

Friends and Patrons of the Buckinghamshire County Museum  
(Charity No – 1059377)

Annual Report 2021/22

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This report covers the period April 2021 to end of March 2022



The Friends and Patrons continue their support, promotion, assistance and improvement of the Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust (The Trust), a charitable company (Charity Ref – 1153345).

In June the Museum formally changed its name to the Discover Bucks Museum.<sup>1</sup>

Covid-19 still had an impact on the Museum this year with closures and staff shortages and it also caused delays to the Discover Bucks refurbishment project. The Omicron variant also influenced both the Museum and our operations during the final third of the reporting year just as there was hope of a return to normality.

Volunteers who normally help the keepers at the Halton site were again unable to work this year as the site was closed, except to staff.

Planned outings for the Friends were again cancelled.

In the Autumn the Friends organised their 11th Off the Wall Art Fair showing contemporary Bucks makers work which included paintings, prints, ceramics and jewellery. Over 150 people came to the opening and Friends volunteered to steward during the exhibition. £5,631 was raised for the F&P from sales of £15,816.

Kate Eckett retired at the last AGM as Chair of the Friends and Patrons after eight years in the role. Her successor is yet to be announced.

Sue Shave retired at the end of April 2022 after four years as Director of the Museum.

Museum staff, Sonia Whiteman and Mick Hutton retired after long service at the Museum and we thank them for their help over the years.

---

<sup>1</sup> Information Note – “Discover Bucks” is a trading name of The Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust. The Trust does not intend to change its name or legal identity. Likewise, the Friends and Patrons has resolved not to make a name change either.

## Main Achievements

Over the year 2021/22 the Friends and Patrons have given grants to the Museum totalling £59,355.00 (see below).

The Patrons contributed to the refurbishment of the Discover Bucks Galleries and supported the Picasso and Masters of Print exhibition on loan from The Higgins Museum in Bedford.

The Friends' contribution of £17,500 to the Discover Bucks Galleries was the balance of the £150,000 committed to the project from the Brill legacy. The new galleries were opened to the public on 2nd April 2022. The Friends also supported the Museum's requests for Treasure items which included a medieval silver coin hoard - 18 silver coins of Henry III, a medieval silver ring (Leckhampstead), a post-medieval gold and emerald ring (Thornton), an early medieval (8thC) silver pin head (Leckhamptstead), an early medieval gold necklace bead (Charndon), a post medieval silver dress hook (Longwick-cum-Ilmer) and an early medieval pieced gold coin (Bisham).

## Grants to the Museum

### Patrons

Refurbishment of Galleries	£30,000.00
Picasso and Masters of Print exhibition	£ 7,500.00

### Friends

Coins and Treasure	£ 800.00
Refurbishment of Galleries	£11,800.00
Coin, Silver pin head, Necklace	£ 555.00
Refurbishment of Galleries	£ 5,700.00
New Museum Leaflet	£ 3,000.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>£59,355.00</b>
--------------	-------------------

## Membership

At 31 March 2022 total paid up individual membership of the Friends and Patrons amounted to 178 Friends and 84 Patrons (2020 = 179 Friends and 93 Patrons). There were also two Honorary Life Patrons and we welcomed a new Life Patron this year. In addition to the individual members there were five institutional members. The Committee recognises the need to bolster its respective memberships.

## **Annual Meeting**

The Annual meeting was held jointly with the Patrons at the Museum on Saturday, 27th November 2021. The President, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, opened the meeting. The Chairman, Kate Eckett, then introduced the Annual Report following which the annual accounts were formally approved. Elections took place. Mr David Fulton was appointed as Independent Examiner. The Meeting was followed by guided tours of the new Discover Bucks Galleries given by the Keepers.

## **Officers and Committee Members**

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher continued as President. The full elected committee at 31 March 2022 comprised The Earl Howe, Acting Chairman; Mr John Galbraith, Honorary Treasurer; Miss Pam Russell, Honorary Secretary; Mrs Doreen Holmes, Membership Secretary; Committee member, Mr Stephen Mulcahy.

In accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution there were two ex officio members of the Committee, The Earl Howe representing the Patron membership with Mrs Kate Eckett as Patron Secretary.

## **Meetings of the Committee**

The Committee met twice over Zoom. Much of each meeting was taken up by oral reports from the Chairman, the Patrons' Chairman and the Museum Director. Discussions were held about the renovation of the Discover Bucks galleries and the financing of the project. Financial reports and discussions of possible allocations also featured in all two meetings.

## **Patrons**

The Annual Patrons Meeting was held jointly with the Friends at the Museum on Saturday, 27th November 2021. The Meeting was followed by guided tours of the new Discover Bucks Galleries which were given by the Keepers.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers again could not help the keepers at Halton due to Covid-19 regulations and only returned mid-April 2022.

Due to staff shortages at the Museum and hygiene restrictions, volunteers helped steward the summer Dinosaur exhibition (to which 3,500 visitors came), the summer programme of activities, a Georgian Christmas event and the Off the Wall Art Fair.

## **Newsletters**

Two issues were prepared by the editor, Pam Russell and distributed to all Friends and Patrons.

June 2022

# FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

Financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2022

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions:				
Friends		2645.00	2645.00	2558.00
Patrons		12850.00	12850.00	7650.00
Institutional		150.00	150.00	150.00
Donations		288.00	288.00	580.00
Income Tax recovered - Gift Aid		2537.49	2537.49	2114.81
Income from events		0.00	0.00	0.00
Off the Wall Art Market		16336.00	16336.00	0.00
Interest received		1497.60	1497.60	2757.19
Investment				
	0.00	36304.09	36304.09	15810.00
<b>Payments</b>				
Cost of events		0.00	0.00	0.00
Administration and AGM costs		620.33	620.33	202.18
Off the Wall Art Market		10704.50	10704.50	
Newsletter printing		369.27	369.27	297.88
BAfM Subscription/Insurance		470.00	470.00	452.00
Admin payments to museum		1370.00	1370.00	1485.00
Grants to Museum:				
Friends		21855.00	21855.00	84225.98
Patrons		37500.00	37500.00	0.00
	0.00	72889.10	72889.10	86663.04
Net Receipts (Payments)	0.00	-36585.01	-36585.01	-70853.04
Cash funds at 1st April, 2021		244815.22	244815.22	315668.26
Cash funds at 31st March, 2022	0.00	208230.21	208230.21	244815.22

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of

### The Friends and Patrons of the Buckinghamshire County Museum

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, set out on the attached page

#### 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 the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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
- 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.

Signature:



Name:

D.W. FULTON

Address:

33 Walsley Road, London E18 2LN

Date:

23/6/2022