

**Northamptonshire Record Society**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**

Year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total £	2014 Total £
<b>Income</b>					
Subscriptions		12,414		12,414	11,742
Tax reclaimable		1,913		1,913	1,761
Investment income	3	9,956	1,303	11,259	10,966
Sales of publications		944		944	631
Donations and other income		69		69	485
		<u>25,296</u>	<u>1,303</u>	<u>26,599</u>	<u>25,585</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>1,004</u>	<u>(1,004)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>26,300</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>26,599</u>	<u>25,585</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b><i>Charitable activities</i></b>					
Publication and distribution costs					
<i>Northamptonshire Past and Present</i>		2,731		2,731	3,311
<i>Northampton: Town and Crown</i>		6,457		6,457	-
<i>Peterborough Medieval Court Rolls</i>		1,984		1,984	-
<i>Recollections of William Arnold</i>		-		-	3,599
Digital publications		-		-	490
Provision for future publications		-		-	-
		<u>11,172</u>		<u>11,172</u>	<u>7,400</u>
Lecture expenses			241	241	174
Library costs		<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>11,272</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>11,513</u>	<u>7,574</u>
<b><i>Governance costs</i></b>					
Annual Report and AGM costs		862		862	940
Independent examiner's fee		612		612	612
Secretary's salary (part)		<u>3,500</u>		<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>
		<u>4,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,974</u>	<u>5,052</u>
<b><i>Operating costs</i></b>					
Accommodation costs		1,737		1,737	1,500
Provision for repairs		250		250	250
Insurance		1,578		1,578	1,494
Salaries and other staff costs	4	4,967		4,967	4,391
Stationery and printing		180		180	224
Post and telephone		472		472	463
E-mail and computer expenses		634		634	655
Other expenses		25		25	-
Depreciation of equipment		<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	<u>201</u>
		<u>10,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,043</u>	<u>9,178</u>
<b><i>Total expenditure</i></b>		<u>26,289</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>26,530</u>	<u>21,804</u>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<u>11</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>3,781</u>
<b>Adjustment arising in respect of investment assets</b>					
Unrealised net increase arising during the year		<u>786</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>1,219</u>	<u>7,081</u>
<b>Net profit after adjustment for value of investments</b>		<u>797</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>1,288</u>	<u>10,862</u>
<b>Balance at 1 January 2015</b>		<u>228,291</u>	<u>34,906</u>	<u>263,197</u>	<u>252,335</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>		<u>229,088</u>	<u>35,397</u>	<u>264,485</u>	<u>263,197</u>

**Northamptonshire Record Society**  
**Statement of Financial Activities - Other Funds**  
**(Summarised on page six)**

Year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	Endowment Fund £	SHL Washington Fund £	Victor Hatley Memorial Fund £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Income</b>						
Investment income	3	887	117	299	1,303	1,287
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Lecture costs		-	-	241	241	174
Contribution to cost of caring for the collection		-	117	-	117	116
Transfer to General Fund		887		-	887	876
					1,245	1,166
<b>Net surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		-	-	58	58	121
<b>Urealised gain on investments</b>		295	39	99	433	1,922
<b>Balance at 1 January 2015</b>		23,975	3,081	7,850	34,906	32,863
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>		24,270	3,120	8,007	35,397	34,906
Income account		-	-	1,068	1,068	1,010
Capital account		24,270	3,120	6,939	34,329	33,896
		24,270	3,120	8,007	35,397	34,906

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are required to act within the general framework of trust law and specifically in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed and Rules of the charity. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose at any time and with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud or other irregularities.

**Northamptonshire Record Society**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015**

	Notes	£ General Fund	£ Other Funds	£ Total	2014 £ Total
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	5	400		400	600
<b>Investments</b>	6	226,245	34,549	260,794	259,575
<b>Net current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	5,365		5,365	4,078
Cash at bank		33,671	848	34,519	33,334
Less:					
Creditors	8	(9,843)		(9,843)	(7,890)
		29,193	848	30,041	29,522
<b>Provision for liabilities and charges</b>	9	(26,750)		(26,750)	(26,500)
		<u>229,088</u>	<u>35,397</u>	<u>264,485</u>	<u>263,197</u>
Representing:					
<b>Endowment Fund</b>			24,270	24,270	23,975
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
SHL Washington Fund			3,120		3,081
Victor Hatley Memorial Fund			8,007	11,127	7,850
<b>General Fund</b>		<u>229,088</u>		<u>229,088</u>	<u>228,291</u>
		<u>229,088</u>	<u>35,397</u>	<u>264,485</u>	<u>263,197</u>

**Net assets held in Other Funds**

	Investments	Cash
	£	£
Endowment Fund	23,510	760
SHL Washington Fund	3,120	-
Victor Hatley Memorial Fund	7,919	88
	<u>34,549</u>	<u>848</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 5 March 2016

R Pestell : Chairman

P H McKay : Hon Treasurer

# Northamptonshire Record Society

## Notes to the accounts

### 1. Accounting policies

(a) No value has been placed in the Balance Sheet on the pictures, furniture and books which have been donated to the Society over a number of years. These are regarded as heritage assets and, in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of a professional valuation of such assets would not be justified. Accordingly no value has been included in the Balance Sheet in respect of these assets. The current insured value of such assets is approximately £194,000.

Books bought for the Society's library are expensed in the year of purchase.

(b) No value is placed on stocks of books and other material published by the Society.

(c) Dividend income is included on a receipts basis at an amount which includes the appropriate income tax credit. Interest receivable is however included in the accounts on the accruals basis.

(d) Tangible operating fixed assets are depreciated by reference to their expected useful lives and estimated residual values on disposal at the following annual rates:-

Computer equipment	20% on cost
Furniture and equipment	10% / 20% on cost

(e) Cash donations and gifts are included in full in the accounts of the year in which the donation is received.

### 2. Funds

#### Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was established by the 1933 Trust Deed for the maintenance of the Record Room and Library of the Society. The income arising from this fund is to be applied towards these purposes in perpetuity.

#### Restricted Funds

##### S H L Washington Fund

This fund was established under the terms of the will of the late Horace Washington to provide income towards the care and maintenance of the Washington Collection.

##### Victor Hatley Memorial Fund

The capital of this fund was subscribed by members to commemorate the life and work of the late Victor Hatley. The income arising is used for special purposes determined by the trustees.

#### General Fund

The General Fund and the income arising from it may be used by the trustees in pursuance of the objects of the Society.

### 3. Investment and Deposit income

	£	£	£	2014 £
	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Total
M & G Charifund	6,349		6,349	6,119
COIF Investment Fund	3,558	1,303	4,861	4,801
	9,907	1,303	11,210	10,920
Deposit interest	49	-	49	46
	9,956	1,303	11,259	10,966

### 4. Salaries and other staff costs

This item includes the sum of £1,500 to be paid to the Treasurer, P H McKay, in respect of his time and expenses incurred in maintaining the accounts of the Society in 2015. It also includes expenses reimbursed to the Editors amounting in total to £98.

## 5. Fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January and 31 December 2015	2,722	3,106	5,828
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2015	2,122	3,106	5,228
Charge for the year	200	-	200
At 31 December 2015	2,322	3,106	5,428
Net book value - 31 December 2015	400	-	400
Net book value - 31 December 2014	600	-	600

## 6. Investments

The following table shows the change in value of the investment portfolio:

	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total £
Carrying value at 1 January 2015	225,459	34,116	259,575
Unrealised net gains	786	433	1,219
Carrying value at 31 December 2015	226,245	34,549	260,794

At the year end the portfolio comprised:

	Cost £	Market value 2015 £	2014 £
9,201 units M & G Charifund	57,431	131,930	132,326
10,320 units COIF Investment Fund	110,000	128,864	127,249
	167,431	260,794	259,575

## 7. Debtors

	2015 £	2014 £
Tax refund	1,910	1,726
Other debtors	3,455	2,352
	5,365	4,078

## 8. Creditors

Accruals and deferred income	7,045	5,427
Creditors	1,500	1,097
Subscriptions paid in advance	1,298	1,366
	9,843	7,890

## 9. Provision for liabilities and charges

	Publications £	Repairs £	Total £
Balance at 1 January 2015	20,000	6,500	26,500
Charged this year		250	250
Balance at 31 December 2015	20,000	6,750	26,750

**Independent Examiner's Report**  
**to the Trustees of the Northamptonshire Record Society**  
(charity number: 204957)

We report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2015 set out on pages 6 to 10.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

J R Watson & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Eastgate House  
11 Cheyne Walk  
Northampton NN1 5PT

5-Mar-16

## **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP VARIATIONS 2015**

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Arnold,. Mr L W	Northampton
Brudenell, Mrs Charlotte	Deene Park
Kirkbride, Mr&Mrs	Nether Heyford
Parry, Mrs C	Bugbrooke
Stanton. Mr P & Mrs S	Farthingstone

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Betts, J R	Raunds
Bryant, K R	Long Buckby
Fleming, Mr D	Northampton
Neville, Mr & Mrs	Stanwick
Sharman, J M	Desborough
Williams, Mrs C	Woodford Halse

#### **DEATHS**

Arnold, J R M	Scaldwell
Brooke, Prof C N L CBE	Cambridge
Carnell, Canon G	Kettering
Gee, Geoffrey	Northampton
Hart, Dr CJR	Peterborough
Lightburne, Sylvia	Northampton
Richards, Mrs M	Polebrook
Wilson, Mrs J R C	Fotheringhay

### **INSTITUTIONS**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Friends of Northampton Castle Northampton

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

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# Northamptonshire Record Society

## Ninety-Fifth Annual Report for the Year ended

### 31 December 2015

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*Patron:* Sir Hereward Wake, Bart. MC, DL

*President:* Lord Boswell of Aynho

<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	The Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire Professor C.N.L. Brooke, CBE ( <i>d.27Dec 2015</i> ) Dr S. Martin Gaskell, MA, PhD, FRHistS Professor P. Gordon, FSA Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council	The Marquess of Northampton, DL The Mayor of Northampton The Bishop of Peterborough The Dean of Peterborough Commr. L.M.M. Saunders Watson, CBE DL
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<i>Trustees:</i>	Canon R. L. Pestell MA (Chairman) B.A. Bailey, FSA Lord Boswell of Aynho Dr K.B. Brooker, PhD Mrs J.K. Burt, MA Mrs J.P.T. Eady M.J. Ford, MBE Professor P. Gordon, FSA R.L. Greenall, MA, BSc (Econ) D.N. Hall, MA, FSA	Deborah Hayter MA Mrs B. Hornby, MA Dr N. E. Karn, MA, DPhil, FSA Professor E. J. King, MA, PhD, FSA N. B. Lyon MA P. H. McKay, BA Mrs J. A. Minchinton, BA, DAA J.A.J. Munro, MCLIP Dr S.G. Raban, MA, PhD Dr T. J. Waterfield, PhD
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*Hon. General Editor:* D.N. Hall, MA, FSA

*Hon. Editor:* Mrs B. Hornby, MA

*(of Northamptonshire*

*Past and Present)*

*Library Committee:* Mrs J. A. Minchinton, BA, DAA (Chairman)

*Secretary:* D. Harries, DMA

*Hon. Treasurer:* P. H. McKay, BA

*Hon. Solicitor:* Mrs C. Colacicchi

*Web site Manager:* Dr T. J. Waterfield, PhD

*Independent*

*Examiners:* J. R. Watson & Co., Eastgate House, 11 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5PT

*Office:* Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BQ

*email:* [enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk)



# **THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY**

## **OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY**

The name of the Society shall be “The Northamptonshire Record Society”.

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) The editing and publication of original documents and other material relating to the history of the ancient County of Northampton.
- b) The stimulation of interest in the history of the ancient County of Northampton by the arranging from time to time lectures at various places within the County and by other means.
- c) The maintenance of a library and its furnishings for the benefit of Members of the Society.
- d) The care of manuscripts, books, paintings, artefacts and other objects which may be given or lent to the Society from time to time.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### *Appointment of Trustees*

Under the Rules of the Society, the President and the Trustees are elected each year at the Society’s Annual General Meeting. The Trustee body aims to achieve an appropriate mix of academic, financial and administrative expertise in its membership.

### *Governing instruments*

The original Trust Deed of the Society setting out the objectives of the Society and appointing the original Custodian Trustees is dated 10 December 1920. The proceedings of the Society are governed by a set of Rules drawn up under this Trust Deed. These Rules have been amended from time to time, most recently on 15 May 2004.

Committees have been established for Finance & Investments, Publications and Library. The membership of these committees is as follows:

### **FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Canon R. L. Pestell (Chairman), J. Ford, D. N. Hall, Mrs B. Hornby, P. H. McKay

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

D. N. Hall (Chairman), Dr K. B. Brooker, Ms S. Bridges, R. L. Greenall, Mrs B. Hornby, P. H. McKay, J. A. J. Munro, Dr S. G. Raban

### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Mrs J. A. Minchinton (Chairman), Mrs J. Burt, Mrs J. P. T. Eady, P. H. McKay, J. A. J. Munro, *The Library is open to members from Tuesday to Friday each week and the first Saturday of each month; the opening hours are the same as for the Northamptonshire Record Office.*

The representatives on the **Archives User and Stakeholder Panel** of the Northamptonshire Archives Services are Mrs J.P.T. Eady, Mrs J. A. Minchinton, R. L. Greenall, D.N. Hall

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trustees have considered the public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission for England and Wales and they believe that a public benefit is being delivered by the Society’s work in facilitating the study of the history of the ancient county of Northamptonshire. They consider that the Society’s activities have and continue to advance education and an appreciation of the arts and culture and heritage of old Northamptonshire. Although the Society charges a modest membership fee, the Trustees do not believe that this is a significant disincentive to those interested in the objects of the Society. Further information on the Society’s activities is set out in the following pages.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

### **President – Lord Boswell of Aynho**

On the recommendation of the Council, Lord Boswell of Aynho was unanimously elected as the Society's President at the Annual Meeting in May 2015.

### **Vice-President – Professor Peter Gordon**

In recognition of his esteemed work for the Society over many years, Professor Peter Gordon was unanimously elected by the Council as a Vice-President.

### **David Hall- Landscape Archaeology Award**

The Society's Editor, Dr David Hall, has been awarded the prestigious John Coles Medal for Landscape Archaeology in 2015 by the British Academy. This is in recognition of his significant contribution to landscape archaeology through his research into the Midland open field systems, and his role in the Fenland Project.

### **Committees**

The Council agreed in October 2015 that, as they had the same membership and met on the same day, the Finance and Investments Committees should be combined to form a single Finance and Investments Committee.

### **Publications**

It has again been a busy year for the publications committee and editor.

*Town and Crown: the Governance of late thirteenth century Northampton*, by Dr John Williams was published in June 2015 and well received. John was the archaeologist for Northampton Development Corporation in the 1970s and the publication of this study of early Northampton is the fruit of a long period of research.

The series of Mellows Trust volumes, publishing the records of Peterborough Abbey, continued with *Peterborough Medieval Court Rolls*, translated by Margaret Briston, with an introduction by the

Mellows Trust editor and Council member, Dr Nicholas Karn. The volume was issued with *Northamptonshire Past & Present* 2015 in October. The Society is again grateful to the Mellows Trust for making available these volumes at cost price for those members who wish to receive them. The books are generally issued to institutional and academic members and to those individual members who have advised the Secretary that they would like to have them. If interested, please make sure you are on the list because not many extra volumes are printed, and it is difficult to accommodate late requests.

The next main-series volume, currently at proofing stage (January) will be *Fragile Images; post-medieval stained glass in Northamptonshire*, by Paul Sharpling. This substantial work will be a fine addition to the corpus of volumes published by the Society. It contains a Gazetteer listing all the stained glass in the county and is accompanied by 64 high quality coloured plates. The volume complements that describing the county's medieval glass by Richard Marks, *The Medieval Stained Glass of Northamptonshire*, published in 1998 by Oxford University Press.

There are several more potential publications in progress which will be discussed at the next meetings of the Finance and Publications Committees. The Publications Committee meets twice yearly to discuss forthcoming volumes, and makes recommendations to the Council. The Society is always glad to receive written proposals or to discuss research projects. Instructions for the standard NRS format can be supplied.

The Autumn Lecture by Professor Nicholas Vincent of the University of East Anglia on the subject of Magna Carta, was most informative and lively, showing the little-known part that Northampton played in the 1215 proceedings. Professor Vincent will explain this in print in the 2016 edition of *Northamptonshire Past & Present*.

Details of all publications are shown on the Society's web site.

## **Northamptonshire Past and Present**

The cover of number 68 is unusual with its ridge and furrow illustrating David Hall's article on the enclosures at Ashby St Ledgers. The journal starts with an article by Ron Greenall on his 50 years of local history in the county. Other articles cover a wide range of topics including Tudor churchwardens' accounts, textile manufacturing in 18<sup>th</sup> century Northamptonshire, model housing in Victorian times and H.B. Lees-Smith, a 'pacifist' MP. It is rounded off with an addendum on Charles Lamotte who first appeared in number 67. Please remember that we have changed the deadline for submission of articles to the end of February. It is never too early to submit drafts.

## **Meetings and Lectures**

Once again, the Spring and Autumn Lectures were well attended with around 100 members and guests at each. The Annual General Meeting was held at St Andrew's Hospital in May. This was followed by an interesting lecture from Deborah Hayter on 'The Hearth Tax'. The Autumn Lecture was also held at St. Andrew's Hospital, when Professor Nicholas Vincent spoke on the Magna Carta of 1215. The 2016 lectures will be given by Nick Hill of English Heritage on Apethorpe Hall (now Palace) and Dr Gary Howells on Pytchley's nineteenth century pauper emigrants

## **Reference Library**

The Reference Library has over 3,600 books, both old and new, concentrating on Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough. There are also many background historical works which have local as well as national relevance. The Library Committee continues to add to the collection when suitable volumes appear.

Margaret Osborne and Kathy Perkins have worked tirelessly throughout the year to produce a computerised (Excel) catalogue to complement the existing card system. Many books marked missing were found and books found out of order have been restored to their original position. Their efforts are much appreciated and should significantly improve the Reference Library experience. As the Library is now for reference only, it would be helpful if any books still on loan could be returned as soon as possible

A Librarian is now needed to help devise and implement a strategy for the control and operation of the Library. Volunteers are also required to help run the Library. This will involve the usual tasks of recording and cataloguing newly acquired books before putting them on to the shelves; and the routine maintenance of the collection.

As a result of a visit by the committee to the Judges Lodgings, where a number of portraits on loan to the County Council are displayed, the existing inventory of the Society's portraits and other chattels will be reviewed by Mrs Minchinton. Consideration would be given to compiling some user-friendly information about the pictures.

## **Finance**

A good deal of work to try to tidy up the membership list has been carried out this year and, as will be seen, an increase in subscription income has been recognised in these accounts. This however reflects the collection of arrears rather than an increase in membership numbers. The improved collection rate has also meant that more tax is reclaimable.

The increase in sales results from the successful autumn offer of bound volumes of *Northamptonshire Past and Present*. Members are reminded that most of the more recent volumes published by the Society are still available and details of their price can be found on the web-site. We also have second-hand copies of many of the out-of-print volumes. The condition of these volumes varies significantly but please ring or e-mail the Office for more information.

In addition to *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, number 68, the Society also published two substantial hard-backs this year. While the production costs of the Mellows volumes are shared with the Anthony Mellows Memorial Trust, the Society covers the distribution costs of these volumes to those of our members who have asked to receive them. This includes about fifty overseas academic institutions so these distribution costs are not insignificant.

Governance costs are very similar to those of last year but operating costs have increased. The result for the year is more or less break-even compared with a significant surplus in 2014. No change has been made in the provision for future publications this year but

the matter will be reconsidered once the cost of *Fragile Images* is known.

## Investments

Our holding in the COIF Investment Fund showed an appreciation of 1.3% over the year compared with a 0.3% loss on the Charifund holding. Both funds have performed satisfactorily when compared with UK-only indices. More importantly, as far as the Society is concerned, both funds managed to increase their pay-outs even if only by small amounts. This investment income underpins our publication programme and its continuation is vital for the achievement of the Society's principal objective.

## Membership

There was little change in the membership, with 6 new members against 13 resignations and deaths. Details are as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Individual	477	485
Family	50	50
Youth/Junior	-	-
Institutions	102	101
Honorary	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	633	640

## Archives User and Stakeholder Panel

An informal meeting of the Panel, which includes four representatives of the Society, took place in November. As required by its constitution it was chaired by the Lord Lieutenant, David Laing. Papers upon the Archives Service Customer Surveys and the proposed Strategy for the Northamptonshire Heritage Gateway were considered. Discussion mainly related to the future funding, organisation and operation of the Archives Service. There was some relief that the County Council was no longer planning to move the Service into the Wellbeing Company, but uncertainty remains over its future. It was emphasised that the Society's main concern is to ensure that the collections held in the Record Office, many of which are of national importance, remain secure and accessible.

## Risk Management

The Trustees have identified the major risks, which could affect the Society and believe that measures have been taken to mitigate them.

## Web site

**([www.northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk](http://www.northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk))**

The Society's web site received 32,100 visits and 60,244 page requests in 2015, which represents another significant increase. The site contains details of the Society's publications, including a list of all articles to have appeared in *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, as well as information about the library and lectures. It has digital reproductions of: *The Open Fields of Northamptonshire* by David Hall; *Northamptonshire Militia Lists 1777* edited by Victor Hatley; *Northamptonshire Miscellany* by Edmund King.; and *The Printed Maps of Northamptonshire A.D. 1576-1900* by Harold Whitaker. Digital reproductions of *Northamptonshire Past and Present* Volume I Numbers 1-6 from 1948 to 1953 are also available on the site and other volumes will be added over the next few years.

## Email address

In view of the significant increases in the cost of postage, it would be helpful if members could be contacted by email. If you have an email address and are prepared to be contacted in this way, please notify the Secretary. Most of the contacts with the office are now received by email to **[enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk)**

On behalf of the Council  
Richard Pestell [Chairman]  
5 March 2016