

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1055879

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1996-06-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Brook Rural Museum
The Street
Brook
Ashford
Kent
TN25 5PF

Phone 01233750415

Email enquiries@brookruralmuseum.org.uk

Website www.brookruralmuseum.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES. 2. IN PARTICULAR WITHIN THE COUNTY OF KENT A) THE PROVISION OF ONE OR MORE HISTORICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MUSEUMS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE B) FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC GENERALLY 1) THE PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF ANY BUILDING OF BEAUTY OR HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST 2) THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL FEATURES OF THE LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY AND CHARACTER OF THE AREA 3) THE FURTHERANCE OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL AMENITIES 4) THE STIMULATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE HISTORY CHARACTER BEAUTY AND WILDLIFE OF THE AREA

Activities: The Trust owns and runs Brook Rural Museum. The Museum is housed in a magnificent 14th century barn and an important early 19th century oast house, and is devoted to an important collection of objects relating to the agriculture of Kent. Most of the collection relates to the period when animals provided the main source of power for farm work.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£37,249	£77,928	-	-
2024-02-29	£125,553	£85,011	-	-
2023-02-28	£55,222	£37,098	-	-
2022-02-28	£17,501	£21,018	-	-
2021-02-28	£25,659	£11,912	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr JOHN NIGHTINGALE	Chair	
Caroline Knight		2020-03-09
Dr JEREMY CLARKE		
Dr John Bulaitis		2015-10-05
Dr Sheila Mary Sweetinburgh		
John Tomkins		2018-07-16
Julie Martin		2023-07-01
Michael James West		2022-10-10
PROFESSOR PAUL WEBSTER		
Rebecca Nash		2024-04-23
Robert Masters		2024-06-01
Sir George Jessel DL		
THE RT HON SIR JOHN FRANK MUMMERY BCLHON LLD		

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1055879

Accounts

The Wye Rural Museum Trust

Reg.Charity No: 1055879

Report of the Trustees for the period 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025

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Purpose and Governance of the Trust

The Trust was established in 1996 and is Registered Charitable Trust No.1055879.

The objects of the Trust, taken from the Deed, are as follows:

1. General charitable purposes.
2. In particular within the County of Kent:
 - a) The provision of one or more historic, economic and social museums of agriculture and rural life.
 - b) For the benefit of the public generally
 - i) The preservation, maintenance and improvement of any building of beauty or historical or architectural interest.
 - ii) The conservation of natural features of the landscape ecology and character of the area.
 - iii) The furtherance of general educational religious and social amenities.
 - iv) The stimulation of public interest in the history character beauty and wildlife of the area.

The names of Trustees in post during the year were as follows:

Nominated: *Sir George Jessel DL*; (Canterbury Farmers' Club); *Prof John Nightingale*, Chair of Trustees (Cromarty Trust); *Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh* (Kent Archaeological Society)

Co-opted: *Mr Tim Betts*, Vice-chair of Trustees; *Dr. John Bulaitis*; *Dr. Jeremy Clarke*; *Mrs Caroline Knight*; *Ms Julie Martin*; *Mr Robert Masters* (appointed 24 June 2024); *The Rt Hon Sir John Mummery DL*; *Ms Rebecca Nash* (appointed 23 April 2024); *Mr John Tomkins*; *Prof Paul Webster*; *Mr Mike West*.

Trustees are chosen for the appropriate range of skills they bring to the Trust and their readiness to contribute to its day to day activities. An induction process is now in place. Three meetings of the Trustees were held during the year, with additional meetings of smaller groups of nominated trustees meeting regularly to undertake specific tasks such as serving on appointment panels. The Trust has a range of policies in place in keeping with its status as an accredited museum and these include safeguarding, health and safety, data protection, collection accessibility, conservation and collections care. No reportable incidents occurred during the year.

Current role of the Trust: Public Benefit reporting

The Trust's main work is associated with the ownership, conservation and running of Brook Rural Museum. The museum's buildings consist of a Grade I listed 14th century manorial barn, one of the best preserved medieval barns in South East England and a building of national importance, a Grade II listed early 19th century oast house and some

associated buildings which include one containing a fully equipped education room and toilet facilities.

The Trustees have agreed the following statement of purpose for the Museum:

- To preserve, interpret and improve access to the museum site including the fourteenth-century manorial barn, nineteenth-century oast house and stable block.
- To collect, preserve, interpret and present the agricultural and rural history of Brook and East Kent.
- To secure the long-term future of the museum, its buildings and collections, and to ensure the widest possible public access to the site and its heritage assets.

Outline of the Period

2024/25 saw the Trust continuing to build on the momentum established in the previous two years as a result of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) £80,000 Project, 'Securing the future of Brook Museum' which was completed in September 2023. In November 2023 the Trustees submitted a further NLHF bid for an £88,000 grant towards a £105,000 project titled 'Reaching out into our communities' which would run for 18 months from March 2024 to October 2025, covering two summer seasons, and would allow for the employment of a Community Engagement and Project Manager for three days a week and a Collections and Conservation Officer for two days a week. The new project was designed to focus in particular on building relations with schools, care homes and other organisations in Ashford, taking account of its proximity to the museum and the relative lack of cultural offerings provided for its growing population. The good news that NLHF had approved the application came through just before the start of the financial year and this, combined with two welcome match funding grants from the Cromarty Trust and the Sir Charles Jessel Charitable Trust meant the Trust was able to embark on this exciting project from April 2024. That the Trust's application was successful in the face of intense competition for funding testifies to the confidence its recent track record is beginning to instill.

Dr Philippa Messiano, who had delivered the previous NLHF project with such success, again took up the reins as Community Engagement and Project Manager, and Tom Kennett continued his work in creating a digitalised catalogue of the museum's collection of artefacts. An experienced conservation professional, Claire McQuillen, was recruited to take on the role of Conservation Officer. It was also agreed that the project should take on a long standing volunteer as a paid intern to help with cataloguing while she completed her MSt in Museum Studies – her interest in the latter having resulted from her initial experience of volunteering for the museum while a student at Christ Church Canterbury University.

The project will continue until October 2025 but a few figures give a sense of just how much has been achieved in the first year of the project:

- 1,500 people engaged with the museum over the course of the year (compared with figures of around 200 per annum before the first lottery project), including 825 people who attended themed events such as the Medieval Fayre in July and Harvest Festival in October; 163 people visited the museum through 9 group visits; more than 200 school children took part in visits from three school visits and a workshop

held for a fourth; 289 people were engaged through a range of outreach events at Wye Market, off-site talks, and care homes; Philippa's visits to care homes have proved a very successful development with requests for repeat visits.

- Work placements with Christ Church Canterbury University have begun, and placements and talks have also been organised with Ashford College
- 405 objects from the museum's collection are now accessible on the fully searchable digital catalogue of the museum's collection. The task of cataloguing the collection to the highest modern standards has past the half way mark with over 720 of the museum's collection of 1,363 items being meticulously catalogued by the year end.
- The Conservation Officer recruited ten conservation volunteers who meet with her twice a week. Initially they concentrated on cleaning the Barn and Oast House but in recent months they have begun work on specific artefacts, cleaning and treating leather items, removing rust and painting many of the ploughs and other large items displayed outside in the farm courtyard. This combined with the removal of one wagon and a couple of other large items from the Barn to offsite storage is having a transformational effect – both in creating the space required to display artefacts properly and in making the museum an exciting hive of activity when the conservation team are on site. But inevitably it has also highlighted how much more needs to be done, as areas of wet rot, wood worm and deathwatch beetle infestation have been identified.
- Other key outputs included a total of over 1,000 volunteer hours being contributed to the museum over the course of the year and a continuing increase in the reach of its website and social media with those signed up to its facebook page increasing by 29% since May 2024.

In parallel with the 'Reaching out into our Communities' NLHF project the Trust also submitted a successful application to the Association for Independent Museums for a smaller £15,000 Oral History Project, 'Local Stories: Memories of Hopping around Brook and Wye Kent.' Run through the Spring and Summer of 2024 it involved the training of students to help with the collection of oral memories from a number of individuals involved with hop-growing and hop-picking and the creation of a memory box which was taken to a number of care homes. It culminated with a very successful exhibition at the Templeman Library, University of Kent in October 2024 and the outputs of the project have provided a rich set of resources for the reinterpretation of the Oast House.

The museum has been on a remarkable journey over the last three years. It now has a team of dedicated professional staff, a large group of enthusiastic volunteers and a highly experienced board of trustees. One of the key outputs for the coming financial year will be the preparation of a business plan prepared by Alix Slater Consultancy as one of the final strands of the current NLHF project. This will focus on how best to ensure that the museum can deliver its vision for the benefit of the wider community, recognising that the retention of experienced professional staff is likely to be an essential component. In the light of its analysis and recommendations the Trustees will decide whether to embark on one of the ambitious options for the development of the museum which were mapped out by the award-winning Dow Jones architects in 2023. These focussed on improving the visitor experience with regards to interpretation, the visitor journey through the museum, access and facilities for groups and general visitors. The architects' proposals were welcomed by Historic England and the Trustees

broadly embraced the vision but recognised that more time and work was required to test the proposals and further build up the Trust's resilience before it could embark on a major capital project. The current NLHF project was designed to do both these things and although it still has a number of months to run it is already clear that both the museum and the Trust are now more resilient and are much better placed to take on a major project of this kind which is likely to involve up to five years of intense work before it can be fully delivered.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Trustees thank the Agricola Club Memorial Fund, Charles Course, the Cromarty Trust, Hatch Park LLP, the Godinton Charitable Trust, the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust, and the discretionary fund of Brook's Ashford Borough Councillor, Simon Betty for match funding grants for the Trust's current and future projects. Without this support it would not have been possible to secure the NLHF and AIM grant funding and undertake the work at the museum made possible by these projects.

Two new Trustees joined the trustee board during the year. Ms Rebecca Nash who already knew the museum well in her capacity as its adviser on museum accreditation, brings a wealth of relevant experience from her role as the director of the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham. Mr Robert Masters, a former headmaster of the Judd School in Kent, who now lives in Brook, similarly brings hugely valuable experience to the board in areas such as safeguarding and fundraising. The Board has already benefited greatly from their input.

In December 2024 Fran Penberthy stepped down from the role of the Museum's administrator and volunteer coordinator which she had filled to such good effect since 2022. Although her shoes were not easy to fill, the Trustees were delighted to appoint Angela Boyle to fill a similar role from just after the year end.

The Trustees remain hugely grateful to the work Andrew Scarfe has continued to do in his role as the Trust's honorary treasurer. Accounting for lottery projects requires a lot of detailed paperwork and Andrew has done this with great skill and patience.

As in previous years, the Museum relied on volunteers who staffed it during weekend openings throughout the summer and who also helped out on specific tasks relating to the reordering of exhibits in the museum, and from this year extensive cleaning and conservation work, as noted above. The Trustees gratefully thank them all for this vital work on which the Museum depended and look forward to working with them again.

Historical Background

The Trust was formed primarily to take over the Agricultural Museum at Brook from Wye College (University of London), and in 1997 purchased the great aisled barn of about 1380 (Grade I listed) and associated complex of Oast (Grade II listed) and other farm buildings at Court Lodge, Brook from the College for £75,000. At the same time the College donated the Museum's important collection of agricultural implements, wagons, carts, tools and other artefacts to the Trust at no charge.

At this time the Trust also received as a gift two parcels of land at Hollingbourne, Kent, on condition that they should never be developed. These comprise a 13-acre field known locally as Church Meadow and a small paddock beside the church in the centre of the village. The former is let to a local farmer and the paddock is let to the owners of an adjacent house. The rent from these properties forms part of the annual income of the Trust.

The Trustees set themselves an initial target of raising £200,000 in order to cover the acquisition costs, to undertake a programme of repairs and renovations and to provide an initial Endowment of £65,000. This was achieved thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ashford Borough Council, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust, the Canterbury Farmers' Club, the Cromarty Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, Godinton Charitable Trust, the Rochester Bridge Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and a number of other charities, organisations and individuals. The repairs and renovations included the complete replacement of the lathe and plaster interior of the kiln of the Oast, repair and restoration of some of the timberwork of the Barn and the Oast, installation of fire and intruder alarm networks and conversion of the Stable Block to provide a shop, an office and modern toilet facilities, including disabled access. These works were completed under the supervision of the architects Sell Wade Postins.

Since that time there have been many changes and developments which are reported annually by the Trustees. These have included the conversion of a workshop/storage area into a well-equipped education room which is available to outside organisations as well as the museum itself and the production of three booklets on local aspects of rural crafts with the aid of funding from the Local Heritage Initiative.

Of particular note was the receipt of a legacy of some 30 paintings by the Kent artist Clifford Nickson which formed part of the estate of Ursula Ridgewell. The Museum arranged with the County Council for these to be hung in the Chairman's Corridor in Sessions House, Maidstone following two or three years of display in Library Galleries around the county. A significant sum of money accompanied the paintings in the bequest as an endowment for the general benefit of the Trust and this has been invested so that the interest earned can be used for the general purposes of the Trust and, if required, the maintenance of the collection of paintings.

In 2022 the Trust secured a £75,000 grant from the NLHF for a twelve month project titled 'Securing the future of Brook Museum'. This allowed it to employ paid employees for the first time, namely a part-time Community Engagement Officer and a part-time Collections Officer. Outputs over the eighteen month project included a new website, an options appraisal undertaken by Dow Jones Architects, and a fund-raising strategy. A new catalogue of the museum's collections with searchable digital images was commenced, the museum was renamed the Brook Rural Museum and the first steps were taken to build up a wider audience for the Museum.

Summary of results and reserves policy

The financial statements for the Trust separate income and expenditure on the lottery project from general income and expenditure. General income of £20,749 (2023/4: £21,738) and expenditure of £18,895 (2023/24: £20,885) resulted in a surplus of £1,853 (2023/24: surplus of £854). During the year £16,500 of restricted grants and donations was received as match funding to support the Trust's NLHF, AIM and future projects. £46,120 was spent on delivering the NLHF project, 'Reaching out to our communities' and £12,912 on the AIM 'Memories of Hopping' project, in both cases drawing on the restricted funds provided for these purposes by NLHF and AIM in the previous year.

The year end value of the Trust's endowment funds was £312,739 (2024: £299,758) and the surplus on operating funds, excluding the lottery project grant, was £37,311 (2024: £35,458). The surplus on the NLHF project grant at the year end was £21,491 and this sum will be carried over for NLHF lottery project expenditure in the next financial year.

Although the Trustees' standard policy is to maintain free unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months of total expenditure by the Trust, they are currently seeking to retain the reserve at a higher level in order to help with the current lottery project and other new initiatives that may emerge from this.

The Trust held all of its endowment funds and £22,132 of its operating `surplus in the form of investments in a CCLA's Charities Official Investment Fund, M&G Charifund and the Charities Property Fund. The combined market value of the investments at 28 February 2025 was £334,871 (2024: £321,890).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

John Nightingale

Chair of Trustees

17 December 2025

The Wye Rural Museum Trust Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 28th February 2025, which are attached to this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) and of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark Minus

Mark Minus BA(Hons) FCA

1-2 Rhodium Point

Spindle Close,

Hawkinge,

Folkestone,

Kent CT 18 7TQ

17 December 2025

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

<u>Income & Expenditure</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>1.3.24 to 28.02.25</u>	<u>1.3.24 to 28.02.25</u>	<u>1.3.24 to 28.02.25</u>	<u>1.3.23 to 29.02.24</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
INCOME					
Investment Income		15,442.92	0.00	15,442.92	14,281.17
Hollingbourne Rents (Church Meadow & Green)		1,923.00	0.00	1,923.00	1,923.00
Events		2,246.00	0.00	2,246.00	1,846.09
Visitors		833.88	0.00	833.88	663.85
Hire of Thomas Hill Room		0.00	0.00	0.00	58.00
Nightingale Lecture Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00
Hire of facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	740.00
Interest received from savings account		302.70	0.00	302.70	0.00
Grants and Donations:					
Unrestricted		0.00	0.00	0.00	2,141.15
Restricted	3	0.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	0.00
NLHF: "Securing future" project		0.00	0.00	0.00	37,843.00
NLHF: "Reaching out" project		0.00	0.00	0.00	44,147.00
Matching grants for "Reaching out"		0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
AIM "Memories of Hopping" project		0.00	0.00	0.00	11,074.00
Matching Funds for AIM Project		0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Transfer from unrestricted to restricted funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Total Receipts	20,748.50	16,500.00	37,248.50	130,552.26
EXPENDITURE					
Mowing & cleaning costs		1,214.76	0.00	1,214.76	1,224.11
Insurance		3,505.85	0.00	3,505.85	3,249.42
Alarm maintenance		1,652.40	0.00	1,652.40	2,220.40
Electricity, water, telephone & rates		1,690.54	0.00	1,690.54	1,296.37
Website Maintenance		778.77	0.00	778.77	308.80
Subscriptions		201.00	0.00	201.00	232.00
General maintenance work		5,600.60	0.00	5,600.60	1,986.57
Staff Salary		3,177.10	0.00	3,177.10	1,362.40
Volunteers Conservation Training & Meal etc		950.67	0.00	950.67	1,461.02
Consultancy fees		0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
Sundry		123.70	0.00	123.70	143.41
NLHF projects: staff salaries	4	0.00	25,481.48	25,481.48	20,160.91
NLHF projects: other expenditure	4	0.00	20,638.96	20,638.96	41,958.85
AIM Memories of Hopping Project expenditure	5	0.00	12,911.89	12,911.89	2,006.66
Transfer from unrestricted to restricted funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Total Payments	18,895.39	59,032.33	77,927.72	85,010.92
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR					
		1,853.11	(42,532.33)	(40,679.22)	45,541.74
Balance of Funds brought forward					
		35,458.01	64,023.71	99,481.72	53,939.98
Balance of Funds carried to Balance Sheet					
		37,311.12	21,491.38	58,802.50	99,481.72

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	28th February 2025 £	29th February 2024 £
Land & buildings at Brook, at cost	75,000.00	75,000.00
Meadow land at Hollingbourne, at cost	0.00	0.00
Value of Investments at 28 February (note 2)	<i>£/unit</i>	
6,848.25 CCLA COIF income units	20.54 140,663.74	138,798.28
8,231.75 M&G Charifund income units	15.30 125,986.13	115,242.87
57,208.16 Charities Property Fund income units	1.19 68,220.73	67,848.87
	334,870.59	321,890.02
Current accounts		
Lloyds Bank plc Original A/C 00964515	22,471.42	13,576.01
Lloyds Bank plc Grants A/C 83921460	199.08	63,773.71
Lloyds Bank plc Lottery Savings A/C 14009063	14,000.00	0.00
	36,670.50	77,349.72
	446,541.09	474,239.74
Representing:		
Museum Fund (Land & Buildings)	75,000.00	75,000.00
Endowment		
Initial Endowment Fund	65,000.00	65,000.00
Ridgewell Bequest	124,868.00	124,868.00
Inc or Dec in Value of Investments over Cost	122,870.59	109,890.02
	312,738.59	299,758.02
Surplus (Deficit) on Unrestricted Funds	37,311.12	35,458.01
Surplus (Deficit) on Restricted Funds	21,491.38	64,023.71
	446,541.09	474,239.74
Investments at cost		
CCLA COIF invest fund income units	60,000.00	60,000.00
M&G Charifund income units	97,000.00	97,000.00
Charities Property Fund income units	55,000.00	55,000.00
	212,000.00	212,000.00

John Nightingale Trustee

Andrew Scarfe Treasurer

17 December 2025

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

Notes to the Accounts

- 1) The museum collection of some 1,300 agricultural implements and the Ridgwell Bequest of some 30 paintings by Clifford Nickson which were donated to the Trust are not shown on the Balance Sheet.
- 2) The value of investments is 'as at the latest valuation date'.
- 3) The following restricted grants were received during the year to support the current NLHF project and to match fund future grant applications
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Ashford Borough Council | 500.00 | |
| Charles Course | 1,000.00 | |
| The Cromarty Trust | 5,000.00 | |
| Hatch Park LLP | 1,000.00 | |
| The Godinton Charitable Trust | 2,000.00 | |
| William and Edith Charitable Trust | 5,000.00 | |
| Agricola Club Memorial Fund | 2,000.00 | |
| | ----- | |
| | 16,500.00 | |
- 4) Expenditure on the NLHF "Reaching out into our communities" project during the year was as follows:
- | | £ | £ |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Staff Wages, including PAYE & Pension Costs | | 25,481.48 |
| Professional Fees | 6,101.76 | |
| Recruitment | 0.00 | |
| Digital outputs | 340.00 | |
| Volunteer Expenses | 695.79 | |
| Volunteer Travel | 101.70 | |
| Volunteer Training | 606.00 | |
| Repair & Conservation | 1,243.00 | |
| Equipment & Materials inc. learning | 2,807.30 | |
| Staff Expenses | 11.40 | |
| Staff Travel | 271.61 | |
| Staff Training | 280.00 | |
| Evaluation | 2,550.00 | |
| Event Costs | 3,641.50 | |
| Other/Sundry | 0.00 | |
| Publicity and Promotion | 637.12 | |
| Contingency | 0.00 | |
| Vat | 1,351.78 | |
| | ----- | |
| | | 20,638.96 |
| | | ----- |
| | | 46,120.44 |
- 5) Expenditure on the AIM "Memories of Hopping" project during the year was as follows:
- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Consultancy for management and delivery of project | 8,250.00 | |
| Oral History Training | 577.69 | |
| Equipment | 172.83 | |
| Volunteer expenses | 155.28 | |
| Events | 144.60 | |
| Interpretation | 3,546.49 | |
| Advertising & promotion | 65.00 | |
| | ----- | |
| | | 12,911.89 |

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1055879

Accounts

The Wye Rural Museum Trust

Reg.Charity No: 1055879

Report of the Trustees for the period 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024

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The names of Trustees in post during the year were as follows:

Nominated: *Sir George Jessel DL* (Canterbury Farmers' Club); *Prof John Nightingale*, Chair of Trustees (Cromarty Trust); *Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh* (Kent Archaeological Society)

Co-opted: *Mr Tim Betts*, Vice-chair of Trustees; *Dr. John Bulaitis*; *Dr. Jeremy Clarke*; *Mrs Caroline Knight*; *Mr Francis Huntington* (retired 19 February 2024); *Ms Julie Martin* (appointed 11 September 2023); *The Rt Hon Sir John Mummery DL*; *Mr John Tomkins*; *Prof Paul Webster*; *Mr Mike West*.

Trustees are chosen for the appropriate range of skills they bring to the Trust and their readiness to contribute to its day to day activities. An induction process is now in place. Three meetings of the Trustees were held during the year, with additional bi-monthly meetings of a lottery steering group of five trustees from September 2022 onwards. The Trust has a range of policies in place in keeping with its status as an accredited museum and these include safeguarding, data protection, collection accessibility, conservation and collections care. No reportable incidents occurred during the year.

Current role of the Trust: Public Benefit reporting

The Trust's main work is associated with the ownership, conservation and running of Brook Rural Museum. The museum's buildings consist of a Grade I listed 14th century manorial barn, one of the best preserved medieval barns in South East England and a building of national importance, a Grade II listed early 19th century oast house and some

associated buildings which include one containing a fully equipped education room and toilet facilities.

The Trustees have agreed the following statement of purpose for the Museum:

- To preserve, interpret and improve access to the museum site including the fourteenth-century manorial barn, nineteenth-century oast house and stable block.
- To collect, preserve, interpret and present the agricultural and rural history of Brook and East Kent.
- To secure the long-term future of the museum, its buildings and collections, and to ensure the widest possible public access to the site and its heritage assets.

Outline of the Period

2023/24 saw an exciting step change in the Trust's activities. The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) £80,000 Project, 'Securing the future of Brook Museum' had commenced in the previous year but it was in the last eight months of the project that it really came into its own both in terms of public engagement and the successful delivery of its other planned outcomes. Following the successful completion of this project in October 2023 and with a view to building on the progress already made, the Trust made an application to the Association of Independent Museums for a £15,000 project, 'Local Stories: Memories of Hopping around Brook and Wye Kent', and one to NLHF for a new £105,000 project, 'Reaching out into our communities'. They were delighted to hear both had been successful shortly before the year end.

The NLHF funded project had made it possible for the Museum to take on paid staff for the first time: Dr Philippa Mesiano as the Engagement Manager working 2 days a week, Tom Kennet as the Collections Officer working one day a week, and Fran Penberthy providing additional help with the recruitment and organisation of volunteers. They are to be congratulated on successfully delivering the lottery project, including a full audit of the museum's collection of 1,363 different items with the aid of volunteers; consultations with the local community and other stakeholders; reviewing the Museum's statement of purpose, its name(s) and branding; preparing a social media strategy, a fundraising strategy and an Interpretation Plan; developing a learning programme for every pupil in Brook primary school to visit the museum during British Science week in March 2023; arranging a series of talks and delivering a programme of themed events from April through to September 2023, including a Medieval Fayre and a Hop Festival.

The 50 page evaluation report prepared at the end of the project provides a comprehensive account of what was achieved but here one might simply note that its executive summary commends the project for exceeding a number of key targets by delivering,

- 6 themed events, 3 talks, outreach events and school visits.
- Engaging with 1,807 people, 181% of the target.
- Increasing the Museum's Facebook followers by 253% from 80 to 203 and developing an Instagram following of 159 people.
- Increasing the Museum's social media reach with one post receiving over 5,000 hits.
- Engaging with a much broader audience, with significant numbers of people under 45 and children. Social media followers include people from overseas.

- Developing more partnerships than expected.

Volunteer recruitment, one of the key aims of the project, was successful with 13 new volunteers, and both new and existing volunteers acquired new knowledge, skills and confidence. Two young people from Christ Church Canterbury University spent 40 hours each at the Museum developing collections management skills and one elected to continue as a volunteer after the end of the project.

In the light of the consultation and review carried out by the staff, the Trustees agreed that the Museum should be renamed the Brook Rural Museum (replacing several different names variously used on the website, social media and letterheads) and the new name was formally launched with a distinctive new logo depicting both barn and oast after the year end in April 2023.

Following on from this an attractive new website was launched later in the year and right at the very end of the lottery project arrangements were made for it to host (through a specially designed subsidiary site) a fully searchable digital catalogue of the museum's collection. Cataloguing to the highest modern standards is slow and painstaking work and it will take many months of additional work to complete but by the year end 200 items had been loaded, allowing all to see what a valuable resource this will become.

Another key stand of the project was to commission architects to prepare an Options Appraisal for the museum. Dow Jones architects, who have done award winning projects for a number of small museums, were appointed to undertake this work. With the benefit of measured surveys, detailed QS costings, and consultation with Historic England and the local planning authority, they presented three potential options for improving the visitor experience – interpretation, the visitor journey through the museum, access and facilities for groups and general visitors. The Trustees broadly embraced the broad vision of the proposals but recognised that more time and work was required to test the proposals and further build up the Trust's resilience before it could embark on a major capital project.

Taking account of this and a more general determination not to lose momentum after having achieved so much over the previous 15 months, the Trustees submitted a further NLHF bid in November 2023 for an £88,000 grant towards a £105,000 project titled 'Reaching out into our communities'. The project was planned to run for 18 months from March 2024 to October 2025, covering two summer seasons, and would employ a Community Engagement Officer for 3 days a week through the full eighteen month period and a Collections and Conservation Manager for 12 months. The project was designed to focus in particular on building relations with schools, care homes and other organisations in Ashford, taking account of its proximity to the museum and the relative lack of cultural offerings provided for its growing population. The good news that NLHF had approved the application came through just before the financial year end and this, combined with two welcome match funding grants from the Cromarty Trust and the Sir Charles Jessel Charitable Trust meant all was in place to embark on this exciting next chapter at the year end. That the Trust's application was successful in the face of intense competition for funding was further testimony to the confidence its recent track record is beginning to instill.

In parallel with this application the Trust also submitted a successful application to the Association for Independent Museums for a smaller £15,000 Oral History Project, 'Local Stories: Memories of Hopping around Brook and Wye Kent'. This project will be run by Dr Philippa Mesiano on a consultancy basis and will run through summer 2024 and culminate with an exhibition at the Templeman Library, University of Kent in October 2024.

The prime challenges for the coming year will be to follow through with the successful delivery of the lottery project, and following a full evaluation of its results in September 2023 to prepare to build on it, with the possibility of a follow-on application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Trustees thank the Cromarty Trust and Sir Charles Jessel Charitable Trust (chaired respectively by John Nightingale and Sir George Jessel) for grants towards the matching funds required for the Trust's new National Lottery Heritage Fund project, and for further match-funding grants for the AIM oral history project from the Oxus Foundation (of which Sheila Sweetinburgh is a trustee) and the discretionary fund of Brook's Ashford Borough Councillor, Simon Betty.

Thanks are due for the support given to the Trust over the terms of his tenure by Mr Francis Huntington who retired as a Trustee on 21 February 2024. The museum benefitted greatly from Francis's life-long experience in agriculture at a senior managerial level, his work in establishing and running the Wye Heritage Centre and not least his infectious enthusiasm for the work of the museum. Although his support and advice as a Trustee will be much missed, the museum looks forward to working closely with him in his continuing role at the Wye Heritage Centre.

Ms Julie Martin was appointed as a Trustee on 11 September 2023. She lives in Brabourne and recently retired from Canterbury Archaeological Trust where she was a Project Officer running excavations in Kent. Her involvement with historical reenactment groups was a great help when it came to organising the Museum's Medieval Fayre in Summer 2023.

As in previous years, the Museum relied on volunteers who staffed it during weekend openings throughout the summer and also who helped out on specific tasks relating to the reordering of exhibits in the museum. The Trustees gratefully thank them all for this vital work on which the Museum depended and look forward to working with them again. The Trustees are also very grateful to its two co-treasurers, Mr Andrew Scarfe and Mr Mike Mooney. Andrew in particular should be thanked for undertaking the detailed work processing the large number of invoices relating to the lottery project and compiling detailed financial reports required by NLHF. Paul Rodway, the Village Caretaker has undertaken the mowing of the grass area behind the barn and the Museum and the mowing of the grass in the front of the Museum.

The Trustees warmly thank Rebecca Nash, the Director of the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham for providing advice and attending Trust meetings in her renewed role as the museum's accreditation adviser.

Historical Background

The Trust was formed primarily to take over the Agricultural Museum at Brook from Wye College (University of London), and in 1997 purchased the great aisled barn of about 1380 (Grade I listed) and associated complex of Oast (Grade II listed) and other farm buildings at Court Lodge, Brook from the College for £75,000. At the same time the College donated the Museum's important collection of agricultural implements, wagons, carts, tools and other artefacts to the Trust at no charge.

At this time the Trust also received as a gift two parcels of land at Hollingbourne, Kent, on condition that they should never be developed. These comprise a 13-acre field known locally as Church Meadow and a small paddock beside the church in the centre of the village. The former is let to a local farmer and the paddock is let to the owners of an adjacent house. The rent from these properties forms part of the annual income of the Trust.

The Trustees set themselves an initial target of raising £200,000 in order to cover the acquisition costs, to undertake a programme of repairs and renovations and to provide an initial Endowment of £65,000. This was achieved thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ashford Borough Council, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust, the Canterbury Farmers' Club, the Cromarty Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, Godinton Charitable Trust, the Rochester Bridge Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and a number of other charities, organisations and individuals. The repairs and renovations included the complete replacement of the lathe and plaster interior of the kiln of the Oast, repair and restoration of some of the timberwork of the Barn and the Oast, installation of fire and intruder alarm networks and conversion of the Stable Block to provide a shop, an office and modern toilet facilities, including disabled access. These works were completed under the supervision of the architects Sell Wade Postins.

Since that time there have been many changes and developments which are reported annually by the Trustees. On the repair and renovation front these have included re-tiling the roof of the roundel on the oast house and the repair of the wind-vane above this; the conversion of a workshop/storage area into a well-equipped education room which is available to outside organisations as well as the Museum itself, and the provision of a legally compliant ramp giving easy access to the education room and toilets. Other activities have included the re-labelling of the entire Museum collection, and the production of three booklets on local aspects of rural crafts with the aid of funding from the Local Heritage Initiative. The museum has cooperated closely with other Kent Museums through the Kent Museums Group, the Ashford Museums group and many training events organised through the Kent Museums Development Service.

Of particular note was the receipt of a legacy consisting of some 30 paintings by the Kent artist Clifford Nickson which formed part of the estate of Ursula Ridgewell. The Museum has arranged with the County Council for these to be hung in the Chairman's Corridor in

Sessions House, Maidstone following two or three years of display in Library Galleries around the county. A significant sum of money accompanied the paintings in the bequest as an endowment for the general benefit of the Trust and this has been invested so that the interest earned can be used for the general purposes of the Trust and, if required, the maintenance of the collection of paintings.

Summary of results and reserves policy

The financial statements for the Trust separate income and expenditure on the lottery project from general income and expenditure. General unrestricted income of £21,738 (2022/23: £17,379) and expenditure of £20,884 (2022/23: £18,591) resulted in a surplus of £854 (2022/23: deficit of £1,212); the expenditure included an internal transfer of £5,000 from general unrestricted funding to restricted funding in order to provide the required match funding for the Trust's 'Securing the Future' NLHF project. During the year £108,814 was received in restricted funds, including i) the final balance payment of £37,843 in respect of the above project, ii) £44,147 from NLHF representing the first instalment of its 'Reaching New Audiences' project which commenced in 2024, iii) £10,000 from the Cromarty Trust and Sir Charles Jessel Charitable Trust as match funding for the above project; iv) £11,074 from the Association of Independent Museums for the museum's oral history project, and v) £750 match funding from Ashford Borough Council for the same project. £62,120 was spent on completing the first lottery project (almost exactly meeting the project budget) and £2,007 on commencing the AIM oral history project. The restricted balances of £64,025 were carried forward against expenditure on the NLHF and AIM projects in the next financial year.

The year end value of the Trust's endowment funds was £299,758 (2023: £295,185) and the surplus on operating funds, excluding the lottery project grant, was £35,458 (2023: £34,604).

Although the Trustees' standard policy is to maintain free unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months of total expenditure by the Trust, they are currently seeking to retain the reserve to a higher level in order to help with the current lottery project and other new initiatives that may emerge from this.

The Trust held all of its endowment funds and £22,132 of its operating `surplus in the form of investments in a CCLA's Charities Official Investment Fund, M&G Charifund and the Charities Property Fund. The combined market value of the investments at 29 February 2024 was £321,890 (2023: £317,317).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

John Nightingale

Chair of Trustees

3 December 2024

The Wye Rural Museum Trust Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 29th February 2024, which are attached to this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) and of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark Minus BA(Hons) FCA
1-2 Rhodium Point
Spindle Close
Hawkinge
Folkestone,
Kent CT 18 7TQ

3 December 2024

Statements of assets and liabilities

		29th February 2024 £	28th February 2023 £
Land & buildings at Brook, at cost		75,000.00	75,000.00
Meadow land at Hollingbourne, at cost		0.00	0.00
Value of Investments	<i>£/unit</i>		
6,848.25 CCLA COIF income units	20.27	138,798.28	127,429.50
8,231.75 M&G Charifund income units	14.00	115,242.87	117,714.00
57,208.16 Charities Property Fund income units	1.19	67,848.87	72,173.81
		321,890.02	317,317.31
Current accounts			
Lloyds Bank plc Original A/C 00964515		13,576.01	12,472.25
Lloyds Bank plc Lottery A/c 83921460		63,773.71	19,335.73
		77,349.72	31,807.98
		474,239.74	424,125.29
Representing:			
Museum Fund (Land & Buildings)		75,000.00	75,000.00
Endowment			
Initial Endowment Fund		65,000.00	65,000.00
Ridgewell Bequest		124,868.00	124,868.00
Inc or Dec in Value of Investments over Cost		109,890.02	105,317.31
		299,758.02	295,185.31
Surplus (Deficit) on Unrestricted Funds		35,458.01	34,604.25
Surplus (Deficit) on Restricted Funds		64,023.71	19,335.73
		474,239.74	424,125.29
Investments at cost			
CCLA COIF invest fund income units		60,000.00	60,000.00
M&G Charifund income units		97,000.00	97,000.00
Charities Property Fund income units		55,000.00	55,000.00
		212,000.00	212,000.00

John Nightingale, Trustee

Andrew Scarfe, Treasurer

3rd December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

- 1) The museum collection of some 1,300 agricultural implements and the Ridgwell Bequest of some 30 paintings by Clifford Nickson which were donated to the Trust are not shown on the Balance Sheet.
- 2) The value of investments is 'as at the latest valuation date'.
- 3) Unrestricted grants for the year comprise a grant of £2,000 from the Cromarty Trust, a donation of £46 from Brook Parochial Council and £95 from the Museum's donation Box
- 4) Grants of £5,000 from the Cromarty Trust and £5,000 from the Sir Charles Jessell Trust were made during the year to provide match funding for the NLHF "Reaching New Audiences" project
- 5) Grants of £500 from the Oxus Foundation and £250 from Ashford Borough Council were made during the year to provide match funding for the AIM oral history project
- 6) During the year £5,000 was transferred from Unrestricted to Restricted funds to provide the balance of the required match funding for the NLHF "Securing the Future" project
- 7) Expenditure on the NLHF "Securing the future of Brook Museum" project during the year was as follows:

	£	£
Staff Wages, including PAYE & Pension Costs		20,160.91
Digital Catalogue and website	6,324.90	
Architectural Options Appraisal	13,350.00	
Fundraising Strategy	2,000.00	
Other Professional Fees	711.66	
Consultancy/Evaluation	5,000.00	
Event Costs	4,267.16	
Publicity and Promotion	1,459.28	
Volunteer Expenses	1,404.55	
Recruitment Costs	24.00	
Staff Travel	106.47	
Subscriptions	68.00	
Equipment	1,373.61	
Repairs and Conservation	748.16	
VAT	5,121.06	

	-	41,958.85

		-
		62,119.76

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1055879

Accounts

The Wye Rural Museum Trust

Reg.Charity No: 1055879

Report of the Trustees for the period 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023

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Purpose and Governance of the Trust

The Trust was established in 1996 and is Registered Charitable Trust No.1055879.

The objects of the Trust, taken from the Deed, are as follows:

1. General charitable purposes.
2. In particular within the County of Kent:
 - a) The provision of one or more historic, economic and social museums of agriculture and rural life.
 - b) For the benefit of the public generally
 - i) The preservation, maintenance and improvement of any building of beauty or historical or architectural interest.
 - ii) The conservation of natural features of the landscape ecology and character of the area.
 - iii) The furtherance of general educational religious and social amenities.
 - iv) The stimulation of public interest in the history character beauty and wildlife of the area.

The names of Trustees in post at the end of the year are follows:

Nominated: *Mr William Howard* (Ashford Borough Council); *Sir George Jessel DL*; (Canterbury Farmers' Club); *Prof John Nightingale*, Chair of Trustees (Cromarty Trust); *Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh* (Kent Archaeological Society)

Co-opted: *Mr Tim Betts*, Vice-chair of Trustees; *Dr. John Bulaitis*; *Dr. Jeremy Clarke*; *Mrs Caroline Knight*; *Mr John Tomkins*; *Mr Francis Huntington*; *The Rt Hon Sir John Mummery DL*; *Prof Paul Webster*; *Mr Mike West*.

Trustees are chosen for the appropriate range of skills they bring to the Trust and their readiness to contribute to its day to day activities. An induction process is now in place. Three meetings of the Trustees were held during the year, with additional bi-monthly meetings of a lottery steering group of five trustees from September 2022 onwards. The Trust has a range of policies in place in keeping with its status as an accredited museum and these include safeguarding, data protection, collection accessibility, conservation and collections care. No reportable incidents occurred during the year.

Current role of the Trust: Public Benefit reporting

The Trust's main work is associated with the ownership, conservation and running of the Agricultural Museum at Brook. The museum's buildings consist of a Grade I listed 14th century manorial barn, one of the best preserved medieval barns in South East England and a building of national importance, a Grade II listed early 19th century oast house and some associated buildings which include one containing a fully equipped education room and toilet facilities.

Following a review undertaken during the year the Trustees agreed the following statement of purpose for the Museum:

- To preserve, interpret and improve access to the museum site including the fourteenth-century manorial barn, nineteenth-century oast house and stable block.
- To collect, preserve, interpret and present the agricultural and rural history of Brook and East Kent.
- To secure the long-term future of the museum, its buildings and collections, and to ensure the widest possible public access to the site and its heritage assets.

Outline of the Period

Last year's report identified the key challenge for the 2022/23 year as ensuring the successful delivery of the Trustees' ambitious bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund that was submitted just before the previous year end in February 2022. The bid requested a £75K grant for an £80K one year project which would cover a) employing a Collections and Engagement Manager for 3 days a week for a period of one year; b) undertaking a full collections audit c) employing architects to develop outline proposals for the lean-to sheds for interpretation and display; d) getting specialist advice on the collection and its conservation with an allowance for a specialist conservator to train volunteers on conservation; d) building up a further group of volunteers to work with the Collections and Engagement Manager on the digitalisation of the collection with the purchase of specialist software and the redesign of the website. The application was a result of the strategic review undertaken by the Trustees in the previous year and was intended to increase the resilience of the Trust and Museum and to better understand and care for the museum's buildings and collections.

Having received the welcome news that its lottery application had been successful, the Trustees were able to advertise for a Collections and Engagement Manager with the aim of commencing the lottery project at the start of September 2022. They were delighted to be able to appoint Dr Philippa Mesiano as the Engagement Manager, working 2 days a week, and Tom Kennett as the Collections Officer, working one day a week, with additional support from Fran Penberthy who had been appointed earlier in the year to help with the Trust's administration and the recruitment and organisation of volunteers.

This was the first time that the Museum had paid staff and it quickly became clear what a difference it would make as Philippa brought the benefit of her experience from running another lottery heritage fund project and Tom applied his experience as a professional archivist to the auditing and cataloguing of the museum's collections. Most of the work in the period covered by this project was behind the scenes involving a full audit of the museum's collections with the aid of volunteers; consultations with the local community and other stakeholders; reviewing the Museum's statement of purpose, its name(s) and branding; preparing a social media strategy; developing a learning programme for every pupil in Brook primary school to visit the museum during British Science week in March 2023; arranging a series of talks over the winter months and mapping out a programme of events from April through to September 2023. Reporting on these will be a matter for next year's annual report but at the time of writing this

report one can already note that the Museum's first major event on Easter Saturday attracted 277 visitors from across Kent.

The numbers visiting the collection during 2022 remained modest but included a group of agricultural students from Luxembourg as well as a number of groups from local organisations in Kent. The successful 2021 initiatives of holding a harvest festival barbecue and a Crib service in conjunction with the neighbouring parish church were repeated in 2022 and both again attracted good turn-outs. In September the museum's annual Nightingale lecture was given by Trustee Graham Bradley on the history of agriculture in Brook. As in previous years the lecture was organised by Trustee Sheila Sweetinburh and given in Canterbury as a joint initiative with Christ Church Canterbury University; it attracted an audience of over 50 and its popularity led the Trust's new engagement manager to schedule Graham to give a similar talk to some 40 members of the Brook community in January 2022.

In January and February the Museum's Engagement Officer and Trustee Tim Betts hosted three days of visits from two classes from Brook primary school, followed by an exhibition for their parents of the work they produced – a dry run for the whole school visit planned for National Science week in March 2023.

In preparation for the daily use of the Tom Hill room by the Lottery project staff, the WCs and kitchen were redesigned with the works being undertaken for a cost of approximately £9,000 under the direction of the Tim Betts.

In the light of the consultation and review carried out by the staff, the Trustees agreed that the Museum should be renamed the Brook Rural Museum (replacing several different names variously used on the website, social media and letterheads) and the new name was formally launched with a new accompanying logo depicting both barn and oast after the year end in April 2023.

The prime challenges for the coming year will be to follow through with the successful delivery of the lottery project, and following a full evaluation of its results in September 2023 to prepare to build on it, with the possibility of a follow-on application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Trustees thank the Cromarty Trust (chaired by John Nightingale) for a grant towards the matching funds required for the National Lottery Heritage Fund project.

Thanks are due for the support given to the Trust over the terms of their tenure by Mr Andrew Linklater who retired as a Trustee on 19 April 2022 and by Dr Graham Bradley who similarly retired on 22 October 2022. Graham in particular had taken on much of the day-to-day running of the museum in recent years and worked hard to improve the presentation of the museum's collection, reorganising items in both the barn and oast house and preparing explanatory information sheets on individual exhibits and groups of exhibits which visitors can consult while they tour the museum. Although his support and advice as a trustee is much missed, the continuing Trustees remain hugely grateful

for the way he continues to share his deep knowledge of the museum collection and the history of Brook with Philippa and Tom - and indeed with visitors more generally thanks to the fact that he and his wife will be maintaining links with the museum as volunteers.

Mr Mike West was appointed as a Trustee on 10 October 2022. A local farmer with close links to Brook, he has already given considerable support to the museum as a volunteer, and his input as a trustee will help link the museum to 21st century farming. Mr Andrew Scarfe was appointed to join Mike Mooney as a co-treasurer on 20 February 2022. The Trustees remain hugely grateful to all the work that Mike Mooney has continued to put in on behalf of the Trust.

As in previous years, the Museum relied on volunteers who staffed it during weekend openings throughout the summer and also who helped out on specific tasks relating to the reordering of exhibits in the museum. The Trustees gratefully thank them all for this vital work on which the Museum depended and look forward to working with them again. Paul Rodway, the Village Caretaker has undertaken the mowing of the grass area behind the barn and the Museum and the mowing of the grass in the front of the Museum.

The Trustees warmly thank Joanna Low, the Museum Development Officer for Kent and Medway for her continuing advice and assistance, and are delighted that Rebecca Nash, the Director of the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham agreed after the year end to again assist the Trust as its museum accreditation adviser.

Historical Background

The Trust was formed primarily to take over the Agricultural Museum at Brook from Wye College (University of London), and in 1997 purchased the great aisled barn of about 1380 (Grade I listed) and associated complex of Oast (Grade II listed) and other farm buildings at Court Lodge, Brook from the College for £75,000. At the same time the College donated the Museum's important collection of agricultural implements, wagons, carts, tools and other artefacts to the Trust at no charge.

At this time the Trust also received as a gift two parcels of land at Hollingbourne, Kent, on condition that they should never be developed. These comprise a 13-acre field known locally as Church Meadow and a small paddock beside the church in the centre of the village. The former is let to a local farmer and the paddock is let to the owners of an adjacent house. The rent from these properties forms part of the annual income of the Trust.

The Trustees set themselves an initial target of raising £200,000 in order to cover the acquisition costs, to undertake a programme of repairs and renovations and to provide an initial Endowment of £65,000. This was achieved thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ashford Borough Council, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust, the Canterbury Farmers' Club, the Cromarty Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, Godinton Charitable Trust, the Rochester Bridge Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and a number of other charities, organisations and individuals. The repairs and renovations included the complete replacement of the lathe and plaster interior of the

kiln of the Oast, repair and restoration of some of the timberwork of the Barn and the Oast, installation of fire and intruder alarm networks and conversion of the Stable Block to provide a shop, an office and modern toilet facilities, including disabled access. These works were completed under the supervision of the architects Sell Wade Postins.

Since that time there have been many changes and developments which are reported annually by the Trustees. On the repair and renovation front these have included re-tiling the roof of the roundel on the oast house and the repair of the wind-vane above this; the conversion of a workshop/storage area into a well-equipped education room which is available to outside organisations as well as the Museum itself, and the provision of a legally compliant ramp giving easy access to the education room and toilets. Other activities have included the re-labelling of the entire Museum collection, and the production of three booklets on local aspects of rural crafts with the aid of funding from the Local Heritage Initiative. The museum has cooperated closely with other Kent Museums through the Kent Museums Group, the Ashford Museums group and many training events organised through the Kent Museums Development Service.

Of particular note was the receipt of a legacy consisting of some 30 paintings by the Kent artist Clifford Nickson which formed part of the estate of Ursula Ridgewell. The Museum has arranged with the County Council for these to be hung in the Chairman's Corridor in Sessions House, Maidstone following two or three years of display in Library Galleries around the county. A significant sum of money accompanied the paintings in the bequest as an endowment for the general benefit of the Trust and this has been invested so that the interest earned can be used for the general purposes of the Trust and, if required, the maintenance of the collection of paintings.

Summary of results and reserves policy

The financial statements for the Trust separate income and expenditure on the lottery project from general income and expenditure. General income of £17,379 (2021/22: £17,501) and expenditure of £18,591 (2021/22: £21,018) resulted in a deficit of £1,212 (2021/22: deficit of £3,517). During the year £37,843, was received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as a first instalment of its £75,000 grant, and £18,507 of this sum was spent on purposes set out in the approved project budget, leaving a balance of £19,336 to carry forward against expenditure in the next financial year. It is envisaged that the balance of the grant will also be claimed against actual expenditure in the next financial year.

The year end value of the Trust's endowment funds was £295,185 (2022: £309,931) and the surplus on operating funds, excluding the lottery project grant, was £34,604 (2022: £35,816). The surplus on the lottery project grant at the year end was £19,336 and this sum will be carried over for approved lottery project expenditure in the next financial year.

Although the Trustees' standard policy is to maintain free unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months of total expenditure by the Trust, they are currently seeking to retain the reserve to a higher level in order to help with the current lottery project and other new initiatives that may emerge from this.

The Trust held all of its endowment funds and £22,132 of its operating `surplus in the form of investments in a CCLA's Charities Official Investment Fund, M&G Charifund and the Charities Property Fund. The combined market value of the investments at 28 February 2022 was £317,317 (2022: £332,063).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

John Nightingale

Chair of Trustees

6 June 2023

The Wye Rural Museum Trust – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 28th February 2023, which are attached to this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) and of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Nichola Walsh

Nichola Walsh BA(Hons) ACMA CGMA

Leaside, Sole Street, Crundale, Nr. Canterbury, Kent CT4 7ES

2nd May, 2023

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

<u>General Receipts and Payments</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	1.3.22 to 28.02.23	1.3.21 to 28.02.22
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Investment Income	13,607.71	12,732.86
Rent of Church Meadow & Church Green, Hollingbourne	1,923.00	2,673.00
Visitors	362.33	322.50
Grants and Donations	1,046.00	1,709.52
Nightingale Lecture Income	140.00	63.00
Hire of facilities	300.00	0.00
Total Receipts	17,379.04	17,500.88
PAYMENTS		
Mowing & cleaning costs	963.45	735.00
Insurance	2,173.00	2,653.37
Alarm maintenance	3,102.80	3,055.20
Publicity inc Display Boards	207.71	790.53
Subscriptions	35.00	85.00
Electricity & water	498.03	337.95
Council Tax	197.12	100.62
Telephone	180.62	420.65
Secretarial Costs	988.49	1,211.63
General maintenance work	8,920.00	4,948.22
Volunteers & Trustees: Training & Meal	914.16	801.46
Lottery application	0.00	3,600.00
Website Maintenance	173.98	150.00
Covid opening cleaning costs	0.00	874.11
Quinquennial inspection	0.00	785.80
Sundry	236.66	468.80
Total Payments	18,591.02	21,018.34
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(1,211.98)	(3,517.46)
Balance of General Funds brought forward	35,816.23	39,333.69
Balance of General Funds carried to Balance Sheet	34,604.25	35,816.23

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND
(NLHF) PROJECT ACCOUNT

		<u>Actual</u>
		1.3.22 to
		28.02.23
RECEIPTS	£	£
National Lottery Heritage Fund		
Initial Payment		37,843.00
PAYMENTS		
Staff Wages, including PAYE & Pension Costs	12,262.36	
Professional Fees	240.00	
Recruitment Costs	50.00	
Digital outputs	2,240.00	
Staff Travel	16.97	
Volunteer Expenses	43.51	
Event Costs	641.69	
Publicity and Promotion	99.99	
Equipment	2,625.84	
VAT	286.91	

		18,507.27

Balance c/fwd		19,335.73
		=====

Note:

This was a new project and account initiated during the year so there were no comparables for 2021/22. The initial payment of £37,843 received from NLHF during the year represented half of the grant of £75,686 it offered towards total project costs of £80,000. The balance of the grant will be payable against actual expenditure on the agreed budget items totalling £80,000.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		28th February 2023 £	28th February 2022 £
Land & buildings at Brook, at cost		75,000.00	75,000.00
Meadow land at Hollingbourne, at cost		0.00	0.00
Value of Investments (see note below)	<i>£/unit</i>		
6,848.25 CCLA COIF income units	18.61	127,429.50	130,459.00
8,231.75 M&G Charifund income units	14.30	117,714.00	123,229.00
57,208.16 Charities Property Fund income units	1.26	72,173.81	78,375.00
		317,317.31	332,063.00
Current accounts			
Lloyds Bank plc Original A/C 00964515		12,472.25	13,684.23
Lloyds Bank plc Lottery A/c 83921460		19,335.73	0.00
		31,807.98	13,684.23
		424,125.29	420,747.23
Representing:			
Museum Fund (Land & Buildings)		75,000.00	75,000.00
Endowment			
Initial Endowment Fund		65,000.00	65,000.00
Ridgewell Bequest		124,868.00	124,868.00
Inc or Dec in Value of Investments over Cost		105,317.31	120,063.00
		295,185.31	309,931.00
Surplus (Deficit) on Operating Funds		34,604.25	35,816.23
		404,789.56	420,747.23
National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant		37,843.00	0.00
Lottery Grant spent		(18,507.27)	0.00
		19,335.73	0.00
		424,125.29	420,747.23
Investments at cost			
CCLA COIF invest fund income units		60,000.00	60,000.00
M&G Charifund income units		97,000.00	97,000.00
Charities Property Fund income units		55,000.00	55,000.00
		212,000.00	212,000.00

Notes: The museum collection of agricultural implements and the Ridgewell Bequest of some 30 paintings by Clifford Nickson which were donated to the Trust are not shown on the Balance Sheet.

The value of investments is 'as at the latest valuation date'.

John Nightingale, Trustee

Tim Betts Trustee

6 June 2023

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1055879

Accounts

The Wye Rural Museum Trust

Reg.Charity No: 1055879

Report of the Trustees for the period 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021

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Purpose and Governance of the Trust

The Trust was established in 1996 and is Registered Charitable Trust No.1055879.

The objects of the Trust, taken from the Deed, are as follows:

1. General charitable purposes.
2. In particular within the County of Kent:
 - a) The provision of one or more historic, economic and social museums of agriculture and rural life.
 - b) For the benefit of the public generally
 - i) The preservation, maintenance and improvement of any building of beauty or historical or architectural interest.
 - ii) The conservation of natural features of the landscape ecology and character of the area.
 - iii) The furtherance of general educational religious and social amenities.
 - iv) The stimulation of public interest in the history character beauty and wildlife of the area.

The names of Trustees in post at the end of the year are follows:

Nominated: *Mr William Howard* (Ashford Borough Council); *Mr George Jessel DL* (Canterbury Farmers' Club); *Prof John Nightingale*, Chair of Trustees (Cromarty Trust); *Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh* (Kent Archaeological Society)

Co-opted: *Mr Tim Betts*, *Dr. Graham Bradley*; *Dr. John Bulaitis*; *Dr. Jeremy Clarke*; *Mrs Caroline Knight* (appointed 9 March 2020); *Mr John Tomkins*; *Mr Francis Huntington*; *Mr Andrew Linklater*; *The Rt Hon Sir John Mummery DL*; *Dr Alan Rogers*; *Prof Paul Webster*

Mrs Caroline Knight was appointed as a Trustee on 9 March 2020. Her career in publishing and wide experience of governance offered a range of valuable skills to the Trust and, as an immediate neighbour of the museum, the Trustees look forward to her helping the museum build closer ties with both the community in Brook and its medieval church which is situated next to the museum.

On 26 July 2020 Paul Webster relinquished the role of Treasurer and the Trustees appointed Mike Mooney in his place; as Assistant Treasurer Mike had kept the day to day accounts and helped with the preparation of the annual accounts for many years so was already very familiar with the Trust's affairs.

John Nightingale replaced George Jessel as chair of Trustees on 26 July 2020.

George Jessel was appointed as Honorary President on 5 October 2020.

Dr Alan Rogers retired as a Trustee after the year end on 26 April 2021.

Trustees are chosen for the appropriate range of skills they bring to the Trust and their readiness to contribute to its day to day activities. An induction process is now in place. Three meetings of the Trustees were held during the year, two of them by zoom. The Trust has a range of policies in place in keeping with its status as an accredited museum and these include safeguarding, data protection, collection accessibility, conservation and collections care. No reportable incidents occurred during the year.

Current role of the Trust: Public Benefit reporting

The Trust's main work is associated with the ownership, conservation and running of the Agricultural Museum at Brook. The museum's buildings consist of a Grade I listed 14th century manorial barn, a Grade II listed early 19th century oast house and some associated buildings which include one containing a fully equipped Education Room and toilet facilities. The Museum is devoted to items associated with the agricultural history of Kent and the collections, the buildings and the siting of these in an attractive rural area directly fall within the Trust's charitable objects and provide public benefit in terms of public access, conservation and education.

Because the Museum is small, specialised and sited in a rural area with little passing traffic and no public transport, the total number of members of the public benefitting from it is relatively small, but much effort continues to be expended on trying to increase this number and on engaging with the public in different ways. Activities related to this include maintaining close links with the local primary school which include visits to the school with items from the museum; maintaining a website with detailed information on a wide array of objects from the museum's collection; presence at various public events in the area and collaboration with other Kent museums in various educational and public- relations-based activities. The Education Room is also available to outside organisations at very modest cost and has hosted a considerable number of events over the past few years, including several training courses for bee-keepers and periodic use for meetings of local councils.

Although weekly opening hours are limited, the Museum also opens at any time by request for group visits or other public events. Entry fees are set at a low level to avoid exclusion on grounds of cost. Children of 14 and under are admitted free, as are members of the local community in Brook.

Outline of the Period

Within a few weeks of the Trust's year commencing on 1 March 2020, a national lockdown was declared and the Covid-19 pandemic has inevitably dominated the year under review. The Trustees were saddened that they were not able to open the museum as planned or go ahead with a series of events and initiatives that had been carefully planned – building a closer partnership with Brook primary school and reaching out to neighbouring schools, a joint event with the Brook community, a Nightingale lecture at Christ Church, Canterbury in September and much more.

However a number of activities continued despite the pandemic and lockdown. The Trust remotely hosted a couple of interns from Christ Church University; not being able to visit the museum inevitably hampered what they could do but the Trust was keen to

maintain its links and do what it could for this generation of students. It continued to work with other Kent museums on the Wheels of Time initiative, which has attracted increasing numbers of children to museums, including Brook, and has been piloting a remote access initiative.

A number of interesting items were donated to the Trust: A fine Drake and Fletcher Hop Press manufactured in Maidstone in the 1880s was donated by Ian Bouchard. An Allen scythe and Allen Challenger were donated by Mr Love on behalf of his father who used them on his smallholding near Dover. In the other direction the museum found a permanent home at Dover Transport Museum for the intricately designed and engineered tricycle that had been made and much used by Bob Scarfe who looked after the museum's grounds for several decades.

During the year the final sections of the rotten oak cladding on the storage sheds adjoining the barn were replaced with similar oak cladding cut locally in Kent. Two of the Trustees, Graham Bradley and Tim Betts, have worked closely with the Museum's curator Brian Wimsett, to improve the interpretation of some of the museum's displays. About 120 major items have been photographed and, along with a brief description, have each been included on a laminated A4 sheet held in each bay of the barn and in each level of the Oast, so that visitors can readily learn about the objects but without interpretative resources coming to dominate visually. At the same time a number of items have been reorganised with the aim of bringing together related objects that were previously dispersed, so that they can better tell the story of agricultural practice and development. The tables used to display small objects on the upper floor of the Oast have all been repainted by Tim Betts. The former shop or office which now houses a fascinating collection of models of horse drawn implements, hop fields and the Brook barn itself has been developed further with posters on the architecture of the museum and the geology of SE England. A collection of historic Kent tiles has been put on display – although a separate theme from the agricultural collection, this display acknowledges that many visitors to the museum come to view and learn about its buildings as well as the museum collection.

In October the Trustees took the first steps to initiating a strategic review and options appraisal. The retirement of a number of those who have been key contributors to the museum's life over the previous two decades made it important to undertake such a review and appraisal with a view to increasing the museum and trust's resilience and identifying new ways to deliver public benefit. The Trustees agreed that some immediate steps could be taken as soon as Covid-19 restrictions permitted and these included forging closer links with the Brook community, seeking to develop links with other local schools on the model already achieved with Brook primary school, and improving communications in terms of facebook postings and a regular newsletter. Others such as the possibility of establishing roles such as a paid curator or outreach officer post, and changes to make parts of the museum more accessible to families and young children (taking account of its proximity to Ashford) required an options appraisal and a better understanding of funding possibilities. To this end it was agreed to seek the advice of the heritage consultant, Alix Slater, who made an initial visit after the year end in early April 2020.

Reopening the museum, delivering on the immediate steps identified above, and carrying through the strategic review and options appraisal will be the key challenges for the 2021/22 year. The strategic review will naturally feed into the next review of the museum's accredited status which is due in 2022.

A quinquennial review of the museum buildings is due in 2021 and the trustees have asked Rutherford Architects to undertake this. The overall assessment of the previous review in 2016 was that all the buildings were in a fair or good condition and over the intervening period the Trust has undertaken most of the repairs recommended in that report.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Trustees gratefully thank Councillor Clair Bell of Kent County Council, and Councillor William Howard of Ashford Borough Council for making discretionary grants to cover the cost of the purchase of a marquee and associated equipment to allow for the holding of functions such as a planned joint event with the local community which will be held once Covid-19 restrictions end. They also thank the Cromarty Trust (chaired by John Nightingale) for a grant towards the costs of recladding the sheds adjoining the barn with replacement oak cladding. They also gratefully acknowledge the support of the £10,000 Covid business interruption grant which has provided the museum with the resources required both to weather the closure arising from the pandemic and hopefully to bounce back with renewed vigour once circumstances permit.

The donations of items for the museum collection by Mr Ian Bouchard and Mr Love are recorded with thanks in the previous section of this report.

The Trust's long-standing chairman, George Jessel, stood down as the chairman of Trustees in July. The other Trustees owe him a great debt of gratitude for all he has done in this role in the previous two decades – not just chairing meetings but regularly turning up with his tractor and farm equipment to help move heavy items within the collection. They marked his contribution by inaugurating and appointing him to a new position of Honorary President in October and look forward to his continuing as a Trustee - and hopefully still turning up with a tractor from time to time!

At the same time the Trust's curator, Brian Wimsett indicated that he thought it was time to pass on the baton, having held the position since the Trust was established in the late 1990s. Along with the Trust's former Secretary Tom Hill, Brian has been the face of the museum for over two decades and over this period he has built up a font of knowledge on the Museum collection that will be very hard to replace. The Trustees are therefore very grateful that he has agreed to carry on in the role until a successor can be found and more generally continue providing advice if in a less hands-on manner.

Paul Webster stepped down as Treasurer in July 2020 after undertaking this role with great skill and commitment for many years. The Trustees expressed their great thanks to all he has done to keep the Trust on a firm financial footing and were pleased that he would continue to be able to provide advice in this area in his capacity as a Trustee.

They were also delighted that the assistant treasurer Mike Mooney had agreed to step up to the role of Treasurer.

Alan Rogers retired as a Trustee shortly after the year end. Alan was another stalwart who had served as a trustee from its inception and the Trust has benefitted greatly from his wise advice and hands-on engagement over the years. The trustees are delighted that he and his wife will be maintaining links with the museum by continuing to act as volunteers when the museum reopens in Summer 2021.

The Trustees wish to thank Tracey Block who has continued to act as the Administrator to the Museum throughout the period under review.

Although successive lockdowns and the other pandemic restrictions meant the Trust's wonderful team of volunteers could not play their normal roles of welcoming visitors, they will be crucial to the successful reopening of the museum for the summer 2021 and the Trustees gratefully thank them for both their past efforts and in anticipation of their future work on behalf of the museum: Joyce and Graham Bradley (also a Trustee), David Brown, Stuart and Alison Finn, Chris and Kathy Cox, Ed Oliver, Michael Button, Tom Kennett, Jerry and Sue Arnott, Tom and Mary Hill, Vic Jeffrey, Janet Jessop, Vicky Linin, Janet Medhurst, David Pearson, Mike Mooney, Tim Betts (also a Trustee), John and Diana Prescott, Barbara Randall, Alan Rogers and Pam Rogers, Frank and Jose Preston and Oliver Trowell. Paul Rodway, the Village Caretaker has undertaken the mowing of the grass area behind the barn and the Museum and the mowing of the grass in the front of the Museum.

The Trustees warmly thank the Museum Development Officers for Kent and Medway, Joanna Low and Samantha Bowen, both of whom are familiar with the Wye Rural Museum Trust.

Historical Background

The Trust was formed primarily to take over the Agricultural Museum at Brook from Wye College (University of London), and in 1997 paid the College £75,000 for the great aisled barn of about 1380 (Grade I listed) and associated complex of Oast (Grade II listed) and other farm buildings at Court Lodge, Brook. At the same time the College donated the Museum's important collection of agricultural implements, wagons, carts, tools and other artefacts to the Trust at no charge.

At this time the Trust also received as a gift two parcels of land at Hollingbourne, Kent, on condition that they should never be developed. These comprise a 13-acre field known locally as Church Meadow and a small paddock beside the church in the centre of the village. The former is let to a local farmer and the paddock is let to the owners of an adjacent house. The rent from these properties forms part of the annual income of the Trust.

The Trustees set themselves an initial target of raising £200,000 in order to cover the acquisition costs, to undertake a programme of repairs and renovations and to provide an initial Endowment of £65,000. This was achieved thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ashford Borough Council, the Bernard Sunley Charitable

Trust, the Canterbury Farmers' Club, the Cromarty Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, Godinton Charitable Trust, the Rochester Bridge Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and a number of other charities, organisations and individuals. The repairs and renovations included the complete replacement of the lathe and plaster interior of the kiln of the Oast, repair and restoration of some of the timberwork of the Barn and the Oast, installation of fire and intruder alarm networks and conversion of the Stable Block to provide a shop, an office and modern toilet facilities, including disabled access. These works were completed under the supervision of the architects Sell Wade Postins.

Since that time there have been many changes and developments which are reported annually by the Trustees. On the repair and renovation front these have included re-tiling the roof of the roundel on the oast house and the repair of the wind-vane above this; the conversion of a workshop/storage area into a well-equipped education room which is available to outside organisations as well as the Museum itself, and the provision of a legally compliant ramp giving easy access to the education room and toilets. Other activities have included the re-labelling of the entire Museum collection, and the production of three booklets on local aspects of rural crafts with the aid of funding from the Local Heritage Initiative. The museum has cooperated closely with other Kent Museums through the Kent Museums Group, the Ashford Museums group and many training events organised through the Kent Museums Development Service.

Of particular note was the receipt of a legacy consisting of some 30 paintings by the Kent artist Clifford Nickson which formed part of the estate of Ursula Ridgewell. The Museum has arranged with the County Council for these to be hung in the Chairman's Corridor in Sessions House, Maidstone following two or three years of display in Library Galleries around the county. A significant sum of money accompanied the paintings in the bequest as an endowment for the general benefit of the Trust and this has been invested so that the interest earned can be used for the general purposes of the Trust and, if required, the maintenance of the collection of paintings.

Summary of results and reserves policy

The financial statements show income of £25,659 (2019/20: £16,490) and expenditure of £11,912 (2019/20: £17,739) resulting in a surplus of £13,747 (2019/20: deficit of £1,2494). The year end value of the Trust's endowment funds was £288,159 (2020: £275,587) and the surplus on operating funds was £37,334 (2020: £25,387). Although the Trustees' standard policy is to maintain free unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to approximately six months of total expenditure by the Trust, they are currently seeking to build up the reserve to a higher level in order to help with possible new initiatives arising from the current strategic review and options appraisal.

The Trust held all of its endowment funds and £22,132 of its operating surplus in the form of investments in a CCLA's Charities Official Investment Fund, M&G Charifund and the Charities Property Fund. The combined market value of the investments at 28 February 2021 was £310,291 (2020: £297,894).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

John Nightingale

Chair of Trustees

26 April 2021

The Wye Rural Museum Trust – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 28th February 2021, which are attached to this document.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) and of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Nichola Walsh BA(Hons) ACMA CGMA
Leaside, Sole Street, Crundale, Nr. Canterbury, Kent CT4 7ES
5th April, 2021

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

Receipts and Payments

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>1.3.20 to</u>	<u>1.3.19 to</u>
	<u>28.02.21</u>	<u>29.02.20</u>
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Investment Income	11,661.74	13,214.54
Rent of Church Meadow & Church Green, Hollingbourne	1,273.00	1,633.00
Shop sales (net)	0.00	0.00
Visitors	0.00	542.61
Grants and Donations	12,724.22	600.00
Workshop and Exhibition Receipts	0.00	0.00
Hire of Thomas Hill Room	0.00	0.00
Nightingale Lecture Income	0.00	100.00
Sundry Credits	0.00	400.00
Total Receipts	<u>25,658.96</u>	<u>16,490.15</u>
PAYMENTS		
Mowing & cleaning costs	700.00	500.00
Insurance	2,457.13	2,961.49
Alarm maintenance	1,992.00	2,236.80
Publicity inc Display Boards	667.84	965.86
Subscriptions	85.00	85.00
Electricity & water	388.62	642.26
Council Tax	0.00	388.08
Telephone	394.00	371.00
Secretarial Costs	1,181.56	1,167.47
General maintenance work	2,653.31	7,585.47
Volunteers Conservation Training & Meal etc	0.00	563.45
Petrol & sundry travel	0.00	50.00
Website Maintenance	223.98	150.00
Exhibition expenses, etc	0.00	0.00
Nightingale Lecture	0.00	0.00
Small Tools & Equipment	0.00	72.22
Miscellaneous Expenses Marquee Tent	1,168.90	0.00
Total Payments	<u>11,912.34</u>	<u>17,739.10</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	13,746.62	(1,248.95)
Balance of General Funds brought forward	25,587.07	26,836.02
Balance of General Funds carried to Balance Sheet	<u>39,333.69</u>	<u>25,587.07</u>

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	28th February 2021 £	29th February 2020 £
Land & buildings at Brook, at cost	75,000.00	75,000.00
Meadow land at Hollingbourne, at cost	0.00	0
Value of Investments (see note below)	<i>£/unit</i>	
6,848.25 CCLA COIF income units	17.57 120,314.85	102,019.75
8,231.75 M&G Charifund income units	14.46 119,066.52	124,078.01
57,208.16 Charities Property Fund income units	1.24 70,909.51	71,796.24
Current account		
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	17,201.69	3,455.07
	402,492.57	376,349.06
Representing:		
Museum Fund (Land & Buildings)	75,000.00	75,000.00
Endowment:		
Initial Endowment Fund	65,000.00	65,000.00
Ridgewell Bequest	124,868.00	124,868.00
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Invested Endowments over Cost	98,290.88	85,893.99
Total Value of Endowment Funds	288,158.88	275,761.99
Surplus (Deficit) on Operating Funds	39,333.69	25,587.07
	402,492.57	376,349.06
Investments at cost		
CCLA COIF invest fund income units	60,000.00	60,000.00
M&G Charifund income units	97,000.00	97,000.00
Charities Property Fund income units	55,000.00	55,000.00
	212,000.00	212,000.00

Notes: The museum collection of agricultural implements and the Ridgewell Bequest of some 30 paintings by Clifford Nickson which were donated to the Trust are not shown on the Balance Sheet.

The value of investments is 'as at the latest valuation date'.

John Nightingale **Trustee**

Tim Betts **Trustee**