

Treasurer's Report for January 2024 AGM

Our financial position exiting 2023 is very strong thanks to our steadfast membership and the work of our trustees and other volunteers.

Our general income is up on last year with slight increases in membership, donations and a very well attended summer outing. This means we more than covered our general operating costs. As well as our regular monthly meetings and talks at All Saints Church Hall, we have Trustee meetings and research and discussion group (RDG) meetings at the Village Hall where archival storage is held. Another area of expenditure is our printing, although much reduced now that most of you are happy to receive correspondence via email. Note that since Smith & Sons Printers closed in 2022, we now use New Forest Stationers in New Milton for most of our bulk printing needs.

We did not produce an Occasional Magazine in 2023, although we continued to sell a few of the 2022 and earlier editions. Looking back, we paid £470 for the 2022 print run and have taken about £400 in income, so a small loss made. We may need to increase the pricing in the future. We have also started using membership cards. This, I hope, will simplify and streamline the arrival process at meetings, though is something we are all still getting used to and will be continued in 2024.

The Weald and Downland Living Museum outing was highly successful. We more than filled the bus and some visitors travelled by carshare. As we were unable to include teas and coffees as originally planned, we offered a £2 refund on the day. The end result was a profit of £190. We will take this into account when pricing up the next outing.

Another highly successful day was the commemoration of the new Cornwallis plaque at St Ann's Church in Portsmouth, partly funded by The 1805 Club. The expenses for this marked the end of the Cornwallis/Peyton project activities. We have set aside £750 for future maintenance of the plaques at AllSaints and with the residual funds, donated history books to MoS Primary School and made a grant of £1,619.06 to The 1805 Club.

Another grant was given to Mr Nick Saunders for his work on the Indian Army in the New Forest. This seemed an appropriate use of the £500 gift we received from the local Arts Society which closed in 2021.

The Local History Lives project is coming to a close and I would encourage all of you who have not yet done so to go and look up some of the names, houses, streets and other information that is now available online through our website <https://www.milfordhistory.org.uk/>. The grants we received for this work require that we maintain the website through to at least 2028 and there are funds set aside to do this.

My job as treasurer is made a little easier with everyone's support but in particular my thanks to Celia Jones and now Peter Hopkins for dealing with the outing and memberships, Chris Hobby and Chris Sanders for organising the projects and grants, thanks also to Frank Dyson for being this year's independent examiner.

Andrew Priestley, MOSHRS Treasurer, November 2023