

KENT FIREFIGHTING MUSEUM

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the Period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Section A: Reference and administration details

Kent Firefighting Museum
Registered Charity No: 1157631

Principal Address

Kent Firefighting Museum
Woodlands Garden Centre, Ash Lane, Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN17 7EG

Names of Trustees:

April to November 2024:

J W Beech, Chairman
A C Wells, Vice Chairman
H Myers, Treasurer
K Clay,
J Luque,
K Sivell

From November 2024:

J Luque, Chairman
K Clay, Vice Chairman
K Sivell
C Bradburn
R G Miller

From January 2025:

J W Beech, Acting Chairman
K Clay, Vice Chairman
K Sivell
C Bradburn
R G Miller
J Luque (Leave of absence due to illness)

Section B: Structure Governance and Management

Kent Firefighting Museum is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation the only voting members of which are its charity Trustees. The charity has the "Foundation" model constitution, and new Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees.

In May 2024, Mr Clive Bradburn was elected to the Board of Trustees, to begin his term of office at the General Meeting in November 2024. At that meeting, in accordance with the constitution, Mr J Beech, Chairman, Mr A wells, Vice Chairman together with Mr H Myers, stepped down as Trustees at the end of their periods of office, and Mr Robert Miller was re-elected to the Board, having stepped away for one year. Mrs Trish Hopkins was re-elected to Secretary to the Board of Trustees and the Management Committee.

Mr Joseph Luque was elected Chairman of Trustees and Mr Ken Clay Vice Chairman: Mr Luque agreed to retain Chairmanship of Management Committee. Mrs Debbie Payne, who had been appointed Temporary Treasurer the previous year, stepped down, and the retiring Chairman of Trustees, Mr Beech agreed to undertake the role until a new Treasurer could be appointed.

On 21 January 2025, an Extraordinary Meeting of Trustees was called, following the sudden illness of Mr Luque, Chairman of Trustees, which required him to take immediate leave of absence. Trustees re-elected Mr Jeremy Beech as a Trustee, and as Acting Chairman. Mr Beech agreed to continue in the role of Treasurer.

The Museum continues to operate using volunteers and has no paid employees.

During 2024/25 the Museum was open from 6 March until 8 December 2024: it re-opened on 6 March 2025.

Section C: Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity, set out in its governing document, are to advance education for the public benefit in the subject of firefighting in Kent, its history and heritage by the establishment and maintenance of a museum and learning resources. All Trustees have made the statutory declaration to have regard to the guidance of the Charity commission on public benefit.

In this tenth year of operation, it is pleasing to report that the Museum, through the help of its very resourceful and valued group of volunteers, was able to remain open on 5 days a week (Wednesday – Sunday) for the entire period as well as on other days such as Bank Holidays and pre-arranged visits.

Section D: Achievements and performance

During the 2024/25 period the Museum received 6,607 visitors; it continues to be promoted at outside events as well as when presentations are delivered to various clubs and societies.

The Website appears to be working well with many enquiries received daily through this medium. It is continually monitored and updated as necessary, with consideration currently being given to allow donations to be collected through this medium via a QR code. The Museum is now collecting donations electronically via a card reader, the use of which is also being monitored with research being undertaken to upgrade the machine.

In the summer of 2024, the Chairman of Trustees (Mr Jeremy Beech) and the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr Joe Luque) were interviewed by BBC Radio Kent which was promoting attractions in Kent. There appeared to be a very positive response to this broadcast.

A successful Open Day was held at the end of August, in the company of the Rt Hon the Baroness Blackstone, Patron of the Museum, to celebrate the Museum's 10th Anniversary in conjunction with the Woodlands Garden Centre, and in support of the charity *Young Lives vs Cancer*.

During the latter part of 2024 a historic "Valiant" Steam Pump was donated to the collection by the Maidstone Museum and put on display. Whilst the Kent Firefighting Museum has only re-opened for a short period of time in 2025, the Pump has been much admired by visitors to date.

Section E: Financial review

The Charity did not adopt a policy on reserves in this period of operation.

During the period under report, income from donations and interest was £4265 Expenditure was £819 providing a surplus of £3446 for the year. The closing balance at the bank as at 31 March 2025 was £62,996.

The Charity's bankers are the Charities Aid Foundation, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, Kent ME19 4TA.

The Charity has no funds materially in deficit.


Section F: Other optional information

The Museum does not charge for admission.

Section G: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report as detailed above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



Jeremy Wilson Beech CBE, QFSM
Acting Chairman of Trustees

Date: *22nd December 2025*



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name **KENT FIREFIGHTING MUSEUM** No (if any) **1157631**

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1st April 2024


To

31st March 2025

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					
DONATIONS	4203 -	-	-	-	4250 -
BANK INTEREST	62 -	-	-	-	119 -
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4265 -	-	-	-	4369 -
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4265 -	-	-	-	4369 -
A3 Payments					
REPAIRS	35 -	-	-	-	39 -
ADMINISTRATION	10 -	-	-	-	95 -
PROFESSIONAL FEES	196 -	-	-	-	10 -
BANK CHARGES	66 -	-	-	-	984 -
OTHER COSTS	512 -	-	-	-	150 -
	-	-	-	-	761 -
	-	-	-	-	68 -
MOTOR EXPENSES	0 -	-	-	-	20 -
Sub total	819 -	-	-	-	2127 -
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	819 -	-	-	-	2127 -
Net of receipts/(payments)	3446 -	-	-	-	2242 -
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	59550	-	-	-	57308
Cash funds this year end	62996	-	-	-	59550

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JEREMY BEETH	22-12-2025