



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

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**NOTE:** This Report is available on the Society's website and will also be available in the Society's folder in the Benson Library when the library reopens.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**TO BENSINGTON SOCIETY**  
**CALLING NOTICE**

**DRAFT CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW - 2022**

I am writing this on the last day of December 2022 so as to ensure it's as up to date as possible. I will not be standing for the Management Committee for 2023 so hope you will excuse the next couple of paragraphs, as they are not strictly a review.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to all the people who have served on your Committee for all or part of the 5 years I have been your Chairman. I have enjoyed working with them and know how much they all care about our Society. You do not get organisations like ours lasting for 50 years, as ours has done, without their Management Committees giving constant care to the Society's aims and its membership. They understand the value of community run organisations, with many of them serving on other such organisations in addition to our Society.

However, Committees need refreshing with new people with new outlooks and new vigour, and this is where we are today. Despite numerous pleas from your Committee for some of our 150 strong membership to step forward and take a position on the Committee only one person has done so. We desperately need more. Our current President (non-Committee role) is currently performing as a temporary Secretary and our Immediate Past President (another non-Committee role) has been standing in as our Planning Member. Neither of these roles is onerous and probably takes up no more than about 5 hours a month and there is help on hand to ensure a smooth handover and support. So, to ensure our Society moves forward into its next 50 years, I am asking again for some members to step forward. Please don't read this and think "I'm sure someone will step forward; they don't need me" .....



**YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU NOW!**

Now to the review. A good year I think, starting with the Welcome Back Party in March, which set the scene with an almost record attendance. We have had 6 meetings with good attendance, good speakers, good food and drink and most of all good company. We have also attracted several new members, which means our membership is now 150. given the hiatus caused by C-19, I believe this is a remarkable achievement., As you can imagine, in this Covid-19 era Fenella has had to work hard to put together an interesting speaker list and is to be congratulated on the breadth of interest and calibre of speakers in her programme. Attracting good speakers for the level of fees we can afford is not an easy task and I know she is always open to recommendations.

We welcomed back Tanya and her team to manage the food for our meetings. Buying some of it, then ensuring that the buffet is served on time with all the necessary components and finally clearing up doesn't just happen, it takes managing, so a big thank you to them. The salads are the standout dishes for me, and I am not a vegan or vegetarian. They are always delicious and so well presented. Each of the 10 makers for an evening makes two bowls and so if we have 40 volunteers on our list, simple maths means that each volunteer will only make 2 salads a year (apart from the odd hiccup). We still have some vacancies, so if you are not signed up, please do so.

To many members just as important as the food is the bar, which Sue and David Cooper run so well. There is always a good choice of beers, wines, and soft drinks which because they buy so well means that while the bar prices are more than reasonable, we can still make a profit that helps pay the evening's expenses.

The committee set themselves a target, a few years ago now, to ensure that over a year, the prices that we charge for food and drink made enough profit to pay for the hire of the hall and use of their alcohol license, the payments to Tanya and her team, the reimbursements to the salad volunteers and the purchasing of the other food. This we have achieved.

We have 4 Officers on the Committee – Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Chairman. Apart from their normal duties all have been kept busy in drafting new rules and regulations to ensure we keep up to date with the Government's requirement for GDPR and also Cyber Security and we now have policies in place to keep safe even the limited data we hold on members. As part of this Review, we have created a new position on the Committee of Security Manager and Pete Eldridge has agreed to take on this role.

Our Treasurer Richard Peters has provided a full description of our financial position in his report that follows so I do not want to take up room repeating some of his analysis. However, I would like to thank him publically for his work since he has taken over the accounts. Your Committee now has a budget and is receiving more detailed analysis against it to help them in their management decisions. In addition, he and John Tchighianoff, our Membership Secretary, manage our Gift Aid claim to HMRC each year which gives us a welcome addition to our income.

As part of the process of keeping members' details safe only our Membership Secretary keeps the full details we hold. We keep no financial details whatsoever. As a consequence, John is the conduit through which all communications from the Committee to members flow – a task that just seems to happen, which obviously means it is well under control. Please don't forget this is a two-way channel and we welcome members' input.

The post of Secretary is currently vacant and is temporarily being filled by our President, George Verdon, hence the plea in paragraph 3 above. George has, in the past, performed most of the roles on the Committee and so was the obvious person to fill the Secretary's role on a temporary basis and despite retiring from the Committee about five years ago, agreed to take on the job. This is not ideal as a President should not have an executive function but be a sounding board and mentor.

As members will know, our only Sub-committee, the History Group (HG), has amassed a significant archive on our Village's history and for them and the Village as a whole, 2022 will go down in history. After about 30 years of talks and negotiations the Parish Council have finally agreed to give them some space to store this Archive safely in one place – it is currently stored in the researchers' homes. This means the HG will be able to speed up the process of cataloguing and digitisation that will lead to the Benson Village History Archive being available on-line to researchers, both private and professional.

Our chairman is not elected at the AGM but by the Committee who are. So, whoever it will be, I wish them as much enjoyment and support as I have had over the last 5 years in serving a Society that is a prominent and respected Village voice. Benson is a wonderfully friendly Village with an increasing population and set of organisations dedicated to those who live in it and its surrounding villages. If we all do our part, they will all continue to do so.

With good wishes to you all,  
David McGil

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**TO BENSINGTON SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**General:** The audited Balance Sheet, Breakdown of Income and Expenditure and Examiner's Report for 2022 follow.

**Overall Financial Situation:** This year we were only able to hold five of our intended eight Friday meetings due to Covid and the Parish Hall being unavailable for occupation. We have incurred a deficit of £1,085 (£1,154 last year) of which about £176 was due to the revaluation of book and bar stocks. Our liquid cash assets amount to £6,304 and when combined with our investment and the value of our book and bar stocks our total assets are £32,288 (£33,373 in 2021)

**Books:** Book sales this year were £339 (£358 last year). The stock value of all books at the end of the year was £1,453 having been devalued by an annual 20% in accordance with the Society's Depreciation Policy.

**Donations:** The Society has made 4 donations during 2022. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting the members agreed to make donations of £1(X) to each of three charities: the Mills&earn Day Centre, the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Music for Autism. In accordance with a previous Committee decision the Society made an annual donation of £50 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal (total donations £1C)0 in 2021).

**Monthly Meetings:** As mentioned above, we were able to hold only five of our planned eight Meetings in 2022. Inevitably this affected our financial performance because it is only our membership fees and our income from suppers and the bar at Friday meetings that have to cover all our costs - hall hire, speakers, insurance, our on-line web expenses, the staff involved with our suppers and various other costs. Additionally in 2022 the Committee decided to organize a free Party to welcome back our members after we had been unable to hold Friday meetings during the previous two years due to Covid.

**Membership:** Membership fees amounted to £1,513 (£1,350 in 2019).

**Investments:** Last year our investment with the Coventry Building Society earned us £129 and in 2022 due to even lower interest rates (0.55% p.a.) £101.50 which was reinvested. Next year we will receive £530 on our improved fixed annual rate of 2.2%. This year we have reinvested the £4,000 which we withdrew last year in view of the uncertain outlook for liquid funds during the pandemic.

**Summary:** Despite the continuing effect of Covid on our activities during the first quarter of 2022 I believe that our overall financial situation remains sound. But our three sources of income mentioned above – membership fees and supper and bar income at Friday meetings – remain critical to the Society's financial health.

Richard Peters  
Treasurer  
The Bensington Society



**ATTACHMENT 3  
TO BENSINGTON SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Balance Sheet Bensington Society as at 31 Dec 2022						
Previous Period Figures				Current Period Figures		
Totals	Sub-Totals	Totals		Totals	Sub-Totals	Totals
			<b>ASSETS</b>			
		£ 580.09	Cash in Hand	£ 596.68		
		£ 10,913.67	Cash in Bank	£ 5,707.09		
£ 11,493.76			Total Cash	£ 6,303.77		
£ -			Deposit Accounts			
£ 12.00			Sundry Creditors	£ 60.00		
			Sundry Debtors	£ -		
£ 11,481.76			Total Liquid Assets	£ 6,243.77		
			<b>STOCKS</b>			
		£ 250.13	Book 1	£ 193.44		
		£ 505.25	Book 2	£ 388.36		
		£ 1,087.41	Book 3	£ 836.40		
		£ 48.88	Book 4	£ 34.80		
		£ -	Bar	£ 490.08		
		£ -				
£ 1,891.67			Total Stocks	£ 1,943.08		
£ 13,373.43			Total Current Assets	£ 8,186.85		
			<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
				£ -		
£ -			Total Liabilities	£ -		
£ 13,373.43			Net Working Capital (Current Assets minus Liabilities)	£ 8,186.85		
			<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
		£ 20,000.00	Investments at Cost	£ 24,101.25		
			Market Value			
		£ -	Capital Property	£ -		
£ 20,000.00	£ -		Total Fixed Assets	£ -	£ 24,101.25	
£ 33,373.43			<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		£ 32,288.10	
			<b>GENERAL PURPOSES FUND</b>			
		£ 34,527.61	Balance as per Last Balance Sheet	£ 33,373.43		
			Add Excess of Income			
		£ 1,154.18	Subtract Excess of Expenditure	£ 1,085.33		
£ 33,373.43			Accumulated General Purposes Fund		£ 32,288.10	
			being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets			

Date: 31 Dec 2022

Signature of Treasurer

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: 7 Jan 2023

Signature of Examiner

*[Handwritten Signature]*



**ATTACHMENT 4  
TO BENSINGTON SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

BREAKDOWN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1 JAN 2022 - 31 DEC 2022							
Previous Period				Current Period			
Item	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Item	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Interest	£ 128.78		£ 128.78	Interest	£ 101.25	£ -	£ 101.25
Donations		£ 100.00	-£ 100.00	Donations		£ 350.00	-£ 350.00
Office		£ 16.80	-£ 16.80	Office		£ 34.40	-£ 34.40
Main Website		£ 89.35	-£ 89.35	Main Website		£ 69.54	-£ 69.54
Insurance		£ 314.12	-£ 314.12	Insurance		£ 148.64	-£ 148.64
High Sherrif Award		£ 56.00	-£ 56.00				£ -
			£ -				£ -
			£ -	Christmas Party		£ 94.65	-£ 94.65
			£ -	Christmas Raffle	£ 145.00	£ 113.41	£ 31.59
	£ -		£ -	Welcome back party		£ 1,128.21	-£ 1,128.21
				Gifts		£ 96.99	-£ 96.99
				Miscellaneous		£ 48.48	-£ 48.48
Book Depreciation		£ 472.91	-£ 472.91	Book Depreciation	£ -	£ 363.83	-£ 363.83
<b>Total General</b>	<b>£ 128.78</b>	<b>£ 1,049.18</b>	<b>-£ 920.40</b>	<b>Total General</b>	<b>£ 246.25</b>	<b>£ 2,448.15</b>	<b>-£ 2,201.90</b>
Food	£ -	£ -	£ -	Food	£ 1,610.00	£ 761.22	£ 848.78
Bar	£ -	£ -	£ -	Bar	£ 1,176.09	£ 494.16	£ 681.93
Hall/Licence	£ -	£ 48.00	-£ 48.00	Hall	£ -	£ 804.40	-£ 804.40
Kitchen Help	£ -	£ -	£ -	Kitchen Help	£ -	£ 390.00	-£ 390.00
Speakers	£ -	£ 480.00	-£ 480.00	Speakers		£ 437.75	-£ 437.75
Subscriptions	£ -	£ 110.00	-£ 110.00	Subscriptions		£ 110.00	-£ 110.00
				Visitors	£ 75.00		£ 75.00
Membership Fees	£ 88.00		£ 88.00	Membership Fees	£ 1,513.00		£ 1,513.00
Monthly Raffle			£ -	Monthly Raffle	£ 296.00	£ 80.00	£ 216.00
History Group		£ 334.59	-£ 334.59	History Group		£ 928.15	-£ 928.15
Book Sales	£ 358.00	£ 56.26	£ 301.74	Book Sales	£ 339.00	£ 74.84	£ 264.16
Books write-off	£ -	£ 5.43	-£ 5.43				£ -
Outings	£ 542.50	£ -	£ 542.50				£ -
Stock Revaluation	£ -	£ 188.00	-£ 188.00	Stock write back	£ 188.00		£ 188.00
<b>Totals Funds</b>	<b>£ 988.50</b>	<b>£ 1,222.28</b>	<b>-£ 233.78</b>	<b>Totals Funds</b>	<b>£ 5,197.09</b>	<b>£ 4,080.52</b>	<b>£ 1,116.57</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 1,117.28</b>	<b>£ 2,271.46</b>		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 5,443.34</b>	<b>£ 6,528.67</b>	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£ 1,154.18</b>			<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£ 1,085.33</b>	

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**TO BENSINGTON SOCIETY**  
**CALLING NOTICE**

**EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR 2022**

**General:** I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Bensington Society (the Society) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act:  
or
- The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Heather Emerson  
ACA (retired from practising)  
18 Horseshoes Lane, Benson  
7 January 2023

## **GOVERNANCE**

Our Society is governed by its Constitution and the Trustees also by the Rule Book, which is reviewed annually. Both of these documents are available on our Society's Website and in its folder in the Benson Public Library.

The Constitution is very largely the general one suggested to our Society by HMRC, when we registered with them as a Small Charity, but adapted for our specific Society. We are not registered with the Charity Commission, only with HMRC for Gift Aid purposes.

## **AIMS FOR 2023**

- To plan to commence our Friday evening meetings as soon as it is safe and possible to do so
- To try to attract younger people to our Society
- To involve more of the membership in the running of our Society
- To maintain our link to the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Team.
- To have a series of talks arranged on ZOOM until we can start meeting again.
- To arrange a programme of outings for when they can safely start.
- To review the investment policy with the aim of securely improving our return.
- To review and update the Rule Book.
- To evaluate and respond to requests for a financial donation from local causes whose aims align with the Aims of our Society.

**NOTE:** Except for the first one, the above are not in any priority order