

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

Annual Report 2024/2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This report covers the period April 2024 to end of March 2025

The Friends and Patrons continued to support the Discover Bucks Museum, not only through grants to acquire items to enhance the Museum's collections, but also by providing volunteers to help the Keepers at the Halton Resource Centre and to steward various exhibitions. This included the *Off The Wall* Exhibition which provided a useful income for the Friends, and we were very grateful to Sue Gilbert for organising this on our behalf. During the year the Friends and the Patrons each contributed £6,000 in order to upgrade the Museum's IT infrastructure, and our other grants are listed elsewhere in this report. More significant grants will be needed in 2025/26 as part of the planning for the major Saxon Heritage Exhibition scheduled for 2026.

By the end of the year we were looking forward to seeing the Museum's promised Strategic Plan, which will guide our support over the next ten years. Meanwhile we hope that our new membership leaflets will help us to recruit more Friends so we can continue to support our excellent Museum in the difficult economic climate prevailing at present. We would also welcome more members to join our Committee, which only meets three times a year but keeps us in touch with all that is happening at this key tourist attraction in Aylesbury.

Main Achievements

Over the year 2024/25 the Friends and Patrons have given grants to the Museum totalling £14,788.59 (see below). The Museum received a grant of £12,000 from the Friends & Patrons for replacement hardware for their IT infrastructure and migration to the cloud has been completed. However, further funding of c. £20,000 will be needed for further IT support in respect of the Collection Management System (MODES).

Grants made during year ended 31st March 2025.

Patrons

Hire of <i>Light Fantastic</i> exhibition alongside photography exhibition	£2,725.00
Contribution to DBM IT infrastructure	£6,000.00
Total	£8,725.00

Friends

Fire Safety Equipment for Museum	£1,578.60
Replacement glass washer for Museum	£1,259.99
Children's toys to enhance Children outdoor experience	£1,000.00
T552 Gold Ring (contribution)	£350.00
T1275 Iron Age Staters (contribution)	£550.00
T890 4 Medieval silver pennies	£80.00
Halloween materials for child visitors	£300.00
Project sensory materials for child visitors	£200.00
Early Medieval Silver Pyramid	£300.00

Investigation/removal wall plaster	£170.00
Hire of <i>Light Fantastic</i> exhibition (contribution)	£1,000.00
Redecoration of Museum learning zones	£1,000.00
Development brief for Anglo-Saxon exhibition	£1,000.00
Contribution to DBM IT infrastructure	£6,000.00
Total	£14,788.59

Membership

At 31 March 2025 total paid up individual membership of the Friends and Patrons amounted to 129 Friends and 79 Patrons (2024 = 135 Friends and 81 Patrons). There were also two Honorary Life Patrons. In addition to the individual members there were five institutional members.

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting was held at the Museum on Saturday 16th, November 2024. Earl Howe on behalf of the President, Viscount Younger, opened the meeting and Roy Collis, Chair of the Friends & Patrons introduced the Annual Report following which the annual accounts were formally approved. Elections took place. The Meeting was followed by a private view of the *Off the Wall* art exhibition, organised by the Sue Gilbert on behalf of the Friends.

Officers and Committee Members

The full elected Committee at 31 March 2025 comprised The Viscount Younger, President; Mr Roy Collis, 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 three times. Much of each meeting was taken up by oral reports from the Chairman, the Patron Chairman and the Museum Director. Financial reports and discussions of possible allocations also featured in all three meetings.

Patrons

Several new Patrons were welcomed to the membership and thanked for their support.

The Annual Patrons Meeting was held at Penn House on 25th October 2024 by kind permission of Earl and Countess Howe. The Patrons were given an interesting tour of the house.

Outings

Visits were organised by Doreen Holmes to the Museum of Oxford and the Hare Krishna temple in Radlett.

Newsletter

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

August 2025

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 31st March 2025, 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: L. Sheldon

Name: L. Sheldon

Address: Nettledown, Upton, Aylesbury. HP17 8UA.

Date: 14/8/25.

FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

Financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 £
Receipts				
Subscriptions:				
Friends	0.00	2090.00	2090.00	2385.00
Patrons	0.00	7480.00	7480.00	7455.00
Institutional	0.00	180.00	180.00	180.00
Donations	0.00	313.40	313.40	570.00
Income Tax recovered - Gift Aid	0.00	1978.94	1978.94	1981.72
Income from events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
'Off the Wall' Art Market	0.00	5270.00	5270.00	0.00
Bank interest	0.00	7849.56	7849.56	6655.57
	0.00	25161.90	25,161.90	19227.29
Payments				
"Off The Wall" Art Market Costs	0.00	3688.81	3688.81	0.00
Cost of events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administration * AGM Costs	0.00	158.33	158.33	342.13
General Administration Expenses	0.00	91.61	91.61	386.76
Newsletter Printing	0.00	630.00	630.00	528.39
BAfM Subscription/Insurance	0.00	470.00	470.00	470.00
Admin payments to museum	0.00	1095.00	1095.00	1235.00
Grants to Museum:				
Friends	0.00	14788.59	14788.59	17469.12
Patrons	0.00	8725.00	8725.00	10929.87
	0.00	29647.34	29647.34	31361.27
Net Receipts (Payments)	0.00	-4485.44	-4485.44	-12133.98
Cash funds at 1st April, 2024	0.00	202863.38	202863.38	214997.36
Cash Funds at 31 March 2025	0.00	198377.94	198377.94	202863.38

Friends and Patrons of the Buckinghamshire County Museum

(Charity No. 1059377)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This report covers the period April 2024 to end March 2025

The Financial Statement for the Friends and Patrons covering the last financial year (2024-25) has been approved by Les Sheldon, the appointed Independent Reviewer, and is presented as part of the Committee's Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting.

The following are the key headlines:

Total expenditure was £29,647, of which the total paid out as grants to the Museum was £25,513.

Total income was £25,161. Membership subscriptions being £9,750, and the remainder being made of income from the *Off the Wall* exhibition, bank interest, and donations. This included £1,978 received as Gift Aid recoverable from tax.

The Committee has been able to absorb the operating deficit of £4,465 from the reserve held.

Gift Aid is very valuable to the Friends & Patrons and incurs no cost to the subscriber. The only stipulation is that the individual must be a UK taxpayer. It just calls for the completion of a simple form and we do the rest. We are very grateful to those who are already signed up, and if any member would like to avail themselves of this facility please contact the relevant Membership Secretary for the form.

Your continuing generosity is much appreciated and, as you will see, is put to good use in supporting the Museum.

John Galbraith
Hon Treasurer