

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales · Charity number 1152493

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-06-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address c/o Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service
40 Heckworth Close
Colchester
CO4 9TB

Phone 07950776691

Email philip.wise@colchester.gov.uk

Website museums-essex.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION, TO ADVANCE THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CHARITABLE MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS AND THE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES BY CHARITABLE AND NON CHARITABLE MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BY:(A) PROMOTING THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF WORK AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS;(B) SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE WORKING IN, AND SUPPORTING, MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS;(C) ENCOURAGING PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS;(D) ACTING AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS TO OTHER BODIES; AND BY(E) MAKING GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS.

Activities: Museums Essex supports museums, galleries and heritage organisations deliver cultural and learning excellence in Essex. Its principal activities are: co-funding and supporting the Museum Development Officer to provide advice, Accreditation support and advocacy for archives, museums and galleries in Essex; four thematic networking meetings a year in heritage venues and a small grants programme.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£9,002	£5,652	-	-
2024-03-31	£6,389	£6,525	-	-
2023-03-31	£3,833	£2,461	-	-
2022-03-31	£6,447	£16,559	-	-
2021-03-31	£1,634	£1,622	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Polly Jane Redman	Chair	2020-03-06
Dr Mark Edward Curteis		2023-11-21
Dr Sarah Demelo		2019-02-01
GORDON ISON CUMMINGS		2013-03-15
Pauline Victoria Skerritt		2024-09-06
Philip John Wise MA FSA AMA		2014-07-18
Robert Lee Sharp		2022-12-02
Sarah Sinka		2025-06-06

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1152493

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2024/25

AGM 6 June 2025

This is the first year of the new arrangements for the delivery of museum development in Essex following the ending of the hosting of the Essex Museum Development Officer (MDO) post by Colchester City Council, through Colchester and Ipswich Museums, in March 2024. Despite the transfer of the Essex MDO Sarah Sinka to Museum Development South East (MDSE) close contact has been maintained with Museums Essex. As your chair, I have met regularly with Sarah and been kept up to date with developments in the county's museums.

During the last year Sarah has continued to establish links between the MDO and museums and heritage sites in Essex, having visited over 20 museums to meet staff, see the venue and provide support as needed.

I have been fortunate to be able to visit the following museums for various exhibitions and events during the year: the Fry Art Gallery, Museum of Chelmsford, Braintree Museum, the Munnings Art Museum and Frinton and Walton Museum. It has been both pleasurable and informative to see how much good work is going on in the county.

One of the key tasks of the MDO is providing advice relating to Accreditation, whether to those considering becoming Accredited museums or those in the process of submitting an Accreditation return. During the year, two members have successfully retained their Accredited Museum status; Saffron Walden Museum and the Museum of Chelmsford. Both are to be congratulated on their success. The Southend Pier Museum has submitted their Accreditation return in the last month and are waiting to be assessed.

There have been four members's meetings of Museums Essex during the year: at the Museum of Power (AGM), the Fry Art Gallery (Saffron Walden), Epping Forest District Museum and online. The charity's trustees have met on two occasions in 2024 online and in January 2025 in person at Braintree District Museum. Pauline Skerritt joined the trustees during the year.

Our membership is holding very steady and is currently at 52 organisations covering 69 sites. It is more than double the figure of five years ago.

The charity's finances continue to be in a very healthy state thanks to the prudent management of our treasurer Gordon Cummings. As a result the decision has been taken to create a Museums Essex Special Fund to which members have the opportunity to apply for financial assistance outside the normal small grants scheme in exceptional circumstances. I must add that I am very grateful to Martin Gruselle for acting as the charity's independent examiner for several years.

During the year Museums Essex funded the 'Wheels of Time' project to assess the likely take up of this initiative designed to raise awareness of local history and heritage amongst children aged 5 to 11 through earning badges by visiting museums. The scheme originally began in Kent in 2015 and is now spreading to other English counties. Nineteen Essex museums signed up to the scheme which was formally launched at an event at Brightlingsea Museum in June 2024. 'Wheels of Time'

was judged a success but there are capacity issues in continuing it into a second year and the trustees have decided to pause involvement in the scheme for now.

The Essex Museum Development newsletter was discontinued during the year but members continue to receive regular emails and social media posts from MDSE to ensure that the county's museums receive up to date information on the latest developments in the museum sector. The Museums Essex website at museums-essex.org contains sections on membership, individual members, the Small Grants Scheme, case studies and contacts. Further contributions from members are always welcome.

Museums Essex occasionally provides training sessions for members and at our March meeting we had a presentation on museum security from Stephen Armson-Smith followed by a tour of Epping Forest District Museum.

A twelfth round of the Small Grants Scheme was opened during the year with a focus on income generation, in response to a request from the membership. This resulted in the largest number of applications to the scheme that we have ever had. Grants were made to nine museums: Harwich Museum, Maldon Museum in the Park, Southend Museum, Frinton & Walton Museum, Museum of Power, Southend Pier Museum, St Osyth Museum, the Munnings Art Museum and Brightlingsea Museum. The grant programme has continued to be managed by a Sub-Committee chaired by Phillip Wise (CIMS) supported by Dr Mark Curteis (ex. Museum of Chelmsford) and Dr Sarah Demelo (University of Essex) whose institutions are not eligible for grants whilst on the Sub-Committee. Museums Essex continues to believe these grants are an important benefit for its members and it is intended that a further round will be launched in the Autumn of 2025.

Just before Christmas we learnt of the Government's plans for devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, followed in February 2025 with confirmation that Greater Essex, comprising the local authority areas of Essex Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council, had been accepted into the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. Museums Essex is very concerned that the social, educational and economic benefits of museums, galleries and heritage organisations within Essex may not be considered in the creation of the successor local authorities. As a result, insufficient funding and other resources may be allocated to the provision of museum services within those new authorities. In response to this initiative, an open tender process for a consultant to undertake a survey of Essex museums was held and I am delighted to announce that Dr Harriet Foster has been appointed.

Archaeological archives continue to be a challenging topic for some member museums. Museums Essex have set up an informal archaeological network (MEAAN – Museums Essex Archaeological Archives Network), including a representative from Essex County Council's Place Services team, to share information and continue to seek a way forward. The need for a collaborative approach has become even more pressing as a result of the Government's plans for local government reorganisation in Essex.

I am very grateful to Sarah Sinka for providing administrative support to Museums Essex, including preparing the agendas, producing the minutes and technical support during our online meetings. This assistance is much appreciated and has ensured that things have run smoothly during the year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution to the work of the charity: the Vice-chair Dr Sarah Demelo, the Treasurer Gordon Cummings, Rob Sharp, Pauline Skerritt, Polly Redman and Dr Mark Curteis.

Looking ahead to the coming year, Museums Essex aims to continue to support and develop membership benefits through an affordable fee based on income; support museum development in Essex, including working in close collaboration with the MDSE team and the Essex MDO; provide

advocacy for the heritage sector of Essex in partnership with MDSE; provide a Small Grants Scheme; enable free membership of the Harwell Disaster Recovery Service for small and medium-sized museums; create opportunities for networking and provide Inspirational case studies of museum development at our meetings, whether virtual or at member museums.

Finally, I am standing down as your Chair at this AGM. I have been involved with Museums Essex and its predecessors, the Essex Museum Workers Group (EMWG) and the Museums in Essex Committee (MIEC), for well over twenty-five years. Indeed one of the very first things that I did when arriving in Essex in September 1998 was to attend a meeting of EMWG at Braintree Town Hall. Over the years I have been very fortunate to work alongside many excellent museum colleagues on committees and visit most, but not quite all, of the museums in the county. It has been a very rewarding and stimulating experience and has contributed very greatly to the enjoyment that I have had whilst working at Colchester. However, the time has now come for me to move on as I prepare to retire from professional work and I am delighted that Polly Redman has agreed to be nominated as my successor. I am confident that Polly will be an excellent chair and I know that you will support her in the same splendid way that you have supported me.

Philip J Wise MA (Cantab) FSA MCIFA AMA
Chair: Museums Essex

Museums Essex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number: 1152493



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MUSEUMS ESSEX

1152493

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April 2024 01/04/2024	To	31st March 2025 31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	5,895	-	-	5,895	4,410
Interest	3,107	-	-	3,107	1,979
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,002	-	-	9,002	6,389
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,002	-	-	9,002	6,389
A3 Payments					
AIM Conference	-	-	-	-	338
Harwell Recovery	2,030	-	-	2,030	1,980
Meetings	79	-	-	79	28
Postage	65	-	-	65	54
Website costs	61	-	-	61	167
Small Grants Round 10	-	-	-	-	1,326
Small Grants Round 11	-	3,417	-	3,417	2,200
Wheels of Time Project	-	-	-	-	432
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,235	3,417	-	5,652	6,525
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,235	3,417	-	5,652	6,525
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,767	- 3,417	-	3,350	- 136
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60,746	-	-	60,746	60,882
Cash funds this year end	67,513	- 3,417	-	64,096	60,746

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co-op Bank Current Acco8nt	4,096		
	HampshireTrust Bank Easy Access a/c	5,000		-
	Hampshire Trust Bank Fixed Deposit	55,000		
	Total cash funds	64,096	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1152493

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2023/24

AGM 7 June 2024

This is the fourth, and final, year in which the Essex Museum Development Officer post has been hosted by Colchester City Council, through Colchester and Ipswich Museums, with support from Museums Essex and SHARE Museums East. Funding for the current hosting arrangement ended on 31 March 2024 after which the Essex MDO will be managed by a new organisation Museum Development South East (MDSE) based in Norwich. Your chair was heavily involved in the complex and lengthy negotiations around the new delivery arrangements for museum delivery in the county, ensuring that the interests of Museums Essex were taken into consideration. It is exceedingly good to be able to report to the AGM that it has been possible to retain Sarah Sinka as our MDO, ensuring continuity in this vital role for Essex museums.

During the last year Sarah has continued to establish links between the MDO and museums and heritage sites in Essex, having visited over 50 museums to meet staff, see the venue and provide support as needed. Visits have also been made by the chair in recent months to the University of Essex, Braintree Museum, St Osyth Museum and Manningtree Museum. Two letters have been sent to The National Lottery Heritage Fund in support of funding applications by two of our members.

One of the key tasks of the MDO is providing advice relating to Accreditation, whether to those considering becoming Accredited museums or those in the process of submitting an Accreditation return. During the year, several members have become Accredited including, for the first time, the Brewster Centre at Colne Valley Railway and, after a lapse of several years, Harlow Museum and Walled Garden. The Essex Police Museum, Braintree District Museum, the Warner Textile Archive, Brentwood Museum and Burnham-on-Crouch & District Museum have also achieved Full Accreditation and all are to be congratulated on their success.

There have been four members' meetings of Museums Essex during the year; at Copped Hall (AGM), Brightlingsea Museum, Southend Museum and online. The charity's trustees have met on two occasions in May and November. Dr Mark Curteis joined the trustees during the year.

Our membership is holding very steady and is currently at 53 organisations covering 69 sites. It is more than double the figure of five years ago.

Following Museums Essex becoming a member of the Association for Independent Museums in 2022, we again supported the Essex MDO's attendance at the AIM annual conference which was held in Edinburgh in June 2023.

During the year Museums Essex have funded the introduction of the 'Wheels of Time' project in Essex. This is an initiative to raise awareness of local history and heritage amongst children aged 5 to 11 through earning badges by visiting museums. The scheme originally began in Kent in 2015 and is now spreading to other English counties. Nineteen Essex museums have already signed up to the scheme which will be formally launched at an event at Brightlingsea Museum in June 2024.

The Essex Museum Development newsletter is supported by regular emails and social media activity to ensure that the county's museums receive up to date information on the latest

developments in the museum sector. The Museums Essex website at museums-essex.org contains sections on membership, individual members, the Grants Scheme, case studies and contacts. Further contributions from members are always welcome.

An eleventh round of the Small Grants Scheme was opened during the year with a focus on interpretation, learning and events. This round attracted the largest number of applications for several years. Grants were made to Chelmsford Museum, Ingatestone Museum, Ongar Millenium History Society, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and Boxted Airfield Museum. The grant programme has continued to be managed by a Sub-Committee chaired by Philip Wise supported by Carolyn Wingfield (Saffron Walden Museum) and Dr Sarah Demelo (University of Essex) whose institutions are not eligible for grants whilst on the Sub-Committee. Museums Essex continues to believe these grants are an important benefit for its members and it is intended that a further round will be launched in the Autumn of 2024

During the year, the trustees took the decision to raise subscriptions by a small amount in recognition of the fact that there had been no rise since Museums Essex was established ten years ago. The charity's costs have increased recently, particularly our membership of Harwell which has doubled in the last 12 months. Subscription rates will be kept under review both to ensure that the fairest possible banding is used and also that we continue to broadly raise enough income to cover our running costs.

I am very grateful to Sarah Sinka for providing administrative support to Museums Essex, including preparing the agendas, producing the minutes and technical support during our online meetings. This assistance is much appreciated and has ensured that things have run smoothly during the year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution to the work of the charity: the Vice-chair Dr Sarah Demelo, the Treasurer Gordon Cummings, Rob Sharp, Carolyn Wingfield, Polly Redman and Dr Mark Curteis. I would particularly like to thank Carolyn Wingfield who is stepping down at this AGM after many years of service on the committee. Carolyn has made a very significant contribution to Museums Essex, in particular as a member of the Small Grants Sub-Committee and in relation to archaeological archives including our guidelines for the preparation and deposition of archaeological archives in the county. We are also very dependent upon the ongoing support of Jamie Everitt (formerly SHARE Museums East, now MDSE) and Dr Frank Hargrave (Colchester and Ipswich Museums) to whom I am very grateful.

Looking ahead to the coming year, Museums Essex aims to continue to support and develop membership benefits through an affordable fee based on income; participate fully in the new delivery mechanism for museum development in Essex, including working in close collaboration with the MDSE team and the Essex MDO; continue to support the 'Wheels of Time' project in the county; provide advocacy for the heritage sector of Essex in partnership with MDSE; provide a Small Grants Scheme; enable free membership of the Harwell Disaster Recovery Service for small and medium-sized museums; create opportunities for networking and provide inspirational case studies of museum development at our meetings, whether virtual or at member museums.

Finally, I am planning to stand down as your Chair at the 2025 AGM and will be seeking, in conjunction with my fellow trustees, a successor during the coming year.

Philip J Wise MA (Cantab) FSA MCIfA AMA
Chair: Museums Essex

Museums Essex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number: 1152493
and a member of the Association for Independent Museums, membership number 4738



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	4,410	-	-	4,410	3,400
Interest	1,879	-	-	1,879	479
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	6,389	-	-	6,389	3,879
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,389	-	-	6,389	3,879
A3 Payments					
AIM Conference	338	-	-	338	284
Harwell	1,880	-	-	1,880	1,014
Meetings	28	-	-	28	111
Training	-	-	-	-	400
Postage	54	-	-	54	11
Website Costs	167	-	-	167	41
Small Grants Round 8	-	-	-	-	600
Small Grants Round 10	1,328	-	-	1,328	-
Small Grants Round 11	2,200	-	-	2,200	-
MDO Post Advertisement	-	-	-	-	50
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	70
Wheels of Time Project	432	-	-	432	-
<i>Sub total</i>	6,525	-	-	6,525	2,461
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,525	-	-	6,525	2,461
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 136	-	-	- 136	1,418
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60,882	-	-	60,882	59,464
Cash funds this year end	60,746	-	-	60,746	60,882

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co-op Bank Current Account	359	-	-
	Hampshire Trust Bank	60,391	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	60,748	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

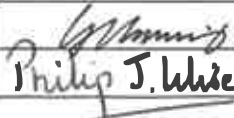
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G.I. CUMMINGS PHILIP J. WISE	29/7/24 5/8/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Museums Essex

I report on the accounts of Museums Essex for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Museum's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Museum's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Martin Gruselle FCA 25 Barley Road Great Chishill Royston SG8 8SB

29 July 2024

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1152493

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2022/23

AGM 2 June 2023

This is the third year in which the Essex Museum Development Officer post has been hosted by Colchester City Council, through Colchester and Ipswich Museums, with support from Museums Essex and SHARE Museums East. Funding for the current hosting arrangement ends on 31 March 2024 after museum development teams were granted an extension year by Arts Council England. SHARE will be submitting a joint bid to merge with the South East Museum development team (based in Brighton & Hove Museums), to manage delivery of the museum development programme across the entire East/South East region (with the exception of London). This fits in with ACE's five England regions as opposed to the current museum development structure of nine. Museums Essex has contributed to the ongoing consultation work in relation to the new delivery arrangements for museum development in the region, including hosting a members' forum at Colchester Castle on 21 April.

During the year Beth Wilkey resigned as MDO, leaving us in October 2022, and was replaced by Sarah Sinka, previously at London's Horniman Museum, in February 2023. During her time in post Beth made a major contribution to supporting the county's museums, revitalising museum development in Essex. I am very grateful to Beth for her work on behalf of Museums Essex and for her support of me personally.

Over last summer Beth Wilkey continued to establish links between the MDO and museums and heritage sites in Essex, visiting eight museums to meet staff, see the venue and provide support as needed. This work has been continued by the new Essex MDO Sarah who visited ten museums in the weeks immediately after starting in post. Visits have also been made by the chair in recent months to Braintree Museum, Brightlingsea Museum, Frinton and Walton Museum and Maldon Museum in the Park.

One of the key tasks of the MDO is providing advice relating to Accreditation, whether to those considering becoming Accredited museums or those in the process of submitting an Accreditation return. During the year, our members Brightlingsea Museum, Mersea Island Museum and Southend Museums achieved Full Accreditation and are to be congratulated on their success. As well as promoting training organised by SHARE Museums East and other organisations, Museums Essex occasionally puts on its own sessions, including in September 2022 a seminar on museums ethics given by the charity's chair Philip Wise.

Museums Essex has sought to strengthen its links with Essex County Council during the year at both councillor and office level. In particular an online meeting was held with Cllr Graham Butland, the Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Business, his deputy Cllr Mark Durham and Erica Gilson, Business Development Manager, at which it was agreed that we would seek to collaborate as the opportunity arose in the future as well as continuing to keep in regular contact.

Following Museums Essex becoming a member of the Association for Independent Museums in the previous year Beth Wilkey attended the AIM conference at Port Sunlight in June 2022. We have also had an online meeting with AIM to discuss funding opportunities and Sarah will be attending the forthcoming AIM conference in Edinburgh.

Museums Essex has actively participated in a study into the county's archaeological archives led by Essex County Council Place Services with financial support from Highways England – The Essex Archaeological Archives and Museum Project. Several members contributed to the project report published in March 2023 which provides a basis for further discussion of this very important area of collections management.

The Essex Museum Development newsletter is supported by regular emails and social media activity to ensure that the county's museums receive up to date information on the latest developments in the museum sector. The Museums Essex website at museums-essex.org contains sections on membership, individual members, the Grants Scheme, case studies and contacts. Further contributions from members are always welcome.

A tenth round of the Small Grants Scheme was opened during the year with a focus on infrastructure. Grants were made to Maldon Museum in the Park, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and Earls Colne Heritage Museum. The grant programme has continued to be managed by a Sub-Committee chaired by Philip Wise supported by Carolyn Wingfield (Saffron Walden Museum) and Caroline Pantling (Scouts Association) whose institutions are not eligible for grants whilst on the Sub-Committee. Museums Essex continues to believe these grants are an important benefit for its members and it is intended that a further round will be launched in the Autumn of 2023.

In 2022/23 we welcomed four new members: Earls Colne Heritage Museum, Tiptree Jam Museum, Bata Heritage Centre and Harlow Art Trust. This takes the current membership to fifty. We will continue to recruit new members as the opportunity arises and via regular campaigns.

I am very grateful to Beth Wilkey and Sarah Sinka for providing administrative support to Museums Essex, including preparing the agendas, producing the minutes and technical support during our online meetings. This assistance is much appreciated and has ensured that things have run smoothly during the year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution to the work of the charity: the Vice-chair Caroline Pantling, the Treasurer Gordon Cummings, Rob Sharp, Nick Wickenden, Carolyn Wingfield, Polly Redman and Dr Sarah Demelo. I would particularly like to thank Nick Wickenden and Caroline Pantling who are both stepping down at this AGM. Nick has served the museum community for many years as the treasurer of both the Essex Museum Workers Group and its successor Museums Essex, and is a founder trustee. Caroline has served for several years as the charity's vice-chair and has taken a leading role in the Small Grants Sub-Committee. We are also very dependent upon the ongoing support of Jamie Everitt (SHARE Museums East) and Dr Frank Hargrave (Colchester and Ipswich Museums) to whom I am very grateful. Martin Gruselle has kindly undertaken the examination of the Accounts over several years.

Looking ahead to 2024, Museums Essex aims to continue to support and develop membership benefits through an affordable fee based on income; participate fully in the delivery mechanism for museum development in Essex including the funding of the Museum Development Officer post; continue to support learning activity at the county's museums; provide advocacy for the heritage sector of Essex in partnership with SHARE Museums East and its successor body; provide a Small Grants Scheme; enable free membership of the Harwell Disaster Recovery Service for small and medium-sized museums; create opportunities for networking and provide inspirational case studies of museum development at our meetings, whether virtual or at member museums.

Philip J Wise MA (Cantab) FSA MCIfA AMA
Chair: Museums Essex

Museums Essex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number: 1152493
and a member of the Association for Independent Museums, membership number 4738

MUSEUMS ESSEX

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNTS 1st April 2022 - 31/3/ 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
Subscriptions	£3,400		£3,400	£125
Interest	£433		£433	£1,508
Share Grant				
Total Receipts	£3,833		£3,833	£1,633
AIM Conference	(£264)		(£264)	
Harwell	(£1,014)		(£1,014)	(£810)
Meetings	(£111)		(£111)	(£810)
Postage	(£11)		(£11)	
Training		(£400)	(£400)	(£400)
Website costs	(£41)		(£41)	(£12)
Smal Grants Round 8		(£500)	(£500)	(£400)
MDO Post Advt	(£50)		(£50)	
Colchester Dstict Council - Salary contribution				
Subscriptions	(£70)		(£70)	
Total Payments	(£1,561)	(£900)	(£2,461)	(£2,432)
Net of receipts/payments	£2,272	(£900)	£1,372	(£799)
Cash funds last year end	£56,249	£3,214	£59,463	
Cash funds at 31-3-23	£58,521	£2,314	£60,835	

Represented by:	Co-op Bank Current Account	£2,962
	Virgin Money	£7,440
	Hampshire Trust Bank	£50,433
	Total Funds	£60,835

Philip J. Lurie

Chairman
2/6/2023

W. Brown

Treasurer

2/6/2023

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1152493

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2021/22

AGM 10 June 2022

This is the second year in which the Essex Museum Development Officer post has been hosted by Colchester Borough Council, through Colchester and Ipswich Museums, with support from Museums Essex and SHARE Museums East. The postholder continues to be Beth Wilkey who has again made a major contribution to supporting the county's museums this year. This hosting arrangement was due to finish at the end of the financial year 2022/2023 but, following an extension of Arts Council England funding to SHARE, will now remain in place until 31 March 2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the county's museums for much of the period covered by this report. Although museums were able to reopen on 12 April 2021, various restrictions remained in place for many months and the surge in Omicron BA2 variant cases in February-March 2022 undoubtedly impacted visitor figures. As a result many museums in the county will have continued to face significant financial difficulties and several were successful in receiving SHARE/Art Fund recovery grants.

Beth Wilkey has continued to establish links with museums and heritage sites in Essex, visiting twenty-eight museums during the year to meet staff, see the venue and provide support as needed. Her work has included promoting diversity in museums and a number of Essex museums have participated in AIM's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programme and SHARE training. Decolonisation has also been a theme in 2021/22 and Beth has provided support to Epping Forest District Museum, who are embarking on a decolonisation project through an ACE Project Grant, and organised a decolonisation and inclusive narratives training session for Essex museums with Inbal Livne from the Powell-Cotton Museum. Other areas of activity include volunteer and workforce development and support, with several Essex museums benefitting from an external consultant, accessibility, a training session in September 2021 on disability access led by Jo Gillam was attended by ten Essex museums, and organisational health checks, with ten Essex museums using the toolkit. Lastly, Beth has continued to support museums who are converting from being an unincorporated organisations to Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) and it is good to record that five museums have made this transition during the year.

The Heritage Engagement and Learning Group met in October 2021 and January 2022. The October meeting looked at marketing and communications, and some formal training from Christina Lister was delivered. The January meeting was focused around supporting school groups to have successful museum visits, behaviour management and understanding children with additional needs.

The Essex Museum Development newsletter is supported by regular emails and social media activity to ensure that the county's museums receive up to date information on the latest developments in the museum sector. The Museums Essex website at museums-essex.org contains sections on membership, individual members, the Grants Scheme, case studies and contacts. Further contributions from members are always welcome.

The eighth round of the Small Grants Scheme was concluded during the year with a grant to Jaywick Martello Tower and awards under a ninth round for collections care and management

related work were made to Maldon Museum in the Park, Mersea Island Museum, Braintree Museum, Thaxted Windmill and the Fry Art Gallery. The grant programme has continued to be managed by a Sub-Committee chaired by Philip Wise supported by Tony O'Connor (Epping Forest District Museum) and Caroline Pantling (Scouts Association) whose institutions are not eligible for grants whilst on the Sub-Committee. Museums Essex continues to believe these grants are an important benefit for its members and it is intended that a further round will be launched in the coming financial year.

Museums Essex will make representations on behalf of its members as the need arises. This year we wrote to Thurrock Council expressing concern about the future of Thurrock Museum and offered advice. An online meeting with a senior officer at the Council took place and we continue to observe the situation.

In 2021/22 we welcomed four new members: St Osyth Museum, Harwich Museum, Boxted Airfield Museum and Wivenhoe Museum, with the latter two re-joining after several years' absence. This takes the current membership to forty-eight. We will continue to recruit new members as the opportunity arise and via regular campaigns.

During the year Museums Essex has for the first time become a member of the Association for Independent Museums and we look forward to the benefits of membership including reduced price attendance at the AIM annual conference.

I am very grateful to Beth Wilkey for providing administrative support to Museums Essex, including preparing the agendas, producing the minutes and technical support during our online meetings. This assistance is much appreciated and has ensured that things have run smoothly during the year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution to the work of the charity: Gordon Cummings, Tony O'Connor, Caroline Pantling, Nick Wickenden, Carolyn Wingfield, Polly Redman and Dr Sarah Demelo. I would particularly like to thank Tony O'Connor who is stepping down at this AGM for his many years of service as a trustee of Museums Essex and his contribution to museums in the region more generally, including as a past chair of Museums East of England. In addition I am grateful to Terry Joyce for his support in relation to our website. We are also very dependent upon the support of Jamie Everitt (SHARE Museums East) and Dr Frank Hargrave (Colchester and Ipswich Museums) to whom I am very grateful. Martin Gruselle has kindly undertaken the examination of the Accounts over several years.

Looking ahead to 2022, Museums Essex aims to continue to support and develop membership benefits through an affordable fee based on income; participate fully in the delivery mechanism for museum development in Essex including the funding of the Museum Development Officer post; continue to support the Heritage Engagement and Learning Group, provide advocacy for the heritage sector of Essex in partnership with SHARE Museums East; provide a Small Grants Scheme; enable free membership of the Harwell Disaster Recovery Service for small and medium-sized museums; create opportunities for networking and provide inspirational case studies of museum development at our meetings, whether virtual or at member museums.

Philip J Wise MA (Cantab) FSA MCIfA AMA
Chair: Museums Essex

Museums Essex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number: 1152493 and a member of the Association for Independent Museums, membership number 4738



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 06-Aprl-21	Period end date 05-Aprl-2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	£3,800		£3,800	£125
Interest	£147		£147	£1,509
SHARE Training Grant		£2,000	£2,000	
Donations	£500		£500	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	£4,447	£2,000	£6,447	£1,634
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
Sub total				
Total receipts	£4,447	£2,000	£6,447	£1,634
A3 Payments				
Training grant costs		(£2,000)	(£2,000)	(£400)
Harwell	(£834)		(£834)	(£810)
Training Scheme costs	(£500)		(£500)	
Website costs	(£272)		(£272)	(£12)
Smal Grants Round 8		(£1,500)	(£1,500)	(£400)
Small Grants Round 9		(£2,253)	(£2,253)	
Colchester Dstict Council - Salary contribution	(£9,200)		(£9,200)	
Sub total	(£10,806)	(£5,753)	(£16,559)	(£1,622)
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Sub total				

Total payments	(£10,806)	(£5,753)	(£16,559)	(£1,622)
Net of receipts/(payments)	(£6,359)	(£3,753)	(£10,112)	£12
A5 Transfers between funds	(£539)	£539		
A6 Cash funds last year end	£66,361	£3,214	£69,575	£69,563
Cash funds this year end	£59,463	£ -	£59,463	£69,575


Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	
		to nearest £		to nearest £	
B1 Cash funds	Co-operative Bank Current Account	£2,022			
	Virgin Money	£17,441			
	Hampshire Trust Bank	£40,000			
	Total cash funds	£59,463			
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
		Restricted funds		Endowment funds	
		to nearest £		to nearest £	
B2 Other monetary assets					
B3 Investment assets		Cost (optional)		Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Cost (optional)		Current value (optional)	

B5 Liabilities

Details	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Date of approval
	G CUMMINGS 29/05/2022

MUSEUMS ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1152493

Accounts



Chairman's Report 2020

AGM 5 March 2021

The previous delivery arrangement for the Essex Museum Development Officer (MDO), involving Museums Essex, Essex County Council, SHARE Museums East and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, ended on 31 March 2020. This year has seen the Essex MDO post hosted by Colchester Borough Council, through Colchester and Ipswich Museums, with support from Museums Essex and SHARE Museums East. The new postholder Beth Wilkey began work on 1 June 2020 and has already made a major contribution to supporting the county's museums. This hosting arrangement will remain in place for a further two years.

The year has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic which saw the county's museums closed for many months and consequently in many cases facing significant financial difficulties. The MDO has devoted considerable time and effort to support Essex museums with their applications for emergency funding from various bodies including Arts Council England, the Museums Association and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In addition Beth has provided more general advice on governance arrangements and sustainability, the latter including the Organisational Health Checks initiative developed by SHARE. Although the Accreditation Scheme has been in abeyance during the year, Beth has been providing advice on the subject in advance of the scheme reopening and assisted museums to find mentors.

The Essex MDO has established a new county-wide body, the Heritage Engagement and Learning Group, to replace the previous Heritage Education Group which had been suspended since December 2019. This group held a very successful inaugural meeting on 26 January which was attended by a large number of Museums Essex members.

At both a county and regional level, the Essex MDO has been active. Beth has been supporting the 'Snapping the Stiletto 2' project, which focuses on culturally diverse and LGBTQ+ voices and collections, including those of Maldon Museum in the Park, Museum of Power, Saffron Walden Museum and Southend Museums. Beth is also a member of one of the region's subject specialist groups sponsored by SHARE, the MACE network which is currently working on training relating to decolonisation and disability access.

The Essex Museum Development newsletter is supported by regular emails and social media activity to ensure that the county's museums receive regular and up to date information on the latest developments in the museum sector.

The Museums Essex website at www.museumsessex.org.uk contains sections on membership, individual members, the Grants Scheme, Case Studies and Contacts. Further contributions from members are always welcome.

The seventh round of the Small Grants Scheme, focussing on conservation, originally launched in the Spring of 2019, ended during the year with two further grants being made to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and Chelmsford Museum. A further, eighth round, was opened which is designed to support museums recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Successful applications thus far are

Brightlingsea Museum and Stow Maries Great War Museum with two other applications being currently considered. The grant programme has been managed by a Sub-Committee chaired by Philip Wise supported by Tony O'Connor (Epping Forest District Museum) and Caroline Pantling (Scouts Association) whose institutions are not eligible for grants whilst on the Sub-Committee. Museums Essex continues to believe these grants are an important benefit for its members and it is intended that a further round will be launched in the coming financial year.

A trustee development event was held on 10 December, planned in collaboration with SHARE, and with Dr Frank Hargrave from CIMS as the main speaker. The event was very successful; attended by about 23 people from 19 institutions with a good discussion. In response to the wishes of the membership, Museums Essex also provided training on making grant applications which was provided by an external consultant David Burgess.

I am very grateful to Beth Wilkey for providing administrative support to Museums Essex, including preparing the agendas, producing the minutes and technical support during our online meetings. This assistance is much appreciated and has ensured that things have run smoothly during the year.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution to the work of the charity: Gordon Cummings, Tony O'Connor, Caroline Pantling, Nick Wickenden, Carolyn Wingfield, Polly Redman and Dr Sarah Demelo. In addition I am grateful to Terry Joyce who maintains our website. We are also very dependent upon the support of Jamie Everitt (SHARE Museums East) and Dr Frank Hargrave (Colchester and Ipswich Museums) to whom I am very grateful. Martin Gruselle has kindly undertaken the examination of the Accounts over several years.

Looking ahead to 2021, Museums Essex aims to continue to support and develop membership benefits through an affordable fee based on income; participate fully in the delivery mechanism for museum development in Essex including the funding of the Museum Development Officer post; support the new Heritage Engagement and Learning Group, provide advocacy for the heritage sector of Essex in partnership with SHARE Museums East; provide a Small Grants Scheme; enable free membership of the Harwell Disaster Recovery Service; create opportunities for networking and provide inspirational case studies of museum development at our meetings, whether virtual or at member museums.

Philip J Wise MA (Cantab) FSA MCIfA AMA
Chair: Museums Essex



Charity Name
Museums Essex

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	
	Apr 6, 20	Apr 5, 21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
subscriptions	125		125
interest (Virgin Money)	85		85
Interest (Aldermore)	1,423		1,423
SHARE grant			
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,634	-	1,634
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).			
	-	-	
	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	
Total receipts	1,634	-	1,634
A3 Payments			
Harwell subscription	810		810
Trustees travel expenses	-		-
MDO salary contribution, Colchester BC	-		-
Web related costs	12		12
Small Grants scheme		400	400
memory stick	-		-
Apollo Fundraising Ltd	400		400
Sub total	1,222	400	1,622
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)			
	-	-	
	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	
Total payments	1,222	400	1,622
Net of receipts/(payments)	412	- 400	12
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	65,949	3,614	69,563
Cash funds this year end	66,361	3,214	69,575

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co operative Bank	7,815
	Virgin Money	17,418
	Aldermore	41,128
	Total cash funds	66,361
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Restricted funds to nearest £
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Cost (optional)
		-
		-
		-
		-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Cost (optional)
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Amount due (optional)
		-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

-
-
-

Signature

CC16a

**Last year
to the nearest £**

3,075
129
199
4,000
7,403

-
-

7,403

	774
	-
	-
	26
	1,012
	11
	-
	1,823

-

1,823

5,580
-
63,983
69,563

the period

Restricted funds

to nearest £

3,214
-
-
3,214

#REF!

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval
