



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 financial year

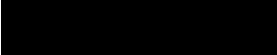
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co operative Bank	7,815
	Virgin Money	17,418
	Aldermore	41,128
	Total cash funds	66,361
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Restricted funds to nearest £
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
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