

UPPER WHARFEDALE MUSEUM SOCIETY.

Chairman's Address to 2025 AGM.

This report is always historical and places on record what the Society has done in the 2024 season. But once again, I wish to draw attention to some aspects of our organisation and provide some statistical information for the current 2025 season.

Membership.

The recruitment drive last season and at the beginning of 2025 has produced over 16 new members, who have become active volunteer stewards and our membership now stands at 68, of which 60 make contributions. We are grateful for these additional recruits, as we continue to have a very ambitious openings policy of 6 days a week, morning and afternoon from late March to the beginning of November. In addition to this we are now open on Monday afternoons in August as well as the Christmas Market weekends in December and the February half term holiday period.

Stewarding.

All our good intentions regarding opening time for the museum can only materialise if volunteer steward cover is available, and fortunately it usually is.

In 2024 there were 396 sessions planned and we managed to staff 294 of these.

That represented 75% of intended openings. Four sessions were lost to 'All Creatures Great and Small', but we were generously compensated.

Over the year, 37 stewards contributed to achieving the above.

In 2025, up to 30th September, we had 359 sessions planned and we opened on 335 occasions. This is an astonishing 93%plus achievement. Well done to the 50 stewards who provided the cover. You deserve a collective pat on the back.

A museum as a tourist attraction is meaningless unless it is open on a regular basis.

Visitors.

In 2024 we recorded 22,564 visitors to the museum and in the Visitor Book there were 79 entries from other parts of the UK and 432 from overseas countries, the vast majority from the USA, but also some from 50 other countries from all over the world. This record level of visitors has to be credited to the filming in the village.

This visitor activity has continued into the 2025 season. Up to the end of September we had exceeded the record number of 2024 visitors, having already welcomed 23,102 people. These including those from 50 overseas countries. Comments in the Visitor Book very clearly indicate that the warm and friendly welcome they all experience is appreciated.

All this is overseen by a strong and committed Management Committee, who are always looking for new recruits to help with museum administration and upkeep.

Gift Aid.

The 2024/25 Tax Year is the first time we can take advantage of the Small Donations Gift Aid Scheme administered by HMRC. Without boring you with details, we had over 200 GA declarations during this period and with the leverage the scheme provides,

UPPER WHARFEDALE MUSEUM SOCIETY

Charity Number: 1156656

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET 2024-2025

	2024-5		2023-24	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Donations	14559		12283	
Coffee Morning	509		408	
Bank Interest	750		626	
Total Income		15818		13317
EXPENDITURE				
Heating and Lighting	1685		2661	
Rates and Water Rates	283		268	
Insurance	693		693	
Repairs and Renewals	647		1407	
Promotional leaflets	295			
All Other Costs	1582		1129	
Total Expenditure		<u>5185</u>		<u>6158</u>
Surplus/Deficit of Income Over Expenditure		10633		7159
Less: Depreciation of Fixtures and Fittings		<u>1221</u>		<u>1356</u>
Surplus		9412		5803
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025				
ASSETS				
Freehold land and Buildings		71431		71431
Fixtures and Fittings	12205		9328	
New Cabinets/shelving			4233	
less depreciation	<u>1221</u>	10984	<u>1356</u>	12205
Books and Tapes		89		89
Deposit Account		16686		15936
Current Account		21895		<u>12012</u>
Total		121085		111673
REPRESENTED BY				
Accumulated Excess	111673		105870	
Surplus	<u>9412</u>	121085	<u>5803</u>	111673

R.H.Clare Treasurer

P.Sugden Independent Examiner