

THE FRIENDS OF HYLANDS HOUSE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28TH APRIL 2025

Lord Petre, Vice-Presidents and Friends of Hylands House

In accordance with our Constitution we have made several donations this year to promote the House and carry out maintenance. We have contributed £660 to the repair of the carpet edges in the drawing room and library. We have made several donations towards the childrens' activities on open estate days which have bought equipment and paid for the storyteller, Mike Dodsworth, who is a huge hit every month, and also funded a British Sign Language Interpreter on two occasions. We have agreed to fund labels for the portraits in the House and the Museum, who own the paintings, will be preparing them. We have also agreed in principle to help fund a feasibility study for the restoration of the walled garden at some time in the future.

We have pledged £34,000 towards phase 1 of restoring the Ice House. This covers surveys, some landscaping and tree work, making and installing an iron rail around the structure, making good and repointing the brickwork and revealing more of the York stone paving. There will be an interpretation board which would invite people in. Work to the value of £6,132 has already been carried out with a perimeter fence and a vehicular gate to which we contributed £3,000. Nick Wickenden our Vice-Chairman who is leading on this project has an 1814 map of the area showing two ponds, one of which has water in it now and it is thought it may well be a Repton pond.

Last year we Our bookshop continues to flourish and we have recruited a few new volunteers. We received a legacy of a large number of Folio books and bookcases which has added considerably to the quality of our stock. On March 10th we held a tea party for the bookshop volunteers to thanks them for their time, effort and loyalty.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel two planned events this year due to lack of support. This was a summer lunch here at the House and a visit to the pantomime at Colchester. The only event held was our Christmas lunch which 52 members attended. If we are to remain an active group we do need to meet together to socialise and also raise funds. We have lost a lot of our original members, who are unable to attend events now but Berry and I have a table at Open Estate Days to recruit new members and a few new members do join afterwards, we also have acquired some new members who are volunteering in the bookshop.

I wish to thank the other officers and members of the committee for their efforts and support during the year. We have managed to operate without a Secretary this year but hopefully that will be rectified in the election of officers later.

I would also like to thank the Council staff particularly Lorraine Thorne, the Manager, and Edd Price who helped us with our new website. All the staff in the House have been helpful to and co-operative with us. There are now collection points in the House and information point to help us raise funds.

Looking to the future, in 2030 Hylands House will be 300 years old. We are to be included in "Roadmap 2030" to plan events and projects associated with the tercentenary. We are contributing half of the fee to prepare a National Lottery bid for this. I think this is going to be an exciting time for the House and for the Friends.

FRIENDS OF HYLANDS HOUSE

Registered Charity Number: 1059969

PURCHASES and RESTORATION

Donation towards Children's activities	£1,500.00
Hylands House Archive Assessment	£137.00
Donation music Hylands House	£1,500.00

COMMITMENTS 2025

TBA

£0.00

GENERAL ACCOUNT

As at 1st January 2024

Surplus 2024

Cash flow 2024

As at 31st December 2024

RECONCILIATION

Held at HSBC Savings	
Held at HSBC Current AC	
Held at Co-op Bank	
Less Creditors (uncleared cheques)	
Total Funds	

94200	112559
3242	
15117	
62510	101058
24372	
14176	

101057	112559
11502	
0	
8362	101058
92696	

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF HYLANDS HOUSE

I report on the account of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on the attached four pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43 (7b) of the Act 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 Commissioners. 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 such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 it any material respect the requirements * to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the act * to prepare accounts that accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirement of the 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.

Name: **DUNCAN MCKENZIE**
Address: **10 HEYCROFT WAY, CHELMSFORD CM98JG**

Signed: **Duncan McKenzie**

Date: **1 April 2025**