



DISCOVER DOWNHAM
Downham Market & District Heritage Society (DMDHS)
CIO: Registered Charity No. 1154267
The Old Fire Station, 30 Priory Rd, Downham Market
PE38 9JS: 01366 384428
www.discoverdownham.org.uk
info@discoverdownham.org.uk

Issued 20.10.2022

TRUSTEE REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

This has been our first full year out of lockdown so as the Treasurer's report states, we have not quite balanced the books with our income...but we have had a pretty good stab at it.

We brightened up Priory Road again with our Christmas Tree which was donated by one of the volunteers and held a small opening ceremony with a mince pie and glass of mulled wine to ward off the cold. The tree miraculously turned into an Easter Egg Tree later in the year, albeit without its leaves, when we held a very successful free Easter Egg decorating event for children.

Our Community Outreach programme has been very popular with eight Childrens workshops held so far this year. These educational, fun events have proved to be very popular, particularly with the local Guide and Scout groups and there is increasing demand. Whilst not money making, they do introduce children, sometimes for the first time, to a small museum environment and we hope to see them return. Also this year, as part of an Art Fund grant which was awarded to one of the volunteers, a Paper Clay Sculpting workshop for Adults was held one Saturday morning. This was very well attended and attracted many people who had never been to the Centre before. It is hoped that similar events can be held in the future.

Our regular big Fundraisers, as in other years, have been the monthly Quiz nights and Coffee mornings. Both of these have a firm base of 'regulars' that attend but we are always pleased to see new faces. These Fundraisers are boosted by a raffle which is, as with everything else, organised by volunteers and produces another very useful source of income.

Hires have increased this year, which is perhaps not surprising, given the time we were unable to socialise. Hire Income is up with all manner of groups using the premises, such as Songwriters & Poets, Dice & Decks, Photography for Fun, Climate Conversation Group, Cancer Hub, Lecture Society, Family History, Coffee mornings held by other charities...and there are

many more. The Centre is again very grateful to the volunteers who are Key holders and open and close for all these groups.

Once again research enquiries (for which we charge a small minimum £10 fee) are up, with many people wanting to find out about the history of their house or ancestors and also more complicated searches. This takes a lot of time but is an important facility for us to be able to offer.

We have a new Organiser for the Society's Monthly meetings and we have already had some very interesting talks with an exciting programme organised through until June 2023, plus hopefully a summer visit to a local venue. The same person edits the three monthly Newsletter which is colourful and informative and sent to all members free of charge.

We have permanent displays at the Centre but also Temporary Displays and this year the volunteers have produced 'The Best Days of Your Life? Downham Market Schools' which runs until March. This has generated very good publicity with lots of people coming to look at the many photographs and items on display. More names have now been put to pupils faces and interesting memories recorded, thanks to the visitors. If you haven't seen the Exhibition it is certainly worth visiting. This exhibition has helped to boost visitor numbers which were already higher since covid with visitors from as far afield as South Africa and Australia as well as from many parts of the UK.

To open to the public we require Stewards. There are an experienced group of stewards who volunteer regularly but they do have other commitments too and unfortunately, though we hate doing it, we have had to close for a morning or afternoon on three occasions this year. We are always looking for new stewards so if this is something you think you would like to get involved with please do get in touch.

The Centre has to pay for rent/utilities and with a full repairing lease, expenses are high which is why it is important to make the books balance. There is no guaranteed outside funding and although we are extremely lucky that all the roles within the Centre are currently filled by Volunteers, and no salaried staff, we are always very grateful to receive grants to help towards the upkeep.

We were fortunate enough to obtain a £1000 grant this year from King's Lynn Borough Council and this went towards some outside tables and chairs for the courtyard and helped towards the set up costs of the Temporary Schools Exhibition.

Hopefully you have all heard by now that Discover Downham is one of three groups that have been chosen to take part in Tesco's latest round of

Community Grants in Downham Market. So please make sure that every time you go in to Tesco you pick up a blue token and put it in the Discover Downham box. We will be awarded either £1500/£1000 or £500 depending on which group gets the most tokens, so your support is very valuable.

Another way to support us is by buying our 2023 Downham Market Fund Raising Calendar which has been put together by the Calendar Team who have enjoyed choosing the photographs from the large collection that is held in the archives at the Centre. The Calendars are good quality and are available from the Centre at £6 or visit the website www.discoverdownham.org.uk. They make great Christmas presents and can be posted for an extra £1.50.

As well as room hire and all the fund raising events that are held, the core of Discover Downham is the museum. People have been especially generous this year donating artefacts with 200 recorded in the last year. Donations included suppliers receipts from The Blue Bell public house in Stoke Ferry, School photos and Registers from a number of people which were used in the Schools Exhibition, letters relating to the Evacuation of families to Downham Market, Accounts for the Sand Pit used for building the Crow Hall estate, Documents relating to the intention to construct a sewer on Crow Hall estate and documents regarding the Reed family. We have also accessed two items of 1960s Wicksteed playground equipment which used to be on the Howdale. One is a rocking elephant and the other a horse and once repainted they will be put in the courtyard and hopefully bring back some happy memories.

There are now 96 members which is higher than some previous years but we would like to build on that number so very much appreciate your continued support.

We are proud that we have such an innovative set up at Discover Downham. Not only a Museum, which preserves and records the history of Downham Market and attracts visitors to the town, but also, thanks to our many volunteers and members, we are able to fully support the Centre by all the events that we hold. Wellalmost fully support...maybe next year!

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
OF
DOWNHAM MARKET AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Downham Market & District Heritage Society**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2023**

<u>Incoming Resources</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
General				
Donations	-	923	923	653
Subscriptions	-	1,225	1,225	970
Sales	-	1,133	1,133	651
Room hire	-	3,506	3,506	2,502
Enquires	-	50	50	
Loan Boxes	-	20	20	
Meetings	-	1,672	1,672	921
	-	8,529	8,529	5,696
Investment Income				
Bank interest	-	446	446	504
	-	446	446	504
Fundraising				
General fundraising	-	4,336	4,336	2,044
Coffee mornings, food sales	-	2,776	2,776	2,191
Events	-	474	474	577
	-	7,586	7,586	4,812
Grants received				
NFC	4,250	-	4,250	-
Tesco	1,000	-	1,000	-
BCKLWN	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
	6,250	-	6,250	1,000
Total Incoming Resources	6,250	16,560	22,810	12,012

Downham Market & District Heritage Society
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

<u>Resources Expended</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u>
General				
Wages and salaries			-	-
Insurance		543	543	530
Stationery, postage and photocopying		588	588	661
Speakers		442	442	-
Water		192	192	209
Telephone and internet		575	575	535
Subscriptions and licences		204	204	429
Repairs and equipment		3,915	3,915	4,503
Heating and electricity		2,848	2,848	2,319
Computer		573	573	5,087
General expenses	1,000	2,503	3,503	1,749
Merchandise for sale		402	402	398
Cleaning		1,807	1,807	1,634
Advertising			-	-
Professional fees			-	-
Rent		267	267	254
Removal of artifacts			-	-
Profit/Loss on sale			-	26
Accountancy			-	690
Total resources expended	1,000	14,859	15,859	19,024
Surplus Income over Expenditure	5,250	1,701	6,951	(7,012)
Funds at 01 April 2022	1,000	350,305	351,305	351,305
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Funds at 31 March 2023	6,250	352,006	358,256	344,293

Downham Market & District Heritage Society

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	293,475	293,475
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	64,781	57,830
Net Assets	358,256	351,305
<hr/>		
The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted Funds	352,006	350,305
Restricted Funds	6,250	1,000
Total Charity Funds	358,256	351,305
<hr/>		

Approved and signed on behalf of the Charity

Mr D Flower - Chairman

Downham Market & District Heritage Society
Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Downham Market and District
Heritage Society

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

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 s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) the Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (b) the accounts do not accord with those records.

Paul Farrow FCA FCCA MAAT

For and on behalf of Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP

Chartered Accountants

23 London Road

Downham Market

Norfolk

PE38 9BJ

Date:

.....