

THE PRIEST'S HOUSE MUSEUM TRUST

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025



Family fun at the museum with plenty of dressing up opportunities.

The Priest's House Museum Trust

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2022).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's purposes are set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Priest's House Museum Trust. The Trust's objects are:

- 1) To advance education for the public benefit, in particular but not exclusively in the archaeology, ethnology, social history, natural history and kindred spirits, painting and arts and crafts, especially in relation to the town and district of Wimborne Minster and the towns and villages of East Dorset, as told through their heritage, landscapes and people;
- 2) To provide and maintain a museum and information service at the property known as the Priest's House in Wimborne Minster or such other buildings, and in pursuit of that object:

to borrow and loan artefacts and archives relating to the area;
to manage, document, conserve and safeguard the museum collections and holdings;
to exhibit, interpret and provide public access to the museum collections and holdings;
to provide learning experiences and activities for the public;
to provide exhibitions, conferences, workshops and other events;
to research, promote and publish studies of the area;
to provide an information service to the public.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the museum's aims and objectives and in planning activities. In particular, the Board considers how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives set out in the museum's Forward Plan.

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INTRODUCTION

The Museum of East Dorset is the cultural hub and place to visit to learn more about the history of the area. It is an Arts Council England Accredited Museum. Its collections include rare and unique exhibits of local and national significance, which preserve and celebrate the culture and stories of the local people from prehistory to the present day.

The Museum of East Dorset rightly has a reputation for excellence in its schools' programmes. It engages with the local community through changing exhibitions, events and outreach, and offers enjoyment, learning and inspiration to visitors of all ages.

The museum and information centre are housed in a Grade II* listed building, which dates from Tudor times, with its own heritage-planted walled garden. The museum is located opposite the Minster Church in Wimborne.

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision

Hilda Coles' vision for her museum, 1960:

"... in the best sense of the word, a 'live' museum - a centre of education and culture, continually changing its displays and appealing to children as well as to adults" (*Western Gazette*, 2 December 1960).

Vision 2021 - 2025

We aspire to celebrate our rich heritage through a vibrant museum and cultural hub which connects people with the past and offers enjoyment, learning and inspiration to visitors of all ages.

Mission

To become a dynamic heritage and cultural centre for all, and a quality attraction in the area.

We will achieve this through the following objectives:

1. Provide a compelling value-for-money experience for all ages which generates repeat visits and recommendations.
2. Help people to discover, share and engage with the stories of East Dorset on site and digitally
3. Improve collections care, management and knowledge
4. Develop our understanding and relationship with different communities in East Dorset and beyond
5. Diversify/increase income streams from Museum of East Dorset and East Dorset Information Centre
6. Ensure staff and volunteers are appreciated and supported to effectively deliver their roles
7. Improve efficiency of operations, ensuring key processes, procedures and information are readily accessible.

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Values and behaviours

- Celebrate East Dorset's heritage and culture by providing a sense of community and place
- Deliver a WOW experience through our museum services for all ages
- Embrace change; be open-minded to the possibilities it brings
- Create welcoming and safe spaces of interaction, participation and engagement - face to face and online
- Be imaginative and innovative; create fun wherever possible
- Offer authentic, knowledge-based growth and learning opportunities
- Build open and honest relationships which respect people, through communications
- Build a positive team spirit with all stakeholders
- Be accessible and inclusive in all we do
- Stay true to Hilda's vision to be there for future generations

STRATEGY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the completion of the Revival Project, and the end of the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant which funded four posts, the museum undertook a review of the staff structure. This ensured there were clear role definitions and a structure that supports efficient museum operations. While the external environment presents ongoing challenges, especially for museums, we must remain a flexible and adaptable organisation, making strategic adjustments as needed to ensure the museum's long-term success.

In autumn 2025, a new four-year Business Plan will be approved, addressing our funding challenges and providing a new direction to achieve the financial sustainability of the museum. We will apply for a new grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to fund a Fundraising Consultant. It is vital we have a comprehensive Fundraising Strategy for the museum, to address current limitations and ensure the museum has the necessary funds to deliver the Trust's charitable objectives, now and in the future.

The Trust will continue to align its aims with those of its key strategic partners: Dorset Council, Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The museum is grateful for the financial contribution it receives from Dorset Council through the Service Level Agreement, which provides vital funds to support our work.

A new admission policy was introduced in May 2024. All tickets become annual passes, allowing the museum to capitalise fully on the Gift Aid scheme. The move to annual passes also enabled us to set higher prices, whilst remaining competitive with other attractions in the area, which produced positive results for visitor income. To ensure we were not creating a barrier to visiting, we included a comprehensive concessions ticket which gives a discounted price for those of state pension age, those receiving means-tested benefits, Blue Light card holders, students and members of the Armed Forces community.

In February 2025, despite challenges, the museum again received the silver award in the highly competitive Dorset Tourism Awards *Small Visitor Attraction of the Year* category. This came with extremely positive feedback from the judging process:

"The Museum of East Dorset is an outstanding regional museum that offers a blend of historical depth, interactive learning and community engagement. The attention to detail in the exhibits, along with the interactive and family-friendly features, enhances the historic setting and creates

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a welcoming atmosphere for visitors of all ages. Staff members and volunteers deserve recognition for their enthusiasm and willingness to share local insights, which add a personal touch to the experience. The museum should be praised for its efforts to connect with the community, preserving East Dorset's history while fostering a sense of shared heritage and pride among its visitors."

People

The 2024/25 financial year saw a period of significant transition for our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. There were considerable staffing changes, not all of which could be anticipated as some team members left for personal reasons or career progression. Despite this situation, we continued to operate our award-winning museum, learning and community engagement programmes.

Staff

This reporting period saw substantial evolution in our staffing structure. With the Business and Visitor Experience Manager moving on in June 2024, it took time to decide on the right skills and experience to deliver what was now needed to support the museum. Following the departure of our Visitor Experience and Operations Officer in February, we finally welcomed our Operations and Visitor Experience Manager in a newly created role.

Unfortunately, due to rising costs, our Learning and Community Engagement Officer was made redundant and we shifted to a role with less responsibility and hours. A new Learning & Family Assistant was recruited. Our Events Officer moved on. A new role of Programming Officer was created to implement a strategic shift from one-off events to seasonal programming focused on school holidays and key events in the calendar year. We also welcomed a new Commercial Supervisor and a new Finance Manager.

We are currently recruiting for a new Collections & Experience Manager following their departure for personal reasons and ongoing health challenges at the end of March 2025.

The museum started working with an experienced marketing freelancer to help us promote the museum, including our social media presence. Within one month, more press coverage was generated than we had achieved since the museum reopened in 2020. Today, marketing messages are aligned to the museum's strategy and audiences.

Volunteers

The museum's continued success also hinges on nearly 120 volunteers, who generously contributed 15,972 hours of their time to help us achieve our vision and deliver the Trust's charitable objectives. We especially relied on our volunteers to support the museum during all the staff changes. We are truly grateful for their unwavering commitment and flexibility.

We remain committed to fostering a strong volunteer programme that offers a variety of opportunities and is open to all. Through volunteering, individuals can:

- Utilise and develop valuable skills
- Make a positive impact
- Become part of a vibrant museum community
- Enhance their personal well-being

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This year, we created several new volunteer roles including Museum Makers - creative crafters who support seasonal programming. With advice from a highly skilled volunteer, we have started work on our offer to groups visiting the museum. The Research Team has been expanded to support exhibition research, including new research on hidden histories in our collections. (These are stories which are not often told, about people in minority or disempowered and discriminated-against groups.) An Alumni Group has been formed, to support former volunteers who wish to continue to maintain their connection with the museum, and in recognition of their service.

New training and development programmes for volunteers now include:

- Health & Safety and manual handling
- Security procedures and lone working policies
- Safeguarding
- Disability Awareness

Congratulations to our Garden Team which won the Volunteer Team of the Year award from Volunteer Centre Dorset. This accolade acknowledges their exceptional contribution to the museum and its beautiful garden. We are very proud of them.

A particular thank you to our 'volunteer' Volunteer Development Officer for her tireless work to improve our volunteer programme, develop and deliver new training sessions, and for her willingness to be involved in other projects across the museum.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The museum is firmly committed to fostering an environment that is welcoming and accessible to everyone. We believe that the stories and experiences we share should resonate with all members of our community, regardless of background, ability, or identity. We aim to continuously improve the experience for visitors, beneficiaries and team members. Highlights from this year include:

Accessibility



- Installation of high-contrast stair treads on visitor staircases to support those with vision impairments.
- Completion of Large Print Guides for the museum, created through the dedicated work of a volunteer and tested by members of the Wimborne Macular Degeneration Society.

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- Initial work on creating "relaxed" visits specifically designed to support individuals who might otherwise be unable to visit, such as those who are neurodiverse. The museum applied to the Dorset Council's Culture and Community Grant for funding and was awarded a full grant. As part of the grant requirements, the museum needed to fundraise 20% of the total project cost. We received a generous £500 anonymous donation to support this, plus £120 from a local group.
- Creation of a Sensory Map to support those who are neurodiverse, by showing which areas of the museum are likely to be noisy, bright, dark or have strong smells. This allows visitors to opt out of areas which might be triggering or to prepare for how those spaces will feel.
- Two donors provided funding for our first-ever Braille guide, which should be completed by the end of 2025, the 200th anniversary of Braille.
- We also received a donation for walking stick seats, which are particularly beneficial for those who might only be able to walk a short distance before needing to sit down.

"Inclusive, interactive, accessible and fun! We attended a clay workshop, and it was excellent. My neurodiverse tribe enjoyed the freedom of the garden and exploring the museum as well as the planned activities. The volunteers were friendly and made every effort to engage and encourage the children.

The museum itself is wheelchair accessible to all floors and is hands-on. My children particularly enjoyed the schoolroom and the ironmongers. Video installations, touch screen information points, hunts, quizzes, dress-up opportunities too. We will definitely be coming back."

Euan's Guide, August 2023.

Inclusive programming

- Recommendations for inclusive recruitment have been created and are being used for staff, volunteer and trustee recruitment. The museum has also signed up as an Age-Friendly Employer and has a Level 2 in the Disability Confident Employer Scheme.
- Introduction of diverse skin-tone colouring materials for events and learning activities.
- Addition of diverse and disabled Barbie dolls to school loan boxes, including a Chelsea (child doll) who uses a wheelchair, a Ken doll with a prosthetic leg, and a black Barbie with Down's Syndrome.
- In June, we celebrated Armed Forces Day for the first time. In partnership with Wimborne Town Council, we offered the Armed Forces community free museum entry along with a complimentary drink and cake from the Tea Room. The local Royal British Legion attended and had a stall. We hope to continue growing our work with the Armed Forces community in future, as Dorset has one of the highest numbers of any county in the UK.

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Museum Development South West's *Growing Together* programme

- Following the success of last year's Museum Development South West's programme *Travelling Together*, the museum has joined the next stage programme, *Growing Together*. The programme continues to deliver on the positives from last year, with opportunities for sharing across museums and learning from others.
- The museum will receive a £5,000 grant from the programme in 2025/26, which will be used to ensure diversity and demographic data of all our users and beneficiaries are captured. This data will allow us to understand in more detail who currently benefits from our work and who may be missing out, allowing us to target our programmes and projects more effectively and deliver greater social impact.
- The museum's Director has become a project Champion for the new programme, for which the museum received a £500 stipend. This included the delivery of a second session of last year's peer network titled 'Not just ramps and lifts: improving accessibility for busy museums' to a diverse audience of museum staff and volunteers across the southwest region (and beyond).

Holiday and Food Activity sessions

The museum has successfully delivered further Holiday and Food Activity (HAF) sessions, funded by Dorset Council. Two sessions were held over the summer, where children made either a clay sea creature or a flapping seagull puppet. Just before Christmas, we delivered another popular session, the first time we have held a HAF session outside of summer. On this occasion, the children made clay penguins and reindeer with artist Debbie Clarke, participated in a sensory food session with the Friendly Food Club, and were given a hot pizza lunch from Piccolo Mondo. The museum also provided each child with a bag of Christmas presents worth £45, including Lego and Christmas squishies. They could also choose from a selection of second-hand donated books, toys and gift items.



Wimborne Foodbank+



In summer, with funding from Dorset Council's Culture and Community Fund, we created and delivered 40 high-quality art packs to distribute to children via the Foodbank. These packs were extremely popular and included a booklet with art projects inspired by the museum's collection, created by local artist Julie Herring, and free family entry to the museum for a year.

At Christmas, we trialled a present scheme where customers could purchase a gift from the museum's shop to be donated to the Foodbank. 74 individual items were donated in this way, including items purchased from two donations, totalling £145, specifically for this initiative. We intend to continue the scheme next year, starting earlier and with better promotion.

Community Engagement

Wimborne Town of Culture 2026

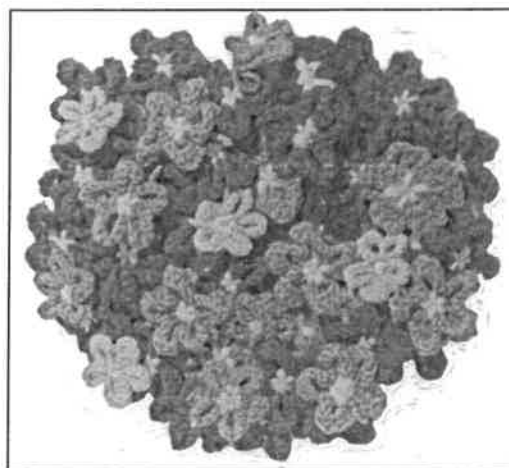
Dorset Town of Culture is county-wide initiative established by the Arts Development Company. The scheme gives a town, village, or hamlet in Dorset the opportunity to deliver a year of 'extraordinary cultural activity'. The winning town receives £30,000 from Dorset Council, which is then match-funded by their Town Council. The museum's Director played a key role in Wimborne's successful bid to become Town of Culture 2026. She acted as the Vice-Chair of the Steering Group and as the Heritage Lead during the preparation of the full application. As part of the bid, she gave a short presentation to the judging panel about the museum's recent access improvements and how the Town of Culture status could encourage further improvements across the town.

Millstream Theatre

Millstream Theatre is a company of Learning disabled/ Neurodiverse actors from East Dorset and beyond who meet to create original productions using storytelling, movement and drama. Saturday morning drama workshops are run at the museum by Tam Gilbert (Persuasion Arts) and Tony Horitz (State of Play Arts), both experienced community theatre practitioners specialising in disability theatre. This year, the members created a new piece, 'In Harmony', which was performed at both the museum and Dorchester Arts. It centres on a group of characters, chosen by members from paintings, as they try to figure out a way to save their favourite local café, which is threatened with closure by Lord Sugar and Karen Brady. The cabaret style piece, which included singing, poetry and magic, received rave reviews and helped raise funds for the group. Four new members joined the group, which goes from strength to strength.

Forget-me-nots

The museum started a new community project to create a spectacular display of knitted and crocheted forget-me-nots for Dementia Action Week in May. So far, we have received thousands of flowers made by local individuals and groups, with some even being sent from as far away as Lancashire and Scotland. The project is being used as an opportunity to promote the museum's dementia programmes. Thanks to a donation from the Pop Up Garden Group, we have been able to provide wool for those who need it.



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Reminiscence and outreach

Reminiscence provides many therapeutic benefits for older people, particularly those living with dementia. It promotes emotional wellbeing, cognitive stimulation and social interaction. The museum offers a range of interactive sessions which are open to all. Members of our award-winning team of experienced volunteers go into the community, visiting day centres, care homes and seniors' clubs as far away as Wareham and St Ives. Around 30 sessions were held in 2024. The use of original objects, photographs, ephemera and music from the museum's collections helps stimulate memories, create sensory experiences and foster meaningful connections. The museum has started adapting the sessions for those who are blind or visually impaired, using scents and tactile objects. These have received great feedback.



"Our wonderful ladies and gents truly enjoyed all the vintage items that you kindly displayed and spoke about. Also, a massive thank you to how you delivered the session; with compassion and understanding around having cognitive impairments. We're very much looking forward to your next visit".

Testimonial from a Care Home Manager.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

Temporary exhibitions

'Rebellion and Revolt' (April - October 2024)

This exhibition, developed in partnership with the English Civil War Society, explored Dorset's turbulent history during the 1640s Civil Wars and 1685 Monmouth Rebellion. The exhibition supported local heritage events, including the English Civil War Society's 'Battle for Wimborne' and the Wimborne Militia's 25th anniversary celebrations. The weekend of the 25th May saw the museum taken over by troops and their families, showcasing Civil War living history. For May half term, we offered families the opportunity to make a free clay mascot, inspired by a 17th-century war dog, with museum entry.

In partnership with Wimborne Militia, renowned British historian Ronald Hutton gave a sell-out talk titled 'Did Monmouth's Rebellion Matter?' exploring the historical significance of the Duke of Monmouth's 1685 rebellion against King James II.

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'I Grew Up 90's' (November 2024 - March 2025)

Building on the success of our Star Wars exhibition last year, this bought-in exhibition from curator Max Fox attracted significant family audiences. The exhibition featured over 200 iconic objects from the 1990s, from Britpop memorabilia to Teletubbies, creating powerful intergenerational conversations between parents and children. We even received national press coverage, featuring in the Telegraph, Express, Daily Star and BBC News online.



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Voice Gallery displays

'The Art of Nic Rawlings and The Paper Cinema' (Autumn/Winter 2024)

As part of the Dorset Museum Association's 'Inspired by Dorset' campaign, this display celebrated local contemporary artist Nic Rawlings and his innovative fusion of art, puppetry, music, and film. The Paper Cinema company, based at Walford Mill in Wimborne, has been entertaining audiences globally for 20 years, and the display gave an insight into Nic's creative process. The Paper Cinema ran a workshop for four groups of children, who created their own movies, designing and making puppets to tell their story and resulting in spectacular productions.



'Wimborne at War' (Spring 2025)

The display, created to mark the 2025 anniversaries of Victory in Europe day and Victory in Japan day, captures the local resilience of the nation during the Second World War. Visitors can see objects, including gas masks and photographs and even a "Mickey Mouse" gas mask for babies. The displays also cover the popular Dig for Victory and Make Do and Mend campaigns, as well as paying tribute to our founder, Hilda Coles, and her military service in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Learning programme

The Learning Team faced exceptional demand for sessions this year. During the year, we recruited and welcomed a new group of new, enthusiastic volunteers. Together, they have played a key role in delivering memorable experiences for the growing number of schools across the region. In total, we had contact with 3,000 children through loan boxes or visits, many of which were repeat schools.

We welcomed three students from local schools on work experience placements this year, and a young volunteer to the Tea Room who was completing their Duke of Edinburgh award. In the coming months, we will be launching our enhanced work experience offer, Youth Action, which was developed in conjunction with Bournemouth and Poole College and a Learning volunteer.

Events

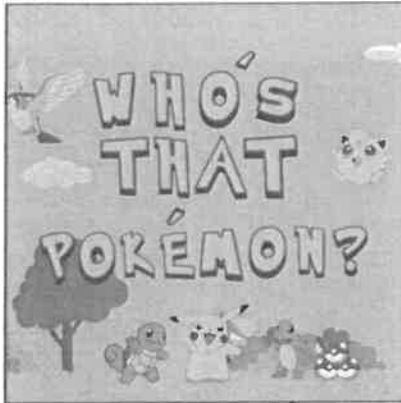
A key strategic decision to transition from one off events to seasonal programming significantly boosted visitor numbers, press coverage and revenue. A diverse array of offerings ranged from educational workshops to fundraising events, all of which contributed to a dynamic and engaging schedule for the local community and visitors.

Seasonal programming

Seasonal programming was a notable success, with school holiday trails from summer onwards offering families a clear reason to return. Trails included summer's 'Pirates, Smugglers and Sandcastles'; the October 'Spooks and Spectres' trail; and 'A Very Dorset Christmas', with the museum decorated for the festive season.

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For February half term, our Pokémon trail was a huge success, resulting in our busiest school holiday to date. Many families brought their children along without telling them what they would be doing so they could surprise them.

The Christmas season was particularly busy. Highlights included the ever-popular Christmas Shopping Evening; our 'Visit Santa' sessions welcomed 106 children into an enhanced grotto; and our first ever Visit Santa for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children. The latter received positive feedback with several families mentioning they had never been able to visit Santa before.

Other events

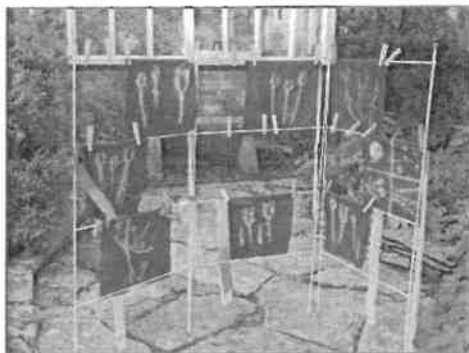
The annual summer fête was a triumph, raising an impressive £1,024 through dedicated volunteer and public support.

A highly anticipated and bespoke Murder Mystery event held in August was a resounding success and saw most guests arriving dressed in 60s-themed attire, making it a truly memorable and well-received experience for all. Created by a local theatre company, the event's narrative was crafted using the rich history of the museum and the surrounding area. All 60 tickets were quickly sold out, and the event achieved the highest-ever bar sales of any event for the museum, taking in £265.

A new partnership was formed with Dorset Rural Music service, with 'Caprice of Fancy', an evening with Violinist, Emma-Marie Kabanova and Guitarist, Colin Thompson. They performed music for classical guitar and violin by Paganini and his early 19th century contemporaries.

In September, the museum's historic house was included in the Dorset Architectural Heritage Week programme.

Workshops



The museum continued to foster community engagement and lifelong learning through its art and craft workshop programme. Existing favourites such as fused glass and mosaic workshops remained extremely popular and new workshops were introduced like Cold Porcelain flowers and the Japanese art of Shibori. The annual Fundraising Quiz sold out, raising a total of £300 through ticket sales and the bar.

Paranormal Investigations

Paranormal visits remained popular in 2024/25, encouraging new audiences to visit the museum.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Collections

Disposal and rationalisation

Significant progress was made in collections disposal, with items from off-site storage at Child Okeford being offered to other museums, and remaining items being sold through a local auctioneer who kindly waived their auction fee. Disposals are a healthy part of collections management, and we follow the ethical disposals procedure set out by the Museums Association.

Conservation projects

In the attic, volunteers continued to work on checking and cleaning items in our costume collection to reduce pest infestations. Up-skilled volunteers have taken on general pest checks for the museum as well as the management of our relative humidity data loggers.

Other activities in Collections include the ongoing digitisation of the museum's photographic archive and the cataloguing of our artefacts and ephemera on Modes, the museum's collections management software.

Information Centre

East Dorset TIC Ltd, managed by the Trust since January 2014, continues to deliver a quality service of local information to both the community and visitors to the area. The service is combined with the main entrance space to the Museum of East Dorset, which also includes the shop and second-hand bookshop both of which are free to enter. Seasonal decorations and more professional window displays have encouraged visitors to browse and purchase goods.

On the day of the Save the Children parade, we had our most successful Christmas period ever for the shop with takings in a single day exceeding £1,000. Providing samples of Dorset Ginger drinks in the run up to Christmas proved particularly successful, with over 25 bottles sold. Other festive initiatives included 3 for 2 on hanging decorations and a 'spend £50, get a free hamper' offer, which encouraged customers to spend more.

A new range of stock for the '*I Grew Up 90's*' exhibition brought colour and fun to the shop.

We started stocking RADAR keys again, which give disabled people access to locked toilets. We also ensure that the shop includes fidget and sensory items for visitors who may like to purchase them.

Second-hand bookshop

The Second-hand Book Team had an outstanding year, generating almost £12,000 for the museum from donated books. Special events included collectables sales and book valuations, supported by volunteer expertise and specialist knowledge. The shop has developed a strong and very loyal customer base.

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Tea Room

The Tea Room is our strongest source of commercial income for the museum, and the staff and volunteers are always ready to greet customers. Outdoor seating has been expanded significantly, with parasols protecting visitors from sun and dog walkers from rain. A trial of locally made sandwiches proved extremely popular, so they have been added to our regular menu. Successful involvement in September's Food Festival, including a talk and tasters, led to excellent sales of over £1,000.

The museum won silver in the hotly contested Café/Restaurant category at the Wimborne Business Awards. We celebrated with an afternoon tea for Tea Room volunteers to thank them for their hard work and commitment.

Garden



Our award-winning Gardening Team continued its exceptional work in maintaining and improving our 100m heritage garden, which always receives such positive feedback from visitors. In 2024/25, they generated £2,691.08, an increase of over £1,100 from last year, from sales of home-grown plants, harvested garden produce and preserves. Their fundraising efforts go towards the upkeep of the garden.

Facilities & compliance

The volunteer Facilities Team has continued to work hard to resolve outstanding health and safety issues and improve compliance issues across the site.

Our 'Green' Team, comprising facilities volunteers, has progressed solar panel investigations, including negotiations with the freeholder, the Governors of Wimborne Minster, and Dorset Council. We are now looking for funding to deliver the project.

Membership scheme

The Trust's existing members have always provided invaluable financial support through their subscriptions and attendance at events. Their support enables key services to be delivered, which enhance the local community and provide real public benefit. Many of our members also support the museum through volunteering, donations, and generously sharing their skills and experience. As some of our biggest advocates locally, members make a real contribution to our work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total revenue income of the Trust was £242,313 (2023/24: £312,555). Due to the difficult economic climate and a reduction in grant income available, the total income is lower than in recent years. The museum team is working hard to focus on activities which generate higher income streams, as well as reducing overheads as far as possible without impacting visitor experience, including staff restructuring.

Grants received included:

- Dorset Council £45,000 (2023/24: £70,000)
From the leisure and tourism team, for cultural development.
- Millstream project £541
Supporting the running of Millstream Theatre, a company of Learning disabled/Neurodiverse adults.
- HAF grant £1,416
Dorset Council funding for Holiday and Food Activity (HAF) sessions over summer and Christmas 2024.
- Community & Culture £1,240 (50% of total grant)
Dorset Council funding to improve inclusion, accessibility and diversity within the museum, including a new sensory shed kitted out to cater for SEND visitors.

The Trust received donations and legacies amounting to £40,698 (2023/24: £32,809). The museum is extremely grateful to the donors for their generous gifts and to all donors, large and small, for their continued support of the museum.

Expenditure on museum activities was £409,414 (2023/24: £471,865).

At the year-end, total unrestricted funds held were £857,663 (2023/24: £930,954). Restricted funds held were £1,225,611 (2023/24: £1,319,422).

Free reserves

Free reserves at the year-end are £66,735 (2023/2024: £289,467). Calculated as unrestricted funds, less designated funds, less fixed assets.

Reserve policy

The Trust aims to maintain unrestricted funds, the free reserves of the Charity, at a level sufficient to ensure that all unrestricted expenditure outstanding at any one time can be met, and to that end in 2023/2024 moved £285K to a designated reserve – this amount has increased to £385K with additional designated funds for new projects as outlined in the strategy. The Trustees thereby have ensured a minimum reserve equal to the estimated fixed costs of running the museum for period of 12 months. A restricted depreciation reserve is in place to cover all future depreciation arising from the result of recent improvements to the premises, following the generous grant for the Revival Project.

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Investment policy

The Trust receives an income on an annual basis through entrance fees, donations, charitable activities and other sources. It budgets to expend all anticipated income, whilst maintaining 12 months' operating expenditure in reserves each year. When the Trust's current accounts exceed £150,000 the additional funds will be transferred into investments, balancing the need for access to working capital. Existing investments remain on deposit at the best rate available with organisations authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority and covered by the Financial Services

Compensation Scheme. This year, we will seek a professional Investment Manager to manage the Trust's investment portfolio and create an action plan. Investments, including type of portfolio, will be made in line with the Museum Association's *Code of Ethics*.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Priest's House Museum Trust is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and is a registered charity. The members of the museum are subscribing members; in the event of the Trust being wound up, the liability of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the Trustees retire by rotation and are elected by members attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Trustees can co-opt to the Board during the year and seek confirmation at the next AGM. When considering the appointment of a trustee, due regard is given to a balance of skills to ensure that the Board has as wide a knowledge base as possible. The Trust operates an open recruitment policy for trustees with advertisements placed both locally and nationally as required. Trustees are interviewed before an appointment is made.

Organisation structure

The Board of Trustees, which comprises a maximum complement of 10, oversees the administration of the charity and its trading subsidiary. The Board meets at least four times a year to discuss strategy, finance and other important aspects of the charity's business. It employs a full-time Director who has responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the museum and reports back to the Board of Trustees. The Board employs other staff, both full-time and part-time who work with a large number of volunteers.

The Board of Trustees has two sub-committees:

Resources Committee – has delegated responsibility to consider a range of financial and human resource issues.

Visitor Services Committee – has delegated responsibility to consider visitor experience and commercial aspects of the museum operations

The sub-committees meet a minimum of four times a year and report back at each Board meeting, recommending proposals for approval.

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Induction of new Trustees

New Trustees will undergo an induction where they will be briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law. They are provided with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, previous Trustee meeting minutes, museum strategy and policy documents, and annual budget and recent financial performance of the Trust. They will meet the Director and other staff members and have a tour of the facility. All Trustees can attend training events which will benefit their roles on the Board.

Key management remuneration

Trustees receive no remuneration for time spent on museum matters. Details of any expenses claimed are set out in the financial statements.

Related parties

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary: East Dorset TIC Limited (Registered Charity number 8809040), which was established on 1 January 2014 to operate the Tourist Information Centre which had previously been operated by East Dorset District Council. East Dorset TIC Limited transfers any surplus achieved in a financial year to the Priest's House Museum Trust.

Following discussions and extensive legal advice on both sides, the Priest's House Museum Trust became the Corporate Trustee of the Priest's House Museum Collections Trust on 31/12/2024. Both Trusts will continue to operate as separate entities.

Risk management

A risk management strategy is being developed by the Board of Trustees as part of the Business Planning process to ensure that all significant risks facing the Trust are identified, and mitigations put in place where appropriate. This will be included in the Business Plan and approved by the Board in autumn 2025. The Trust's risk status will then be reviewed and reported on a regular basis.

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03488337 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1068540

Registered office
23/27 High Street
Wimborne
Dorset BH21 1HR

Trustees
Sara Marshall (Chair)
Sue Cook
Jonathan Greenwood
Vanessa Joseph
Jeremy Mills
David Morgan
Sarah Newman
Mario Roncaglia
Sue Revill (confirmed at AGM on 03/12/2024)

Independent Examiner
Jenifer Richardson FCA, FCCA DChA

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Priest's House Museum Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on17.10.2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Sara L. Marshall
Sara Marshall (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Priest's House Museum Trust

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Priest's House Museum Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Miss JA Richardson FCA FCCA DChA

Date 4th November 2025

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	3	103,280	16,958	120,238
Charitable activities	4	112,631	-	112,631
Investment income	5	9,443	-	9,443
TOTAL		<u>225,354</u>	<u>16,958</u>	<u>242,312</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	6	11,205	8,704	19,910
Charitable activities	7	287,685	101,819	389,504
TOTAL		<u>298,890</u>	<u>110,524</u>	<u>409,414</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/ INCOME		(73,536)	(93,566)	(167,102)
Transfer between funds		245	(245)	-
Net movement in funds		(73,291)	(93,811)	(167,102)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		930,954	1,319,422	2,250,376
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	18	<u>857,663</u>	<u>1,225,611</u>	<u>2,083,274</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	3	125,819	10,270	136,089
Charitable activities	4	171,293	-	171,293
Investment income	5	5,173	-	5,173
TOTAL		<u>302,285</u>	<u>10,270</u>	<u>312,555</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	6	31,973	42,625	74,598
Charitable activities	7	256,000	141,267	397,267
TOTAL		<u>287,973</u>	<u>183,892</u>	<u>471,865</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/ INCOME		14,312	(173,622)	(159,310)
Transfer between funds		(526)	526	-
Net movement in funds		13,786	(173,096)	(159,310)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward			-	-
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		917,168	1,492,518	2,409,686
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	18	<u>930,954</u>	<u>1,319,422</u>	<u>2,250,376</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 17.

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Balance Sheet 31 March 2025
Registered Company Number 05574584

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	13	7,828	1,119,682	1,127,509	1,233,737
Investments	14	100	-	100	495,100
Total fixed assets		7,928	1,119,682	1,127,609	1,728,837
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	73,286	-	73,286	140,409
Investments	16	238,614	-	238,614	-
Cash at bank and in hand		561,967	105,929	667,896	411,158
Total current assets		873,867	105,929	979,796	551,567
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(24,132)	-	(24,132)	(30,028)
Net current assets		849,736	105,929	955,665	521,539
NET ASSETS		857,663	1,225,611	2,083,274	2,250,376
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds		-	1,225,611	1,225,611	1,319,422
Unrestricted funds		857,663	-	857,663	930,954
TOTAL FUNDS	18	857,663	1,225,611	2,083,274	2,250,376

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17.10.2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


Sara Marshall - Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

1 LEGAL FORM / CHARITY STATUS

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in the United Kingdom, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount no exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office and principle place of business is:
23-27 High Street
Wimborne Minster
Dorset
BH21 1HR

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The Priest's House Museum Trust is a registered charity, registration number 1068540, company number 3488337, registered in the United Kingdom. The address of the charity is given in the reference and administrative details in these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described in the Trustees annual report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

Going concern

In the opinion of the board the charity has sufficient working capital to continue to meet its financial obligations and pay its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The board has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted net expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Subsidiary Entity

The East Dorset Tourist Information Centre ("EDTIC") is a fully owned subsidiary of The Priest's House Museum Trust. EDTIC profit of £27,792 (2024: £nil) will be donated to The Priest's House Museum Trust in the subsequent financial period.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released. Government grants include funding from Dorset Council.

A grant that becomes receivable as compensation for expenses already incurred will be recognised in the income and expenditure in the same period in which the related expenditure is incurred.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Charitable activities

Income from charitable activities including subscriptions, sales of donated and purchased goods, fundraising income, catering income, rental income and entrance fees, includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including professional fees, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold buildings and improvements	Over the term of lease
Furniture, fittings and equipment	12.5% straight line basis

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed asset investments

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Investments held as current assets

Current asset investments comprise amounts held with Charity Bank and Flagstone Investments.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds where the resources are set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations from East Dorset TIC	47,755	-	47,755	18,788
Appeals and donations	5,129	10,855	15,984	2,210
Donations from Priest's House Museum Collection Trust	-	-	-	27,342
Legacies	-	-	-	3,257
Gift Aid	5,397	-	5,397	4,223
Grants, including capital grants				
Government grants	45,000	-	45,000	70,000
Grants	-	6,103	6,103	10,270
	103,280	16,958	120,238	136,089

	2025
	£
Restricted Donations and Legacies	
Forge	10,000
MDSW EDI	50
Braille Improvements	475
Pop up garden	380
Restricted Grants	
HAF	1,416
Millstream project	2,827
Culture and Community relaxed	1,860
Unrestricted Grants	
SLA	45,000
	62,008

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Subscriptions	876	876	919
Fundraising income	-	-	-
Catering income	-	-	74,595
Rental income	659	659	15,153
Other income	17,159	17,159	14,547
Disposal of fixed asset	24,277	24,277	-
Entrance fees	69,660	69,660	66,079
	<u>112,631</u>	<u>112,631</u>	<u>171,293</u>

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	9,443	9,443	5,173
	<u>9,443</u>	<u>9,443</u>	<u>5,173</u>

6 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	11,205	8,704	19,910

	Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	31,973	42,625	74,598

7 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Employment costs	169,336	190,553
Rates and water	558	461
Insurance	4,118	4,355
Light and heat	14,082	11,340
Telephone	489	493
Printing, postage and stationery	1,678	2,051
Advertising	20,612	9,573
Sundries	3,414	1,964
Collection costs	5,583	8,982
Repairs and maintenance	16,617	21,174
Trade subscriptions	8,052	9,055
Travel and subsistence	472	969
Management fees	3,010	3,939
Recruitment	2,372	304
Bank charges	2,240	2,719
Legal and professional fees	15,417	19,745
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	103,413	105,706
VAT partial exemption	11,502	220
Governance costs (see note below)	6,539	3,664
	<u>389,504</u>	<u>397,267</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

8 ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted funds General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	6,539	6,539	3,664

The Independent Examination fee of £3,100 (2024: £3,100) is included within accountancy fees.

9 NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Depreciation of fixed assets	103,413	105,706
Independent examiner's fee	3,100	3,664

10 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 STAFF COSTS

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	157,387	176,472
Social security costs	7,152	8,705
Pension costs	4,012	4,540
Other staff costs	785	836
	169,336	190,553

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Employees	8	8

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £74,702 (2024 - £95,781).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12 TAXATION

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Property and Improvements	Tea Room and Office Equipment	Exhibition Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	1,447,666	74,578	300,525	1,822,769
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(6,425)	-	(6,425)
At 31 March 2025	1,447,666	68,153	300,525	1,816,344
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	367,760	62,137	159,136	589,033
Charge for the year	55,936	1,800	45,677	103,413
Eliminated on disposal	-	(3,611)	-	(3,611)
At 31 March 2025	423,696	60,325	204,813	688,835
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	1,023,970	7,828	95,712	1,127,509
At 31 March 2024	1,079,907	12,441	141,389	1,233,737

Heritage assets

The collections managed and recorded by the Museum are held by The Priest's House Museum Collection Trust and details are disclosed in the financial statements of The Priest's House Museum Collection Trust.

14 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Investment properties	-	495,000
Shares in group undertaking and participating interests	100	100
	100	495,100

Investment properties

The Investment property was sold in December 2024 a gain on disposal of £24,276 has been included in the income and expenditure account on page 27.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

14 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (continued)

Shares in group undertakings and participating interests

	Subsidiary undertakings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	100	100
At 31 March 2025	100	100
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	100	100
At 31 March 2024	100	100

15 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,178	2,141
Due from group undertakings	23,283	104,560
Prepayments	2,625	2,755
Accrued income	13,306	7,973
VAT recoverable	-	3,269
Other debtors	32,895	19,710
	73,286	140,409

16 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Charity Bank	86,821	-
Flagstone	151,793	-
	238,614	0

17 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	7,955	5,864
Other creditors	6,525	5,363
Accruals	7,228	11,755
Deferred income	2,424	7,047
	24,132	30,028

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

18 FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	150,954	201,077	(298,890)	21,522	74,663
Designated					
Capability Reserve	285,000	-	-	100,000	385,000
Bequest of property (Charltons)	495,000	24,277	-	(519,277)	-
Operational Efficiency	-	-	-	120,000	120,000
Signage	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Retail Profitability	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Forge Designated Fund	-	-	-	53,000	53,000
Environmental Improvements	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
NLHF Project	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Designated	780,000	-	-	(21,277)	783,000
Total Unrestricted Funds	930,954	201,077	(298,890)	245	857,663
Restricted					
HAF Education Fund	579	1,416	(1,837)	-	158
HLF Revival Dep'n	1,302,991	-	(101,614)	-	1,201,377
Community and Culture	2,500	-	(2,255)	(245)	-
Reminiscence	578	-	(578)	-	-
Toys from the past	730	-	(730)	-	-
Millstream Project	2,044	2,827	(3,252)	-	1,619
Forge	10,000	10,000	-	-	20,000
Culture and Community	-	1,860	(18)	-	1,842
Relaxed Grant	-	380	(50)	-	330
Pop Up Garden Fund	-	475	(190)	-	285
Braille Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	1,319,422	16,958	(110,524)	(245)	1,225,611
TOTAL FUNDS	2,250,376	218,035	(409,414)	-	2,083,274
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	327,168	302,285	(287,973)	(190,526)	150,954
Designated					
Capability Reserve	95,000	-	-	190,000	285,000
Bequest of property (Charltons)	495,000	-	-	-	495,000
Total	590,000	-	-	190,000	780,000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	917,168	302,285	(287,973)	(526)	930,954
Restricted funds					
Education Fund	-	1,440	(861)	-	579
HLF Revival	1,472,228	-	(169,237)	-	1,302,991
Depreciation	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Community and Culture	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Travelling Together	-	1,848	(1,270)	-	578
Reminiscence	-	750	(20)	-	730
Toys from the past	-	1,732	(10,318)	-	2,044
Millstream Project	10,629	-	(187)	-	-
AIM	187	-	-	-	-
Forge	9,474	-	-	526	10,000
Total restricted funds	1,492,518	10,270	(183,893)	526	1,319,422
TOTAL FUNDS	2,409,686	312,555	(471,866)	-	2,250,376

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

18 FUNDS (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted funds:

The New Build Fund including HLF Revival funding represents the net book value of leasehold property and improvements and exhibition fixtures and fittings. The remaining fund will be used for restricted depreciation charges on the assets.

Millstream Project - Supporting the running of Millstream Theatre, a company of Learning Disabled adults.

Dorset Council funding to set up outreach **Reminiscence** sessions in care homes and day centres with trained volunteers

Dorset Council funding for three Holiday and Food Activity (**HAF**) sessions over the summer. Sessions were free for those on benefit related free school meals, and included art workshops and a hot lunch.

Funding from Museum Development South West for a filmed British Sign Language tour of the museum and portable hearing loop system for tours. This was part of the **Travelling Together** programme the museum was part of.

Community and Culture Dorset Council funding to create x40 art packs for children who use Wimborne Food Bank. These will include art supplies and a booklet of art activities inspired by the museum and the collection.

Toys from the Past - Funding from Wimborne Rotary and Wimborne Lions to replace/purchase resources used in learning sessions.

Culture and Community Relaxed Grant - Creating new, bespoke experiences for neurodiverse visitors and others who face barriers to visiting.

Pop Up Garden Fund - Donation to support community engagement work, including a community art piece of knitted and crocheted flowers to raise awareness of dementia and the museum's dementia programmes and activities for low-income families.

Braille Fund - To enhance the experience for blind and visually impaired visitors with new Braille resources and interpretation.

Designated funds:

Bequest of property (**Charltons**) represents the value of a property gifted to the Trust and sold during the year. The funds have been redesignated with £21,277 transferred to general funds and the balance is to be invested for the benefit of the Museum including an increase to the capability reserve and designation to new projects outlined in the Business Plan to be implemented from Autumn 2025.

Capability fund represents funds set aside for the running of the Trust for a period of up to 12 months if exceptional circumstances lead to a significant loss of income.

Operational Efficiency - Projects to increase operational efficiency and/or cost savings.

Signage – Improving the visibility of the museum, especially on the High Street.

Retail Profitability – Support to improve the profitability of the shop which in turn will generate additional income for the charity.

Forge designated– match funding for a planned grant application to reopen, conserve and interpret the historic forge.

Environmental Improvements – Reducing the impact of the museum through a prioritised Environmental Action plan.

NLHF Project – match funding for a planned grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Priest's House Museum Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	7,828	-	1,119,682	1,127,509
Fixed asset investments	100	-	-	100
Current assets	90,867	783,000	105,929	979,796
Current liabilities	(24,132)	-	-	(24,132)
Total net assets	74,663	783,000	1,225,611	2,083,274

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	12,441	-	1,221,296	1,233,737
Fixed asset investments	100	495,000	-	495,100
Current assets	168,441	285,000	98,126	551,567
Current liabilities	(30,028)	-	-	(30,028)
Total net assets	150,954	780,000	1,319,422	2,250,376

20 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

The Priest's House Museum Collection Trust

(A charity with The Priest's House Museum Trust as sole Corporate Trustee)

During the year £nil (2024: £27,342) was received in donations from The Priest's House Museum Collection Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from The Priest's House Museum Collection Trust was £32,895 (2024 - £19,710).

East Dorset TIC

(Subsidiary)

During the year wages recharges of £7,986 (2024: £14,858) were made to East Dorset TIC.

Taxable profits generated from East Dorset TIC of £8,640 (2023: £nil) are donated to The Priest's House Museum Trust in the subsequent financial year. At the balance sheet date the amount due from East Dorset TIC was £23,283 (2024 - £99,582) following repayment of non-current intercompany debt.