



**EAST SURREY**  
Family History Society

Registered Charity Number 286659

# **Trustees' Annual Report**

## **for the year ending 31st December 2024**

Principal Address: Rivington House, Rockfield Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0EL

Website: [www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk)

Independent Examiner: Mrs Lesley Barker  
16 Rectory Rd  
Sutton  
SM1 1QW

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc  
Sutton  
SM1 1DT

# Trustees' Annual Report

East Surrey Family History Society is registered with the Charity Commission and governed by the Constitution adopted 28th March 1992, amended 22nd April 2017. Membership of the Society is entirely voluntary and it is administered by an Executive Committee. Each Trustee/Executive Committee Member is elected by the members of the Society at each Annual General Meeting and serves for a maximum of five years.

For the period covered by this report the Trustees were:

Hilary Blanford – Hon. Chairman from April 2021

Alan Essex – Hon. Secretary from April 2022, on committee from April 2021

Tamsin Abbey – Hon Treasurer from May 2021, on committee from April 2021

Marda Dixon – from April 2021

Anne Ramon – from April 2021

Geoff Fairbairn – from April 2022

June Hayles – from April 2023

Sue Adams – from March 2024

Lynn Gunter – from March 2024 until August 2024

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or is payable to any trustee or person known to be connected to them.

## Our Objects as a Charity

- to promote and encourage the public study of family history, genealogy and heraldry, and related subjects such as local history, with particular reference to the ancient County of Surrey
- to promote the preservation, security and accessibility of archival material

## Our Powers

- promote and engage in educational activities including the issue of a regular journal and publication and sale of other appropriate material
- to hold lectures and discussions and organise research visits for Society Members and interested members of the general public
- to hold and maintain a library of printed and other works for the use of Society Members and interested members of the general public
- to preserve, index, transcribe, copy or publish original source materials
- to undertake relevant projects of every kind including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) the recording, transcribing, copying or indexing of archives, manuscripts, registers, records, photographs, portraits, maps, monumental inscriptions and war memorials
- to pursue collaborative actions with similar established supportive bodies, such as churches, libraries, record offices and educational institutions

## **How we achieved our aims and who has benefited**

The Committee continued to meet online using Zoom.

During 2024 the Society membership was 664 (713 in 2023), including 39 overseas members and 37 libraries.

### **Meetings**

Our meetings were advertised widely and were open to our members and the public. Numbers attending the monthly Lingfield meetings remained steady with speakers giving talks in person or using Zoom. The Southwark group undertook visits and guided walks in the borough.

The Society continued to provide online 'Zoom' talks, each of which was live on a morning, and on an evening a replay of a recording of the live session, or vice-versa (apart from two talks when in each case the respective speaker repeated the talk live). These repetitions made the talks accessible for all members on the internet including those in distant time zones. A total of 869 members and non-members attended 22 Society talks held using Zoom (including the repeats); an average of 40. Some Zoom talks were held jointly with other Societies.

### **DNA, Special Interest, and National Events**

The Society had a presence at virtual fairs and had stalls at six physical events. A virtual family history fair organised by the Society has become an annual event and again was a success in 2024: 23 other societies hosted breakout rooms and were enthusiastic for us to run another fair early in 2025.

### **Journal, Website, and Online Discussion List**

The society continued to publish editions of the journal quarterly and send a copy of each electronically or by post to every member. Copies were also sent to a wide range of public libraries, archives, and record offices.

The Society's Website provides Society news items, links to Zoom talks, back numbers of the journal, and links to resources. The online discussion list enables members to obtain informed assistance quickly.

### **Research Centre**

The Research Centre in Lingfield holds the Society's unpublished research material and library with a team carrying out searches on request. Transcription of memorial inscriptions, Poor Law, and other records of interest to family, social, and local historians continued, to make them available to researchers.

### **Affiliation and Co-operation with Local and National Organisations and Archives**

The Society continued to affiliate to Archives for London, Croydon Local Studies Forum, the Family History Federation, Friends of the National Archives, Surrey Record Society, the Lambeth History Forum, and Merton Historical Society.

Working with Surrey History Centre we held two 'Talks with Tea'.

### **Planned future activity to achieve our aims**

Although the overall objective is to encourage and provide for the study of family history, the main interest for the Society is the eastern part of the ancient county of Surrey.

We plan to continue to:

- arrange talks on Zoom at varying times to engage with distant members and younger prospective members
- hold monthly local group meetings at Lingfield
- hold bi-monthly meetings, walks, and visits for the Southwark group
- support a Special Interest Group studying DNA as a tool for genealogy
- attend family history events, virtual and in person, to promote the Society and make its resources available to the wider public
- host our virtual family history event with the participation of interested societies and groups
- produce a quarterly journal mailed or emailed to each member
- make data available on the Society's website, accessible to the public and with a members-only section
- promote the members' email discussion group
- maintain the research and interests centre at Lingfield and add transcriptions to the collection of unpublished material
- transcribe data of unavailable publications
- maintain an online shop for the Society's publications via Parish Chest and GenFair
- affiliate and co-operate with local and national organisations and archives
- offer workshops for less experienced family history researchers

and we plan to:

- investigate the possibility of running a talk with tea with Lambeth Archives
- work with the Society of Genealogists to produce a video on Researching Family History in Surrey

## **Statement of Financial Activities**

Reserve funds of £17,998 are held in a Virgin Deposit Account with instant access, and an additional sum of £28,883 is held in a Virgin 100 Day Notice Deposit account to gain better return.

The net incoming resources of the Society for the year 2024 resulted in a surplus of £2,162 (2,172 in 2023).

## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

- our reserves, which accumulated historically, should provide the Society with adequate financial stability in order to achieve our objectives for the foreseeable future
- we should maintain at least the equivalent of 50% of our annual expenditure in order to meet commitments in case of unexpected fall in income
- apart from the above, we should utilise reserves for capital expenditure. Our IT equipment has a limited life span due to rapidly advancing technology and reserves would be required in order to meet a continual updating/replacing programme
- we may consider providing donations/grants towards projects to preserve archives