2005 T87); a Medieval silver-gilt penannular brooch from Winterbourne Bassett (2005 T258); a hoard of 3,854 3rd century silver and copper alloy coins found at Alton Barnes (2005 T348); an Iron Age silver coin from Urchfont (2006 T80); an incomplete Roman silver coin ring enclosing a *Denarius* of the Empress, Plautilla (2006 T233) and a 16th century gold betrothal ring engraved with I AM YOURS found at Collingbourne Kingston (2006 T457). The list illustrates clearly that perhaps the most significant additions acquired during the year were of objects which had gone through the 'treasure process'.

All of the above items were purchased. Major grants were received from both the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund and the Headley Trust to enable us to acquire the Ogbourne St Andrew gold bead and the Alton Barnes coin hoard. The coin hoard was discovered on land belonging to New College, Oxford. The College and their tenant farmer generously waived their entitlement to a reward under the Treasure Act, so substantially reducing the price we had to pay for the coins. The other items were acquired with the aid of a grant from the Primrose Trust and through kind donations from members of the Society.

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

It is interesting to note that the pattern of new acquisitions of archaeological objects made by the Museum has changed in recent years. Shortage of space in the Museum stores now permits us to accept only those assemblages of finds which come from small projects such as watching briefs and small scale excavations, while the employment of the Finds Liaison Officer post has meant that the curatorial staff no longer have direct contact with the public when new finds are made and consequently have fewer opportunities of acquiring new discoveries. In their place the Museum is acquiring more items found in Wiltshire which have been declared 'treasure' under the Treasure Act. Perhaps unexpectedly the Museum has also acquired some small collections of archaeological objects which were found much longer ago in the past.

Three small excavation archives were accepted during the year. These were the finds from the Neolithic site excavated at Woodlands Stables, Ramsbury, the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Collingbourne Ducis and the multi-period site at Westbury chalk quarry. The first two are important excavations and we are grateful to the landowners for agreeing that the finds should be deposited in the Museum.

Four collections or assemblages of archaeological material were donated. Mrs Henrietta Quinell donated an important series of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman pot sherds, together with a Roman spearhead, which had been collected by her husband, Norman, at the temple site at Cold Kitchen Hill in the 1940s, while Dr Keith Boughey forwarded to us on behalf of Mrs Feather, an important collection of Neolithic flints found at Aldbourne in the early 20th century which were part of the private collection of the Yorkshire archaeologist and museum curator, Stuart Wharton Feather. R Parkinson donated a collection of prehistoric and later objects which he had found at Bishops Cannings, including a heavily used slate whetstone probably of early Bronze Age date, while B Read and Mrs V McRae donated further objects from Brixton Deverill, mainly of Saxon and Medieval date.

Miss J Naylor donated a very fine large Neolithic flint axehead which had been found in c.1940 by her father Percy Naylor while digging in his garden at Fittleton. We were also able to purchase a late Bronze Age socketted bronze axehead which had been found in the 19th century in the rampart of Casterley Camp hillfort and which is important in confirming the very early date of the hillfort. A box of early Iron Age pottery which had been presented by Mrs M E Cunnington to Colchester Museum was returned as it was no longer required there.

Recent History

The acquisition of objects of more recent date falls chiefly into three categories – objects relating to the local history of Devizes, objects relating to Stonehenge and fine and decorative art items.

A number of extremely important Devizes items were acquired including the silver communion set made in 1889 used in Devizes Hospital, donated by the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (Devizes Hospital) and comprising a chalice and small patten, together with other items relating to Devizes Cottage Hospital including the gong which told visitors that visiting time was now over! The Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health Trust donated the Victorian communion set comprising a chalice and two pattens in Victorian Gothic style in their storage box used at Green Lane Hospital. The two hospitals have played a central part in the life of the town since Victorian times and it is with particular pleasure that we add these items to the collection. Mr A Field donated a presentation conductor's baton in ebony with silver mounts in its original case. An inscription on it records that it was presented in 1890 to H H Baker by the members of the Devizes Musical Association. The full story of this may be read in the Wiltshire newspapers preserved in the Society's Library. J Leach donated two games cups of Southbroom Secondary Modern School. Local items relating to shops and trades included a coffee spoon inscribed 'Simpson and Son, Devizes' and a stoneware jar of 'G C Carter, Provision Merchant, Devizes' given by Mrs B Fuller and P Hart. Perhaps the most unusual item was a decorative table runner made of cigarette 'silks' sewn together given away by Anstie's, the Devizes-based cigarette manufacturers.

Four objects were acquired relating to the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. Richard Hatchwell presented a tile picture depicting an early painting of Stonehenge after Loggan. The artist, who lives in the West Country, is Rosie Smith. An early 19th century hand-drawn painting of Stonehenge on a large plate was purchased while Brian Edwards donated a lapel badge depicting Silbury Hill. A very interesting item was a geodetic rod designed and marketed in about 1955 by Guy Underwood, barrister, amateur archaeologist, author and water diviner, which was given by N Mortimer. In the handbook that accompanies the geodetic rod, Underwood records that he had used it at Stonehenge and had located an underground source of water directly below the monument.

Decorative arts items include a set of twelve 20th century ceramic roundels with scenes from north Wiltshire printed on them, and cups commemorating the Tedworth Hunt and the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, all of which were donated by Brian Edwards. Mrs Ann Howard donated an inscribed plate made for the Women's Institute in Potterne.

Numismatics

A number of important and particularly interesting acquisitions were made during the year. As mentioned previously three items were acquired as part of the 'treasure' process – an Iron Age coin of the Irregular Dobunnic (east Wiltshire) series, discovered at Urchfont, an incomplete Roman silver coin-ring which incorporates a coin of the Empress Plautilla and the hoard of 3,854 3rd century silver and copper alloy coins found at Alton Barnes in 2005. There is much that could be said about this hoard; it is hoped to include a full description and account of its numismatic context in the 2009 volume of *WANHM*. Its significance includes the facts that amongst the coins were very rare examples of coins of short-lived emperors such as Florian and even shorter-lived usurpers such as Laelian and Marius and that the later coins are in unusually fine condition with their plating still intact. It also includes two radiates of Tetricus I, struck in Cologne, types never found before. The acquisition of the hoard will strengthen our Roman coin collection as a whole as well as the displays in the Roman Gallery. Several other finds of Roman coins were acquired. R Parkinson donated a group of Roman coins from Bishops Cannings and R Pearce a rather fine *antoninianus* found near Devizes. J Belk presented two unusual pierced Roman coins which had been found at Marston Meysey.

No Medieval coins were acquired. Later coins include a counterfeit in pewter or lead of a half penny of William III and a number of 20th century European coins from Bishops Cannings which may well have been lost by soldiers training during the two world wars. M Stone donated two Co-op tokens from Trowbridge which were previously not represented in the collection.

Several interesting medals with a local connection were acquired. Most important was a Georgian prize medal awarded to a pupil of Mrs Elliott's Ladies Boarding School, which was in the building in which the Museum is now located. A white-metal medal, commemorating the Opening of the Public Baths at Bradford on Avon in 1897 was purchased, as were two examples of the 'Sarsen Trail' medal given to walkers who complete the Avebury to Stonehenge walk. Perhaps most interesting, however, was an American medal depicting George Washington which was found at Bishops Cannings by R Parkinson. Made in the 1930s it was perhaps lost by an American soldier exercising on the Downs during the war.

Two unusual items also found at Bishops Cannings were a penny of George III dated 1797 which has been twice bent to make a love token and a penny of Queen Victoria, filed flat on one side and engraved in 1938 in a neat cursive script with an inscription naming 'Section Leader Savage', presumably another memento from the war.

Art

Thirty-nine individual items were acquired during the year:-

- Bound volume of proofs of the Philip Crocker engravings for *Ancient Wiltshire* by Sir Richard Colt Hoare and *Crickhowell from the South West*, framed pen and brown wash drawing by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, 28th May 1793. Given by Nicholas Thomas.
- *Devil's Den*, oil painting by Peter Fowler (2006). Given by Peter Fowler.
- *Marlborough Town from the Cricket Field*, etching by Edward J Bonner (c 1900). Given by Brian Edwards.
- *St Mary's Church, Marlborough*, etching by Christopher Hughes (c 1920). Given by Brian Edwards.
- *Cotton House from the River – Marlborough College*, etching by Gertrude Hayes. Given by Brian Edwards.
- *Cotton House – Marlborough College*, etching by G. Hayes (c 1920). Given by Brian Edwards.
- *Thrashing at Harvest Time*, print by Rowland Hilder. Given by Brian Edwards.
- *Evening Flight over Avebury*, print by Pam Mullings. Given by Brian Edwards.
- *The Stone Circle and Village, Avebury*, poster by Garrick Palmer (1968). Given by Brian Edwards.
- *View from near the top of Horton Bridge*, watercolour by W R Newman (1967). Given by Richard and Anne Livermore.
- Collection of 7 drawings of the interior of the George & Dragon, Potterne, by Anthony Mayland (1984). Purchased.
- *View in Devizes of backs of houses in New Park St*, watercolour by W R Newman (1951). Given by Robert Kemp.
- *Devizes – St John's Alley*, watercolour by W R Newman (1953). Given by Robert Kemp.
- *Christmas in Devizes*, oil by Graham Sproston. Given by Robert Kemp.
- 14 pieces from the Denis Grant King Collection, including - *The Stairway at Old Laundry Cottage, Little Cheverill*, oil (c.1940); *The Elm Tree with distant view of Westbury White Horse*, oil (Oct 1949); *A small building to the south side of Gt Chalfield House*, oil (c.1950); *South-west sector of Avebury*, print; *The Trust for the Dartford Warbler, Peak Hill, S. Devon*, watercolour (7 Sept 1972). Gift from the Estate of D Grant King.

- *Distant View of Stonehenge*, watercolour by E D Riley (1919). Purchased.
- *Stonehenge*, watercolour by E D Riley (1919). Purchased.
- *Stonehenge*, print by David Gunning (c 2000). Gift of the artist.
- *Stonehenge*, print by David Gunning (1997). Gift of the artist.

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

Paul Robinson and Lisa Webb

SANDELL LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Publicising the Library has been a major concern, particularly with the opening of the new History Centre at Chippenham last autumn. Leaflets on different aspects of the Library collections have been distributed to local history and archaeological groups, and talks have been given to various Wiltshire societies, including the Wiltshire Ladies Club, the St Andrew's Church Friendship Group and the residents of Sudweeks Court in Devizes as well as new WANHS members. A major event last April was the staging at the Museum of a Day School for members of Wiltshire Local History Forum, when Library sources were used to demonstrate research methods. The wealth of material here provided a revealing experience for those who attended, which has resulted in return visits and enquiries. The Library also participated in the audience development project by putting on relevant displays to specially invited groups

Other opportunities to publicise the Library have included attendance at outside events such as the Wiltshire Family History Society Open Day in June, the launch of the Victoria County History sponsored volume on the history of Codford and the Cranborne Chase 'Pathways to the Past' evening at Tisbury. The Library has also been heavily involved in preparations for three Museum exhibitions - *Devizes Then and Now*, *Sport: a History of the Clubs in and around Devizes* and *Little Imber on the Downe, Seven Miles from any Towne*, all using Library photographs and other ephemera. In connection with the *Devizes Then and Now* exhibition, a short talk was given at the preview and the Imber material in the Library has been greatly enhanced by the gift of four large albums of photographs by a member, Mrs R Hooper.

To add to our collection of Sir Richard Colt Hoare's works, we are indebted to Nicholas Thomas, a former Curator and Chairman of the Society, for the gift of four volumes of *Recollections of Travels Abroad* (1815-1818), as well as *Hints on the Topography of Wiltshire* (1818), *Monasticon Wiltonense* (1821), and the proofs of the Philip Crocker drawings for *Ancient Wiltshire*. Professor Peter Fowler generously gave us a wide selection of archaeology books from his collection while David Pickering donated works by the Devizes author, Mary Wiltshire (Frances Isborn). Other accessions include:

Edwards, G (1795), *A Discourse on the Emigration of British Birds* (J Walker)

Gardiner, J & Allen, M (2005), *Before the Mast; Life and Death aboard the Mary Rose* (The Mary Rose Trust)

Higgs, M (2007), *Life in the Victorian and Edwardian workhouse* (Tempus)

Humphries, S and Hopwood, B (1999) *Green and Pleasant Land: the Untold Story of Country Life in Twentieth century Britain* (Macmillan and Channel 4)

Knowles, V (2007), *A History of Stanton St Bernard* (Hobnob Press)

Lawson, A (2007), *Chalkland: an Archaeology of Stonehenge and its Region* (Hobnob Press)

Renfrew, C and Bahn, P (2003), *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice* (Thames & Hudson)

Timms, P (2007), *Working at Swindon Works 1930-60* (Tempus)

A large number of photographs of Wiltshire scenes and buildings have been donated by members and friends, including a miscellaneous collection of photographs of Devizes and the surrounding area, donated by Derek Parker, and these are currently being added to the MODES database. We have also been given several albums of archaeological photographs of Stonehenge and Littlecote. I must particularly mention the splendid album of postcards of Avebury donated by Brian Edwards, some of them very rare.

Visitor numbers have continued to increase, both in personal visits and enquiries by post and email. The bound copies of *The Devizes Gazette* are in constant use. Membership of the Society gives free access to the Library and I would urge all members to come and avail themselves of the wide ranging material on the history of the county in all its aspects.

My thanks are due, as always, to the loyal band of volunteers whose dedication and support are much appreciated.

Lorna Haycock, Sandell Librarian and Archivist

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

This year has been one of good, strong progress seeing a huge amount of support and involvement across the board from volunteers.

Weekday front of house cover has continued to progress steadily, and I am pleased to say that we have welcomed two new volunteers recently to help with this. This is also an area of Museum volunteering on which we have increased our demands over the last year and all our volunteers have helped tremendously in covering extra mornings and afternoons in order to free our Shop Manager more. Equally I have to thank all of those front desk volunteers (particularly our Sunday volunteers) who regularly step in to ensure that Bank Holiday cover is maintained and that the Museum can remain open on these important days to receive visitors.

Having mentioned Sunday volunteers, it is worth pointing out that Sunday opening itself will soon be in its seventh year of operation. This small and dedicated team of volunteers together with key holders, some of whom are also volunteers, have consistently turned up on Sunday afternoons whatever the weather and enabled the Museum to open its doors. Indeed we are now well-known for our free Sunday opening and regularly welcome a number of appreciative visitors as a result.

The Museum's Documentation volunteers continue to go from strength to strength, although we have recently had to say goodbye to several of the team who have gone on to new jobs, courses and to have babies. As a result of this I am currently recruiting volunteers in this area, and hope to welcome new people on board to continue with this vital area of Museum work soon. We have now started documenting the outstanding items in the art collection and I have assembled a small team which began working on this from January 2008, and who are now creating records on a regular basis.

Training workshops have also been offered to some of our volunteers over this last year as well; with a focus on training our collections based volunteers. As part of this those volunteers using the Museum's MODES (Museum Object Data Entry System) database received training in using it, and a finds workshop and fossil identification workshop were also offered to those volunteers working directly on documentation. For the most part volunteer training tends to be through an induction and ongoing support with myself and supervising staff, so it is valuable to be able to boost this with other learning opportunities.

Events volunteers have continued to support the Museum well over this last year – turning out in good numbers to help with Family Days, fundraising events such as our plant and bric-a-brac sales and exhibition openings. Not only does this enable us to run what are essentially well-established events, but also enables us to work towards increasing the breadth of what we are able to offer to the public and local community and to branch out with new initiatives.

I must also take the time to mention the huge amount of help that the Society receives from volunteers working in areas such as envelope stuffing – an incredibly important area of Society life, often overlooked, but which – run by Margaret Clarke (Office Administrator) and a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers – enables us to mail Society members regularly with all Society news. Equally our couriers play an extremely important part in delivering those mailings to Wiltshire members, thereby saving the Society a huge amount in postage.

And of course there are other areas too where volunteers work away on the Society's behalf, such as in the Library or in the office, or on Committees organising all sorts of things for the Society's benefit and that of its members. This support is demonstrated well by the hours of volunteering given, and from April 2007 – March 2008 alone our volunteers gave up a massive 7,587 hours of their time to help us – an increase of 86 hours on the previous year.

The Society can only be described as being highly fortunate in the support it continues to receive from its volunteers across the board. I hope to be able to continue to welcome new volunteers on board in all areas, supporting and ensuring that these generous people enjoy their time here as part of the Society team.

Heather Ault, Volunteer Co-ordinator

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

We have had a very successful year with over 4,000 children benefitting from the education service, which is a record number for the Museum. We have offered a wide range of events and activities in the Museum and in an outreach capacity, for school groups of all ages, young people, families, clubs and community groups.

The education programme continues to be popular with schools from all over Wiltshire. 739 school children have visited the museum this year and 1,482 children have participated in outreach sessions. The cost of

transport for out of school visits means that teachers often opt for the sessions to be delivered in the school. The workshops I offer are generally based around National Curriculum topics and involve artefact handling, role play, art and craft activities.

The schools service has been publicised through newsletters and mail-outs this year. I have also had the opportunity to take part in a joint publicity initiative with other Education Officers in Wiltshire. We received funding from Renaissance South West, Bristol Museums and MLA South West, which enabled us to have joint leaflets and posters produced. These were distributed to all primary, secondary and nursery schools in the county. The leaflets have already had a noticeable impact with a number of teachers, who had not previously used the service, doing so.

Last summer term was particularly busy for me because, as well as running my own sessions, I also spent quite a lot of time delivering sessions on behalf of Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, who were without an Education Officer for some time. I also began to deliver the Stonehenge Discovery Visits for English Heritage, which Salisbury Museum's Education Officer had previously led. These are interactive tours, run with the assistance of National Trust volunteers. They involve role play, music and artefact investigation. I will be continuing with these in the coming year.

Our activities for families and children have also been going well this year, in particular our family days. We have had a National Archaeology Day, an Egyptian Day and most recently a Viking and Saxon Day. This attracted over 600 people, showing that we have the right formula for these days now. We were able to offer free entry for this event thanks to MLA Renaissance funding. As well as these, we have run 17 holiday activity sessions, all of which have been well attended. These have been largely art and craft workshops, some linked to our art gallery exhibitions and others having archaeology, history and seasonal themes.

Our Young WANHS club continues to go well, with a number of new members joining this year. We have had 12 sessions, including workshops and outings led by the Archaeology Field Group, the National Trust and Wiltshire Geology Group. I should like to thank these organisations for giving up their time for us.

This year I have delivered summer school workshop weeks at Marlborough College and Devizes School, which have helped us to reach new audiences, something we always strive to do. We have also been lucky enough to be awarded funding by the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon this year. This is allowing us to provide activities and sessions for clubs and community groups in rural areas. Such groups may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in museum activities.

It would not be possible to run such wide range of activities and events without the help of our volunteers and placement students. Their hard work is much appreciated and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Ali Siviter, Education Officer

THE OEXMANN ART COMPETITION

The tenth biennial Oexmann Art Competition and exhibition was held in May 2007 with a record number of entries (192 adults and 220 young persons). The competition is open to all amateur and professional painters born or living in Wiltshire and has gained an enviable reputation for the quality and variety of the entries. The exhibition of winning entries, together with 63 other pictures selected for display, continued until 8 July 2007.

The prize winners were Jane Eaton (first), Frank Quinton (second), Anne Scott (third) and Jean Lidbrooke (drawing prize). In the 12-18 Young Persons' category the prize winners were Christine Bechler (first), Lucy Horrocks (second) and Carrie Tang (third). The prize winners in the 6 – 11 Young Persons' category were Darcie Bond (first), William Tacey (second) and Olivia Davies (third). In addition seven highly commended certificates were awarded in the adult section and 35 in the Young Persons' category. All the pictures entered in the Young Persons' category were displayed in the Museum's Natural History Gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

The competition was established in 1987 with an endowment by Richard Oexmann in memory of his wife Theophila Joan Oexmann (née Copley-Griffiths) who grew up in Potterne near Devizes. They met during the Second World War when Richard was serving with the American forces and married in Potterne at the end of the War. The family have supported the exhibition every year with Joan and Helen the grand-daughters of Richard and Theophila, presenting the prizes in 2007. In January 2008 Richard Oexmann very generously gave the Society a further endowment of \$20,000 for the future funding of the competition. Income from this and the original endowment is used to fund the prizes and cost of the competition with any surplus being reinvested in the Oexmann Fund for future years (see note 17 on page 31 of the accounts).

The next Oexmann Art Competition will be held in March 2009 with the pictures being exhibited throughout April.

Colvin Chamberlain, Competition Manager

ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Committee liaises with other organizations in the county and provides a forum for information exchange, advice and assistance. Committee members include representatives of English Heritage, the National Trust, Wiltshire County Council Archaeology Service, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, Kennet District Council (Avebury World Heritage Site), Young Archaeologists Club, Swindon Museum, the Association for Roman Archaeology, CBA Wessex, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and independent consultants.

Reports are received on current activities in the county: during 2007-08 the Silbury Hill Conservation Project attracted a great deal of attention. It started well and during June was running ahead of schedule, but the adverse weather conditions later in the year exacerbated difficult engineering solutions and doubled the time envisaged for the project. The archaeological research part of the project was successful and post-excavation work is in progress.

The major activity on behalf of the Society was the holding of a Conference in November, *The Past in the Present*, designed to review current approaches to research, conservation and holistic management of the historic environment. This event also raised £694.43 for Society funds. Grateful thanks to the speakers and helpers on the day.

Gill Swanton, Chairman

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Membership of the Field Group is open to all members of the Society of any ability who have an interest in archaeology; everyone is welcome. The original aim was to provide an activity at least one Saturday each month. However, the Group currently has so many schemes that practically every weekend and even some weekdays see members in action somewhere in the county. Even appalling weather conditions are no deterrent.

The year has been dominated by four major projects.

The hunt for the lost Tudor mansion of the Duke of Somerset near Great Bedwyn has started to produce significant results. The water conduit constructed in 1548 has been found below 2 metres of solid clay. Its course has now been traced for over 500 metres and the complicated structure for cleaning and directing the flow of water at its source has been uncovered. A major surprise was the discovery of four almost complete mid and late Bronze Age pots, one of which is currently being reconstructed. We will be returning to the site during 2008 when the focus will be on finding the foundations of the mansion.

The Woodland Archaeology project in the 400 hectares of West Woods, started in 2006, has occupied most of the winter and early spring. The pace of progress has increased with many extra days of surveying achieved this year but also by the provision by the Forestry Commission of LIDAR images of the wood for us. These provide 'radar' based images of the ground as if the trees were removed, and have transformed the survey from just an audit to ground proofing and interpreting features highlighted in the LIDAR image.

At South Marston the group has been investigating a series of 'humps and bumps' that might be the remains of a Medieval settlement. These have all been traced and planned. The next stage will be to carry out a geophysical survey in order to identify areas that might be worthy of further investigation.

A race against time is underway on a rescue archaeology dig near Bradford-on-Avon. Walkers in an area soon to be covered with landfill found some Romano-British pottery. The Group was called in to carry out a structured walk of the field to recover as much of this material as possible. But when lines of buildings were discovered the focus of the project suddenly shifted. Over recent weeks, literally in snow and rain, an excavation has been – and continues to be – carried out. Early thoughts are that we have a complex site. There is much Roman, along with Medieval material. Unfortunately the walls extend into an area already covered by landfill so the full extent of the building will never be uncovered. The finding of a Neolithic tanged-and-barbed arrowhead nearby has only added more interest to the site.

Alongside all these projects there has been a whole *tranche* of other activities from the basics such as finds washing, to standing building recording and to assisting on the Stonehenge Riverside Project run by Mike Parker-Pearson. As has been reported in *WANHM* Volume 101 the Field Group provided the expertise on the excavation of the possible site of the Bishop of Salisbury's palace at Potterne over a 12 day period in

July. Besides the Medieval material, hints were found of earlier levels of occupation which we hope to explore further in 2008.

More opportunities have been found for involving the Society's Young WANHS club in our work with both visits to one of our digs and with help in washing and identifying pottery. This is an area we are keen to promote, growing the Field Group archaeologists of the future. We would like to thank the administration staff in the Society with help in printing signs, etc for us and in providing accommodation for the spring and autumn social evenings we have introduced.

Jim Gunter, Archaeology Field Group Leader

BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS COMMITTEE

The Committee has met four times during the year. Much of our work, however, is done outside our meetings with the regular scrutiny of planning applications affecting Listed buildings and major archaeological sites in the county, and commenting to local planning authorities where relevant.

As usual, we have taken an interest in happenings at Stonehenge – and have shared in the welcome news that the A303 scheme has been abandoned by the Government for what we hope will be less damaging and more low key proposals for improving the visitor-facilities and environment of the World Heritage Site (WHS). At Avebury, the other half of the WHS, there have been two applications that have been subject of particular concern. These were for five new houses on the site of Bonds Garage (mentioned in *Trilithon* in January 2008), and one new house at the west end of the High Street and possibly on the line of the Beckhampton Avenue. The first was finally granted planning permission in February this year, despite specific policies for the protection of the setting of the WHS and the henge; and the second is recommended for approval later this month. This, sadly, indicates that the special protective planning framework for Avebury is no longer effective and must be considered a very serious matter indeed. We have raised concerns through our representative on the Avebury WHS Steering Committee and with ministers.

We have expressed continued concern about the impact on important archaeology of the proposed Westbury Bypass through the Special Landscape Area south of the town and plan to send a written objection to the Public Inquiry starting on 17 June 2008.

During the year we commented on the Heritage White Paper as well as a number of Conservation Area Statements and local and other planning documents.

Hugh Seymour retired from the Committee in the autumn and we already miss his invaluable support and expertise. We have similarly missed Den Shelton from a number of meetings this year and hope that he will soon be well enough to join us again. We are delighted to have welcomed Stella Maddock as a new member and hope soon to gain more new members. Our small committee does important and interesting work and we would be glad to hear of anyone who would like to attend a meeting with a view, possibly, to joining us.

Kate Fielden, Chairman

FUNDRAISING, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Fundraising – The Appeal to members this year was for the general costs of the Museum and Library. Finding sufficient funds for day-to-day running costs is our greatest challenge and one not readily met from other sources. The appeal produced £29,121, including Gift Aid, and was split between the General Fund, for immediate use, and the Endowment Fund, to produce income for future years. This gave the Endowment Fund a good start and we now need helpers to promote the Fund and make it grow.

A leaflet was sent to all members detailing how they could leave a legacy to the Society. Legacies provide members with the opportunity of continuing to support their society in future years and are an important source of income for the Society.

Recognition of the value of the Museum to the local community was shown by grants from Devizes Town Council, Roundway and Bishops Cannings Parish Councils, Devizes Carnival Committee, Devizes Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation for Swindon and Wiltshire.

Marketing – As in previous years marketing has been focused on meeting our target of 20,000 visitors. The need to generate more income for the Museum led to the withdrawal of free opening on Mondays, though the Museum is still open free on Sundays. Because national and many council museums are free some visitors expect all museums to be free and turn away when told that there is a charge. This year's success story was our Education Officer, Ali Siviter. For the first time her work generated over 4,000 visitors – some 20% of all Museum visitors. This is a wonderful investment for the future as children who enjoy their Museum visits today will bring their children and grandchildren in years to come.

Volunteer Soondri Slathia-Foster researched the B&Bs and hotels within, and just outside, the county. All were sent Museum leaflets and we were able to save over £1,000 in commercial distribution costs.

Membership – Most members have been with us for many years and we are grateful for their continued support. Inevitably we lose some each year but manage to recruit the same number.

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

Doug Roseaman, Chairman

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

This has again been a busy year for the committee. Our biennial symposium, held on October 13th, was very successful. All the seats at the Wharf Theatre were sold with minimal publicity and a large profit (in the region of £700) was made for the society. Income from ticket sales was augmented this time by the sale in the afternoon of donated cakes and pastries from a local firm.

Preparations have continued for the national conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology which we are hosting at Lackham College from 22 till 28 August 2008. As well as organising a programme of visits and talks from the Sunday afternoon until the following Thursday, this involves putting together a conference handbook and compiling a gazetteer of industrial archaeology in Wiltshire for the AIA and for general sale.

As a follow up to fieldwork at Roundway Flax Mill, London Road, Devizes (which has now been demolished) some former workers were visited and photographs of workers and flax processes were copied. A report on all aspects of the factory has been deposited in the society's library.

Lady Tomlinson left the committee during last summer and was thanked for her participation and support over a number of years and also for her hospitality for meetings.

Pam Slocombe, Chairman

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The major items on the Committee's agenda this year were publicity and the project to digitise the library catalogue and *WANHM*. Rick Rowland, supported by a small working group, has prepared plans for the project and costed them. Potential sources of funding have been identified and applications will be made in due course.

Two library usage questionnaires have been completed by the Librarian and volunteers, one with 200 members of the public in the streets of Devizes and the other with 20 Local History and Family History groups with a total membership of 1412 people. The responses from the groups confirmed the importance of talks as a means of reaching their membership and there was a heartening degree of appreciation of the library.

As described in her report, the Librarian and volunteers have, as always, been very active in promoting the library during the year. A new Library leaflet has been printed and widely distributed.

To encourage repeat visits, a Library Pass is being introduced for a six-month trial period. The Pass entitles the reader to four visits to the Library for the price of three. It is hoped that greater familiarity with the resources of the library and the expert help available will convince more readers to take up membership of the Society.

Val Knowles, Chairman

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

During the year, due to pressure of work and ill health, Kate Walling had to stand down as Chairman of the Committee. We are most grateful for all she did during her time as Chairman. Last year's programme suffered somewhat as a result, but members were able to enjoy a number of interesting outings notably Bobby Gibbs's excursion to Orchardleigh, Lullington and Mells, Peter Tolhurst's walk to Heytesbury and Knook and an outing to Danebury Hillfort where we had a fascinating walk around the site led by David Allen, Curator with Hampshire County Museums Service. Lectures included Sarah Milliken's talk on the Neolithic and an interesting evening talk on wine-making in Wiltshire with the opportunity to sample the local wine from Littleton Panell. The Annual Fundraising Lecture by Julie Gardiner of Wessex Archaeology described what is known of life on board the *Mary Rose* from the artefacts and the skeletons of the crew recovered from the wreck.

The committee is currently without a chairman and urgently needs new members to help with the organisation of outings. Please do not be hesitant about coming forward if you feel able to help. As an interim measure I have filled in as acting chairman and we have managed to organise a fairly full programme of both outings and lectures for 2008-09.

Bill Perry, acting Chairman

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It is a matter of embarrassment that our long awaited monograph on Blacknall Field has still not appeared. Final editing and work on the illustrations has taken longer than anticipated although we do hope it will be ready for printing soon.

We are, however, working on a joint project with Kennet District Council and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to publish a small booklet *Walking the North Wessex Downs through art, history and literature*. The author, Mark Loos-Page, has created four walks around Liddington Hill, Avebury, Morgans Hill and along the Kennet and Avon Canal in the Pewsey Vale using as inspiration four artefacts from the Museum collection. It is hoped that the booklet will be available shortly.

Bill Perry, Chairman

STONEHENGE COMMITTEE

In the continuing absence of a ministerial decision on improvements to the A303 Trunk Road past Stonehenge, the Committee recommended in July 2007 that the Society join with eight other conservation bodies in writing to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport. The eight conservation bodies (which included ICOMOS-UK, the CBA, CPRE and the National Trust) restated their opposition to any of the A303 schemes put forward so far, but offered their enthusiastic co-operation in looking for interim less-damaging improvements while a more acceptable longer-term solution was sought.

In the event, it was not until December 2007 that the Government announced its decision: they would not proceed with the scheme to dual the A303 past Stonehenge, as put to public inquiry in 2004. Although the reason given was the greatly increased cost of the scheme, it seems likely that the public opposition of the conservation bodies was also a major factor in the decision. Following the Government's decision, English Heritage announced the abandonment of their road-dependent scheme for a new Visitor Centre at Countess Roundabout, near Amesbury.

Although the Society, on the advice of the Committee, had opposed both the Government's scheme for the A303 and English Heritage's scheme for a new visitor centre and transport system across the World Heritage Site, this was done with great reluctance: the Society has long wished to see the environs of Stonehenge improved and greater access allowed to its landscape. In pursuit of these aims, therefore, in November 2007 the Committee assisted in drawing-up a new formal Statement of Significance for the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, as required by new UNESCO rules. The Committee is also participating, through the Stonehenge Advisory Forum, in the revision of the over-arching strategic Management Plan for the World Heritage Site. This latter exercise has now taken on a new importance with English Heritage's recent announcement that it is restarting its search for new visitor facilities to be open in time for the 2012 Olympics.

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 income and expenditure 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 the company's financial position at any time and 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 monitored on a regular basis. The Board continued to employ Gerrard Investment Management Ltd (now part of Barclays Wealth) 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 results of the management of the equity portion being 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

The Trustees consider that the Society should have general reserves equivalent to at least one year's costs, that is some £300,000, to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society is dependent on its investments to provide ongoing income for its operations the reserves have to be substantially greater. In 2007-08 investments contributed some £36,000 towards activities and an additional £40,000 was required to eliminate the operational deficit. Thus it can be seen that some £1,500,000 is actually necessary. Whilst fundraising could help to bridge the gap it has proved extremely difficult to get support for core funding.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This has been a year of steady progress with concentration on establishing firm foundations for future advance. Systems are being established to monitor activities to ensure that they provide a recognisable contribution to the wellbeing of the Society. Whilst the expectations of the public and our members for our services have risen the available income has not kept pace and it becomes ever harder to get grants as the demands from all sectors of the population increase. It is essential that every opportunity to maximise income is recognised even if, on occasions, this means that a charge has to be made for services which, traditionally, have been provided free. This is not something in which the Trustees take pleasure but it is vital to maintain the financial health of the Society. In the next year we have the opportunity to review our attitudes and ways of working to ensure that the best possible use is made of our Museum and Library and our dedicated staff.

Each year a budget is calculated to cover the inescapable costs and to plan to utilise the likely income in the most effective way. Whilst every attempt is made to foresee the likely expenses, inevitably situations arise where expenditure outside the budget is unavoidable. Attempts are made to cover such costs by fundraising and by limiting other expenses but this may not be feasible particularly if the problem arises at the end of the year. In 2007-08 it became apparent that our computerised documentation database, MODES XML, would not run effectively without a server the costs of which had not been included in the budget. Without this work on the documentation project would have been jeopardised and therefore the purchase had to be made. Apart from this expenses were in line with the original budget but, unfortunately, income was less than anticipated despite the welcome contributions from the two conferences run by the Archaeology Committee and the Industrial Archaeology Committee. The appeal to members was very successful raising some £24,260 plus gift aid of some £6,755; £17,570 of this was donated to the Endowment Fund enabling it to build an investment portfolio which will provide income to benefit the Society in the future and the remainder was given to the General Fund. This was a larger contribution by members than in 2006 but as part was directed to the Endowment Fund the effect on the General Fund income was smaller. Two legacies have been brought into the accounts, the one from Ann Arrowsmith, which was

received at the end of the previous year, was utilised to pay towards the server costs as it was felt that this was a project which she would have wanted to support. Once again the Sandell Trust provided much needed support by its contributions to the old Society. Overall there was an operational deficit of £42,500, a disappointing result but within the budgeted figure.

Stock markets around the world have been in turmoil since the start of 2008 and the revaluation of the Society's investments at the end of March revealed an unrealised loss of £121,000 representing the difference between the previous market value, adjusted for transactions in the year, and the current value. Even after the recent losses since the Company acquired the portfolio from the Old Society the General Reserve has benefitted from net unrealised profits of £21,996. Whilst the volatility of the market had been recognised the speed with which the fall occurred was surprising. In fact during the year there were realised profits on sales of investments of £18,600 contributing, over the period that the Company has held the investments, to total realised profits of £103,254.

Obviously the Society cannot continue to operate at a deficit and every effort will be made to cut it in the current year and to eliminate it as rapidly as possible in line with the strategic review agreed by the Trustees in August, 2006.

ENDOWMENT FUND

As stated previously the appeal to members raised £17,570 plus Gift Aid of £3,935 and at the year end the factory building donated to the fund was sold giving a total balance of £83,788. Under the terms of the endowment trust the capital is not available for distribution but must be invested to provide income for the society.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources are allocated on the basis of the purposes for which they are raised the income for designated and restricted funds being credited to those funds. The accounts include £112,904 for restricted funds, primarily the endowment fund. These funds are not available to the Society and must therefore be disregarded when assessing the Society's financial position. On this basis there was a decrease in the funds attributable to the Society of £145,448 primarily because of the fall in stock market value of £121,000. A warning was given in last year's report that there was a danger that this position could occur.

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan has been updated to provide details of the work to be undertaken during 2008-09. 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. Their Director Peter Saunders retired in June, 2007, and we were delighted that he agreed to become an elected Trustee after many years serving as their nominee as his wise advice is much appreciated. We welcome their new Director Adrian Green and look forward to a continuation and further development of our partnership. 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 the Society for 2008-09. We are also grateful for the grant from Roundway 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 2006 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 20th June, 2008 and signed on their behalf by:

20th June, 2008

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

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs S Bartlett, Pewsey; Mr S Baynes, Llanfyllin; Mrs T & Mr S Becker, Enford; Mrs T & Mr P Begg, Conock; Mr & Mrs J Blake, Devizes; Box Archaeological & Natural History Society; Miss M Brittain, Warminster; Mr T H Brown & Family, Wootton Bassett; Mrs M Brunning & Ms D Richardson & Family, Market Lavington; Ms E Buma, Swindon; Mr E Carpenter, Market Lavington; Miss L Dannatt, Swindon; Miss M Davison, Beckhampton; Miss J Dore, Devizes; Mr D Elliott, Littleton Panell; Mr & Mrs P Ellis, Pewsey; Mr & Mrs P Eyre, Fyfield; Mr S Froud, Market Lavington; Mr C Green, Chippenham; Mr G Hancock, Devizes; Dr S Harrington, London; Mrs M Harris, Calne; Mrs J Hills, Cherhill; Ms J Horsley & Family, Westbury; Mr & Mrs R Hunt-Grubbe, Potterne; Mr D Jackson & Family, Salisbury; Mrs F & Mr B King; Mr & Mrs A Lovett, Wedhampton; Mrs A & Mr F Lumb, Great Cheverell; Mrs P & Mr R Marsh, Collingbourne Ducis; Mr M McMurray, Devizes; Ms F Mildinhal, Marlborough; Mr J Morgan, London; Mr M Murphy, Devizes; Mrs J O'Connell, Bulford; Mr F Osland, Devizes; Mrs D Peach, Devizes; Miss J Ramsay, Downton; Dr P Robinson, Potterne; Mr L Saunders, Henley-on-Thames; Mr C Sellen, Chandlers Ford; Mr H Shannon, Swindon; Mr M Smith, Swindon; Mrs C Stapley, Calne; Dr R & Mrs A Taylor, Devizes; Mrs V Townsend, Calne; Dr A Wadsworth, Bromham; Mr A R & Mrs A Walker, Little Cheverell; Mr R Walker, Box; Mrs T Wheeler, Marlborough; Mrs R Wilkinson, Amesbury; Mrs T Williams, Bradford-on-Avon; Mrs J Woodgate, Corsham.

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 2008

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 2008 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 2008 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
20th June, 2008

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2008

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Total Funds 2008	Total Funds 2007
		General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
Incoming Resources						
From Generated Funds						
Voluntary Income	2	81,559	2,655	90,744	174,958	90,839
Activity Generated Funds	3	32,074	1,611	696	34,381	27,335
Investment Income	4	36,324	53	1,434	37,811	35,296
From Charitable Activities						
Grants and Contributions	5	76,855			76,855	130,695
Admissions		8,580			8,580	7,420
Education Receipts		5,879			5,879	4,570
Programme Committee			3,693		3,693	11,459
Total Incoming Resources		241,271	8,012	92,874	342,157	307,614
Resources Expended						
Cost of Generating Funds :	7	20,591		4,733	25,324	22,289
Cost of Charitable Activities	8	225,245	8,652	1,411	235,308	264,085
Governance Costs	9	37,937			37,937	32,345
Total Resources Expended		283,773	8,652	6,144	298,569	318,719
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the Year						
		(42,502)	(640)	86,730	43,588	(11,105)
Gains on Investments - realised	13	18,600			18,600	5,444
Gains on Investments - unrealised		(120,906)			(120,906)	23,622
Net Resources Incoming/ (Expended) before transfers		(144,808)	(640)	86,730	(58,718)	17,961
Transfers between Funds	16	2,500	(2,500)		-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(142,308)	(3,140)	86,730	(58,718)	17,961
Fund Balances brought forward at 1 st April 2007		143,994	46,672	26,175	216,841	198,880
Total Funds carried forward at 31st March, 2008		1,686	43,532	112,905	158,123	216,841

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2008

	Notes	£	2008 £	£	2007 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	12		105,185		106,640
Investments	13		705,413		810,545
			<u>810,598</u>		<u>917,185</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	1	8,977		11,868	
Debtors	14	20,966		19,780	
Owed by Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society		10,150		19,030	
Cash at Bank and on Deposit		<u>49,302</u>		<u>68,925</u>	
		89,395		119,603	
Restricted Fund Assets					
Endowment Trust Fund		<u>83,788</u>		<u>7,016</u>	
		173,183		126,619	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors due within one year	15	<u>52,595</u>		<u>53,900</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			120,588		72,719
NET ASSETS					
			<u>931,186</u>		<u>989,904</u>
RESERVES AND FUNDS					
Unrestricted Funds:					
Capital Reserve			773,063		773,063
Revenue Funds:-					
General		1,686		143,993	
Designated	16	<u>43,532</u>		<u>46,673</u>	
			45,218		190,666
			<u>818,281</u>		<u>963,729</u>
Restricted Funds	17		112,905		26,175
			<u>931,186</u>		<u>989,904</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 31 form part of these accounts.

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th June, 2008, and signed on their behalf:

W. A. Perry, Chairman

W. P. Lansdown, Honorary Treasurer

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2008

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.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2008

Note 1 (continued)

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.

Pensions

At 31st March, 2008 pension provision was made for three 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 or were passed the age for admittance. Employer's contributions are charged to employee costs as incurred. During the year contributions to the Wiltshire County Council Scheme were £12,134 (2007 £9,469) for an employee who retired at the end of the year and to the Pensions Trust Scheme £1,184 (2007 £3,114). 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, 2007 revealed a deficit on the fund with a funding level for the Society of 85.2% and a deficiency of £111,000. There will be a reassessment of the Society's position as the last employee involved in the scheme has retired. Trustees have agreed to make lump sum payments pending that re-evaluation. 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 is finalised. At 30th September, 2006 there was a potential liability of £1,360 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 is a charity established 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. At the very end of the year a factory which had been given to the Endowment Fund by a member was sold and, at the date of the accounts the proceeds were held on deposit at the bank pending investment.

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 Collection 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, 2008

	Notes	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2008	Carried Forward 2008	Total 2007
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds							
2. Voluntary Income							
Membership Subscriptions		27,061			27,061		26,286
Donations and Tax Refunds		14,728	2,655	90,744	108,127		25,323
Legacies		6,000			6,000		
Income transferred by Old Society:							
Sandell Trust		33,770			33,770		34,130
Legacies		-					5,100
		<u>81,559</u>	<u>2,655</u>	<u>90,744</u>	<u>174,958</u>		<u>90,839</u>
3. Activity Generated Funds							
Shop Sales	6	13,829			13,829		13,562
Other Sales		7,657	1,611	696	9,964		8,685
Fund-raising Events		10,588			10,588		5,088
		<u>32,074</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>34,381</u>		<u>27,335</u>
4. Investment Income							
Income from Investments		33,381	53	1,434	34,867		33,683
Bank Interest		2,943			2,943		1,613
		<u>36,324</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>1,434</u>	<u>37,811</u>		<u>35,296</u>
5. Grants and Contributions							
Wiltshire County Council		25,988			25,988		25,340
Kennet District Council		9,800			9,800		9,800
Devizes Town Council		3,000			3,000		-
Roundway Parish Council		100			100		-
Education Officer :							
Garfield Weston		-			-		8,000
Foyle Foundation		-			-		8,000
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust		-			-		3,000
Ernest Cook Trust		5,000			5,000		-
Wiltshire Community Foundation		500			500	1,000	-
DCMS/Wolfson Museums Imp. Fund		-			-		24,550
Landfill Community Fund		-			-		13,512
Donations re Lecture Hall		-			-		5,148
Pilgrim Trust re Documentation		20,000			20,000		20,000
MLA Data Collection		6,140			6,140	7,724	790
WANHM Sponsorship		6,327			6,327		2,355
McLaren Foundation		-			-		10,000
Other Grants		-			-		200
		<u>76,855</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,855</u>	<u>8,724</u>	<u>130,695</u>

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2008

	Notes	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
6. Shop Sales						
Shop sales		13,829			13,829	13,562
Less Purchase cost		8,357			8,357	8,127
Gross Profit		5,472			5,472	5,435
Less Shop costs		80			80	(94)
		5,392			5,392	5,529
Gross Profit % on sales		40%			40%	41%
7. Cost of Generating Funds						
Cost of Sales:						
Shop		8,437			8,437	8,033
Other sales		401			401	419
Salaries		2,405			2,405	2,252
Members' services		3,058			3,058	3,053
Marketing		851			851	2,367
Fundraising costs		2,714			2,714	1,686
Support costs		2,725			2,725	4,479
Endowment Fund				4,733	4,733	
		20,591	-	4,733	25,324	22,289
8. Cost of Charitable Activities						
Museum Services		124,497			124,497	148,972
Library Services		29,017	2,624		31,641	39,793
Educational work		28,462			28,462	26,952
Pilgrim Trust Project		23,301			23,301	23,994
DCF Data Collection Project		6,140			6,140	792
WANHM		13,828			13,828	9,633
Designated Funds:	16					
Publications			3,941		3,941	4,452
Archaeology Field Group/Other			5		5	40
Programme Committee			2,082		2,082	9,447
Restricted Funds:	17					
English Heritage						10
Oexmann				1,411	1,411	-
		225,245	8,652	1,411	235,308	264,085
After Sponsorship Grants of £6327 the net cost of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine (WANHM) to the Company's General Fund was £7,501 (2007 £7,278)						
9. Governance Costs						
Employee costs		29,336			29,336	25,986
Volunteers travel expenses		14			14	11
Trustee travel		105			105	43
Professional Services		325			325	315
Audit Fees		3,850			3,850	3,750
Support costs		4,307			4,307	2,240
		37,937	-	-	37,937	32,345

Volunteers' travel expenses £4,460 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, 2008

	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
10. Staff costs		
Wages and Salaries	144,767	136,576
Social Security costs	11,139	9,776
Pension costs	13,318	12,583
	<u>169,224</u>	<u>158,935</u>
Costs attributable to activities:		
Museum	98,802	91,618
Library	16,863	18,313
Outreach	21,818	20,766
Cost of Generating Funds	2,405	2,252
Management and Administration	29,336	25,986
	<u>169,224</u>	<u>158,935</u>

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

The average number of employees in 2008 was 4 full time and 8 part time (2007 - 4 full time and 8 part time).

11. Trustees' Expenses

No Trustee either received or waived any emoluments for acting as Trustee during the year. Out of pocket travel expenses reimbursed to trustees were £105 (2007 - £43). One Trustee was paid £3,000 during the year for services provided on a freelance basis as editor of *WANHM*.

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Freehold Buildings	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipm't	Total	2006
	£	£	£	£	
Cost at 1 st April, 2007	72,750	72,750	7,345	152,845	152,845
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 st April, 2007		39,035	7,170	46,205	43,295
Charge in year		1,455	-	1,455	1,455
Accumulated Depreciation at 31 st March, 2008		<u>40,490</u>	<u>7,170</u>	<u>47,660</u>	<u>44,750</u>
Net Book Value at 31 st March, 2008.	<u>72,750</u>	<u>32,260</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>105,185</u>	<u>108,095</u>

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, 2008

	Total 2008	Total 2007
13. Quoted Fixed Asset Investments		
Market Value at 1 st April, 2007	810,545	799,108
Purchases	62,230	147,913
	872,775	947,021
Sales	65,056	165,542
	807,719	781,479
Net gains:		
Realised	18,600	5,444
Unrealised	(120,906)	23,622
Market value at 31 st March, 2008	705,413	810,545
Historical Cost of investments (including from the original Society) at 31 st March, 2008.	673,088	641,444
14. Debtors		
Donations and Grants receivable	250	-
Trade Debtors	2,242	3,457
Debtors and Prepayments	11,606	8,397
Gift Aid refund receivable	6,868	6,346
Other debtors	-	1,580
	20,966	19,780
15. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year		
Grants received in advance	8,724	10,200
Trade Creditors	2,545	3,230
Accruals	7,910	7,968
Taxes including NIC and VAT	3,944	4,860
Donations for expenditure in 2008/09	3,360	2,024
Prepaid membership subscriptions	18,224	18,471
Programme Committee	4,241	679
Other creditors	3,647	6,468
	52,595	53,900

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2008

16. Designated funds

	Incoming Resources					Balance 31 st March 2008
	Balance 1 st April 2007	Donations & Gift Aid	Other Income	Inter- Fund Transfers	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Archaeology Festival Fund	393					393
Improvement Fund	11,112					11,112
Library Fund	14,420		337		(2,624)	12,133
Publications Fund	17,851	2,455	1,274		(3,941)	17,639
Archaeology Field Group	866	200			(5)	1,061
Programme Committee	2,030		3,746	(2,500)	(2,082)	1,194
	<u>46,672</u>	<u>2,655</u>	<u>5,357</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(8,652)</u>	<u>43,532</u>

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 stocks sold.
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 2008
	Balance 1 st April 2007	Donations & Gift Aid	Other Income	Inter- Fund Transfers	Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Annable Memorial Fund	417					417
English Heritage Fund	4,230		123			4,353
Oexmann Fund	14,512	9,902	1,344		(1,411)	24,347
	19,159	9,902	1,467		(1,411)	29,117
Endowment Trust Fund	7,016	80,842	663		(4,733)	83,788
	<u>26,175</u>	<u>90,744</u>	<u>2,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,144)</u>	<u>112,905</u>

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, 2008, 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.

**WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
COLLECTIONS TRUST**

Linked Charity Number 1080096

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2008

	2008			2007
	£	£	£	£
	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	
Incoming resources:				
Disposals of Duplicate Books	39			43
Grants for Acquisitions	-			2,355
Donations to Museum and Art Collection Fund				
Museum	533			-
Library	191			23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	763		763	2,421
Bank Interest	135		135	162
Total incoming resources	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	898	-	898	2,583
Resources Expended:				
Acquisitions				
Museum costing less than £1,000	2,037			2,449
Library	450			784
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,487		2,487	3,233
Bank Charges	5		5	-
Total Resources Expended	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,492	-	2,492	3,233
Excess of Income over (Expenditure)	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(1,594)	-	(1,594)	(650)
Balances brought forward at 1.04.07	6,960	2,455	9,415	10,065
Transfer to Heritage Assets		(75)	(75)	
Balances carried forward at 31.03.07	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,366	2,380	7,746	9,415

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2008

HERITAGE ASSETS			
Balance at 01.04.07		3,735	
Additions to Collections	6,155		5,160
Less Grants	4,900		1,425
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,255	3,735
CURRENT ASSETS		4,990	
Sundry Debtor	2		1,425
Cash at Bank	2,756		4,255
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,758	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		7,748	9,415
Represented by:			
Museum and Art Fund		5,368	6,960
Restricted Funds		2,380	2,455
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		7,748	9,415

**WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
COLLECTIONS TRUST**

Linked Charity Number 1080096

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2008

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, 2007	Income and Donations	Grants	Transfer to Museum Fund	Expenditure	Balance 31st March, 2008
Medieval Fund	75			(75)		-
Primrose Fund	2,380					2,380
Restricted Funds	<u>2,455</u>			<u>(75)</u>		<u>2,380</u>

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Charity No: 1080096

Company No. 3885649

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY

**held in the Town Hall, Devizes on Saturday 6 October 2007,
commencing at 2.30 pm**

Minute Present

No. 01/07 Mr W A Perry (Chairman), with members of the Board of Trustees:
Mr C Callow, Lt Col R C Chamberlain, Dr K J Fielden, Mrs V A Knowles, Mrs W P Lansdown (Treasurer and Company Secretary), Mr D Roseaman (Deputy Chairman), Mr P Saunders, and 31 members of the Society.

In Attendance

Dr P Robinson (Curator)

02/07 Apologies for Absence

Were received from: Mr D S & Mrs O Ainge, Mr P R Amery, Mrs M Annable, Countess Badeni, Mr H J Case, Mr N S & Mrs S R I Clarke, Mr J J Dove, Mr J G P Erksine, Dr & Mrs J Flood, Mr J Galvin-Wright, Mrs M J Geeves, Mr & Mrs B N Gibbs, Mr F R Hartley, Mrs B Hillier-Thorold, Mr M Hiscock, The Marquis of Lansdowne, Mrs M S & Mr D Moore, Col R Osborne, Mr J F Phillips, Mrs P Rugg, Dr C Shell, Mrs B Simpkin, Mrs P Spink MBE, Mr J Sturgess, Mrs J Swabey, Mrs G R Swanton, Dr & Mrs J H Thomas, Mrs J Triggs, Mrs A Walker, Mr G Watkins, Wessex Archaeology, Mrs J D Williams, Miss J M Yates.

03/07 **Chairman's Opening Address**

The Chairman welcomed members to the eighth annual general meeting of WANHS (Company limited by Guarantee).

The Chairman reported to the meeting he had the sad duty to inform the meeting of the death of 17 members of the Society during the past 12 months: Mr Jack Ainslie, Miss Ann Arrowsmith, Lord Carter, Mr E C Deadman, Mrs Nora Dixon, Mr B J W Heath, The Earl Jellicoe, Mrs J L Kershaw, Mr Neil M Lloyd, Mrs Maude, Ms Nora B Morris, Mrs Jean Morrison, Mrs Ann B Noble, Mr F B Simpkins, Miss M M Smith, Mr Con C Spillane, Mr David Williams

The meeting stood for a few moments quiet reflection to remember them.

Note: these names are those notified to the Membership Secretary; the Society apologises for any omissions.

04/07 Minutes of meeting held 30 September 2006

Proposed by Lt Col R C Chamberlain and seconded by Mr J S S Stewart that the minutes of the AGM held on 30 September 2006 be adopted as a true record of the meeting. The resolution was passed nem con.

05/07 Board of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007

a) **Report by the Chairman**

The Chairman noted that as always by the time of the AGM it was some 18 months since the start of the financial year on which the Report was based and much of what had happened was now almost ancient history. The Chairman hoped the meeting would, therefore, forgive him for including more recent happenings in his report to the meeting.

It had been reported at last year's AGM that a financial review into the Society's finances had been carried out by the Board, with the aim of putting the finances in better order by generating extra income and to close the gap between income and expenditure. Indeed it could be seen from the accounts that when the £2,000 contribution from the Programme Committee's events were included in the accounts the Society ended the financial year with only a modest deficit – or excess of expenditure over income – of £13,000, a considerable improvement on the previous year. The Society owed a debt of thanks to all involved, especially Mr D Roseaman for his work on the financial review. The Accounts recorded a £15,000 surplus because of the rise in the value of the Society's investments, but that was purely fortuitous due to the good performance of the stock market. In other years the markets could move the other way, as they often do.

The financial review had identified a number of ways in which additional income could be generated, such as increasing admission charges and cutting out one of the two free days: these had been done. The scale of charges for services, such as hire of lecture room, reproduction fees etc, had been reviewed to ensure they were comparable with other institutions. Costs incurred on activities were also being recovered where possible and all tax benefits open to the Society by virtue of being a registered charity were claimed. As the meeting were aware there had been a further successful appeal for donations, and the Endowment Fund, discussed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting, had been established; the fund currently stood at over £22,000 which would increase when Gift Aid tax relief was received. Due to the generosity of one of the Society's members the fund was the owner of a small industrial building in Warminster, which it was hoped to sell soon. The proceeds, to be invested in the Endowment Fund, would give the capital a considerable boost.

As part of the recent appeal, donors had been asked whether their donations should be put into the Endowment Fund or used for current expenses. Some three-quarters of the money had gone to the Endowment Fund, with £5,800 going towards general running costs and £360 pledged as regular annual giving. The Board were most grateful to those members who had responded to the appeal and for the donations they had given.

The Board and staff were applying very actively to charitable trusts for grants towards activities such as our education service and other work.

Shortly after the review was carried out Wiltshire County Council announced in December 2006 that they proposed to withdraw their grant to the Society with immediate effect. The Chairman had endeavoured to keep the membership informed via *Trilithon* of the successful efforts to persuade them to reverse their decision. However, Wiltshire County Council had asked the Society to participate in an examination, or scrutiny as they called it, of the Society's operations, and to consider the potential for closer co-operation with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum. The County Council's scrutiny was ongoing at this time (October 2007) and evidence had been provided as to why the Museum and Society were worthwhile and needed the continuing support of the County Council, and where closer co-operation with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum might be achieved.

The proposal for a unitary authority for Wiltshire was also a matter of concern as the Society presently received a grant from Kennet District Council. Efforts would be made to ensure that Wiltshire County Council continued this grant and that it did not disappear. On a positive note, grants had been received from Devizes Town Council and Bishops Cannings and Roundway Parish Councils. The Society was grateful to all these councils and hoped they would continue to support the Museum in future years.

A number of grants had been received in the financial year. The Garfield Weston Foundation, the Foyle Foundation and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust had contributed towards our education work, the DCMS/Wolfson Museum & Galleries Improvement Fund and the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme (Viridor Credits) had contributed towards the Lecture Room and Art Gallery refurbishment and the Pilgrim Trust supported work on documenting the Museum's collection. A very helpful grant from The McLaren Foundation had also been received. The Pilgrim Trust had agreed to support the Museum's documentation work for a further two years up to March 2009, by which time it was hoped that all the Museum's artefacts would be recorded on a computer database. More recently The Ernest Cook Trust and the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon had awarded grants towards our education service. £11,000 had also been awarded by the DCMS/Wolfson fund towards improving visitor facilities, specifically the refurbishment of the toilets in the building and installing a wheelchair accessible toilet. Other improvements were also planned, but these would depend on whether the necessary monies could be raised as the total project would cost over £100,000. Much fund-raising would be necessary, but the DCMS/Wolfson grant was a good start. The Board were grateful for the support of all these organisations.

During the year legacies from Andrew Sewell, Olivia Potter and Katherine Walker received by the Old Society in the previous year had been transferred to the Company during the financial year under review. Legacies had been received from Ann Arrowsmith and more recently David Williams. Legacies were an important potential source of revenue for the Society, and all members had been sent the new legacy leaflet recently. The Chairman urged the meeting to give sympathetic consideration to leaving the Society a bequest. The Chairman thanked Lt Col Chamberlain and Mr Teale for preparing the legacy leaflet.

There had been no progress to date on the computerisation of the library catalogue as it had not been possible to raise the necessary money. It remained an important project and an approach to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial support was under consideration.

The Government had not yet made an announcement about a decision on the A303 road improvement scheme through the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and there was no indication of when an announcement would be made. An earlier statement by the Government had indicated that they regarded the published scheme – for the longer of the two short tunnels (although that would not be long enough to take the road underground for the whole length of the WHS) – as unaffordable. Planning permission had been granted for English Heritage's new visitor centre, but this was conditional on the road scheme.

The Chairman thanked the staff who worked extremely hard; the Society was most fortunate in the calibre of its staff and their dedication to the Society, Museum and Library. There had only been one staff change during the year when Jim Dibdin, the cleaner and general assistant had left and been replaced by William Black, working during his gap year. There was one impending staff change, however, as Paul Robinson, who had been the Museum's Curator for 21 years and Assistant Curator for 12 years before that, would be retiring on 29 February 2008. Paul had great knowledge of the collections and all his work over the years had had a great impact on the look of the Museum and its success. He would be missed tremendously, but it was hoped he would maintain links with the Museum which would benefit from his knowledge and experience.

The Chairman thanked the volunteers because without their help it would not be possible to run the Museum and Library or the programme of events. Some 200 people were registered as volunteers helping in many capacities, including receptionists, library assistants, cataloguers, event organisers, envelope stuffers and couriers. There was a hard core of sixty helping regularly. Volunteers gave nearly 8,000 hours of their time and the Society was most grateful to them. On their behalf the Chairman thanked Heather Ault, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, for doing a most effective job in organising the volunteers' duty schedules and recruiting people for the various jobs that needed to be done. There were still jobs to fill, including at Trustee level a new Treasurer, as Wendy Lansdown wished to retire. More assistance was required for fundraising and to join the Programme Committee, which needed a new chairman. The membership were asked to consider offering to assist with the lecture and outing programmes which were very popular with members, but was entirely dependent on members organising them. Those who had done so in the past were getting older and retiring. Unless new members came forward there would be fewer events in the next year. Lt Col Chamberlain would organise the 2008 Annual Dinner, but an assistant was required to 'understudy' him and take over responsibility for organising future Annual Dinners.

The Trustees, many of whom continue to put in large amounts of their time for the Society, were thanked. Only one Trustee, Val Knowles, had to retire by rotation this year and she had offered to stand for re-election.

b) Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer outlined to the meeting a little of the background to the figures on the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). This format is governed by the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and had to comply with both the Companies and Charities Acts, which are not entirely on the same basis and, therefore, the presentation is somewhat constrained.

The Society is obliged to show its funds in two categories (i) Restricted Funds, which can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were given, such as the Oexmann Fund (the biennial art exhibition) and the English Heritage moneys which finance specific publications such as Snail Down and (ii) Unrestricted Funds. Unrestricted Funds are split between (i) the General Fund, which receives the general income and meets day-to-day costs of the Society and (ii) Designated Funds, which represents money accumulated or put aside, mainly by the Old Society, to finance specific expenditure such as improvements to the galleries (the Improvement Fund) and for publications (Publication Fund). This latter fund is active as sales of publications generate income. Notes 16 and 17 to the accounts show the level of activity in each fund during the year. The Endowment Fund is included as a restricted fund although it is the subject of a separate Trust Deed and its funds are, therefore, protected and unavailable for use by the Society - only the income arising from its capital may be transferred to the Society. The Charity Commissioners made the Endowment Fund a Linked Charity and under the new Charities Act it has to be shown in the Society's accounts. The assets of the Endowment Fund as at 31st March, 2007 (although more had been received subsequently) are shown for the first time on the Balance Sheet.

SOFA requires that both the Income and Expenditure are shown under specific headings with the note against each item giving more detail about their make-up. The Voluntary Income total had increased by £4,500 reflecting the initial donations to the Endowment Fund of £7,016, increases in membership subscriptions of £1,150, £1,550 in Donations and £7,500 from the Sandell Trust. These were offset by decreases of £9,700 in the gift aid tax refund received in 2006 it had been higher than normal because of the Special Appeal to members in that year, £2,500 in donations to the Fabric Fund and of £500 to the Library Fund.

The decrease in the Activity Generated Funds was due primarily to the successful Special Appeal to members which raised £21,560 in 2005/06 (ongoing monthly payments by members provided £1,840 in 2006/07) and a decrease in sales and minor fund-raising of £3,640.

Note 5 outlines the details of Grants and Contributions during the year. Admission receipts increased significantly by £2,900, a 62% increase over the previous year and receipts continue to be healthy. There was some loss of visitors as a result of the increased admission charges but fewer than might have been anticipated. The increase was implemented from 1 January 2007 and comparing paying visitors in April to July 2006 and 2007 there is an increase of 360, this could, of course, reflect the weather in that period but is encouraging. Education Receipts are again making progress with an increase of £1,780; a 96% increase and the trend is continuing.

Unfortunately as a result of the decrease in the number of programme events in the year there was a decrease in the income from this source and only £2,000 could be transferred to General Funds. The lectures and outings arranged by the Programme Committee were very popular with members and the public and it was vital that they continued. The Chairman had taken over as an interim measure but he already did more than enough for the Society and more help was absolutely essential. It was very rewarding to be involved supporting the Society on a very practical level and also very pleasant socially.

There was a small increase in the cost of generating funds as shown by Resources Expended. Note 7 gave details of this, the main item being the support costs which included the legal costs of setting up the Endowment Fund (£2,845).

The cost of Charitable Activities covers the main expenses of the Society and running the Museum and Library. The Library services costs had increased by £5,200 although this figure included an allocation of part of the Art Gallery and Lecture Hall refurbishment for the special bookcases for the newspaper collection. Educational costs had also increased substantially, but in the previous year there had been no Education Officer in post for almost four months which obviously cut costs and the service provided. The Documentation Project, which was originally financed by a

Designation Challenge Fund grant, now employed fewer staff and costs were consequently reduced using more Society financed staff to achieve the targets.

The net effect in the Capital Fund was an excess of expenditure over income of £15,288; after taking into account the realised profits on sales of investments and the transfer from the Programme Committee there was a deficit of £7,844. Under the SORP rules the unrealised profits on investments had to be included, resulting in a surplus of £15,778. However, it had to be noted that the stock market could be extremely volatile and unrealised profits could evaporate overnight.

The Balance Sheet showed that since November 2003, when the investments had been transferred from the Old Society, £100,900 had been realised to meet expenses, a fact concealed by showing them at market value. Currently (October 2007) the value of investments shown on the Balance Sheet included unrealised profits of £208,831.

Stock included in Current Assets had reduced by some £4,100, reflecting the write down of publication stocks, primarily Art in Wiltshire, taking a realistic view of the realisable value. The difference in the debtors related to Donations and Grants which were receivable at the end of last year, which had subsequently been collected. The debt owed by the Old Society related to Sandell Trust money which remained with the Old Society until transferred, that transfer had now been made. £55,700 of the £68,900 cash at bank and on deposit was being held on deposit, because it was considered that with the state of the market this seemed the safest place for it, and later in the year cash flow could become somewhat difficult.

The Capital Reserve represented the funds taken over from the Old Society and this did not change. The balance on the General Fund included the unrealised profits on investments. If these were excluded from the calculation there would be a deficit of £61,000 on this fund.

The Collections Trust was shown separately on pages 30 and 31 of the Report and Accounts. Minor acquisitions had been written off in accordance with Society policy but the acquisition of the Macklin Drawings, the S Link and the Dolmen drawing by David Gunning had all been capitalised. The note to the accounts, however, stated that no value had been placed on the rest of the collection, because a valuation would involve significant costs and would be meaningless anyway.

The Treasurer finished by commenting that she would prefer to come to the meeting and report that everything in the garden was marvellous, but she felt it was only right to point out that although the position was more stable there was still a lot to do and the situation with Wiltshire County Council remained a source of concern. However, the Society had managed to achieve some progress and visitors are often very complimentary, reflecting the efforts of the staff, for which we thank them.

Proposed by Ms C Conybeare and seconded by Ms S Rooke that the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007, together with the Auditors Report be received. The resolution was passed nem. con.

06/07

Election of Trustees

The Chairman advised the meeting that there were three vacancies for positions on the Board, and three nominations had been received. In addition to Mrs Knowles who was standing for re-election, the Society was fortunate in having two highly qualified candidates for the other vacancies: Mr Peter Saunders had been a member of the Board for many years as the trustee nominated by Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum. Following his recent retirement he had agreed to continue to give the Society the benefit of his advice and vast experience. Mr Saunders reported his pleasure that the Society had offered him honorary life membership and he would continue to offer his support. Dr Negley Harte was a lecturer at University College London and had recently moved to Wiltshire and the Board would benefit from his extensive social and local history knowledge.

The meeting duly elected Dr N Harte, Mrs V Knowles and Mr P Saunders to the Board of Trustees nem con.

07/07

Appointment of Auditors

Proposed by Mr P Saunders and seconded by Lt Col R C Chamberlain, the meeting unanimously re-elected Messrs David Owen & Co as Auditors, and authorised the Trustees to determine their remuneration.

08/07

Any Other Business

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which was followed by an illustrated talk by the Assistant Curator on the Society's inaugural meeting in 1853.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm

Date of next Meeting:

Saturday 11 October 2008

To be held at the Town Hall, Devizes, Wiltshire