



WEYMOUTH MUSEUM



Annual Trust Report 2020-2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year I wrote 'What a year this has been!' Little did I know it would continue in that vein for 2021. However, despite this, a huge amount has been achieved and I think I can justifiably say that despite all difficulties - not just those caused by COVID, the museum has had a successful 2021.

Problems with the status and ownership of the building continued. At the beginning of 2021 the building went up for sale as the previous owners were bankrupt. The wider community latched onto this, and an attempt was made to declare the building a community asset. This failed. An offer was finally accepted for the building from Blakesley Developments but at the date of writing the final contract has not been signed although we are assured it is imminent. The Museum Adviser and I have met with the developer and made our position clear. However, it remains to be seen what the outcome will be and whether the museum agreement will be honoured. In view of all of this the Trustees took the decision to move the collection out of Brewers Quay into safe storage as we cannot risk it in a building site. This is with the total agreement of Dorset Council although the funding issue is unresolved. Currently Tom DeWit is packing up the museum ready for the move into storage. We hope to keep the museum alive through a pop-up shop in the town centre for next year and we are currently submitting an NHLF bid to fund this.

Our visitor numbers increased dramatically. We had 5039 visitors compared with 1834 in the previous year. Much of this increase was the result of the alterations resulting from the successful Heritage Lottery bid and the advertisement of the Museum through the Weymouth Bid and our Operations

Manager. The new window displays have significantly increased public awareness and local traders have expressed their

appreciation of the improved frontage to Brewers Quay. Our thanks to the Nothe Fort for their loan of the Monarch paddle steamer model. The window displays were enhanced by the Friends' contribution of hanging baskets and the new planters in Hope Square. As we reported last year, we advertised for a part time Museum Manager for the summer months to continue our development work. His appointment was a great success. He built good relationships with our volunteers and ensured many of our procedures were totally up to date especially in relation to fire and evacuation procedures.

This year was the 450th anniversary of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis and as a result of a small grant we held Open days where members of the public came to talk about Weymouth in the past and were recorded. This was very successful and the Mayor visited. It was advertised in our big window with the Weymouth 450th logo.

One huge success was the display of part of the Bussell collection at the Shire Hall in Dorchester. Huge thanks go to Abbie King, the Director of the Shire Hall Museum and Laura Gardener, a freelance curator, who put together the most wonderful display of this important part of our collection.

I would like to thank the Trustees of the Museum for their hard work. Our trustee numbers have been further depleted by the appointment of Jon Murden to the Beaulieu Motor Museum, but we are about to embark on a recruitment campaign. I would also like to continue to thank Vicky De Wit. Without her we would be a much weaker organisation. The museum would not open without the volunteers – thank you to all of you. Finally, my thanks to Richard Breward and Phil Wise for producing the statutory accounts for the Trust this year.

Marcia Headon

Chair of Weymouth Museum Trust January 2022

VISITOR SERVICES

YEAR ON YEAR VISITOR NUMBERS AND INCOME	2019	2020	2021
VISITOR NUMBERS – Children & Adults	3096	1834	5039
INCOME			
Shop Sales	1667. 11		
Ticket Sales	4192. 90	3155. 00	7930
Donations	598.3 3	1195. 00	90
TOTAL INCOME	6449. 34	4350. 00	9239.0 0

Due to the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the museum only opened to the public from 15 May 2021. This means we had a much-truncated season. Regulations around transmission meant that secondhand books had to be quarantined if handled. Consequently, very few were sold. However, the new operations manager expanded the goods on offer in the shop, selling sweets, postcards, pens and prints. This generated a good income. Although the exact figures for the shop are included in with the ticket sales as much was bought on card.

Much of this increase was the result of the alterations resulting from the successful Heritage Lottery bid of 2020. The new cashless payment system was very successful although some people continued to prefer dealing in cash.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER - Dan Weiss

This summer has been highly successful for Weymouth Museum. We have had more visitors than in previous summers and this has obviously helped our finances. Much of this was due to the Staycation factor and we have welcomed people from all over Britain. We have introduced more items to our shop with prints and small cards and this has proved very lucrative.

We also had a very successful Open Day when over 700 people came to events in Hope Square organised by the museum around the theme of the seaside which we had developed in one of our windows. Children loved seeing Punch and Judy and

having a ride on the donkeys or throwing sponges at faces in holes.

We also had three days when residents came to bring their memories of Weymouth. It was wonderful to hear Len Guiver aged 97 telling of his youth in Weymouth. These events were part of the event to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the joining of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. As well as this we were very grateful to Weymouth Town Council for funding free entry for local residents for two months. This was very popular, attracting over 500 people.

We have also begun the task of transferring our collection records onto Modes. This will take us some considerable time, but we are being guided by the Modes organisation. In due course all of our volunteers will have training in using Modes.

The Museum closed on 30 October for the 2021 season, but we thank all of our volunteers and those who have visited.

LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE - The enquiries answered

Enquiry no	Month	Subject
1	January	17 Bincleaves Road – history etc
2		27 Bincleaves Road – private school run by the Francombe sisters 1930s
3		Weymouth Breweries
4		Old Rectory House/Vicarage/Penketh House, Longfield Road
5		Shipwrecks off Portland 1860s
6		Location of wreck site of the Abergavenny
7		Weymouth watermen/ferryman 1920s
8		Pulteney Buildings – alterations to some of the buildings
9		“Gay Victorians” dancing club 1940s
10		Paul family and Newfoundland fisheries 19 th cent
11		Location of Burdons Buildings, Seymour Street and Melrose Villas
12	February	Various queries about Sir Henry Edwards MP
13		Nothe Tavern/Royal Canteen
14		Weymouth Sailing Club – club premises Hope Quay/Nothe Parade
15		Bincleaves tram lift
16		Weymouth Pavilion post 1960 images of bar area etc
17		“Georgian Bathing Machine” in Chalker family garden, Newtons Cove
18		Burial place of at Bincombe of executed Hussars 1801
19		Air raid sirens in Weymouth – crematorium particularly
20		Rocket apparatus engraving
21		
22	March	Additional queries about Sir Henry Edwards MP
23		“Scotch Wool Stores” 74 St Thomas Street, 1950s
24		Two views of Weymouth Bay 1791 – identity of artist (William Delamotte)
25		Riviera Hotel, Bowleaze – any images or plans?
26		Plans etc re Nothe Fort
27		Harry Newman of Quiet Place, East Street 20 th cent
28		
29	April	John Pruddah of the Royal Library, Charlotte Row, 1860s
30		28 Greenhill (formerly Gordon Place) history of.
31		Pen and ink sketch by AC Rowe (1890s?) – location? Alice Clay Rowe, daughter of JG Rowe, draper of Weymouth
32		Additional queries on Sir Henry Edwards MP
33		Identifying artist of watercolour view of view of Weymouth sands 1866 – possibly ‘Simpson’
34		Request for photographs of ‘Prinz Phillip’ (Sealink) and ‘Herald of Free Enterprise’ (Townsend

Richard Samways and Maureen Attwool have continued to provide answers to many questions asked by a variety of residents. We thank them for their diligence, research and knowledge.

The Report from the Friends of Weymouth Museum

Annual Accounts 2020- 2021

Income			30/11/2021	30/11/2020
Donations	£90.00			
Sales	£0.00	Bank balance	£32,823.92	£27,768.29
Admission Charges	£7,930.29	Cash	£120.95	£31.33
Friends of Weymouth Museum	£1,000.00			
Dorset Council Grants	£21,097.00	Total cash	£32,944.87	£27,799.62
Weymouth Town Council Grants	£2,000.00			
Nothe	£300.00			
Dorset Museums Association	£500.00			
Information services	£0.00			
Total income	£32,917.29			
Expenditure				
Telephone & Broadband	£711.96			
General administration	£332.63			
Museum Management	£17,204.68			
Part Time Museum Assistants	£1,200.00			
Museums Association	£82.00			
Signage	£325.20			
IT Equipment	£0.00			
Anniversary Celebrations	£1,096.99			
Bank charges	£0.00			
Modes User Association	£1,560.00			
Fire and Security	£4,142.64			
Insurance	£323.36			
ICO subscription	£35.00			
Website renewals	£204.00			
Electrical Work	£643.20			
Conservation materials	£0.00			
Total expenditure	£27,861.66			
Excess of income	£5,055.63			

THE MUSEUM'S LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Trust works with many other organisations. Often people come asking for information and the recent plaques which have appeared on the streets of Weymouth are as a result of information from the Museum. Likewise Dawn Rondeau from Weymouth BID was interested in bolstering the town's appeal for the Weymouth in Bloom event. We came to the agreement to provide historic images of Weymouth for shops in St.Mary and St.Alban street which include the museum's logo and a QR code which directed interested parties straight to us.

We welcome such help we can give and are pleased to be associated with –

Dorset County Council

Weymouth Town Council

Arts Council England

National Heritage Lottery Fund

The Shire Hall Dorchester

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Trust is grateful for grants and donations from

Dorset Council

Friends of Weymouth Museum

Weymouth Town Council

TRUSTEES 2020 -2021

Richard Breward

Laura Gardner

David Harris

Marcia Headon – Chair

Abbie King

Paul Webb

Other officers

Cllr Kate Wheller- representative from Dorset Council

Cllr Brian Heatley- representative from Dorset Council

Vicky De Wit – County Museums Adviser
Geoff Pritchard - Minute Secretary

SHOWCASING OUR WORK

The highlight of this year has been the Bussell Exhibition. in the Shire Hall in Dorchester. Ernest Bussell, a Weymouth ironmonger, was well known in the town as a collection of fine art, china, porcelain and silver. After his death in 1967, Bussell's wife donated his paintings and prints to the Museum. We agreed to loan Shire Hall selected Georgian artworks from the Bussell Collection so they could be displayed. Many of these wonderful paintings and documents have not seen the light of day for over forty years and we were anxious that they should be available to the wider public. Currently at the Museum we do not have the correct temperature control or light conditions to display them. The opening was a huge success and Roger Smith, one of the great nephews of Mr Bussell was present with his wife. Over 3000 people visited and remarks in the visitors' book were highly appreciative, commenting not only on the beautiful paintings but the comprehensive notes and the manner in which they were displayed.

Since the Exhibition closed Mr Smith has offered the museum more of the Bussell family collection. These include paintings of his father Charles' boats, a ledger from one of them detailing all its income and outgoings and the ports visited, and contracts for purchases of shares of the boats.

They will be a valuable addition to the Bussell collection and we look forward to displaying them in our new museum space in the future. .





Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



A view of the Palace of St James, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



A view of the Palace of St James, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

THE GEORGIAN ERA

THE GEORGIAN ERA WAS A PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE. IN SHORT, THE COUNTRY WAS CHANGED BY THE ARRIVAL OF A ROYAL VISITOR AND A NEW BELIEF IN THE RESTORATIVE PROPERTIES OF THE SEA.



Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

The Georgian era is a period of British history during which four Kings of various lineages, each with their own style, reigned. The first, George I, was crowned in 1714, and the reign of the last King, George IV, ended in 1830. George II also reigned during the Georgian period, from 1727 to 1760, when he was succeeded by his son, George III. The Georgian era is named after the four Georges who reigned in succession from 1714 to 1830.

It was a time of great change and innovation, both in the arts and in the sciences. The Georgian era was a period of great cultural and intellectual achievement, and it was during this time that many of the great works of British literature and art were created. The Georgian era was also a time of great social and political change, and it was during this time that many of the great reforms of the British constitution were enacted.



Portrait of a young George II, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



A view of the Palace of St James, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



A view of the Palace of St James, c.1725-1730. The painting is by Sir Godfrey Kneller.





Weymouth Museum Trust

Income & Expenditure Account from 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021

Income

		30/11/2021	30/11/2020
Donations	£179.62		
Sales	£0.00		
Admission Charges	£7,930.29	Bank balance	£32,823.92
Friends of Weymouth Museum	£1,000.00	Cash	£120.95
Dorset Council Grants	£21,097.00		
Weymouth Town Council Grants	£2,000.00	Total cash	£32,944.87
Nothe	£300.00		
Dorset Museums Association	£500.00		
Information services	£0.00		
Total Income			£27,799.62
	£32,917.29		

Expenditure

Telephone & Broadband	£711.96	
General administration	£132.66	
Collections Management	£199.97	£132.66
Museum Management	£17,204.68	
Part Time Museum Assistants	£1,200.00	
Museums Association	£82.00	
Signage	£325.20	
IT Equipment	£0.00	
Anniversary Celebrations	£1,096.99	
Bank charges	£0.00	
Modes User Association	£1,560.00	
Fire and Security	£4,142.64	
Insurance	£323.36	
ICO subscription	£35.00	
Website renewals	£204.00	
Electrical Work	£643.20	
Conservation materials	£0.00	
Total expenditure		£27,861.86

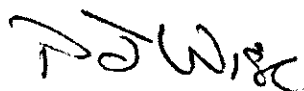
Net Surplus/(Deficit) £5,055.63

Account Balance b/f £27,799.62
Account Balance c/f £32,944.87



Richard W Breward
Honorary Treasurer

21 Jan 2022



Philip Wise
Independent Examiner

21 Jan 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the
trustees/ members
of**

Charity Name
Weymouth Museum Trust

**On accounts for the
year ended**

30th November 2021

**Charity
no (if
any)**

1143692

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **30/11/2021**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: P J Wise

Date: 21st January 2022

Name: Philip John Wise

**Relevant
professional**

**qualification(s) or
body (if any):**

--

Address:

Hanover House

94 The Esplanade

Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7AT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.