

## **22/23 Accounts**

### **The Bitterns Local History Society**

#### **SHOP**

The year has been a steady stream of donations and we have been fortunate to have the wealth of many items, including several house clearances, including many books and jewellery. The takings are steady only really dipping the week of the Queen's Funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The overall figures **total is £20,362.10 for the year 20/23** cash and card. We were closed from half day 24.12.2022 till Weds 04.01.2023, with grumbles from the public, but it gave the staff a chance to sort out the brie a brae and clean the shop a bit.

Our rental is still at £1000 per month after sorting out a payment over covid, but the shop does need a few things doing in there especially with the electrics! We seldom have visits from the landlord, but the boiler and timings are still a troubled item.

The gas and electric bills have soared like everyone's, but it doesn't help when the lights are left on a!! day upstairs sorting clothes, or out the back sorting books. The Eon electrics are the worse as we couldn't read the meter for over a year when I took over so at least we can read the smart meter. The Utilities bills are a staggering £ 4,053.96 for the year which is horrendous. (British Gas, electric and Gas, and electric from Eon)

We continue to sell new books that come on the market by local authors, Dr Cheryl Butler, Martin Brisland and Wendy Stokes. Ian and Russell Henson continue to do talks on behalf of the BLHS and add to the income. We manage to take a few 5'ps in bottles £41.05 this year.

We manage to receive back monies recycling from World of Books, £83.90, East London Textiles (Clothes) £177.45, and the crisp packets sadly finished in April 2022 £91.54.

We do really well with the outlet at the Mercantile Flea, with our permanent stall taking £2,779.63 in 22/23. We manage to take the higher end China and pieces there, as it often gets dealers and the wider public browsing there.

#### **BLHS MAGAZINES**

Our thanks most go to John Buttler for the continuing magazines he prints for *us* and thanks also for Steve Adams who puts it all together. We continue to sell some magazines at the library, events and fetes (including the Mercantile Flea) and our printing costs for this year is £925.00. Visitors also buy a few if they are coming in to see the stewards about family history. The quarterly magazines are a good read and the members look forward to the local stories.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership fluctuates but we lose some and gain a few new ones. It keeps the basic core of people and at present we have approximately 162 plus honorary members. The membership amount has been entered at £901. The question of increasing subs always comes up at meetings but the committee are reluctant to increase it at present, it remains at £14, second person £6, over80 - £8. Thanks go to Pam West for taking over this position and all the work it entails.

Our monthly meetings took £839.27 for meetings 22.09.22 till 8.07.2023 including visitors, raffle and takings. The Speakers costs were £445.50 to bring the members and public in.

Again we strive to go forward with the Society and thank you all for you continuing support. We aim to keep Bitterne's History alive with all the artefacts and archives that we keep for you all. Please continue to join our membership and keep us all going.

We had a very successful day with the Heritage Open Day on the Nationwide Heritage Open Days Festival Week, ours was the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and we were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor.

Thank you to all the members that keep the Heritage Centre open, helping local people with their requests. Thank you to the staff and volunteers that help with the shop in many ways, and Steve Adams with the online enquiries, steward work and Peter Richards with his help in booking speakers and all his previous work with the Society.

Most of all we must thank Ian Abrahams with Jill, for all their work with their lifetime knowledge of Bitterne and the history we aim to keep for the future generations.

**Mary Abraham**

**Treasurer BLHS October 2023**