



The Devonshire Association

Three Year Plan

2017 – 2019

Final Version

**The Devonshire Association
Unit 10, Chitterley Business Centre
Silverton
Exeter
EX5 4DB**

Tel 01392 860456

Email: devonshireassoc@btconnect.com

1. Executive Summary

The Devonshire Association's mission is to explore and celebrate all aspects of Devon.

Members are passionate about Devon and fulfil the Association's mission through the study, debate, and exchange of information and ideas on all matters concerning the county of Devon; in particular, the cultural identity of Devon and the recording of its distinctiveness, through research, recording and publication.

The Association is in good heart and on a sound financial footing. Membership is steady. Our Sections are particularly vibrant. The *Report and Transactions*, Volume 148 being the latest in the series, and other publications, are an important part of our legacy. Governance arrangements are effective but we are looking to further enhance them. Risks have been identified and assessed and mitigation, where possible, is under development. A budget for 2017 and financial projections for 2018 and 2019 have been prepared.

A Review conducted over the past year or so has led to the identification of a number of significant actions under six main headings:

- Celebrating Devon
- Promoting and Fostering Membership
- External collaboration
- Communication and Publicity
- Publications
- Administering a federal organisation

Plans to deliver these actions have been prepared and the Executive Committee will regularly review progress.

2. Introduction

The Devonshire Association is a voluntary organisation, established in 1862, dedicated to the study of all things related to Devon. The Association is a registered charity and Executive Committee members are its Trustees.

With a county-wide membership of 1,250, the Association's activities involve talks and study visits through a number of geographically based Branches and special interest Sections, an annual President's Symposium, a three-day Conference held each year in a different Devon town, and the publication of research through its annual *Report and Transactions*. The *Report and Transactions* have been published since 1863 and are the greatest single source of information anywhere about the county.

Over 100 activities are run each year in all parts of the county: talks, exhibitions, excursions, walks, field trips, symposia, concerts and courses.

The Business Plan is intended to give shape to the Association's ambitions and to give members and others an understanding of our purpose, priorities, plans and financial standing. The Plan has been developed in consultation with the Association's Forum, described in section 5.4.

The Executive will review and update the Plan each year.

3. Mission Statement

The Association's mission is to explore and celebrate all aspects of Devon.

4. Objectives

The Association's objectives, set out under Rule 2 in our Rule book published in 2004, "are to further the study of science, literature and the arts in relation to the geographical county of Devon and to promote the exchange of ideas between those engaged or interested in such study with a view to education of the public".

We propose to bring this up-to-date, as follows and will update the Rules in due course:

"Our objectives are the study, debate and exchange of information and ideas with the people of Devon on all matters concerning our county; in particular, the cultural identity of Devon and its distinctiveness, through research, recording and publication."

These objectives are delivered through the activities of the Association's Sections and Branches:

Sections: Botany, Buildings, Entomology, Geology, History, Industrial Archaeology, Literature & Art, and Music

Branches: Axe Valley, Bideford, East Devon, Exeter, Plymouth & District, South Devon, Tavistock & West Devon

In addition, there are recorders for Dialect & Folklore and Mammals.

Publications also form a significant part of the Association's enduring legacy. Most recently, the Association has published *A New Flora of Devon*. The Association has prioritised the possibility of publishing other books and papers on Devon.

5. Central Governance

The Association seeks to be transparent about its governance arrangements recognising there is some complexity in the way we are organised.

5.1 Patron

The Association's Patron is Diana, Dowager Countess of Devon, who raises the profile of the Association by lending her name to it.

5.2 President

Each year an individual is appointed as President of the Association, at the invitation of the Executive Committee. They need not be a member of the Association, serve for one year, and preside over the Annual General Meeting.

The President for 2016-17 is the historian Dr Todd Gray MBE; our President elect for 2017-18 is David Fursdon, Lord Lieutenant of Devon, and for 2018-19, Dame Suzi Leather.

The key activities of the President are to give a Presidential Address on a subject of their choice; hold a President's Symposium on a subject close to the heart of the President with speakers of his or her choosing. The President will typically attend one or more Executive Committee meetings at the Committee's invitation. It has become customary for the President to attend the twice yearly meetings of the Forum which enable them to meet Branch and Section representatives. The President will often meet members at gatherings organised by Sections and Branches.

5.3 Executive Committee

The affairs of the Association are managed by an Executive Committee. The Committee's role is to ensure smooth running of the Association and to plan ahead recognising that Branches and Sections operate in a semi-autonomous way.

The Committee comprises the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Editor together with six members of the Association. Each Committee member is a Trustee of the Association. Details of the Committee's members are set out in the Appendix.

5.4 Forum

Representatives of the Branches and Sections meet twice each year, usually in March and October, in a Forum. The aim is to meet and share information so as to establish stronger bonds across the Branches and Sections, and with the Executive Committee, and to provide input on the Association's plans and activities.

6. Branches and Sections

6.1 Governance

On the application of at least five Association members, the Executive Committee may authorise the formation of a local Branch or of a Section to pursue the objectives of the Association in a particular field.

As stated above, Branches and Sections are semi-autonomous, with each having their own committee, typically including Officers such as Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, who organise their annual programme of events. Branches and Sections operate their own finances and are required to submit accounts, verified by an external examiner, of income and expenditure in the preceding year.

While Branches and Sections are free to choose their areas of specific interest, study, and research, it is a necessary part of our governance arrangements that they are part of a wider whole and subject to the Rules of the Association. Any rules that Branches or Sections may make only become operative upon the agreement of the Executive Committee.

One aspect of the Executive Committee's role is to sustain and nurture the Branches and Sections, who may receive an annual grant determined by the Committee.

Members may join as many Branches and Sections as they wish. In general, the membership of Sections is growing while that of Branches is static or in decline.

6.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of Branches are essentially those of the Association; that is to further the study of varied aspects of the county of Devon.

The aims and objectives of Sections are set out below.

Botany

To promote the study and enjoyment of Devon's wild plants (including bryophytes), lichens and fungi by:-

- Organising an annual programme of field meetings, including some aimed at beginners;
- Encouraging and supporting both members and the general public in improving their identification skills;
- Recording the distribution of plants, lichens and fungi in Devon, producing annual reports on significant finds and encouraging the publication of results;
- Offering expert assistance at events run by like-minded bodies showcasing Devon's wildlife.

Buildings

To promote the appreciation, conservation and recording of the built heritage of Devon by:

- Organising visits to significant Devon buildings as educational events and to assist thereby in generating income for the continued upkeep of those buildings;
- Identifying and recording buildings under threat from development or neglect, particularly traditional agricultural buildings;
- Arranging study and training days on researching, conserving and recording buildings;
- Acting as a partner organisation in support of the conservation of ancient buildings, particularly churches;
- Offering social events for the sharing of interest in buildings and their artefacts;

Entomology

To promote the study and recording of insects, and spiders in the county through

- Organising meetings, talks, exhibitions and publications;
- Running field trips often in association with other specialist groups;
- Meeting with other DA Sections to demonstrate and learn about the inter-relationships with other disciplines;

With at least ten specialists in different Orders within the insect class, the Section caters for a wide range of interests. Recorders include national experts in their field and the Section is the major collective source of entomological expertise in Devon.

Geology

To interest a wide range of people in geology, by

- Offering an annual programme of three lectures and a range of field trips, including day trips in SW England, weekend and week-long trips which may be based elsewhere in the UK or Europe. Trips have experienced leaders able to explain the geology and its interpretations simply.
- Showing links between Devon geology and that of adjacent areas of Britain and Europe;
- Maintaining close links and collaborating with other geological societies in SW England.

History

To promote an interest in the study of past events in Devon, by

- organising an annual programme of events, visits and educational activities;
- educating members and where appropriate encouraging research;
- engaging with universities, like-minded organisations in Devon, and other DA sections and branches.

Industrial Archaeology

To promote the study and awareness of Devon's industrial heritage by:

- Encouraging the study, research and recording of the industrial past of Devon;
- Arranging talks, visits, exhibitions and field days concerned with industrial archaeology;
- Assisting members and others with fieldwork and research;
- Publishing and disseminating news and research concerned with industrial archaeology both to members and the general public;
- Pursuing the most appropriate approach to documenting industrial archaeology material relating to Devon.

Literature and Art

To encourage the knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the contributions of Devonians past and present to literature and the visual arts, and of writing and art inspired by Devon, by

- organising an annual programme of events which may include talks by writers, illustrators, art historians and contemporary artists;
- visiting libraries, galleries, museums and artists' studios.

Music

To promote and recognise music that is indigenous to, or inspired by, the county of Devon, through performance and study of all styles of music and musicians that demonstrate a connection with the county and its particular qualities.

This is achieved by a programme of performances, talks and demonstrations to inform, educate and entertain.

The annual Living Tradition Concert, celebrating the folk music, song and dance of the area, has been held in each corner of the county.

Illustrated talks by local composers, instrument makers and songwriters give insight into the creative arts and the crafts of music making.

7. Staff and premises

7.1 Registrar

The Association employs a Registrar to assist in its business. The Registrar, Dr Bridget Gillard, commenced her role in September 2015 and her office hours are typically Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. The Registrar reports to the Hon. Secretary.

The Registrar works with members of the Executive Committee in promoting the Association and the benefits of membership, and carries out the range of administrative activities associated with a membership-based voluntary organisation. The Registrar attends the Symposium and Annual Conference and a key part of the role is face to face contact with Branches and Sections and also with external parties.

The principal duties of the Registrar are to act as minute secretary for the Executive Committee, Forum and other meetings; support the Conference, Symposium and other events; develop good relationships with officers across the Association; promote membership of the DA; establish relationships with other Devon-based bodies; act as the initial point of contact for enquiries from within and without the DA; maintain the membership database, and financial records; support publication and distribution of *Transactions* and DA News.

7.2 Premises

The Association's offices are located at Chitterley Business Centre, situated between Tiverton and Exeter in converted farm buildings, having moved there from Uplands Business Centre in Exeter, in October 2016. The office address is Unit 10, Chitterley Business Centre, Silverton, Exeter EX5 4DB.

8. Membership profile

Ten Year statistics

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Oct 2016	10 yr%
Full Members	910	952	981	980	969	1017	1069	1083	1081	1020	13%
Associate Members	198	196	193	179	158	153	154	148	142	114	(74%)
Life Members	64	62	60	61	59	56	57	57	59	58	(10%)
Honorary Members	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	100%
Institutional Members	68	67	68	67	67	66	64	60	60	58	(17%)
Student members	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	(33%)
TOTAL	1246	1282	1306	1291	1257	1295	1347	1350	1344	1257	1%
New members	79	98	115	100	87	119	125	102	79		
Resignations/lapses	99	44	70	100	106	59	58	79	65		
Deaths	12	18	21	15	15	22	15	20	20		

Total membership has remained broadly unchanged over the past ten years at around 1,250 members. New members range typically between 80 and 120 each year and roughly match the number of lapses/resignations and deaths in the year.

Within the total membership, full members make up an increased proportion compared with ten years ago. Full members now make up 80% of the total and Associates 9%. The proportion of Associate members was 16% ten years ago. Associate members do not receive a copy of *Transactions* and hence pay a lower subscription.

There has been a reduction in the number of full members over the past year, from 1,081 to 1,020 following an exercise to ensure data is up-to-date. While this has occurred at the same time as an increase in the annual subscription (see below), our conversations with members suggest no evidence that membership has reduced because of this increase.

A number of the initiatives set out in section 11 and specifically in section 11.2, are aimed at widening awareness of the Association and attracting new members.

9. Financial management

The Association is on a sound financial footing with funds including investments of about £250,000 at the end of 2015.

Long-term investments have been and continue to be invested in the stock market on advice from Walker Crips Stockbrokers Ltd, obtained on a regular basis.

The Deposit account is held in the COIF Charity Fund.

Total income is about £70,000 - £80,000 per annum and comes principally from subscriptions, investment dividends, and organised events such as the Annual Conference and President's Symposium. These events are targeted to at least break-even.

The Association's income is, on occasion, supplemented by legacies. In the last few years there has been a small deficit each year, before taking into account legacies.

Expenditure principally relates to the costs of employing the Registrar, office premises, the cost of producing *Transactions* and the events referred to above. The activities of Branches and Sections broadly break-even each year. Costs are managed through seeking competitive quotes from external suppliers, such as for printing.

The subscription rate was increased by 25% to £25 for a Full Member with effect from 1 January 2016, the first such increase since 2004. Looking ahead, subscription rates will be reviewed at least every three years. Unfortunately, one-third of our members failed to adjust their standing orders for the increase; work continues to rectify this. The Executive will determine whether to propose a move to Direct Debit at a future AGM to avoid this in future.

The Association holds public liability insurance for the activities and events undertaken by Branches and Sections included in the published Diary.

The Association's Accounts are included in the *Report and Transactions* and are available for inspection, on request to the Registrar.

10. Risks

The Executive Committee has identified eight significant risks facing the Association:

- Being unable to find replacement Branch and Sections office holders
- Loss of computer records
- Lack of access to office premises
- Competition from other bodies
- Unable to find Executive Committee office holders
- Loss of key staff
- Fall in value of investments
- Engaging in loss-making activities

Work to mitigate these risks is underway.

11. Significant Actions Planned by the Executive

Actions planned over the next three years are set out below. These actions may be adjusted by the Executive Committee in the light of opportunities and circumstances. Costs are indicative.

11.1 Celebrating Devon

Action	Next Steps	Timing	Proposed Exec Lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
Determine whether to initiate an Annual DA Lecture or Debate on a Devon-related topic	Propose nature of event and commence planning	Not before 2019	To be confirmed	NIL	£500 net	£500 net
Initiate a DA Award for significant contribution to Devon	Propose what is awarded; propose nominations and approval process	Award – probably at time of first lecture/ debate		£1000 for medals		
Continuing education	Pilot through Buildings Section course on How to Research Churches. Buildings/ Industrial Archaeology training for building recording	2017	Helen Wilson (role to inform Exec about lessons). Helen Wilson/ Brendan Hurley	Funded by Sections	Funded by Sections	Funded by Sections
DA historic photographic archive	Create database	2017	Helen Wilson	£250	Nil	Nil
Annual conference and AGM	Review arrangements and timings within programme	For 2017 conference	Jonathan Aylett	Self-funded	Self-funded	Self-funded
Branches and Sections communication	Exec to promote and share examples of good practice	2017 and ongoing	Exec	Nil	Nil	Nil
Special events	Determine frequency Determine triggers	Next in 2019 or 2020	Exec to review after Newfoundland events	N/a	N/a	Aim to be self-funded

11.2 Promoting and Fostering Membership

Action	Next steps	Timing	Proposed Exec Lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
Recruitment of new members	<p>Revise publicity materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update banner - Update 'The Essentials' <p>Use social media particularly aimed at younger people</p> <p>Encourage branches and sections to welcome non members</p> <p>Each Branch/Section to be encouraged to outline what they do.</p> <p>Consider charging non-members more for attendance.</p>	From Q4 2016	Tony Buller/Bridget Gillard	£500	Nil	Nil
Support new officers across the DA	Help prepare role profiles; develop induction and training; meet Registrar.	From 2017	Nick Wells	Nil	Nil	Nil
Update office IT	<p>Put in place booking system</p> <p>Purchase microphone/PA system and slide changer</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>£400 pa software licence cost</p> <p>Q1 2017</p>	Brendan Hurley	<p>£400</p> <p>To be confirmed</p>	£400	£400
Website	<p>Re-engineer homepage</p> <p>Add Affiliations category for reciprocal web links</p> <p>Transfer material to a 'research/publications website'</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2018</p>	Tony Buller	£1,000 (for professional input)	£500	Nil

11.3 Collaborative Projects

Action	Next steps	Timing	Proposed Exec lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
The Devon Newfoundland Story: A celebration of historical and cultural connections (working with Devon Family History Society)	Publicity and final arrangements for this ambitious programme including a weekend conference and events across the county.	April 2017	John Mather	Aim to at least break even; £3,000 cost in budget	Nil	Nil
Rural churches cultural contribution to Devon Project	Possible Heritage Lottery Fund bid research bid Keep in touch with Exeter University project plans in the heritage field.	2018	Todd Gray	Nil	Nil	Nil
Build relationships with relevant external bodies to foster co-operation, share expertise etc.	Investigate and take forward contact with three or four such bodies; building where relevant on collaboration in the Newfoundland project.	2017	Peter Beacham	Nil	Nil	Nil

11.4 Communication and Publicity.

Action	Next steps	Timing	Proposed Exec lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
Agree plan for improvement and distribution of publicity materials	<p>Improvement: -Create and publish flyers for Branches and Sections -Purchase leaflet racks -Purchase triptych display unit and design content</p> <p>Distribution: -Create potential county-wide recipient databases for flyers/leaflets -Establish recipients' willingness to receive/display DA material -Create a supply chain for replenishment</p>	<p>Underway and into 2017</p> <p>2017 and 2018</p>	Tony Buller	Possible additional postage costs	Nil	Nil
Identify and encourage greater use of publicity opportunities	<p>Execute publicity campaigns for major events (eg Newfoundland)</p> <p>Establish media contacts willing to receive DA material</p>	From 2017	Tony Buller	Nil	Nil	Nil
DA News	Formulate proposals to develop DA News	2017	Brendan Hurley	Nil	Nil	Nil

11.5 Publications

Action	Next steps	Timing	Proposed Exco lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
Review format of <i>Transactions</i>	The 150 th edition to be published in 2019 provides an opportunity to introduce a revised format.	From 2017	Malcolm Hart	Nil	Not known	Not known
Further publications in addition to <i>Transactions</i>	Develop thinking such as whether to support further publications, as the Association has with ' <i>A New Flora of Devon</i> '.	2018	Sue Andrew	Nil	£5,000	£5,000
Digitise <i>Transactions</i>	Further investigate copyright issues, with legal advice, including reproduction of orphan works. Review quality and cost effectiveness. Agree whether in whole or part.	2018 onwards	TBA	Nil	Self-funded by grant	Nil
Explore separate website for publications	Content could include summaries of talks given to Branches and Sections	2018	To be confirmed	Not known	Not known	Not known

11.6 Administering a federal organisation

Action	Next steps	Timing	Proposed Exec Lead	2017 Cost	2018 Cost	2019 Cost
Review governance	Streamline Exec working practices	2017	Nick Wells	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Build Branch and Section Officer profiles	2017				
	Update Association's Rules ensuring they meet Charity Commission requirements	2018				
Funds held by Branches and Sections	Keep under review	2017	Colin Turner	Nil	Nil	Nil
Move to payment by direct debit	Executive Committee to determine whether to seek approval at future AGM.	2017	Colin Turner	Nil	Nil	Nil
Succession planning	Develop Succession Plan for Executive and Branch and Section Officers. Recommend whether to propose fixed terms of office.	From 2017	Nick Wells	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generating additional income eg through bequests	Executive to consider actions in light of current balance.	From 2018	Executive Committee	Nil	+£?	+£?
<i>Transactions</i>	Propose reinforcement of rules to reduce editorial burden.	2017	Malcolm Hart	Nil	Nil	Nil
Trustee responsibilities	Refresher Trustee training. Develop induction programme.	2017	Nick Wells	£500 (for external support)	Nil	Nil

12. Three Year Financial Projections

The Budget for 2017 and Projections for 2018 and 2019 are set out below. 2014 - 2016 figures are drawn from the Association's published Accounts. The figures do not include Branch and Sections income and expenditure, which typically generate a net small surplus.

2014	2015	2016		2017	2018	2019
			Income			
27,041	25,937	31,006	Subscriptions	28,000	30,000	30,000
8,521	8,458	9,232	Interest and dividends	8,000	8,000	8,000
6,049	7,439	6,261	Conference receipts	7,000	7,000	7,000
1,372	1,540	5,136	President's Symposium	2,500	2,500	2,500
-	-	2,950	PLS	500	500	500
1,081	-	157	Other	184	-	-
-	1,850	18,093	A New Flora of Devon	6,000	-	-
-	-	-	Newfoundland Events	3,800	-	-
44,064	45,224	72,835	Total before legacies	55,984	48,000	48,000
2,000	-	6,000	Legacies	-	-	-

2014	2015	2016	Expenditure	2017	2018	2019
9,367	6,983	11,247	Cost of Transactions	9,000	9,500	10,000
3,336	3,224	3,413	DA News	3,500	3,750	4,000
		-	Other Publications	2,000	5,000	5,000
10,126	11,354	12,930	Staff costs	13,150	13,400	13,700
2,990	3,237	3,682	Grants to branches and sections	3,500	3,750	3,900
5,019	6,465	5,593	Conference expenses	6,000	6,000	6,000
1,664	1,894	4,381	President's Symposium	2,000	2,000	2,000
-	-	-	DA Debate	-	500	500
-	-	-	Award Medals	1,000	-	-
-	-	-	DA Photographic Archive	250	-	-
-	-	-	Member recruitment/publicity	500	-	-
4,400	4,400	4,934	Rent	4,000	4,000	4,000
		2,819	Premises expenses & move	-	-	
1,705	1,623	1,745	Hon Officers expenses	1,500	1,500	1,500
3,382	4,185	4,014	Office expenses (postage etc)	2,700	3,000	3,000
840	1,214	1,633	Professional fees	1,600	1,100	1,100
1,008	1,008	860	Insurance	900	1,000	1,000
-	-	-	Booking system licence	400	400	400
454	758	419	Other	-	-	-
-	2,000	26,164	A New Flora of Devon	-	-	-
158	127	307	Depreciation	275	275	275
-	-	175	Website development	1,000	500	-
-	-	-	Newfoundland	7,300	-	-
44,449	48,472	84,316	Total	60,575	55,675	56,375
385	3,248	11,481	Deficit (before legacies)	4,591	7,675	8,375

APPENDIX

Executive Committee Membership and Registrar

Sue Andrew

An independent researcher whose studies at Edinburgh and Plymouth Universities have encompassed anthropology, art history, and architectural conservation. Awarded a PhD for her study of 'Late Medieval Roof Bosses in the Churches of Devon', Sue writes and gives talks on the art and craft of historic buildings. Executive Committee member.

Jonathan Aylett

A Chartered Surveyor working in the firm of Michelmore Hughes of Totnes and holder of a degree from Exeter University. The agriculture of the uplands, vernacular buildings, and natural history are particular interests. Executive Committee member.

Peter Beacham

Has lived in Devon since 1967. A self-supporting Anglican priest in the Diocese of Exeter since 1973, he has worked in local and central government and retired as Director of Heritage Protection at English Heritage in 2011. As a writer and editor, he has published several books on Devon, Cornwall and the West Country. Officer: Chairman.

Tony Buller

Began his professional career at the Tay Estuary Research Centre, University of Dundee. Thereafter, he became Senior Sedimentologist with Shell UK, Professor of Petroleum Geology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and various senior scientific and technical roles at Statoil. He is a fellow of the Geological Society and 'The Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters'. Executive Committee member and Publicity Officer.

Malcolm Hart

Emeritus Professor of Micropalaeontology at Plymouth University where he continues his research work on many different groups of microfossils. He has published ~235 papers in research journals on many different aspects of micropalaeontology and stratigraphy and edited eight books. He began his research career on material from the site investigation for the Channel Tunnel but extended his research across southern England to Devon. He first studied the rocks of the Beer area in spring 1964, and has retained an interest in local geology since that time. Officer: Honorary Editor of *Report and Transactions*.

Brendan Hurley

Came to Devon in 2005 for the final phase of a varied public sector career that included periods as a Director of Social Services and Local Authority Chief Executive. Executive Committee member and DA News Editor.

John Mather

Retired professional geologist, living on the northern edge of Dartmoor, with a background in groundwater pollution and waste management. Career in the British Geological Survey and latterly at London University, where he holds an emeritus chair. Part-time potter, making reduction-fired functional stoneware. Officer: Vice Chairman.

Colin Turner

Devon born and bred. Member of DA since 1963. Taught maths at Edinburgh Academy for 25 years and was Rector of Glasgow Academy for 12 years. Member/trustee of various voluntary organisations. Was active mountaineer, now gentle stroller on moor and coast. Officer: Honorary Treasurer.

Nick Wells

Born and grew up in South Devon, now a resident of North Devon. A business consultant in the financial services sector. Officer: Honorary Secretary.

Helen Wilson

Born and bred in Devon and educated at Plymouth University, Helen obtained a BSc and PhD in Environmental Science. More recently, she has developed an interest in local history and in architecture, culminating in research on the life and work of the ecclesiastical woodcarver, Violet Pinwill. Executive Committee member.

The Registrar

Dr Bridget Gillard is an architectural historian. She has spent most of her working life in building conservation as a grants officer, conservation officer and urban surveyor. Other strands in her career include lecturing in the history of art and architecture and tutoring on the MA building conservation programme at the University of Plymouth.