

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

(Registered Charity no 1073528)

Annual General Meeting – 18 November 2025

Treasurer's Report

A summary of the accounts for the year 2024-25 is provided on the AGM page of the Friends' Website. Printed copies have been sent by post to those members we cannot contact by email.

The Friends' assets, including investments at market value, were £38,299 at year end, an increase of £1,789 (5%) over the year. Our annual surplus (receipts less payments) is close to last year at £1,618, largely due to the receipt of Gift Aid funds for the period 2022-24 and a one-off donation from the sale of second-hand books from a member of university staff. Money in the bank has increased to £26,433 compared to £24,814 at the start of the year. Although the interest rate on our savings account has declined marginally there is still an acceptable monthly income.

Hoskins Day costs were again kept to a minimum as the Centre for Regional and Local History paid for the refreshments provided. Our two study days, at Thorny/Naseby in April and at Grace Dieu Priory in September, made a loss. (Some income and costs for the latter study day will be included in 2025-26 accounts). Administrative costs are higher than last year, largely due to the provision of a Zoom Pro account for the AGM, committee meetings, and talks. The overall cost of printing and distributing the annual Newsletter has reduced significantly by digital publishing.

The number of requests for student support grants was a little higher than last year but only £900 was paid out. Research support grants are now available to any University of Leicester BA or MA History student or PhD candidate who undertakes regional or local history research.

Our financial position is sound, and we can meet our financial obligations for the coming year. In view of our lack of contractual commitments, we do not have a reserves policy at the present time – all funds are available for meeting our charity objectives.

I would like to thank Dave Postles for volunteering to undertake an independent examination of this account. No material issues or concerns were identified during this examination.

Karen L. Donegani

14 October 2025