



## ESFH TREASURER'S REPORT TO AGM 15 OCTOBER 2022

Good afternoon everyone - to those of you who are seated here in the Galleywood Heritage Centre and to those who are watching from home via Zoom.

This is my first Treasurer's report for the society having been appointed last year and taking over the accounts from Ron Knights in November 2021.

I would like to thank Ron for continuing to assist me with the accounts and answering my many questions over the past year. It has and continues to be a great reassurance having him around as he had carried out the role as Treasurer for the Society for 15 years and he continues to be a valuable asset whom I tap into frequently to verify and source information.

The full accounts including notes are available for you to see on the society website. Please feel free to contact me, via the website, if you have any questions.

So here is the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

From April 2021 we saw the relaxing of COVID restrictions until, at last, in June 2021 all restrictions were removed and we all started getting on with a new normality.

As you know we held our meetings via zoom for the first part of the financial year. Our first meeting where we could meet face-to-face, if we wanted to, was the AGM last year in October and from then onwards we had a variety of meeting styles; Zoom only, Hybrid where Zoom and face-to-face were relayed at the same time and also several face-to-face only meetings. Largely, the number of members attending in person at face-to-face meetings has been lower than pre-COVID and this has meant that the committee has been looking at how to increase these



numbers but I hope that our members have enjoyed the ability to watch our speaker's and take part in workshops from the comfort of their own home via Zoom.

So the financials:

Our subscriptions for the period April 2021 – March 2022 were up by some 13% on last year. Some of this can be attributed to the Really Useful Family History Show and also the article in Peter Calver's "Lost Cousins" newsletter where we saw a huge increase in membership over the days and weeks following each event/publication.

We saw a reduction of some 16% in income from Find My Past royalties and this may be because more family history records are being accessed on other online sites which do not pay us royalties.

Overall income was up almost 8% on 2020-2021

We have seen a good and varied range of speakers over the past year which has resulted in costs for Meetings in Essex slightly up on last year (14%).

Hire of Accommodation appears to have reduced this year but this is due to Zoom costs being taken out of this heading and now being shown in its own heading. We had posted expenditure for Zoom to Accommodation as we used it primarily for our meetings with speakers when we were unable to meet in venues and were unsure for how long we would be using this service. However we have continued to use Zoom and the examiner has requested it be listed separately on our accounts.

Although it looks like The Family Historian production costs have decreased the mileage claimed previously under this heading is now separated into Travel. This was a requirement of the examiner and HMRC.

We also increased the ESFH award to £1000 last year. This was awarded to Julie Miller to continue her research on Quakers. We had an excellent talk from Julie on



16<sup>th</sup> July, “A Quaker of Indiscreet Zeal and a Quaker Comet” , which is still available on the Members area of our website for those of you who have not seen it.

Our website development costs increased by some 14% due to our website hosting charges increasing and we have also made improvements for viewing our website on smartphones and tablets.

Total resources expended was slightly higher than last year with an increase of £1366 – or just over 6%.

In our accounts, we are required to show any change in the value of our Investment since the previous year. The ‘loss’ (or drop in value) of £5,326 this year and the ‘gain’ of £10,537 declared last year are purely paper gains and losses based on an investment of £40,000 which at 31/03/2022 was valued at £45,326. On 05/10/22 our Investment was valued at £64,299. Swings in value like this easily mask any ‘real-life’ gain or loss that might be occurring and are best ignored for the purpose of steering the Society

The final outturn being a Net Surplus for the Year of £14,349, a reduction of £4396 (30%) on last year.

Among proposals being considered, by the Executive to use this surplus usefully, and “in pursuit of the Society’s objectives”, are

- involving schools in Family History projects;
- purchasing new parish registers for those churches whose parish registers contain entries pre 1900 so that these can be deposited at the Essex Record Office (ERO)
- offering a ‘restricted’ donation to the ERO for the purpose of digitising of those parish records so that our team of volunteers can transcribe the records and these can be uploaded on our website



- making further awards to other educational institutes offering degrees in Local History.
- digitisation of ESFH archives.

However if members have any ideas these would be gratefully received and discussed at the Executive Committee meetings.

And there ends the Treasurer's Report.

Are there any questions?

Peter Kittle of Chelmer Company Services has confirmed that he is happy to continue to be the Society's independent examiner for the coming year and I ask that his appointment as such be approved.

Being no further questions I formally propose the adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.