

Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society

An Unincorporated Society

Report to members for the first three months of 2025

until its closure preceding the registration of a new charity under the same name

A wonderful ending

On 24 March 2025 the unincorporated society passed its assets and liabilities to the new charity which has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation since 1 April 2025. The unincorporated society was then closed after 68 years of vital work since its foundation in 1958.

The last three months of the Society's life were busy with the work to complete the charity registration but also ensuring the society's programme ran smoothly in its closing period.

Subscriptions

The increased subscription levels of £15 for a single membership and £20 for a joint membership came into effect on 1 January 2025 and the benefit was soon felt in our rapidly rising funds. A big thank you to all members for their continuing support during this period of change. This enabled the society to pass on to the new charity a sound financial foundation for the future.

Programme

The first meeting of the year began with a special members' meeting to approve the constitution for the new charity. Following an overwhelming show of support for the proposal, our **Val Bott** gave the talk which our Chair, **James Wisdom**, had prepared because of his absence due to ill health. This illustrated talk used the remarkable earliest photograph of Turnham Green in 1863 with paintings and other sources to uncover the life of this busy and important part of Chiswick – Chiswick High Road -at that time.

Our next talk was given jointly by our then Vice Chair **Janet McNamara** and member **David Shailes** and moved us to Brentford. They spoke about the history of Brentford High Street. They explored the past of an area that has recently seen much new redevelopment using a wonderful collection of photographs of streetscapes and individual buildings .

The final talk of the Society's long life was presented by Brentford-based photographer **Peter Hughes** on Photographing the Heritage of Brentford and Chiswick. Over the years he has undertaken a number of commissions linked to our local heritage and community. His illustrated presentation showed images from these and other assignments, and he talked about how this work integrates with the heritage sector and what is involved in producing photographs that are worthy of the subject matter. An excellent reminder of the modern role of the photographer in recording history for future generations. Without a photographer's skills, the two earlier talks could not have been given!

Journal

The *Journal* is published in May each year. This meant that though the volunteer team was preparing the next issue for 2025 it was not published during this three month period

Joint Venture

Our joint venture with Hounslow and District History Society to publish a book on the History of the Great West Road to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the Great

West Road continued strongly over this three month period. Thanks to the enthusiasm and energetic selling efforts of the author, James Marshall, by the end of the period 224 copies had been sold since the book was launched in late 2024.

Financial Report

Introduction

The Society was registered as a charity on 24 March 2025 and passed financial responsibility to the new charity of the same name on 1 April 2025. Accounts for the period 1 January - 31 March 2025 together with accompanying notes have been circulated to members.

Income and Expenditure for the three months

The Income Statement shows

Subscriptions	£1,834
Donations	£165
Publication sales	£25

TOTAL INCOME	£2,024
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The expenditure Statement shows

Expenditure	
General expenses	£69
Publication Expenses	£27

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£96
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Surplus for the period	£1,928
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Income and Expenditure Comments

1. The relatively high level of subscriptions is because the larger part of subscriptions of the Society is received in the first three months of the calendar year. Since the subscriptions are for a whole year, it meant there was a significant unspent sum that related to the remaining nine months of the year available to be passed on to the formation of the new charity.
2. There was little other activity in these three months other than the lectures as all efforts were concentrated on registering the new charity. The costs of the lectures (mainly hall hire) were paid in advance in 2024.

Assets and Liabilities

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows

Net Assets – opening balance	£14,666
Operating surplus for the nine months	£1,928
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	£16,595

Other Cash holdings	£892#
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TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF PERIOD

matched with the total of monies in Bank and PayPal accounts	£17,487
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Assets and Liabilities Comments

1. The large surplus is due to the subscriptions for 12 months being received while expenses are only for the first three months of the year. There was no expenditure on the Journal during this period.
2. The Society has taken out no loans and has no liabilities that are not shown in the accounts.

Reserve Funds

The Society's Reserve policy provides for two Designated Reserve Funds with the remainder being in a General Reserve

The two designated funds are

1. Designated Emergency Reserve. In accordance with our policy, this is set at approximately 6 months of annual expenses assuming no income. At the period end it was at £1,500.
2. A Designated Project Reserve set at a level determined by the Trustees to cover the cost of future projects which are undertaken on a less than annual basis. This fund was £7,000 at the year end.

The remaining general fund was £8,095 at the period end.

All assets and liabilities were passed on to the new charity on 1st April 2025.

Conclusion

During the period the Society's net income was £1,928 and its Net Assets increased by this amount to £16,595 at the end of the period.

A Final Farewell

After 68 years of enjoying the study of history in our local area, we, the members of the unincorporated society, offer a wistful farewell to the past and look forward with confidence to the future of the new charity, proud to be passing on an extensive collection of historical knowledge on our website and a sound financial footing for the future.