GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales · Charity number 1159058

Details

Other names	GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	09069349
Registered	2014-11-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Gilbert Whites House & Gardens High Street Selborne Alton GU34 3JH
Phone	01420511275
Email	info@gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk
Website	www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE MAINTENANCE OF A MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

Activities: Museum and Field Study Centre operating as a charity organisation

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£551,015	£522,227	£1,904,794	18
2024-03-31	£546,064	£689,731	£1,876,007	33
2023-03-31	£532,433	£692,907	£2,019,674	35
2022-03-31	£517,459	£636,812	£2,180,148	31
2021-03-31	£670,564	£585,517	£2,299,501	28

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Clive Anthony Parritt		2025-05-20
Dominic Edward Jones		2022-09-27
ELIZABETH MARGARET WALLACE		2022-01-25
MARK PATTERSON		2016-03-22
PAUL CLUETT		2018-06-19
PROFESSOR KHALID AZIZ		2019-07-03
Rupert Nabarro OBE		2021-10-26
Sian MacLeod OBE		2024-05-08
Stephanie Holt		2026-01-12
Yinnon Ezra MBE		2024-01-23

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GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159058

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09069349 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1159058

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

for

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

Sheen Stickland
Chartered Accountants
2 Oriel Court
Omega Park
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2YT

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Vision

To inspire journeys of discovery in the natural world to make better lives for people and the planet.

Mission

To create a place where everyone can connect with nature and learn from explorers of the natural world, showing the way to a sustainable future, collaborating widely and, following in the footsteps of Gilbert White, sharing our passion to observe and record nature.

Purpose

In furtherance of our mission, our purpose is to create a stimulating environment where people can discover and learn about the natural world. We do this by offering a wide range of activities that appeal to all kinds of visitors — from exhibitions, our historic house, gardens and estate, to inspirational museum displays, rare artefacts and books, and learning experiences for students of all ages. We aim to inspire people to become explorers of the natural environment and, through this, to lead better lives.

We deliver this public benefit by:

- Opening the house and garden to the public and providing an outstanding visitor experience
- Caring for the land, buildings and collections in accordance with proper professional standards
- Providing educational courses for schools, colleges and the general public
- Delivering a programme of events and activities
- Facilitating courses for special interest groups
- Working with like-minded organisations to emphasise the importance of the study of the natural world, both in terms of heritage and the present day

Admission and activity fees are benchmarked to remain accessible and compare favourably with other regional museums. The trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and charitable purpose when determining the scope and direction of our work.

Our Values

Our work is underpinned by a clear set of values that shape our practice, guide our decisions, and define our contribution as a heritage and nature-based learning charity. These values reflect both our historic legacy and future ambitions.

Our Values that lead our practice are:

- **Inclusive** - Being inclusive and welcoming to all.
  We believe nature and heritage are for everyone. We are committed to creating welcoming, accessible experiences that reflect the diversity of our visitors, volunteers, and communities. We seek to remove barriers to engagement and reach groups underrepresented in the heritage and environmental sectors.

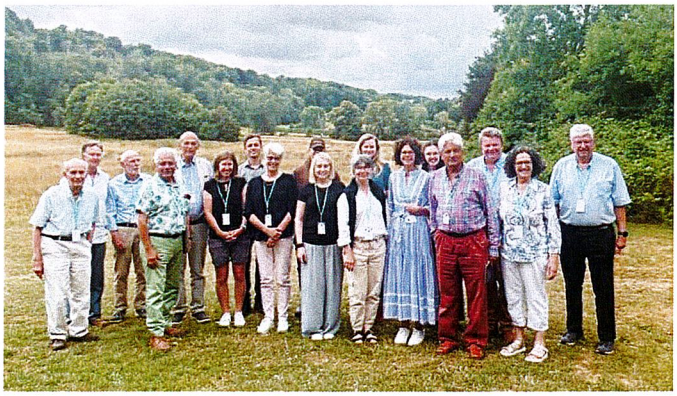
- **Connected** - Connecting with those that journey in the natural world.
  We foster deep connections - between people and place, history and ecology, science and imagination. Our approach is rooted in the idea of "Nature Connectedness": using senses, emotion, beauty, meaning and compassion to build lasting bonds with the natural world.

- **Educational** - Educational in what we share with others.
  We are a learning charity. Whether through a school visit, a volunteer opportunity, a public lecture, or a museum exhibition, we aim to spark curiosity and share knowledge. Inspired by the example of Gilbert White - a pioneer of observational science - we champion exploration, interdisciplinary thinking, and citizen engagement in learning.

- **Sustainable** - Seeking a sustainable way of doing our work.
  We aim to lead by example in managing our site, collections and programmes in ways that are environmentally and financially sustainable. From nature-friendly gardening to climate-conscious events, we are embedding sustainability in all that we do.

These values are not simply statements they inform our education programmes, collections care, garden management, governance, and visitor experience. They define how we act, what we prioritise, and the kind of organisation we aspire to be.

Looking Forward ("Growing Stronger")



In July 2025, trustees and staff adopted a new forward strategy titled Growing Stronger, developed through a cross-organisational strategic process and supported by specialist consultants Charity Spark. This work was made possible through a development grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, forming the foundation of a comprehensive organisational review, engagement exercise, and implementation plan for 2025- 2027.

The Growing Stronger strategy sets a clear path to resilience and renewal, enabling Gilbert White & The Oates Collections to grow its income, reach and impact, while remaining grounded in our values, collections, and place. It establishes five strategic pillars which now underpin all charitable and trading activity:

1. Place and Purpose

We will care for and 'bring to life' our historic house, collections, and landscape to preserve and share the stories of Gilbert White and the Oates family for current and future generations.

2. Visitor Engagement

We will deepen and diversify our relationship with visitors through more compelling storytelling, clearer wayfinding, and an improved welcome. Our aim is to create a more inclusive and accessible experience, with repeat visitation and participation at its core.

3. Education and the Natural World

We will expand our educational reach across all age groups, focusing on the urgent relevance of natural science, climate awareness, nature as a part of wellness, and citizen exploration. Our commitment to "Nature Connectedness" and the "Be More Gilbert" philosophy will guide how we equip future generations with curiosity, empathy, and insight.

4. Revenue to Achieve Our Aims

We will strengthen financial sustainability by developing commercial and philanthropic income streams that support our mission. This includes enhancing membership, building strategic partnerships, and diversifying trading activities while remaining mission led.

5. Working Sustainably

We will lead by example in sustainable operations and behaviours in how we manage our site, curate our collections, through our trading and events to the best of our ability as a Grade I heritage site in a National Park.

Public benefit

In setting its plans and priorities for areas of work, the Trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections have had regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit and confirm they have complied with section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

A principle of equity of access to the charity's services is upheld to any member of the public who needs them irrespective of capacity, ethnicity, faith or social economic activity.

Volunteers

Our volunteers continued to play an essential role in the life of the charity during 2024-25. We had around 90 volunteers this year many of whom contribute regular weekly hours to their area of support in the garden and the house in particular. Their contribution plays a role in almost every aspect of our work, from welcoming visitors at reception and supporting daily operations in the house, gardens and galleries, to assisting with the delivery of major events such as the Book Festival, and the Eco Light Festival (ELF). Their dedication, skills and generosity of time significantly enhance the quality of the visitor experience, extend our capacity, and help ensure that the organisation remains an inspiring and accessible place for all. We are deeply grateful to our volunteer community for their ongoing commitment and enthusiasm.

Case Study



"I've been volunteering at Gilbert White's House since September last year. I live in Selborne and volunteer every Monday and Friday morning. I work in the Garden Team and look after the bird feeders and the bird hide. I do lots of different things depending on the season: hedging, weeding, clearing leaves, moving snowdrops and even building a path in the Naturalist Garden. I enjoy looking at the birds and our 11 o'clock break with the Garden Team where we have hot chocolate and biscuits. Volunteering here makes me feel useful and happy. I'd tell someone who is thinking about volunteering to come and try it, it's great fun!" **- Federica- Gardening Volunteer**

STRATEGIC REPORT
Achievements and performance
Charitable activities
Operational Review

2024 - 25 marked a critical year in the charity's strategic renewal. Against a backdrop of ongoing economic volatility and sector-wide pressure, Gilbert White & The Oates Collections successfully delivered core charitable activities whilst establishing a new strategic plan, Growing Stronger. This work sets out the foundations for long-term resilience, supported by greater operational discipline and a clearer articulation of purpose.

Operationally, the charity went through a period of change, with the co-directors departing and the role being re-provisioned with a General Manager (via an internal appointment). This change then informed aspects of the strategic direction for the "Growing Stronger" project including winning funding to support change from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

To strengthen the day-to-day operations of the organisation, the charity also began a recruitment process for a Visitor Engagement and Operations Manager. This new role will play a pivotal part in shaping the visitor journey - from the quality of welcome and interpretation to on-site service standards and volunteer support. The role has been designed to ensure operational consistency, improve responsiveness to visitor needs, and embed a culture of "walking the visitor journey" to continually refine and elevate the experience.

We are pleased to say that we welcomed over 21,866 visitors to site this year, we also supported a further 6,061 children through our education department including on-site school workshops, home education events, holiday activities and outreach. As such the charity supported **27,947 people** to engage with heritage, nature and exploration.

Heritage

Heritage sits at the heart of our charitable purpose. As stewards of The Wakes - the Grade I listed former home of Reverend Gilbert White - we are responsible for preserving and interpreting one of Britain's most significant sites of natural history and environmental thought. This is the place where White wrote The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, a foundational text in the development of ecology, observation science, and nature writing. It is also home to the nationally important Oates Collections, which explore the lives and legacies of Frank and Lawrence Oates, key figures in British exploration and natural science.



The house, gardens, and collections offer a unique platform for public engagement with the natural world, combining literary, scientific, and expeditionary heritage in a single immersive experience. This layered significance gives us a dual responsibility: to conserve the physical fabric of the site to high standards, and to interpret it in ways that connect past to present - particularly around the themes of nature connection, climate, and sustainability.

In 2024-25, we focused on improving the visitor journey, refreshing interpretation, and investing in essential infrastructure. This included both visible enhancements to the visitor experience and behind-the-scenes work to protect the collections and landscape for future generations. Through events, partnerships, and reimagined storytelling, we continued to make heritage an active tool for education, wellbeing and engagement.

The Wakes

The Wakes, the Grade I listed home of Gilbert White, remained a central focus of our heritage stewardship during 2024-25. As both a historic building of national significance and the heart of our visitor experience, its care and long-term resilience are essential to the charity's mission. A major milestone this year was the completion of the quinquennial review, providing a comprehensive assessment of the building's condition and identifying maintenance and conservation priorities across short, medium and long-term horizons. This review has given the charity a clear roadmap for safeguarding the fabric of the house, addressing structural needs, and planning for future investment. It will form the basis of fundraising, maintenance scheduling and strategic planning over the next five years.

In support of environmental sustainability, a full energy audit of the house and wider site was conducted, funded by the South Downs National Park Authority. This audit provides an evidence-based assessment of current energy use and identifies opportunities for cost reduction, decarbonisation and improved energy independence. It also establishes a baseline dataset to inform future funding applications and track progress over time. The findings will help guide decisions on heating, insulation, renewable technologies and resource management, as part of the charity's commitment to working sustainably.

Collectively, these activities have strengthened stewardship of The Wakes, setting a clear direction for preserving its heritage value while improving environmental performance and enhancing the quality of the visitor experience.

Collections

Our collections are central of the charity's mission and day-to-day activity: safeguarding both physical artefacts and stories, while making them accessible through interpretation, galleries and public engagement. In 2024–25, the Collections team concentrated on two interlinked objectives: care and conservation, and dynamic, inclusive presentation through exhibitions and outreach.



We delivered ***Migrant Journeys***, a Royal Society Places of Science–funded project exploring the movement of insects, birds and people. Working with The Rural Refugee Network, we welcomed a group of young migrants from Sudan, Eritrea and Vietnam for a day connecting their personal journeys with those found in the natural world. The kites reflect journeys.

Participants examined moths from an on-site Moth Night, learned about butterfly and insect migration in the meadow, explored global specimens in the museum, and took part in a creative workshop decorating kites inspired by long-distance insect travellers. The programme was designed to support wellbeing, foster a sense of belonging, and offer a welcoming introduction to the English countryside.

The project also highlighted the often-overlooked phenomenon of insect migration, marking 250 years since Gilbert White's 1774 paper on bird migration to the Royal Society. Through ongoing moth and butterfly recording and public Moth Nights, we continued White's tradition of citizen science and encouraged visitors to engage directly with ecological change.

This year we won grant funding to acquire the **"Loveday Letter"** - a historically significant item which returned to Gilbert White's home to go on public display at the site; obtained with the support of Friends of the Nations' Libraries.

Throughout 2024 we hosted a number of temporary exhibitions. *Biophilia* which followed local artist Jackie Aimes in her studies of the nature in and around Selborne. The installation included an intricate display of small items which visitors were encouraged to focus on and observe closely. Presented in old technology boxes there was an interesting juxtaposition on natural objects (nuts, berries, feathers) with litter picked up by the artist on her walks (hair ties, bottle caps, etc.). We also hosted print maker Kate Dicker, who ran print making workshops as part of her exhibition. And we marked the 150th anniversary of Frank Oates' reaching Victoria Falls and his death shortly after, with an exhibition, which coincided with the publication of *The Ndebele, Frank Oates, and Knowledge Production in the 1870s: Encounters at the Edge of Empire* by Professor Christopher Prior and Dr Joseph Higgins whose primary research was conducted using our archives.

During the year, the Collections team continued to uphold professional standards in conservation and documentation. Preventive conservation remained a priority, supported by environmental monitoring and improved storage protocols. Work continued on our ongoing project to accurately catalogue, archive and digitise our collection, so it is easily managed and accessible to all.

In summary, 2024-25 was a year in which our collections were not only preserved - but activated. Through targeted exhibitions, renewed curation and a commitment to conservation, the charity reaffirmed its role as a living heritage organisation: one that honours the past while engaging deeply with present-day issues of environment, identity and community.

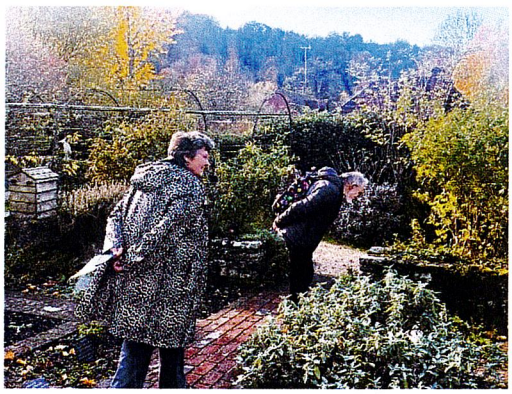
Garden

We are proud that 2024 was our first year as an RHS Partner garden. We organised monthly garden themed events to demonstrate seasonal gardening activities. Held on weekdays when RHS visitors were entitled to free admission they included Rose Pruning Day, Meadow Day and Heritage Gardening Day, and included tours, talks and demonstrations.

A key part of our work is of course to maintain and manage our grounds with regard to best practice and heritage techniques. Two projects that evidence that this year were:

- The implementation of the Selborne Small Meadows and Grassland Network Project supported the South Downs National Park Trust (SDNPT).
- This summer was the first year that we were able to use our mini baler funded by South Downs National Park through the FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) fund and our hay mower funded by South Downs National Park Trust. Meaning that we are able to time cutting and baling hay from our traditional meadow to produce good quality hay while aiming for optimum wildflower growth. The hay is used by two local horse riding charities and individual local horse owners, and the equipment is also used to produce hay in other local small meadows as per the conditions of the grants.

A highlight from our Garden team this year includes the continued contribution of our 45 volunteers who make what we do possible. In particular they contributed to work on making the garden more accessible supported by a generous donation by a local building firm Coomers. We laid a permanent brick path through the Six Quarters and a gravel path through the Naturalist's Garden giving a solid path surface for the inaugural Eco Light Festival in autumn 2024 and providing greater accessibility for these parts of the garden more generally.



The garden has also continued to offer work experience placements in coordination with Sparsholt College. Twice a year we welcome a group of Level 2 Horticultural students for the week who contribute to work across the site, including this year the work on the paths.

Events

Events continued to play a central role in activating the site, attracting diverse audiences, and reinforcing the charity's mission to inspire connections with the natural world. In 2024-25, the programme continued to evolve to focus on seasonal resilience, thematic coherence, and high-quality experiences. Key examples are:

The **Eco Light Festival (ELF)** was piloted during the 2024 winter season as a new creative engagement initiative. Designed to counteract off-peak visitor drop-off, it used low-impact lighting and storytelling to bring the garden and heritage spaces to life after dark. Most importantly it is designed to have a minimal impact on the natural world, using renewable energy, solar power, UV (among others) to power its lights. The trail takes light pollution into account and does not up-light trees and keeps tight hours to ensure our wildlife is as undisturbed as possible. Where possible reusable or natural materials are used. ELF attracted over 1,500 attendees over 15 evenings, generated positive press coverage, and helped broaden the charity's demographic reach. The event will continue in winter 2025, and will be reviewed for future expansion, supported by feedback from audiences and partners.

A major milestone in 2024-25 was the launch of **Watching Narrowly: A Natural History Book Day in Selborne**, also described internally as the Book Fair, in March 2025. This inaugural one-day event brought together leading voices in nature writing, including Richard Mabey and Chloe Dalton (Raising Hare), and attracted widespread attention from visitors, cultural peers, and the press. Framed around themes of observation, nature, and narrative, the event reflected the intellectual legacy of Gilbert White while offering a platform for contemporary environmental voices. Attendance exceeded expectations at around 100, which matched the capacity for the venue, and plans are now in place to develop the format into an annual highlight.



The Plant Fair continued as a signature calendar fixture - timed around the summer solstice in June. A celebration of horticultural diversity, it provided visitors with the opportunity to purchase unusual specimen plants from curated growers. In addition to supporting earned income and footfall, the Plant Fair reinforced the charity's commitment to biodiversity, sustainable gardening, and public engagement with botany & horticulture. Circa 20 stallholders and over 1,500 visitors attended over the two-day event, with strong return custom noted.

Alongside regular exhibitions, Nature Day, Christmas Fair, music events etc collectively, these events strengthened the charity's ability to engage the public in dynamic and mission-aligned ways, while contributing to financial sustainability and long-term visibility.

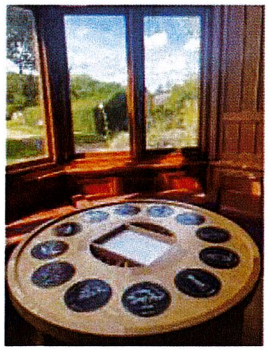
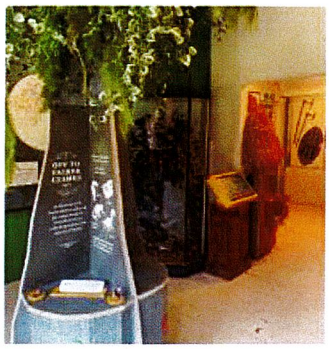
Education

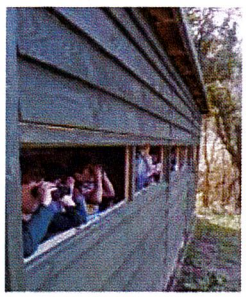
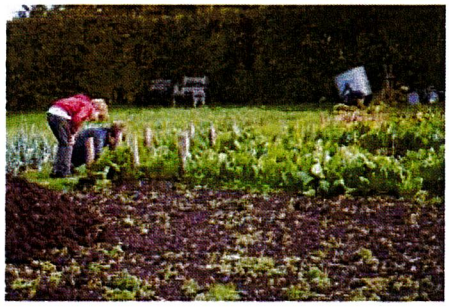
Education remained at the heart of our charitable activity throughout 2024-25. The Field Studies Centre (FSC) continued to deliver a distinctive, nature-based learning offer, built around the principles of "Be More Gilbert" and "Nature Connectedness". Our programme spanned schools, families, community groups, home-educated learners and adult audiences, and was explicitly aligned to curriculum priorities, wellbeing outcomes, and environmental awareness.

Across the year, the FSC welcomed approximately 4800 school pupils from roughly 100 schools, covering Key Stages 1-4 and a growing number of home educated, and post-16 learners. Sessions were designed to link classroom science and humanities to the lived experience of nature and heritage, using the museum, gardens and surrounding landscape as an outdoor classroom.

Our Home Education offer expanded significantly, with regular sessions now fully embedded and attracting a committed group of families. Outreach sessions and loan boxes have been developed to bring opportunities out into the community for those unable to come to our site.

We have a range of educational opportunities across the site:

Informal and family learning also featured strongly in our programme. Seasonal trails, activity days, and co-produced events drew in intergenerational audiences, helping embed our role as a community resource. The Legacy Room and Gardens offered additional platforms for storytelling and reflective learning, linking historical narratives to contemporary ecological themes.

Looking ahead, we aim to scale impact through new partnerships & targeted funding bids. In 2024-25, education remained not just a delivery strand, but a strategic driver - positioning Gilbert White & The Oates Collections as a voice in heritage-linked environmental learning.

GWOC Trading

We have a separate trading activity which continues to play an essential role in diversifying the charity's income base during 2024-25. Through GWOC Trading Ltd, the charity operated retail, hospitality, venue hire and a programme of commercial events, all of which contributed directly to the sustainability of the organisation and supported reinvestment in our charitable aims.

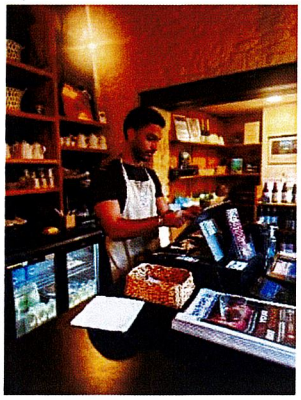
Trading activities generated a positive contribution of £96,000 by way of a gift to the Charity. While still sensitive to economic conditions and seasonal volatility, trading activities provided a critical complement to admissions income, grant funding, and donations, helping to reduce reliance on any single income stream.

Thus, trading activity made a meaningful contribution to organisational sustainability in 2024–25. Challenges remain in off-peak & winter trading; it will be critical that we continue to build resilience over the coming years through a diversity of trading and non-trading activities.

Stableyard Cottage

The self-contained holiday let ("Stableyard Cottage") has provided a steady income through wedding attendees, visitors, and corporate contracts. Through 74 bookings across 325 nights, it hosted 295 people.

Cottage Hospitality & Retail



Hospitality & Retail performance remained steady across the year, with footfall driven by strong summer visitation and the continued popularity of the Café & Jubilee Tap Room.

The Tap Room contributed both financial return and a stronger sense of place – linking in with Gilbert White's brewing history - enhancing year-round appeal. The brewery and bottled ranges continued to perform well, with increased interest from returning visitors and local customers.

Operational improvements included:

- Café: Reduced opening hours and improved rota management to control costs. Maintained simplified menu, to reduce labour and material costs.
- Gift Shop: Streamlined product lines, focusing on higher margin goods and favourable supplier terms. Optimised, and regularly refreshed, merchandising, aligning to seasonal trends and footfall patterns.

Events

Alongside core charitable events, the charity delivered a range of commercial and partnership events that generated additional income and broadened engagement. These included a corporate family fun day, live music performances, and outdoor theatre. Such events provided a flexible means of activating the site during quieter periods, supporting both financial return and local community use.

Venue Hire & Weddings



Venue hire and weddings continued to diversify income and attract new audiences to the site. The house, grounds and hospitality spaces hosted 14 private events across the year, including weddings, celebrations and corporate functions.

Weddings remained a reliable contributor to income despite sector-wide cost pressures. Positive feedback highlighted the uniqueness of the heritage setting, the quality of guest experience, and the personal service provided by the team.

The site also provided space for a number of regular community and wellbeing activities; including yoga, a craft club, and a friendship café.

During 2024-25, work began to refine packages, strengthen marketing materials and improve operational processes to increase conversion rates and enhance profitability. The Board recognises the importance of this income stream for long-term resilience and will continue to develop it in line with staffing capacity and infrastructure constraints.

Supporters

We are very grateful to all of our supporters, both individual givers, our members and our grant funders all of whom allow us to maintain, curate, educate and provide a visitor attraction of unique importance.

This financial year we have benefited from the support of:

- The Linbury Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Arts Council England
- East Hampshire District Council
- Friends of the Nation's Libraries
- Museum Development South West
- Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
- The Worshipful Company of Gardeners
- Hampshire Country Council Reaching Out
- Goldman Sachs
- Coomers Ltd

We would particularly like to thank The Linbury Trust for their support in providing a core grant towards our campaign 'Building a Resilient Future'. This follows on from their generous support for our 2017 capital building project. We were also able to welcome visits from both The Linbury Trust and their sister Aurora Trust through 2025 taking the opportunity to discuss shared values for the future.

The end of this financial year we were able to secure grant support from National Lottery Heritage Fund for 2025-26 which shows an ongoing commitment to Growing Stronger.

We also had the opportunity to take part in the Big Give Green Match Fund in April 2024 which raised nearly £10,500.

Our Fund for the Future campaign continues with £27,836 raised at the end of the financial year to ensure that our valuable work can continue for the future.

STRATEGIC REPORT
Factors Affecting Performance

The financial performance of the charity in 2024-25 reflected a combination of external economic pressures and internal restructuring activity. Visitor numbers remained broadly in line with expectations during the peak season, but discretionary spend in retail, hospitality and events continued to be affected by the national cost-of-living environment. Inflation in energy, food, and staffing costs also contributed to higher expenditure across the charity and trading subsidiary.

This year saw a surplus of £28,788 (2024: £143,668 deficit). Total Income this year was £551,015 (2024: £546,064) holding steady, whilst our total expenditure was £522,228 (2024: £689,731) a decrease of 24% through bold action by trustees and management. These results allow us to look forward, but the charity remains in a challenging financial position.

The mid-year restructure, which reduced payroll expenditure and refocused leadership capacity, resulted in one-off transition costs which were offset in part by increased efficiency in service delivery and improved coordination between charitable and commercial functions later in the year.

Fundraising and grant income remained strong in targeted areas. Support from the Linbury Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Arts Council England and other partners allowed us to progress key education, heritage and environmental projects. However, reliance on restricted project funding continues to constrain the flexibility of the charity's financial position.

The Board remains alert to the wider challenges facing the non-profit sector nationally, including rising labour costs, macro-economic pressures and legacy building maintenance costs.

Reserves policy

It is our policy to endeavour to maintain Unrestricted General Funds at a level which represents at least three months' operational expenditure. Reflecting on the experience of expenditure in recent years and future budgets, this equates to approximately £135,000. During the thinner winter months, this target was not maintained. In deciding on holding three months' Unrestricted General Fund Reserves, we have regard to the costs that would be involved in closing the Museum and Field Studies Centre, should the financial position become untenable.

Total reserves held are £1,904,794 of which £82,313 are restricted whilst £1,837,413 are designated as tangible assets and heritage assets, resulting in a unrestricted reserves deficit totalling £14,932.

The board recognises that unrestricted funds have fallen below the reserves policy as a result of weaker trading and higher costs over a sustained period. However, we have over a number of years implemented strategies to build financial sustainability for example:

- 2017 Towards Sustainability – a capital project aimed at developing the trading elements of the charity to support financial resilience,
- 2024 Building a Resilient Future – a core grant to support the charity through the lean period of the winter months following the impact of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis,
- 2025 Growing Stronger – a grant to provide key roles and systems for a year to support the organisation grow stronger for the future.

These initiatives are showing positive returns, but the current economic climate still remains a challenge, as does the cost of maintaining a historic building and its upkeep.

We are currently implementing the following measures to rebuild our reserves:

- A governance and operational structural review of the charity to ensure effective and efficient management,
- Appointment of external Financial accountants and upgrading of financial systems from Sage to Xero.
- Appointment of new trustees including finance and a review of banking and financial processes,
- A detailed review of our operations to ensure that the correct skills to support future development are in place within a sustainable staffing scenario with regards to our current income,
- A renewed effort to identify ways in which to create income from our site so that we can maintain our heritage and collections for the long term,
- A substantial National Lottery Heritage grant was secured to support us grow stronger in fundraising, marketing, volunteering for the financial year 2025-26.
- A renewed effort to work with grant funders to plan ahead proactively so moving from a period of 'survival' to 'development for the future'.

Investment Policy

The current investment policy is to hold all funds on bank deposit so as to be available to meet needs as they arise.

Going concern

The trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approving the financial statements. This assessment takes into account current cashflow forecasts, the level of unrestricted reserves, expected trading performance, committed grant income, and the wider economic environment.

While, at 31st March 2025 year end, unrestricted reserves were well below the desired level of £135,000, trustees consider that the organisation has sufficient liquid resources, confirmed funding commitments for 2025–26, and a realistic financial plan under the Growing Stronger strategy to support its operations.

Key assumptions underpinning the going concern assessment include:

- Projected visitor income of £151,000 based on 2024–25 trends and planned programme enhancements
- Secured grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support key staff roles and systems development over 2025-26 to support the charity to Grow Stronger
- Delivery of planned cost controls and efficiency measures
- Continued trading performance across hospitality, retail, venue hire and events
- No material adverse events affecting the site, collections or operations

The trustees recognise the ongoing pressures facing the heritage and environmental education sector but are satisfied that, with the measures in place, the charity has adequate financial resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those major risks. Risks are reviewed quarterly by the Finance Committee and reported to the board which assesses the implications at board meetings. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the trust are:

- **Financial resilience** - ongoing pressure on unrestricted reserves, volatility in visitor and trading income, and inflationary cost increases affecting utilities, staffing and maintenance. Mitigations included tighter budget management, revised pricing strategies, and the prioritisation of higher-margin activities.
- **Workforce capacity** - the need to maintain adequate staffing and volunteer levels, particularly in education, visitor services and trading. Actions included a restructure earlier in the year, targeted recruitment, and improved coordination of volunteer deployment.
- **Operational continuity** - primarily, ageing infrastructure. Preventive conservation, environmental monitoring, and planned maintenance programmes were used to manage these risks.
- **Governance and compliance** - the organisation's growth and diversification has created new requirements for robust oversight. Trustees are responding by undertaking a governance review and strengthening reporting procedures.
- **Reputational risk** - the importance of maintaining high standards of interpretation, safeguarding, visitor care and financial stewardship. These are addressed through staff training, policy updates, and quality assurance measures.

The trustees consider that appropriate controls and mitigations are in place, and that ongoing monitoring will remain essential given the external environment and the charity's current stage of development.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The charity has a policy to replace trustees who are recruited generally through existing Trustee and organisational professional contacts. New Trustees are invited to meet with current members of the Board to explore skill areas and are then invited to attend a meeting before making a firm decision.

An initial induction is given to new Trustees and further training is given if required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational structure

The Trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (Trustees) are responsible for agreeing the policies and strategic direction of the organisation. Trustees delegate, the day-to-day management to the Senior Management Team under the immediate oversight of the Board.

- An Income Generation and Fundraising Group (4 Trustees and staff) meets to guide development and fundraising;
- A Finance sub-committee (3 Trustees and staff) meets to oversee financial reporting and governance monthly.

From time to time, task and finish sub-groups are convened to deal with specific matters.

No trustees joined in this financial year; Co-Directors left the organisation (Judith Ann Bowles, Stephen Atwood Green). The total number of trustees is now 12. Judith Ann Bowles resigned as Company Secretary.

Three Trustees make up the board of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

Governance Review

At the time of writing this Annual Report we are undertaking an internal review of our trustee board size and skills, governance processes and delegated operational structure to ensure that we meet best practice and increase effective and efficient work across the charity.

Thanks

The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported our work during the year, the staff, volunteers and members, whose commitment, enthusiasm and many skills have been indispensable.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09069349 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1159058

Registered office
Gilbert Whites House
High Street
Selborne
Hampshire
GU34 3JH

Trustees
K Aziz
C N Carter
P J Cluett
V Ezra
F C Geddes
D E Jones
S MacLeod (appointed 22.5.24)
R G N Nabarro
C A Parritt (appointed 20.5.25)
M Patterson
P G K Rodhouse
E M Wallace

Independent Examiner
D A Sanders FCA
Sheen Stickland
Chartered Accountants
2 Oriel Court
Omega Park
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2YT

Senior Management Team
F Kitching

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the charities trustees, on 20.01.26 and signed on the board's behalf by:

K Aziz – Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



D A Sanders FCA

Sheen Stickland
Chartered Accountants
2 Oriel Court
Omega Park
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2YT

Date: 23/01/2026

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	132,856	158,904	291,760	272,465
Other trading activities	4	259,030	-	259,030	273,599
Investment income	5	225	-	225	-
Total		392,111	158,904	551,015	546,064
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities	6	424,094	98,133	522,227	689,732
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(31,983)	60,771	28,788	(143,668)
Net movement in funds		(31,983)	60,771	28,788	(143,668)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,854,464	21,542	1,876,006	2,019,674
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,822,481	82,313	1,904,794	1,876,006

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

Balance Sheet
31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	1,828,492		1,828,492	1,840,619
Heritage assets	12	8,921		8,921	8,921
		1,837,413	-	1,837,413	1,849,540
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	35,845		35,845	53,559
Cash at bank		32,803	82,313	115,116	25,369
		68,648	82,313	150,961	79,928
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(83,580)	-	(83,580)	(103,452)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		(14,932)	82,313	67,381	(23,524)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,822,481	82,313	1,904,794	1,876,006
NET ASSETS		1,822,481	82,313	1,904,794	1,876,006
FUNDS	17				
Unrestricted funds				1,822,481	1,854,464
Restricted funds				82,313	21,542
TOTAL FUNDS				1,904,794	1,876,006

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2025. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20:01:26 and were signed on its behalf by:

K Aziz - Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	90,081	34,267
Net cash provided by operating activities		90,081	34,267
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(559)	(8,898)
Interest received		225	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(334)	(8,898)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		89,747	25,369
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		25,369	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		115,116	25,369

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	28,787	(143,668)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	62,676	64,219
Interest received	(225)	-
Increase in debtors	18,714	(15,104)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(19,871)	128,820
Net cash provided by operations	90,081	34,267

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET (DEBT)/FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Cash flow	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank	25,369	89,747	115,116
	25,369	89,747	115,116
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(51,801)	15,223	(36,578)
	(51,801)	15,223	(36,578)
Total	(26,432)	104,970	78,538

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Gilbert White & The Oates Collection is an incorporated charity registered in England, charity number 1159058 and company number 09069349. The registered office is Gilbert White's House, High Street, Selborne, GU34 3JH.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 as it applied to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These polices have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Further details can be found in the Trustees Report under the Reserves Policy heading.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Useful life of fixed assets
Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The useful lives of these assets are estimated based on historic experience and future considerations and these are re-assessed annually.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities
Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs
Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, payroll and governance costs which support the Trust's artistic programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated as charitable activities. The breakdown of support costs are set out in note 7.

Allocation and apportionment of costs
The majority of costs are directly attributable to specific activities and are allocated on this basis. Overheads are apportioned to direct and other expenditure on a basis aimed to reflect use.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	-	2% on cost or revalued amount
Plant and machinery	-	20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation, which is provided in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful lives of the assets, and any provision for impairment. Individual assets over a cost of £1,000 are capitalised.

Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of fixtures and fittings are determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of fixtures and fittings, and are recognised within other income/expenses in profit or loss.

Heritage assets
All Heritage assets acquired prior to 1st April 2016, (which were purchased in the Oates Memorial Library and Gilbert White Museum prior to 1st January 2013), are excluded from the balance sheet on the basis that significant costs would be incurred in obtaining a valuation of the items acquired in previous periods as a collection, compared with the benefit that would be derived from including them. This cost would also have to be incurred following a subsequent addition to the collection on the basis that each addition becomes part of the whole collection and cannot be seen as a standalone item. With effect from the 1st April 2016, Heritage assets acquired are included in the balance sheet where the cost or valuation of the assets are readily available.

continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Financial instruments
Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and cash at bank.

Debtors
Short term debtors are stated at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired.

Creditors
Creditors and provisions are measured at their settlement value.

continued...

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	127,442	190,140
Gift aid	6,128	13,394
Grants (see note 17)	158,190	68,930
	291,760	272,464

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Memberships	3,743	5,815
Admissions	144,627	144,489
Field Study Centre	58,943	64,160
Exhibitions and events	51,225	58,260
Rental income	492	875
	259,030	273,599

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	225	-

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	498,840	23,388	522,228

continued...

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Independent Examinations Fee	3,860
Accountancy & Legal Fees	18,580
Consultancy Fees	948
	23,388

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the year ended 31st March 2024.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	202,285	335,646
Social security costs	13,112	21,235
Other pension costs	3,706	6,794
	219,103	363,675

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Staff	18	33

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

continued...

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	272,465	-	272,465
Other trading activities	273,599	-	273,599
Total	546,064	-	546,064
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	634,971	54,761	689,732
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(88,907)	(54,761)	(143,668)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,943,371	76,303	2,019,674
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,854,464	21,542	1,876,006

continued...

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st April 2024	2,081,749	49,865	167,764	2,299,378
Additions	-	-	559	559
Disposals	-	(6,925)	(33,675)	(40,600)
At 31st March 2025	2,081,749	42,940	134,648	2,259,337
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st April 2024	235,189	36,990	136,590	408,769
Charge for year	41,678	4,363	16,635	62,676
Eliminated on disposal	-	(6,925)	(33,675)	(40,600)
At 31st March 2025	276,867	34,428	119,550	430,845
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2025	1,804,882	8,512	15,098	1,828,492
At 31st March 2024	1,846,560	12,875	31,174	1,890,609

12. HERITAGE ASSETS

	Total £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025	8,921
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2025	8,921
At 31st March 2024	8,921

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	9,225	16,058
Other debtors	3,668	18,594
VAT	20,840	19,787
Prepayments	2,112	120
	35,845	54,559

continued...

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans (see note 16)	36,578	51,801
Trade creditors	32,450	24,969
Social security and other taxes	6,606	11,291
Other creditors	354	495
Accrued expenses	7,592	14,896
	83,580	103,452

15. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Related party loans (see note 19)	36,578	51,801

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	1,145	1,145
Between one and five year	1,145	2,569
	2,290	3,714

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,854,464	(31,983)	-	1,822,481
Restricted funds				
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	-	14,000	-	14,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	38,161	-	38,161
Fund for the Future	21,542	6,294	-	27,836
Hampshire County Council - Reaching out Grant	-	2,316	-	2,316
	21,542	60,771	-	82,313
TOTAL FUNDS	1,876,006	28,788	-	1,904,794

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	392,111	(424,094)	(31,983)
Restricted funds			
The Linbury Trust	75,000	(75,000)	-
Small grants	1,399	(1,399)	-
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	14,000	-	14,000
Friends of the Nation's Libraries	3,100	(3,100)	-
The James Tuttiett Charitable Trust	1,450	(1,450)	-
The Worshipful Company of Gardeners	2,500	(2,500)	-
Arts Council England	7,000	(7,000)	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	38,161	-	38,161
Fund for the Future	6,294	-	6,294
Hampshire County Council - Reaching out Grant	10,000	(7,684)	2,316
	158,904	(98,133)	60,771
TOTAL FUNDS	551,015	(522,228)	28,788

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,943,371	(88,907)	1,854,464
Restricted funds			
Restricted	54,761	(54,761)	-
Fund for the Future	21,542	-	21,542
	76,303	(54,761)	21,542
TOTAL FUNDS	2,019,674	(143,668)	1,876,006

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	546,064	(634,971)	(88,907)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	-	(54,761)	(54,761)
TOTAL FUNDS	546,064	(689,732)	(143,668)

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,943,371	(120,890	-	1,822,481
Restricted funds				
Restricted	54,761	(54,761)	-	-
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	-	14,000	-	14,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	38,161	-	38,161
Fund for the Future	21,542	6,294	-	27,836
Hampshire County Council - Reaching out Grant	-	2,316	-	2,316
	76,303	6,010	-	82,313
TOTAL FUNDS	2,019,674	(114,880)	-	1,904,794

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	938,175	(1,059,065)	(120,890)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	-	(54,761)	(54,761)
The Linbury Trust	75,000	(75,000)	-
Small grants	1,399	(1,399)	-
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	14,000	-	14,000
Friends of the Nation's Libraries	3,100	(3,100)	-
The James Tuttiett Charitable Trust	1,450	(1,450)	-
The Worshipful Company of Gardeners	2,500	(2,500)	-
Arts Council England	7,000	(7,000)	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	38,161	-	38,161
Fund for the Future	6,294	-	6,294
Hampshire County Council - Reaching out Grant	10,000	(7,684)	2,316
	158,904	(152,894)	6,010
TOTAL FUNDS	1,097,079	(1,211,959)	(114,880)

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

GWOC (Trading) Ltd
(Related by common control.)
During the year the charity recharged costs totalling £138,292 (2024: £66,000) to GWOC (Trading) Ltd, and GWOC (Trading) Ltd made a donation of £96,000 (2024: £166,243) to the charity. At the balance sheet date, within other loans the amount due from GWOC (Trading) Ltd was £7,529 (2024: (£47,694)).

Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum
(A charity related by common control.)
At the balance sheet date, within other loans the amount due to the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum was £44,107 (2024: (£4,107))

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	127,442	190,140
Gift aid	6,128	13,394
Grants	158,190	68,930
	291,760	272,465
Other trading activities		
Memberships	3,743	5,815
Admissions	144,627	144,489
Field Study Centre	58,943	64,160
Exhibitions and events	51,225	58,260
Rental income	492	875
	259,030	273,599
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	225	-
Total incoming resources	551,015	546,063
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	202,285	335,646
Social security	13,112	21,235
Pensions	3,706	6,794
Rates and water	6,535	6,822
Insurance	28,544	27,128
Light and heat	30,446	18,357
Telephone	9,622	9,418
Postage and stationery	1,981	2,875
Advertising	18,515	23,676
Sundries	14,653	14,507
Repairs & Maintenance	54,882	75,599
Computer & IT	1,068	1,858
Staff Training	1,686	83
Travel & Subsistence	483	365
Professional Fees	1,035	218
Subscriptions	7,567	3,425
Carried forward	396,120	548,006

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	396,120	548,006
Bank Charges	1,079	1,339
Fundraising Costs	40,917	53,120
Plant and machinery	60,724	64,219
	498,840	666,684
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	19,440	18,212
Consultancy	3,948	4,088
	23,388	22,300
Total resources expended	522,228	689,731
Net income/(expenditure)	28,787	(143,668)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159058

Accounts

Charity registration number 1159058

Company registration number 09069349 (England and Wales)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr C Carter	
	Mr P Cluett	
	Mr P Geddes	
	Mr M Patterson	
	Prof. P Rodhouse	
	Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
	Mrs E Wallace	
	Mr R Nabarro OBE	
	Mr D E Jones	
	Mr Y Ezra	(Appointed 10 March 2024)
	Ms S MacLeod OBE	(Appointed 22 April 2024)
Charity number	1159058	
Company number	09069349	
Registered office	Gilbert White's House High Street Selborne Hampshire GU34 3JH	
Independent examiner	Bretton Davis FCA of Hentons 124 Acomb Road York YO24 4EY	

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

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Statement of cash flows	14
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GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Vision

The principal objectives of the Charity are to maintain a sustainable visitor attraction - a library, museum and garden - at Gilbert White's House in Selborne and an associated Field Studies Centre. This includes caring for the collections of artefacts, documents and specimens in accordance with agreed professional standards and developing educational, outreach and access policies. Accreditation status was achieved in 2008 and was last renewed in October 2018 for a period of five years.

Explorers of the Natural World

Our visitor attraction is a unique centre of international significance. Inspired by the writings, house and gardens of the Revd. Gilbert White of Selborne, complemented by the Oates family collections of early Antarctic and African exploration, Gilbert White & The Oates Collections promotes engagement with and enjoyment of the natural world.

Mission

Our mission is: Inspiring journeys of discovery in the natural world to make better lives.

Purpose

In furtherance of this mission, we have identified the following purpose:

To create a stimulating environment where people can discover and learn about the natural world; offering a wide range of activities to appeal to all kinds of visitors – from seeing our exhibitions, garden and estate and inspirational museum displays, and accessing important original artefacts and books, to informative lectures, talks, and learning activities aimed at students of all ages. We will inspire visitors to become explorers of the natural environment to help them lead better lives.

We achieve this and provide public benefit by:

- Opening the house and garden to the public and providing an outstanding visitor experience
- Caring for the land, buildings and collections in accordance with proper professional standards
- Providing educational courses for schools, colleges and the general public
- Delivering a programme of events and activities
- Facilitating courses for special interest groups
- Working with like-minded organisations to emphasise the importance of the study of the natural world, both in terms of heritage and the present day

The cost of entry to the house and garden, and charges for education visits, events and activities are set at a level which compares well with other local museums.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Operational Review

The year began well with strong visitor numbers and income during the Spring and Summer months. However, this changed in September when the impacts of the cost of living crisis and inflation, plus the declining catering offer (due to recruitment issues) led to a poor close season, income-wise.

An ongoing planning delay has led to a postponement of our plans to open an adult learning centre in the formerly disused Queens Hotel. We were, however, able to develop and open the Jubilee Tap Room under existing planning consent.

We continued to strengthen the board and the staff team during the year with the addition of experienced Events and Weddings Managers and more visitor attraction and commercial expertise on the board.

Museum

A programme of temporary exhibitions ran in the museum, including:

- Apr & May 2023 - Rashleigh Holt White Collection: A display of books owned by Rashleigh Holt-White, Gilbert White's first biographer.
- Apr - Aug 2023 - The Feminine Monarchie: A celebration of the 400th anniversary of Charles Butler's 'Feminine Monarchie'. Butler was a pioneer in the study of bees and a relative of Gilbert White.
- Jun - Aug 2023 - Seeds of Change: An art exhibition by Clare Newton inspired by how seeds can inform us about our past and future.
- Sep - Dec 2023 - Hecky & Whitibuss: An exhibition celebrating the 250th anniversary of blue stocking Hester Chapone's work 'Letters on the Improvement of the mind'. Hester Chapone and Gilbert White were friends from a young age.
- Jan - Mar 2024 - The Great White Silence: An exhibition celebrating 100 years of Herbert Ponting's notable film 'The Great White Silence' depicting the Terra Nova expedition.

The Legacy Room was completed in September 2023. A permanent exhibition looking at Gilbert White's legacy since his death in 1793. The display focuses on his scientific, literary, artistic and conservation legacy. The central feature of this room is a tree where visitors write a pledge to do something positive for nature. This was funded via the Foyle Foundation, the grant also went to adding extra family friendly hands-on interactives around the Gilbert White museum.

Garden

The garden achieved RHS Partner Garden status in January 2024 following an application and inspection by the RHS. We are offering free entry to RHS members Tuesday-Thursday all year. We are also putting on monthly garden themed events on Wednesdays to draw in RHS visitors, Rose Pruning Day, Snowdrop Day and Open Greenhouse Day taking place in Jan - Mar 2024.

New interpretation boards have been installed in the meadow giving extra information on the wildlife to be seen and the management of the meadow e.g. wildflowers, raptors and hedge laying.

Additional beds in the kitchen garden have been wired in to protect against rabbits.

A hay mower and mini baler were purchased through grants provided through the South Downs National Park (first used summer 2024).

Ten additional ash trees with dieback were felled around the car park area and processed for firewood sales.

Field Studies Centre

Educational visit numbers have continued to grow and we now offer outreach and loan boxes to extend our reach and to cater for schools and groups who may not be able to visit our site.

We again delivered the Reaching Out project which is funded by the Arts Council and supports visits to our site by schools from disadvantaged areas in Hampshire as well as delivering Arts Award days and training for teachers.

We were also awarded a grant by the Royal Society 'Places of Science' grant scheme. This funded a project working with migrant young people from Sudan, Eritrea and Vietnam, giving them art and nature connection opportunities. It also funded a display in the museum to tell the wider public about the project.

	12 months to 31st March 2024	12 months to 31st March 2023	12 months to 31st March 2022	12 months to 31st March 2021	12 months to 31st March 2020	12 months to 31st March 2019
Students under 18	5,286	4,812	4,500	435	4,490	4,665
Post 18	184	296	226	35	69	813*
Out of school activities	576	339	441	117	34	837
Outreach sessions	116	50	0	0	120	480
Total	**6,162**	**5,497**	**5,167**	**587**	**4,713**	**6,795**

*Includes adults accompanying school group visits

Events and Activities

Weddings

During most of 2023 a high pricing strategy for weddings was employed, to some success. However later in the year it was deemed too high and a new pricing strategy which placed us more 'middle of the road' was employed at the end of November and saw great success for 2025 wedding bookings.

Events

A programme of 40 events, activities and workshops attracted just under 6,000 visits including 2,004 visitors to the Unusual Plants Fair in June - the busiest to date; 1,185 people attended on the first day - the museum's busiest day ever breaking the record from last year. Approximately 552 people attended the family-orientated Nature Day event in May, which was double last year. 704 attended a Queen and Elton John tribute concert in August 2023 and the December 2023 Christmas Fair attracted over 500. The events strategy was mainly to develop existing successes and build upon them and to pilot a few new ideas. Other smaller events included: outdoor theatre, jazz and proms performances, workshops and talks.

Catering

Activity in White's continues to be challenging in keeping with the hospitality sector in general. With staff changes and the need to cut back on costs there was a move towards a more simplified offering. This limited menu resulted in lower than anticipated income. Whilst the catering offer was sufficient to satisfy demand from museum visitors and people visiting Selborne for other reasons, more people are looking for coffee and cake rather than being a higher spending customer seeking lunches and dinners out.

In the continued absence of a village shop, as a service to the local community of Selborne, we continued to sell a basic range of staple items and newspapers plus our own produce including bottled beers. This then supports the village and local community and draws customers in for coffee etc.

Retail

Museum retail sales held up bearing in mind the limited space available. New lines continue to be introduced and a closer management of stock is now in place. An ongoing review of the slower moving items and sales discounts and promotions is now in place.

Brewery

This has been a mixed year in respect of the operation of the brewery and Tap Room. The brewery continues to be staffed entirely by volunteers and its fame is widespread featuring in the national online CAMRA magazine and the annual CAMRA Good Beer Guide. This results in visits to the museum and the brewery in particular by beer lovers from a wide area including London, the Midlands and West Country. Approximately 70% of its output is transferred to the Tap Room with the remainder either being bottled for sale on site or casked for sale at a number of regional beer festivals and a few local pubs. In common with breweries across the country, the issues facing it are centred around the 45% rise in the cost of ingredients and greatly increased fuel costs. Both have resulted in profitability being significantly reduced during this third year of operation. Nevertheless, the volunteer team have identified significant cost saving measures predominantly by buying malts in larger volumes. This causes an occasional spike in cash flow but makes a great deal of difference to the final profit margin.

Whilst the brewery has managed to fend off a number of the cost pressures, the Tap Room has been less successful in doing so. The employment of a full-time bar manager/brewer was not a financial success and, as a result, the Tap Room is now largely managed and run by volunteers; with the exception of occasional paid bar staff. This has reduced the staffing overhead considerably. As with the brewery, the fuel/heating overhead that is exacerbated by the need to maintain the cellar chilling system has impacted negatively on its underlying profitability. The Tap Room continues to attract clientele from a wide area - not just those within walking distance - who enjoy the Tap Room ambience and unique offer. The Tap Room also enjoys the benefit of its close association with the brewery and, as a result, has visitors from across the country. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis has had a negative impact on trading figures in common with many establishments in the hospitality sector and against a national picture of more than 60 pub closures each week.

Marketing

Our marketing team was weakened by the need to release our part time marketing assistant. This has made it harder to deliver nature and environment related messaging at the same scale of our conventional messaging in view of the need to cut costs and has resulted in a more limited use and promotion on our website and social media channels. We have promoted our new scheme as a partner garden with the RHS and the various temporary exhibitions as mentioned above.

Holiday Accommodation

Income from our three-room holiday apartment continues to provide revenue from visiting tourists and wedding guests.

Financial review

Earned income continued to grow in 2023/24, with most income sources – with the exception of catering, for reasons described above - now back on their pre-covid growth curves. Visitor numbers and income were above expectations from April to August, but began to fall in September, probably because of the impacts of the cost of living crisis. This resulted in a poor Autumn, Winter and Spring.

Against this, higher costs resulting from high price and wage inflation, plus the wedding cost issues outlined above, led to an operating loss for the year.

	12 Months to 31st March 2024	**12 Months to 31st March 2023**	**12 Months to 31st March 2022**	**12 months to 31st March 2021**	**12 months to 31st March 2020**	**12 months to 31st March 2019**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Admissions to the museum	144,489	124,274	102,952	47,735	106,434	88,712
Shop and Garden Takings	72,813	75,187	64,451	27,709	43,094	42,036
Catering Takings	216,449	231,835	298,487	224,357	112,909	89,629
Events (incl Weddings)	187,165	194,119	91,403	17,770	115,354	108,211
Brewery (incl Tap room)	53,917	32,702	20,952	8,880	-	-
TOTAL	674,833	658,117	578,245	346,451	377,791	328,588
Field Studies Centre non-grant income	64,160	61,413	51,524	3,256	46,735	56,395
Total takings	738,993	719,530	629,769	349,707	424,526	384,983
Total Visitor Numbers excluding Field Studies Centre (above)	21,491	20,953*	15,602	7,187	16,344	16,986

Including Gift Aid * Includes 4,322 visitors who attended an event or activity
Includes takings of GWOC (Trading) Ltd which are not recognised in these financial statements.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to endeavour to maintain Unrestricted General Funds at a level which represents at least three months' operational expenditure. Taking into account the experience of recent years' expenditure, this amounts to approximately £150,000-£200,000; the Museum dropped below this level over the thinner winter months. In deciding on holding three months' Unrestricted General Fund Reserves, we have regard to the costs that would be involved in closing the Museum and Field Studies Centre, should the financial position become untenable.

Total reserves held are £1,876,007, of which £21,542 are restricted and £1,899,530 are designated as tangible assets and heritage assets, resulting in a free reserves deficit totalling £45,065.

The board recognises that unrestricted funds have fallen below the reserves policy as a result of weaker trading and higher costs over a sustained period. During 2023, the board took steps to address this situation, and rebuild reserves to the target policy level over a period of 4 years by:

Short term measures

- Making three posts redundant in November 2023 to reduce payroll by £6,000 per month
- Reducing expenditure across the organisation
- We have sold of a small parcel of land on 1st July 2024
- Restructuring to create a fundraising manager post to increase our non-commercial income and create the capacity for development fundraising
- We have established an in-house membership scheme to replace the disbanded Friends Charity, giving us better control of the developments and use of this income
- We have established strategic partnerships with 2 membership organisations (The Royal Horticultural Society and the British Beekeepers Association) which will increase visits and secondary spend from January 2024

Medium/long term measures

- Preparing a new strategy and establishing two sub-groups to drive it forwards
- Formulating a new development plan that will include:
  - A new education facility that will free the 16thc barn for more weddings, functions, meetings and adult learning
  - Nature themed children's play trail that will increase family visits
  - A new collections store in the former Queens Hotel which will enable us to reconfigure our reception, creating more retail display space
  - Solar panels to reduce energy costs
- Preparing an application to the NLHF for resilience funding (including full cost recovery) to improve our marketing to the environmental interest audience, our use of volunteers and our non-commercial fundraising strategy
- We secured a grant of £43,000 in March 2024 to buy equipment to run the UK's first eco-light festival which will generate £10,000 profit in the current year and subsequent Decembers

Investment Policy and Performance

The current investment policy is to hold all funds on bank deposit so as to be available to meet needs as they arise.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Charity maintains a Risk Register. This is reviewed regularly by the Trustees at board meetings. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the trust are:

- If the cost of living crisis continues to depress income generation to cover running costs
- Failure to secure the support of external funding bodies for major projects
- Difficulty in making the Café operation profitable
- Loss of organisational knowledge through high staff turnover
- Loss of museum accreditation through inadequate storage

GOING CONCERN

Following a disappointing financial performance in 2023-24, the trustees have reviewed their strategy, management and development priorities for the coming 12 months and 5-year cycle. A number of current activities are combining to strengthen our financial position, including:

- Strengthening retail sales by introducing branded merchandise ranges and sales on slow moving stock
- Forging strategic partnerships to raise awareness and increase visitor numbers
- Implementing a renewed events strategy
- Securing additional wedding bookings and wakes
- Introducing an in-house membership scheme
- Simplifying White's offering, operating systems, staffing and purchasing
- Increasing winter income by developing a premium Christmas offer this year and a winter festival in 2024 which is now in place for November/December 2024

Further details of the charity's plans to rebuild reserves to the target policy level can be found above in the 'Reserves Policy' section.

Plans for future periods

Our plans for the future will be guided by a new 5-year strategy and action plan which have been developed during the summer and autumn of 2023. This will be delivered through 4 pillars of activity:

- Telling our stories
- Education
- Generating Income
- Sustainability

Our plans to develop an adult learning centre in the disused Queens Hotel have been delayed by the continuing planning dispute. To ensure that this does not impact adversely on the health of the organisation, trustees have adopted a new strategy (the mission, purpose and strategic pillars set out above) and are preparing a new development plan to address our current challenges.

We will renew our status as an accredited museum at our next renewal (most likely in 2026 due to the backlog in accreditations) and we will continue to develop existing and new strategic partnerships, including:

- More joint working with our colleagues in the Eco-Attractions Group (marketing, training, customer behaviour on climate change)
- Closer alignment with heritage sites in East Hampshire
- Building on our success in becoming a Royal Horticultural Society Partner Garden from January 2024.
- Working with Hampshire Cultural Trust on areas of mutual benefit.

We have replaced the discontinued externally run "Friends of Gilbert White's House and Gardens" with a new in-house membership scheme. Our Income Generation Manager (formerly Membership Manager at the Victoria and Albert Museum) is in post, giving us a greater capacity and control over non-commercial fundraising, including:

- Grants to support our forthcoming capital development programme
- Philanthropic giving
- Developing the membership scheme
- Working with the Income generation committee to prioritise bids for grants for projects and core cost support.

Structure, governance and management
Constitution

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the Charity or Museum) is registered as a company limited by guarantee (No. 9069349); it was set up by a Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016. Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is also a registered charity (No. 1159058).

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is the sole trustee of The Oates Memorial Library and Museum and the Gilbert White Museum and the sole member of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr C Carter	
Mr P Cluett	
Mr P Geddes	
Ms H Lane	(Resigned 4 May 2023)
Mr M Patterson	
Prof. P Rodhouse	
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
Mr P De Quincey	(Resigned 4 March 2024)
Ms E Moorcroft	(Resigned 28 May 2024)
Mr P Curnow Ford	(Resigned 4 March 2024)
Mrs E Wallace	
Mr R Nabarro OBE	
Mr D E Jones	
Mr Y Ezra	(Appointed 10 March 2024)
Ms S MacLeod OBE	(Appointed 22 April 2024)

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

The charity generally recruits trustees to maintain a balance of expertise. New Trustees are invited to meet with current members of the Board to explore skill areas and are then invited to attend a meeting before making a firm decision.
An initial induction is given to new Trustees and further training is given if required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making

The Trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (Trustees) are responsible for agreeing the policies and strategic direction of the organisation. Operational matters are delegated to the Museum Co-Directors under the immediate oversight of the Board. An Acquisitions and Disposals Committee (two Trustees and staff) oversees management of the museum collections; a Queens Project Group (two Trustees, staff and volunteers) meets to oversee the Queens development project, and; an Income Generation and Fundraising Group (4 Trustees and staff) meets to guide development and fundraising. From time to time, task and finish sub-groups are convened to deal with specific matters.

One trustee joined (Yinnon Ezra 23rd January 2024), two trustees resigned (Paul De Quincey, Heather Lane) and one died (Peter Curnow-Ford). The total number of trustees is now 11. Judith Ann Bowles replaced Stephen Atwood Green as Company Secretary. One Trustee and a Museum Co-Director make up the board of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The Trustees met on six occasions during the year and the average attendance was 9 Trustees.

Thanks

The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported our work during the year, the staff, volunteers and Friends, whose commitment, enthusiasm and many skills have been indispensable.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA

Trustee

Date: 23rd December 2024

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

B Davis

Bretton Davis FCA of Hentons

124 Acomb Road
York
YO24 4EY

Dated: 24/12/24

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	254,886	10,000	264,886	306,470
Charitable activities	4	208,649	-	208,649	185,687
Other trading activities	5	58,260	-	58,260	37,559
Investments	6	875	-	875	1,462
Other income	7	13,394	-	13,394	1,255
Total income		536,064	10,000	546,064	532,433
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	53,867	-	53,867	12,473
Charitable activities	9	592,645	43,219	635,864	680,434
Total resources expended		646,512	43,219	689,731	692,907
Net movement in funds		(110,448)	(33,219)	(143,667)	(160,474)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		1,964,913	54,761	2,019,674	2,180,148
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		1,854,465	21,542	1,876,007	2,019,674

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	247,975	58,495	306,470
Charitable activities	4	185,687	-	185,687
Other trading activities	5	37,559	-	37,559
Investments	6	1,462	-	1,462
Other income	7	1,255	-	1,255
Total income		473,938	58,495	532,433
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	8	12,473	-	12,473
Charitable activities	9	671,733	8,701	680,434
Total resources expended		684,206	8,701	692,907
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(210,268)	49,794	(160,474)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		1,964,913	54,761	2,019,674

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		1,890,609		1,945,930
Heritage assets	16		8,921		8,921
			1,899,530		1,954,851
Current assets					
Debtors	17	54,559		141,341	
Cash at bank and in hand		25,369		43,801	
		79,928		185,142	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(103,451)		(103,822)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(23,523)		81,320
Total assets less current liabilities			1,876,007		2,036,171
Provision for other liabilities	19		-		(16,497)
Net assets			1,876,007		2,019,674
The funds of the charitable company					
Restricted income funds	21		21,542		54,761
Unrestricted funds	22		1,854,465		1,964,913
			1,876,007		2,019,674

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23rd December 2024

.....
Mr P Cluett
Trustee

.....
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

Company registration number 09069349 (England and Wales)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	27		(10,409)		35,963
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,898)		(5,270)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		1,050	
Investment income received		875		1,462	
Net cash used in investing activities			(8,023)		(2,758)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(18,432)		33,205
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			43,801		10,596
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			25,369		43,801

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Gilbert White's House, High Street, Selborne, Hampshire, GU34 3JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Total reserves held are £1,876,007, of which £21,542 are restricted and £1,899,530 are designated as tangible assets and heritage assets, resulting in a free reserves deficit totalling £45,065. The board recognises that unrestricted funds have fallen below the reserves policy as a result of weaker trading and higher costs over a sustained period. The board has taken steps to address this situation and rebuild reserves to the target policy level over a period of 4 years. Further details of the short term measures and medium/long term measures can be found in the Trustees Report under the Reserves Policy heading.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charitable company are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line
Plant and equipment	20% Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Heritage assets

All Heritage assets acquired prior to 1st April 2016, (which were purchased in the Oates Memorial Library and Gilbert White Museum prior to 1st January 2013), are excluded from the balance sheet on the basis that significant costs would be incurred in obtaining a valuation of the items acquired in previous periods as a collection, compared with the benefit that would be derived from including them. This cost would also have to be incurred following a subsequent addition to the collection on the basis that each addition becomes part of the whole collection and cannot be seen as a standalone item. With effect from the 1st April 2016, Heritage assets acquired are included in the balance sheet where the cost or valuation of the assets are readily available.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charitable company has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charitable company will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value, the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in net income/(expenditure) in the period in which it arises.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.15 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	190,141	-	190,141	221,977	-	221,977
Grants	58,930	10,000	68,930	25,623	58,495	84,118
Membership fees	5,815	-	5,815	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	375	-	375
	254,886	10,000	264,886	247,975	58,495	306,470
Donations and gifts						
GWOC (Trading) Limited	166,243	-	166,243	211,420	-	211,420
Individuals and friends	15,759	-	15,759	9,120	-	9,120
Gift Aid reclaimed	8,139	-	8,139	1,437	-	1,437
	190,141	-	190,141	221,977	-	221,977
Grants						
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	39,000	39,000
Goldman Sachs	10,000	-	10,000	5,000	-	5,000
Environmental Improvement	34,546	-	34,546	-	-	-
First Steps	2,943	-	2,943	-	-	-
DeLaszlo Grant	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
South Downs National Park Authority	7,104	-	7,104	-	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Council	1,160	-	1,160	-	-	-
Reaching Out	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	-	-	-	-	895	895
The Belgae Trust	500	-	500	-	-	-
Other	2,677	-	2,677	20,623	1,600	22,223
	58,930	10,000	68,930	25,623	58,495	84,118

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Museum and field study centre		
Museum entrance fees	144,489	124,274
Field study centre fees	64,160	61,413
	208,649	185,687

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Exhibitions and events	58,260	37,559

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Rental income	875	1,462

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,050
Museum tax credit	13,394	205
	13,394	205

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Membership schemes and social lotteries	747	-
Staging fundraising events	53,120	12,473
	53,867	12,473

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Museum and field study centre 2024 £	Museum and field study centre 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	363,675	375,624
Depreciation and impairment	64,219	64,796
Rates	6,823	7,835
Light, heat & power	18,357	28,693
Insurance	27,128	26,564
Repairs & maintenance	75,598	42,703
Advertising	23,676	29,202
Printing, stationery & postage	2,875	2,304
Computer peripherals & software	1,858	4,478
Staff training	83	2,134
Travel & subsistence	365	618
Consultancy & professional fees	218	12,843
Sundry expenses	14,507	43,605
Trade subscriptions	3,425	4,545
Telephone & communication	9,418	9,127
Bank charges	1,339	2,767
	613,564	657,838
Share of support and governance costs (see note 10)		
Support	18,379	13,506
Governance	3,921	9,090
	635,864	680,434
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	592,645	671,733
Restricted funds	43,219	8,701
	635,864	680,434

10 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy and bookkeeping	14,291	10,818
Consultancy	4,088	2,688
Governance costs	3,921	9,090
	22,300	22,596
Analysed between:		
Museum and field study centre	22,300	22,596

11 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,921	9,090
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	64,219	64,796
Loss/(profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(1,050)

12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration, benefits or expenses from the charitable company during the year.

13 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	33	35

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	401,646	398,597
Social security costs	21,235	20,133
Other pension costs	6,794	5,818
	429,675	424,548

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Employees (Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	41,500	43,259

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	2,081,749	40,967	167,764	2,290,480
Additions	-	8,898	-	8,898
At 31 March 2024	2,081,749	49,865	167,764	2,299,378
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2023	193,511	31,047	119,992	344,550
Depreciation charged in the year	41,678	5,943	16,598	64,219
At 31 March 2024	235,189	36,990	136,590	408,769
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2024	1,846,560	12,875	31,174	1,890,609
At 31 March 2023	1,888,238	9,920	47,772	1,945,930

16 Heritage assets

	Artefacts
	£
At 1 April 2023 and at 31 March 2024	8,921

17 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	16,058	18,382
Other debtors	38,381	122,366
Prepayments and accrued income	120	593
	54,559	141,341

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	11,291	10,481
Trade creditors	24,969	22,602
Other creditors	52,296	45,436
Accruals and deferred income	14,895	25,303
	103,451	103,822

19 Provisions for liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Provision for wall repair	-	16,497

20 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	6,794	5,818

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

At the end of the year the Charity had outstanding contributions of £ 0 (2023 - £0).

21 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
Reaching Out Grant	6,266	10,000	(5,279)	10,987
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	895	-	-	895
Gallery Renovation	39,000	-	(37,940)	1,060
deLaszlo Live Link	7,000	-	-	7,000
Hampshire County Council	1,600	-	-	1,600
	54,761	10,000	(43,219)	21,542

Previous year:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
Reaching Out Grant	4,967	10,000	(8,701)	6,266
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	-	895	-	895
Gallery Renovation	-	39,000	-	39,000
deLaszlo Live Link	-	7,000	-	7,000
Hampshire County Council	-	1,600	-	1,600
	4,967	58,495	8,701	54,761

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to the development of the buildings and property. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

AIM Biffa Award: History Makers

The AIM Biffa Award History Makers Scheme gives grants to museums, galleries and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser known historical figures. The scheme supports projects that use the life and achievements of extraordinary historical figures to inspire and educate visitors.

22 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	1,964,913	536,064	(646,512)	1,854,465

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,175,181	473,938	(684,206)	1,964,913

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	1,890,609	-	1,890,609
Heritage assets	8,921	-	8,921
Current assets/(liabilities)	(45,065)	21,542	(23,523)
	1,854,465	21,542	1,876,007

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023:			
Tangible assets	1,945,930	-	1,945,930
Heritage assets	8,921	-	8,921
Current assets/(liabilities)	26,559	54,761	81,320
Provisions	(16,497)	-	(16,497)
	1,964,913	54,761	2,019,674

24 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	1,145	1,145
Between two and five years	2,569	3,714
	3,714	4,859

25 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Trustees

During the year the charity received donations from the Trustees of £330 (2023 - £270). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Trustees was £nil (2023 - £nil).

GWOC (Trading) Ltd

(Related by common control.)

During the year the company recharged costs totalling £66,000 (2023 - £48,924) to GWOC (Trading) Ltd, and GWOC (Trading) Ltd. made a donation of £166,243 (2023 - £211,420) to the company. At the balance sheet date the amount due to GWOC (Trading) Ltd. was £47,694 (2023 - £44,808 due from GWOC (Trading) Ltd).

Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum

(A charity related by common control.)

During the year the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum made a donation to the company of £nil (2023 £nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due to the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum was £4,107 (2023 - £96,314 due from the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum).

Bowles Green Ltd

(Co-directors are also directors of this company.)

During the year the Charity purchased services from Bowles Green Ltd for £1,400 (2023 - £2,750). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Bowles Green Ltd was £nil (2023 - £nil).

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

27 **Cash generated from operations**	2024 £	2023 £
Deficit for the year	(143,667)	(160,474)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(875)	(1,462)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(1,050)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	64,219	64,796
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	86,782	45,062
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(371)	72,594
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(16,497)	16,497
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(10,409)	35,963

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159058

Accounts

Charity registration number 1159058

Company registration number 09069349 (England and Wales)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr C Carter	
	Mr P Cluett	
	Mr P Geddes	
	Mr M Patterson	
	Prof. P Rodhouse	
	Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
	Mr P De Quincey	
	Ms E Moorcroft	
	Mr P Curnow Ford	
	Mrs E Wallace	
	Mr R Nabarro	
	Mr D E Jones	(Appointed 27 September 2022)
Secretary	Mrs J A Bowles	
Charity number	1159058	
Company number	09069349	
Registered office	Gilbert White's House High Street Selborne Hampshire GU34 3JH	
Auditor	Azets Audit Services Ashcombe Court Woolsack Way Godalming Surrey GU7 1LQ	

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

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GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Vision

The principal objectives of the Charity are to maintain a sustainable visitor attraction - a library, museum and garden - at Gilbert White's House in Selborne and an associated Field Studies Centre. This includes caring for the collections of artefacts, documents and specimens in accordance with agreed professional standards and developing educational, outreach and access policies. Accreditation status was achieved in 2008 and was last renewed in October 2018 for a period of five years.

Explorers of the Natural World

Our visitor attraction is a unique centre of international significance. Inspired by the writings, house and gardens of the Revd. Gilbert White of Selborne, complemented by the Oates family collections of early Antarctic and African exploration, Gilbert White & The Oates Collections promotes engagement with and enjoyment of the natural world.

Mission

Our mission is: Inspiring journeys of discovery in the natural world to make better lives.

Purpose

In furtherance of this mission, we have identified the following purpose:

To create a stimulating environment where people can discover and learn about the natural world; offering a wide range of activities to appeal to all kinds of visitors – from seeing our exhibitions, garden and estate and inspirational museum displays, and accessing important original artefacts and books, to informative lectures, talks, and learning activities aimed at students of all ages. We will inspire visitors to become explorers of the natural environment to help them lead better lives.

We achieve this and provide public benefit by:

- Opening the house and garden to the public and providing an outstanding visitor experience
- Caring for the land, buildings and collections in accordance with proper professional standards
- Providing educational courses for schools, colleges and the general public
- Delivering a programme of events and activities
- Facilitating courses for special interest groups
- Working with like-minded organisations to emphasise the importance of the study of the natural world, both in terms of heritage and the present day

The cost of entry to the house and garden, and charges for education visits, events and activities are set at a level which compares well with other local museums.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Operational Review

The year began well with strong visitor numbers and income during the Spring and Summer months. However, this changed in September when the impacts of the cost of living crisis and inflation, plus the declining catering offer (due to recruitment issues) led to a poor close season, income-wise.

An ongoing planning delay has led to a postponement of our plans to open an adult learning centre in the formerly disused Queens Hotel. We were, however, able to develop and open the Jubilee Tap Room under existing planning consent.

We continued to strengthen the board and the staff team during the year with the addition of experienced Events and Weddings Managers and more visitor attraction and commercial expertise on the board.

Museum

A programme of temporary exhibitions ran in the museum, including:

- From the Margins (June-August 2022) – work by graphic artist Rachel Hudson inspired by the conservation work of the Selborne Landscape Partnership
- Drawn to Nature (September-December 2022) – Exploring artists through the ages who were inspired by Gilbert White including Nash prints from our own collection and loans from Pallant House
- Frank Oates & King Lobengula: Encounter at the Frontier of Empire (January-March 2023) – an exhibition curated by Southampton University following their work exploring Frank Oates and decolonisation within our collections and education departments

We acquired the Holt-White collection at auction. This included a silver salver which belonged to Rebecca White – Gilbert White's grandmother, and Rashleigh Holt-White's own copy of his book 'The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne'. The salver is now on display in the museum and achieved national press coverage (Telegraph) following its purchase.

Garden

Our management of hedgerows for the Brown Hairstreak butterfly continues to be successful with increasing numbers of eggs counted in our winter surveys and our knowledge of the site continues to increase through surveys (amphibians and reptiles) and the commissioning of a new botanical survey.

Other developments include a programme of planting native plant species mentioned by White in his Flora Selborniensis, in the Naturalists' Garden, replacement of box hedges suffering from box blight, in an extension of the Herb Garden, and the relaying of most of the hedge between the Great Mead and the Ewell Field.

2022/23 saw a high level of tree management following the latest, quinquennial tree survey. A number of ash trees, suffering from ash dieback, have been removed. The Great Oak, planted by Gilbert White in 1730 was identified as dangerous in need of high priority attention. A plan to fell the tree was revised following a second opinion from an arboriculturist. The tree has been saved by removing the top 30% of growth and is being closely monitored.

In January 2023 we left the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. The management prescription under this scheme for the grassland has not significantly improved the condition of the flora as hoped. The topography means that we have not been able to reduce soil nutrient levels and so management has had a limited effect in the flora. We are preparing a new conservation management plan for our estate and have now begun to implement elements of it.

Field Studies Centre

School visit numbers continued to grow in the year, as did the number of over-18 learners. To manage the growth in education visits we have recruited and trained three casual Education Assistants.

The increase in capacity has enabled us to develop and deliver several funded programmes, including:

- Reaching Out – we continue to use this Department for Education programme to support visits to our site by schools from disadvantaged areas including Test Valley and Reading as well as delivering Arts Award days and training for teachers.
- Making Connections – This South-East Museums Development project has funded the development of loan boxes, jointly with schools with whom we have not worked before and training teachers in their use.

During the year, the National Trust imposed time and pupil number restrictions on our use of their land (Selborne Common and Church Meadow) and introduced an annual fee. This has caused us to increase our pupil charges for modules that use National Trust land and to focus our marketing and education development efforts on learning on our own estate.

	12 months to 31st March 2023	12 months to 31st March 2022	12 months to 31st March 2021	12 months to 31st March 2020	12 months to 31st March 2019
Students under 18	4,812	4,500	435	4,490	4,665
Post 18	296	226	35	69	813*
Out of school activities	339	441	117	34	837
Outreach sessions	50	0	0	120	480
Total	**5,497**	**5,167**	**587**	**4,713**	**6,795**

*Includes adults accompanying school group visits

Events and Activities

Historically, weddings and events were covered by the general staff until a new events and weddings team was recruited in the run up to the beginning of June. This team is now properly established and performing well.

Following a year of mixed sales performance in 2021-22 the new weddings manager has set a new pricing policy and whilst weddings profit for the current year was disappointing due to historical underprice, sales for 2023/24 have been strong and at an improved margin.

A programme of 35 events, activities and workshops attracted 4,322 visits, including 1,595 to the Unusual Plants Fair in June – the busiest to date; 1,000 people attended on the first day – the museum's busiest day ever. Approximately 250 people attended the family-orientated Nature Day event in May, almost 500 attended an Abba tribute concert in August 2022 and the December 2022 Eco-Fair attracted over 400. A new events strategy was developed during the year with events targeted at supporting our mission and generating income. Some new events were piloted.

Catering

Activity in White's was depressed throughout 2022/23 due to staffing challenges, in particular the failure to appoint a Chef. This limited menu resulted in lower than anticipated income. Whilst the catering offer was sufficient to satisfy demand from museum visitors and people visiting Selborne for other reasons, it did not attract higher spending customers seeking lunches and dinners out.

In the continued absence of a village shop, as a service to the local community of Selborne, we continued to sell a basic range of shop items and frozen ready meals from one bay in White's and directly from the kitchen. In March we distributed a questionnaire in Selborne and used the results to ensure we focussed on goods that people wanted to buy locally.

Retail

Museum retail sales continued the strong growth that began at the end of the previous year. New lines have been introduced and the retail manager has sourced two new ranges of branded merchandise – one "Be More Gilbert" aimed at adults, and a children's "Young Explorer" range. These will be stocked from Summer 2023

Brewery

The brewery attracted several new volunteers and the brewing team worked hard on achieving consistency of taste and quality. In January 2023 we opened the Jubilee Tap Room in the newly refurbished former Queens Hotel opposite the museum. We are greatly assisted by our arrangement with the landlord to operate on a peppercorn rent. The landlord also covered significant costs of fitting out our Tap Room for which we thank them. The Tap Room represents a new income stream which enables us to sell our beers on draught, significantly increasing the profit margin. The opening of the Taproom has enabled us to attract a new audience of local and visiting real ale enthusiasts. It has provided us with an additional letting space and it has enabled us to begin to professionalise the brewing team through the appointment of a full time Tap Room Manager/Brewer. As a result, by the end of the financial year the brewery was operating at full capacity and is expected on an annualised basis to add several tens of thousands of pounds to our turnover, providing a significant operating surplus.

Marketing

Our marketing team was strengthened by the appointment of a part time marketing assistant. This has enabled us to deliver nature and environment related messaging at the same scale of our conventional messaging and has resulted in a growth in users of our website and social media channels. We also joined the Eco-Attractions Group which has opened joint marketing opportunities with other members including the Eden Project, Kew Gardens, the Living Rainforest, The Earth Trust and the National Botanical Garden of Wales. We have also developed strategic partnerships with the British Beekeeping Association (becoming the first institutional member for 100 years).

Holiday Accommodation

Our three-room holiday apartment continues to provide income from visiting tourists and our wedding guests.

Financial review

Earned income continued to grow in 2022/23, with most income sources – with the exception of catering, for reasons described above - now back on their pre-covid growth curves. Visitor numbers and income were above expectations from April to August, but began to fall in September, probably because of the impacts of the cost of living crisis. This resulted in a poor Autumn, Winter and Spring.

Against this, higher costs resulting from high price and wage inflation, plus the wedding cost issues outlined above, led to an operating loss for the year.

	12 Months to 31st March 2023	12 months to 31st March 2022	12 months to 31st March 2021	12 months to 31st March 2020	12 months to 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Admissions to the museum	124,274	102,952	47,735	106,434	88,712
Shop and Garden Takings	75,187	64,451	27,709	43,094	42,036
Catering Takings	231,835	298,487	244,357	112,909	89,629
Events	194,119	91,403	17,770	115,354	108,211
Brewery (incl Tap room)	32,702	20,952	8,880	-	-
TOTAL	658,117	578,245	346,451	377,791	328,588
Field Studies Centre non-grant income	61,413	51,524	3,256	46,735	56,395
Total takings	**719,530**	**629,769**	**349,707**	**424,526**	**384,983**
Total Visitor Numbers excluding Field Studies Centre (above)	20,953*	15,602	7,187	16,344	16,986

Including Gift Aid * Includes 4,322 visitors who attended an event or activity
Includes takings of GWOC (Trading) Ltd which are not recognised in these financial statements.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to endeavour to maintain Unrestricted General Funds at a level which represents at least three months' operational expenditure. Taking into account the experience of recent years' expenditure, this amounts to approximately £150,000-£200,000; this level was maintained throughout the reporting period. In deciding on holding three months' Unrestricted General Fund Reserves, we have regard to the costs that would be involved in closing the Museum and Field Studies Centre, should the financial position become untenable.

Total reserves held are £2,019,674, of which £54,761 are restricted and £1,954,851 are designated as tangible assets and heritage assets, resulting in free reserves totalling £10,062.

The board recognises that unrestricted funds have fallen below the reserves policy as a result of weaker trading and higher costs over a sustained period. During 2023, the board took steps to address this situation, and rebuild reserves to the target policy level over a period of 4 years by:

Short term measures

- Making three posts redundant in November 2023 to reduce payroll by £6,000 per month
- Reducing expenditure across the organisation
- Considering the sale of a small parcel of land which is currently a liability to the trust but has value for a neighbour
- Restructuring to create a fundraising manager post to increase our non-commercial income and create the capacity for development fundraising
- Establishing a membership scheme to replace the disbanded Friends Charity, giving us better control of the developments and use of this income
- Establishing strategic partnerships with 2 membership organisations (The Royal Horticultural Society and the British Beekeepers Association) which will increase visits and secondary spend from January 2024

Medium/long term measures

- Preparing a new strategy and establishing two sub-groups to drive it forwards
- Formulating a new development plan that will include:
  - A new education facility that will free the 16thc barn for more weddings, functions, meetings and adult learning
  - Nature themed children's play trail that will increase family visits
  - A new collections store in the former Queens Hotel which will enable us to reconfigure our reception, creating more retail display space
  - Solar panels to reduce energy costs
- Preparing an application to the NLHF for resilience funding (including full cost recovery) to improve our marketing to the environmental interest audience, our use of volunteers and our non-commercial fundraising strategy
- We have secured a grant of £43,000 to buy equipment to run the UK's first eco-light festival which will generate £20,000 profit in next and subsequent Decembers

Investment Policy and Performance

The current investment policy is to hold all funds on bank deposit so as to be available to meet needs as they arise.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Charity maintains a Risk Register. This is reviewed regularly by the Trustees at board meetings. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the trust are:

- If the cost of living crisis continues to depress income generation to cover running costs
- Failure to secure the support of external funding bodies for major projects
- Difficulty in appointing staff to key positions
- Loss of organisational knowledge through high staff turnover
- Loss of museum accreditation through inadequate storage

GOING CONCERN

Following a disappointing financial performance in 2022-23, the trustees have reviewed their strategy, management and development priorities for the coming 12 months and 5-year cycle. A number of current activities are combining to strengthen our financial position, including:

- Strengthening retail sales by introducing branded merchandise ranges
- Forging strategic partnerships to raise awareness and increase visitor numbers
- Implementing a renewed events strategy
- Introducing a membership scheme
- Reviewing White's menu, operating systems, staffing and purchasing
- Improvements to sales and financial management of weddings
- Increasing winter income by developing a premium Christmas offer this year and a winter festival in 2024

Further details of the charity's plans to rebuild reserves to the target policy level can be found above in the 'Reserves Policy' section.

Plans for future periods

Our plans for the future will be guided by a new 5-year strategy and action plan which will be developed during the summer and autumn of 2023. This will be delivered through 4 pillars of activity:

- Telling our stories
- Education
- Generating Income
- Sustainability

Our plans to develop an adult learning centre in the disused Queens Hotel have been delayed by the continuing planning dispute. To ensure that this does not impact adversely on the health of the organisation, trustees have adopted a new strategy (the mission, purpose and strategic pillars set out above) and are preparing a new development plan to address our current challenges.

We will renew our status as an accredited museum at our next renewal in 2024 and we will continue to develop existing and new strategic partnerships, including:

- More joint working with our colleagues in the Eco-Attractions Group (marketing, training, customer behaviour on climate change)
- Closer alignment with heritage sites in East Hampshire
- Building on our success in becoming a Royal Horticultural Society Partner Garden from January 2024.

Work began to replace the discontinuing Friends of Gilbert White's House and Gardens with a new membership scheme. This will be launched in the Summer of 2023. In the Autumn of 2023, a re-structure will see our Senior Events Manager promoted to Fundraising Manager giving us greater capacity and control over non-commercial fundraising, including:

- Grants to support our forthcoming capital development programme
- Philanthropic giving
- Developing the membership scheme

Structure, governance and management
Constitution

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the Charity or Museum) is registered as a company limited by guarantee (No. 9069349); it was set up by a Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016. Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is also a registered charity (No. 1159058).

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is the sole trustee of The Oates Memorial Library and Museum and the Gilbert White Museum and the sole member of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr C Carter	
Mr P Cluett	
Mr P Geddes	
Ms H Lane	(Resigned 4 May 2023)
Mr M Patterson	
Prof. P Rodhouse	
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
Mr P De Quincey	
Mr G Seabright	(Resigned 1 January 2023)
Ms E Moorcroft	
Mr P Curnow Ford	
Mrs E Wallace	
Mr R Nabarro	
Mr D E Jones	(Appointed 27 September 2022)

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

The charity has a policy to replace trustees which are recruited generally through existing Trustee and organisational professional contacts. New Trustees are invited to meet with current members of the Board to explore skill areas and are then invited to attend a meeting before making a firm decision.
An initial induction is given to new Trustees and further training is given if required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making

The Trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (Trustees) are responsible for agreeing the policies and strategic direction of the organisation. Operational matters are delegated to the Museum Co-Directors under the immediate oversight of the Board. An Acquisitions and Disposals Committee (two Trustees and staff) oversees management of the museum collections; a Queens Project Group (two Trustees, staff and volunteers) meets to oversee the Queens development project, and; an Income Generation and Fundraising Group (4 Trustees and staff) meets to guide development and fundraising. From time to time, task and finish sub-groups are convened to deal with specific matters.

One trustee joined (Dominic Edward Jones 27th September 2022) and one trustee resigned Gordon Seabright (3rd January 2023), so the total number of trustees remained at 13. Judith Ann Bowles replaced Stephen Atwood Green as Company Secretary. One Trustee and a Museum Co-Director make up the board of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The Trustees met on six occasions during the year and the average attendance was 10 Trustees.

Auditor

The auditors, Azets, were appointed to carry out the 2022/23 financial year audit. They have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Thanks

The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported our work during the year, the staff, volunteers and Friends, whose commitment, enthusiasm and many skills have been indispensable.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

20 December 2023

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- enquiring of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

- Assesing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;

- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

Debra Saunders FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

21 December 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ashcombe Court
Woolsack Way
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1LQ

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	247,975	58,495	306,470	347,286
Charitable activities	4	185,687	-	185,687	154,476
Other trading activities	5	37,559	-	37,559	14,095
Investments	6	1,462	-	1,462	1,602
Other income	7	1,255	-	1,255	-
Total income		473,938	58,495	532,433	517,459
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	12,473	-	12,473	2,290
Charitable activities	9	671,733	8,701	680,434	634,522
Total resources expended		684,206	8,701	692,907	636,812
Net movement in funds		(210,268)	49,794	(160,474)	(119,353)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148	2,299,501
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		1,964,913	54,761	2,019,674	2,180,148

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	269,912	77,374	347,286
Charitable activities	4	154,476	-	154,476
Other trading activities	5	14,095	-	14,095
Investments	6	1,602	-	1,602
Total income		440,085	77,374	517,459
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	8	2,290	-	2,290
Charitable activities	9	625,789	8,733	634,522
Total resources expended		628,079	8,733	636,812
Gross transfers between funds		63,674	(63,674)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(124,320)	4,967	(119,353)
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		2,299,501	-	2,299,501
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		1,945,930		2,005,456
Heritage assets	15		8,921		8,921
			1,954,851		2,014,377
Current assets					
Debtors	16	141,341		186,403	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,801		10,596	
		185,142		196,999	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(103,822)		(31,228)	
Net current assets			81,320		165,771
Total assets less current liabilities			2,036,171		2,180,148
Provisions for liabilities			(16,497)		-
Net assets			2,019,674		2,180,148
Income funds					
Restricted funds	20		54,761		4,967
Unrestricted funds			1,964,913		2,175,181
			2,019,674		2,180,148

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 December 2023

Mr P Cluett
Trustee

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

Company Registration No. 09069349

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	25		35,963		(133,641)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(5,270)		(76,971)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		1,050		-	
Purchase of heritage assets		-		(1,729)	
Investment income received		1,462		1,602	
Net cash used in investing activities			(2,758)		(77,098)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			33,205		(210,739)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			10,596		221,335
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			43,801		10,596

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Gilbert White's House, High Street, Selborne, Hampshire, GU34 3JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Total reserves held are £2,019,674, of which £54,761 are restricted and £1,954,851 are designated as tangible assets and heritage assets, resulting in free reserves totalling £10,062. The board recognises that unrestricted funds have fallen below the reserves policy as a result of weaker trading and higher costs over a sustained period. The board has taken steps to address this situation and rebuild reserves to the target policy level over a period of 4 years. Further details of the short term measures and medium/long term measures can be found in the Trustees Report under the Reserves Policy heading.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charitable company are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line
Plant and equipment	20% Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.7 Heritage assets

All Heritage assets acquired prior to 1st April 2016, (which were purchased in the Oates Memorial Library and Gilbert White Museum prior to 1st January 2013), are excluded from the balance sheet on the basis that significant costs would be incurred in obtaining a valuation of the items acquired in previous periods as a collection, compared with the benefit that would be derived from including them. This cost would also have to be incurred following a subsequent addition to the collection on the basis that each addition becomes part of the whole collection and cannot be seen as a standalone item. With effect from the 1st April 2016, Heritage assets acquired are included in the balance sheet where the cost or valuation of the assets are readily available.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charitable company has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charitable company will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value, the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in net income/(expenditure) in the period in which it arises.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.15 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	221,977	-	221,977	227,200	3,625	230,825
Grants	25,623	58,495	84,118	42,712	73,749	116,461
Other	375	-	375	-	-	-
	247,975	58,495	306,470	269,912	77,374	347,286
Donations and gifts						
GWOC (Trading) Limited	211,420	-	211,420	215,960	-	215,960
Individuals and friends	9,120	-	9,120	6,727	3,625	10,352
Gift Aid reclaimed	1,437	-	1,437	4,513	-	4,513
	221,977	-	221,977	227,200	3,625	230,825

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Grants receivable for core activities						
Foyle Foundation	-	39,000	39,000	-	-	-
Goldman Sachs	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
East Hampshire District Council Covid 19 related	-	-	-	26,667	-	26,667
Arts Council	-	-	-	300	-	300
DeLaszlo Grant	-	7,000	7,000	-	-	-
HMRC Job retention Scheme	-	-	-	9,591	-	9,591
Brewery Grant	-	-	-	4,615	-	4,615
Reaching Out	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	-	895	895	-	60,049	60,049
Hampshire Cultural Trust	-	-	-	-	13,700	13,700
Other	20,623	1,600	22,223	1,538	-	1,538
	25,623	58,495	84,118	42,712	73,749	116,461

4 Charitable activities

	Museum operation 2023 £	Museum operation 2022 £
Museum operation	124,274	102,952
Field study centre	61,413	51,524
	185,687	154,476

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Exhibitions and events	37,559	14,095

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Rental income	1,462	1,601
Interest receivable	-	1
	1,462	1,602

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,050	-
Other income	205	-
	1,255	-

8 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Staging fundraising events	12,473	2,290
	12,473	2,290

9 Charitable activities

	Museum operation 2023 £	Museum operation 2022 £
Staff costs (net of recharges)	375,624	350,901
Depreciation and impairment	64,796	72,170
Rates	7,835	3,958
Light, heat & power	28,693	12,903
Insurance	26,564	19,265
Repairs & maintenance	42,703	64,967
Advertising	29,202	25,217
Printing, stationery & postage	2,304	2,513
Computer peripherals & software	4,478	22,459
Staff training	2,134	1,157
Travel & subsistence	618	616
Consultancy & professional fees	12,843	3,451
Sundry expenses	43,605	15,848
Trade subscriptions	4,545	2,244
Telephone & communication	9,127	8,402
Bank charges	2,767	3,754
	657,838	609,825
Share of support costs (see note 10)	13,506	15,622
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	9,090	9,075
	680,434	634,522
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	671,733	625,789
Restricted funds	8,701	8,733
	680,434	634,522

10 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accountancy & bookkeeping	10,818	-	10,818	13,306	-	13,306
Consultancy	2,688	-	2,688	2,316	-	2,316
Audit fees	-	9,090	9,090	-	9,075	9,075
	13,506	9,090	22,596	15,622	9,075	24,697
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	13,506	9,090	22,596	15,622	9,075	24,697

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £9,090 (2022 - £9,075) for audit fees.

11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration, benefits or expenses from the charitable company during the year.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	35	31

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	398,597	370,853
Social security costs	20,133	18,465
Other pension costs	5,818	5,695
	424,548	395,013

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	2,081,749	37,516	167,748	2,287,013
Additions	-	3,451	1,819	5,270
Disposals	-	-	(1,803)	(1,803)
At 31 March 2023	2,081,749	40,967	167,764	2,290,480
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2022	151,833	25,302	104,422	281,557
Depreciation charged in the year	41,678	5,745	17,373	64,796
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(1,803)	(1,803)
At 31 March 2023	193,511	31,047	119,992	344,550
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	1,888,238	9,920	47,772	1,945,930
At 31 March 2022	1,929,916	12,214	63,326	2,005,456

15 Heritage assets

	Artefacts
	£
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	8,921

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	18,382	8,011
Other debtors	122,366	178,392
Prepayments and accrued income	593	-
	141,341	186,403

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	10,481	5,083
Trade creditors	22,602	3,038
Other creditors	45,436	458
Accruals and deferred income	25,303	22,649
	103,822	31,228

Provisions for liabilities	2023	2022
	£	£
	16,497	-

Movements on provisions:

	£
Additional provisions in the year	16,497

19 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

The Charity contributes up to 3% of the employee's salary to the scheme, with the employee contributing at least 5%.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £5,818 (2022 - £5,695).

At the end of the year the Charity had outstanding contributions of £ 0 (2022 - £0).

20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds		
	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee Machine Fund	3,625	-	(3,625)	-	-	-	-
Reaching Out Grant	13,700	(8,733)	-	4,967	10,000	(8,701)	6,266
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	60,049	-	(60,049)	-	895	-	895
Gallery Renovation	-	-	-	-	39,000	-	39,000
deLaszlo Live Link	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000
Hampshire County Council	-	-	-	-	1,600	-	1,600
	77,374	(8,733)	(63,674)	4,967	58,495	(8,701)	54,761

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to the development of the buildings and property. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

AIM Biffa Award: History Makers
The AIM Biffa Award History Makers Scheme gives grants to museums, galleries and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser known historical figures. The scheme supports projects that use the life and achievements of extraordinary historical figures to inspire and educate visitors.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	1,945,930	-	1,945,930	2,005,456	-	2,005,456
Heritage assets	8,921	-	8,921	8,921	-	8,921
Current assets/(liabilities)	26,559	54,761	81,320	160,804	4,967	165,771
Provisions	(16,497)	-	(16,497)	-	-	-
	1,964,913	54,761	2,019,674	2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148

22 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	1,145	866
Between two and five years	3,714	3,462
	4,859	4,328

23 Capital commitments

The charity has contracted for work regarding redesigning of the Gilbert White displays of the following amounts:

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2022 - £53,745).

24 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	43,259	42,339

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Trustees

During the year the charity received donations from the Trustees of £270 (2022 - £375). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Trustees was £nil (2022 - £nil).

GWOC (Trading) Ltd

(Related by common control.)

During the year the company recharged costs totalling £48,924 (2022 - £44,112) to GWOC (Trading) Ltd, and GWOC (Trading) Ltd. made a donation of £211,420 (2022 - £215,960) to the company. At the balance sheet date the amount due to GWOC (Trading) Ltd. was £44,808 (2022 - £56,163 due from GWOC (Trading) Ltd).

Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum

(A charity related by common control.)

During the year the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum made a donation to the company of £nil (2022 £nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due from the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum was £96,314 (2022 - £96,574).

Bowles Green Ltd

(Co-directors are also directors of this company.)

During the year the Charity purchased services from Bowles Green Ltd for £2,750 (2022 - £Nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Bowles Green Ltd was £nil (2022 - £nil).

25 Cash generated from operations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deficit for the year	(160,474)	(119,353)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,462)	(1,602)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(1,050)	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	64,796	72,170
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	45,062	(40,647)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	72,594	(44,209)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	16,497	-
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	35,963	(133,641)

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no debt during the year.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159058

Accounts

Charity registration number 1159058

Company registration number 09069349 (England and Wales)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr C Carter	
	Mr P Cluett	
	Mr P Geddes	
	Ms H Lane	
	Mr M Patterson	
	Prof. P Rodhouse	
	Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
	Mr P De Quincey	
	Mr G Seabright	
	Ms E Moorcroft	(Appointed 25 May 2021)
	Mr P Curnow Ford	(Appointed 29 June 2021)
	Mrs E Wallace	(Appointed 25 January 2022)
	Mr R Nabarro	(Appointed 26 October 2021)
Secretary	Mr S A Green	
Charity number	1159058	
Company number	09069349	
Registered office	Gilbert White's House High Street Selborne Hampshire GU34 3JH	
Auditor	Azets Audit Services Ashcombe Court Woolsack Way Godalming Surrey GU7 1LQ	

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

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GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Vision

The principal objectives of the Charity are to maintain a sustainable visitor attraction - a library, museum and garden - at Gilbert White's House in Selborne and an associated Field Studies Centre. This includes caring for the collections of artefacts, documents and specimens in accordance with agreed professional standards and developing educational, outreach and access policies. Accreditation status was achieved in 2008 and was last renewed in October 2018 for a period of five years.

Explorers of the Natural World

Our visitor attraction is a unique centre of international significance. Inspired by the writings, house and gardens of the Revd. Gilbert White of Selborne, complemented by the Oates family collections of early Antarctic and African exploration, Gilbert White & The Oates Collections promotes engagement with and enjoyment of the natural world.

Mission

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is working to:

- Ensure that we speak directly to the concerns and interests of the 21st century by making the natural world accessible to all and promoting the continual exploration and understanding of nature
- Create a dynamic and stimulating environment which people of all ages and ability come to learn and experience
- Preserve a vital element of scientific heritage and history and explain how this is relevant to the present day

In furtherance of this mission, we have identified the following objectives:

- To promote the lives and ideas of Gilbert White and Lawrence and Frank Oates to a wider national and international audience and maximise access for the broadest range of visitors and users
- To increase awareness of Gilbert White as the Father of Ecology, an inspiration for generation of natural scientists, including Charles Darwin, and precursor of climate change, including through the hashtag *'bemoregilbert'!*
- To position Gilbert White & The Oates Collections as a destination of choice for local, national and overseas visitors
- To provide and enhance the best possible range of high quality services in ways and at times which suit both the needs of visitors to Selborne and, through an outreach programme, to a wider audience nationally and internationally
- To work in partnership in pursuit of these aims with complementary organisations such as National Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Natural England, English Heritage, Arts Council England, British Antarctic Survey, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, Scott Polar Research Institute, the Natural History Museum, and other national and international universities, museums and conservation organisations
- To manage Gilbert White & The Oates Collections in a resilient, professional and sustainable way expected of an accredited museum
- Be compliant with the latest Charity Commission requirements.

We achieve these objectives and provide public benefit by:

- Opening the house and garden to the public and providing a good visitor experience
- Caring for the collections in accordance with proper professional standards
- Providing educational courses for schools, colleges and the general public
- Delivering a programme of events and activities
- Facilitating courses for special interest groups
- Working with like-minded organisations to emphasise the importance of the study of the natural world, both in terms of heritage and the present day

The cost of entry to the house and garden, and charges for education visits, events and activities are set at a level which compares well with other local museums.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Operational Review

The pandemic continued to have a direct impact on the trust until July, as visits to museums were still restricted. Following this, visitor patterns took time to recover as some older people in particular, who make up a high proportion of our visitors, continued to be concerned about the risk of contracting Covid. As the site returned to full operation and earned income replaced Covid support funding from the Arts Council and the Job Retention Scheme, the Trustees met regularly to review the financial situation.

We have continued to strengthen our financial management system, including recruiting a new trustee with responsibility for finance and development of our monthly dashboard system for all 'departments' and use of data from our Square till system. We have also strengthened other management capabilities, including through the recruitment of a trustee with responsibility for Human resources and appointing a trustee with specific responsibility for safeguarding. We have established a sub-group of the board to manage development and fundraising.

Museum

The museum returned to normal operation in mid-July. Also in July, works were completed on the first phase of refreshing the Gilbert White galleries. This involved major redesigns of Bells Library and the Great Parlour to re-display the manuscript of the Natural History of Selborne and to tell the stories of the significance of White's work and his family. More minor interventions were made to the other Gilbert White galleries to highlight other aspects of White's life and the species he identified and wrote about. The new galleries were soft-opened by Clare Balding at our Gilbert White's 301st Birthday event in July and officially opened on September 2021.

A programme of temporary exhibitions was held during the year, as follows:

- Watching Narrowly – An exhibition of winning entries to our photography competition of the same name (Apr-Jun 2021)
- Flora Selborniensis (Jul-Oct 2021) Our first significant loan from another institution. Previously unseen documents including the 1766 Flora Selborniensis in Gilbert White's hand were borrowed from the Selborne Society/Linnaean Society
- Hyper Nature – a personal perspective of nature by local artist Joe Shaw (Jul-Nov 2021)
- Race to the Pole – Commemorating the journeys of Scott and Amundsen to the South Pole in 1911 (Dec 2021-Apr 2022)

Sophie Hacker has been appointed as an artist in residence for a year from March 2022 and is planning a programme of art-based engagement activities and will create material that can be commercialised through our retail activity.

Garden

The team of garden volunteers returned in 2021 and a number of new volunteers were recruited. Plans to link interpretation in the gardens and grounds progressed with the opening of a new bird hide and installation of new movable interpretation panels that highlight seasonal points of interest.

Repairs were made to the ha-ha and the fruit wall, both of which were re-pointed by a volunteer, and the pond in the wildlife garden was cleared of vegetation through the winter in order to increase the extent of open water.

The gardens continue to be maintained to a high standard and the flower bed at the garden entrance from the museum was re-designed and re-planted.

In 2022, the first three hives were installed in an apiary by our new volunteer bee group. This activity will produce honey and other bee products for sale later in 2022 and the bee group volunteers have committed to a presence at relevant events during the summer of 2022. There are plans to apply for institutional membership of the British Beekeepers Association.

Our collaboration with Sparsholt College continued, with regular work experience visits by students through the year. In September 2021, we collaborated with Sparsholt on a Gilbert White themed stand at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show which had originally been planned for the 300th anniversary of Gilbert White's birth in 2020. The stand won an award and generated much publicity for the museum and gardens.

Field Studies Centre

School visit numbers recovered to their pre-Covid levels and bookings by post-18-year-olds and for out of school activities began to recover, reaching a quarter and a half of their pre-Covid levels respectively. School bookings for the Spring Term were constrained by Covid concerns before Christmas and rumours of a further lockdown.

The formal education programme was reviewed and a new set of learning modules for schools was developed. Visiting schools are offered an explorer day on one of three themes:

- Nature Explorers (Gilbert White) exploring local wildlife, plants and ecosystems
- World Explorers (Frank Oates) comparing the creatures and climate of different continents to our own
- Antarctic Explorers (Lawrence Oates) exploring the creatures and climate of Antarctica and the challenges faced there by explorers past and present

Schools choose up to four curriculum themes from a list for each visit. With the exception of river studies, most of these activities take place in the museum and grounds reducing the impact on the surrounding landscape and reducing the time children have to walk to reach their study sites.

Informal learning numbers have increased and new activities such as the John Muir Award (an environmental award scheme for young people) and Easter Egg Hunt have encouraged families to buy annual passes for the museum and gardens.

We have continued to support visits to the museum by schools from disadvantaged areas through our participation in the Reaching Out programme and we are strengthening our safeguarding procedures through a review and additional training for staff and volunteers.

	12 months to 31st March 2022	12 months to 31st March 2021	12 months to 31st March 2020	12 months to 31st March 2019	12 months to 31st March 2019
Students under 18	4,500	435	4,490	4,665	4,571
Post 18 (includes adult helpers before March 2019)	226*	35*	69*	813	993
Out of school activities	441	117	34	837	369
Outreach sessions	0	0	120	480	135
Total	**5,167**	**587**	**4,713**	**6,795**	**6,068**

*Excludes adults accompanying school group visits

Events and Activities

The Events Manager and Weddings manager posts remained vacant at the beginning of the year following a redundancy and staff turnover during the pandemic. Replacement staff were recruited during April. This, plus continued uncertainty around reopening post Covid, led to a restricted events programme consisting of several outdoor theatre events, a restricted number of small events (nature, crafts, etc) the annual Unusual Plants Fair, Gilbert White's Birthday and a number of private functions. Weddings were mostly re-arranged weddings that had been cancelled during the pandemic and booked at price points from several years ago. The annual Nature Fair (May) had to be cancelled for a second year in 2021.

In March 2022, both the Events and Weddings Manager left our employment. In the event we were able to recruit a more professional and experienced events team for 2022, which will be reflected in a significantly developed events programme in 2023.

Catering

The temporary catering kiosk and outdoor seating on the lawn established during the pandemic were retained and these operated at busy times during the summer to maximise catering income after White's returned to a normal café operation in July 2021. In addition to the normal, pre-Covid operation of a full lunch menu and monthly 'Friday Night at White's' events, the kitchen also catered for a number of weddings and functions.

The Catering Manager left her post in December 2021, and it was not possible to replace her despite extensive advertising and working with a recruitment agency. Existing staff were given some increased responsibility and a less expansive menu was offered for the remainder of the financial year.

In the continued absence of a village shop, as a service to the local community of Selborne, we continued to sell a basic range of shop items and frozen ready meals from one bay in White's and directly from the kitchen. In March we distributed a questionnaire in Selborne and used the results to ensure stock carried a focus on lines that people seek to buy locally.

Retail

Museum retail income returned as the shop re-opened in July 2021, but income continued at the pre-Covid levels for the remainder of the year. In March 2022, a temporary arrangement was identified to channel all visitors through the shop. This was implemented the following month and resulted in a doubling of retail income.

Brewery

The scale of brewery activity grew during the year and new brewing volunteers were recruited and trained. The brewery provided valuable additional income and generated interest from the press (including an article in the national CAMRA magazine), from wedding couples, several of whom made a celebration brew, visitors who came along to beer tasting events on the lawn and visitors to the site in general.

Marketing

The Watching Narrowly photography competition run during lockdown proved to be a great success with many contributions and wide use of the *'watching narrowly'* hashtag. Interest waned as life returned to normal, but the hashtag remains in use today. Events drive visits and publicity beginning with the garden Easter Egg Hunt which attracted large numbers of families in April and Gilbert White's 301st Birthday, a free admission event attracted 700 visitors, a daily record at the time. Off-site activity also generated valuable publicity, including the Gilbert White stand at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and a Gilbert White Exhibition at Winchester Cathedral.

Financial review

Earned income has begun to grow back strongly after the previous, Covid-affected year. Admission income has almost reached the pre-Covid level. Takings in the shop and garden, catering and the field studies centre exceeded pre covid levels. Events are still building to their pre-covid levels and we expect these to grow strongly once a more experienced and professional team is in place. Income from the brewery has grown strongly and brewing was almost at capacity by the end of the financial year.

However, costs are also increasing and the larger, more complex organisation requires a larger and more specialised staffing structure. Trustees will review and manage future growth on an on-going basis.

	12 Months to 31st March 2022	12 months to 31st March 2021	12 months to 31st March 2020	12 months to 31st March 2019	12 months to 31st March 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Admissions to the museum	102,952	47,735	106,434	88,712	94,034
Shop and Garden Takings	64,451	37,709	43,094	42,036	42,427
Catering Takings	298,487	224,357	112,909	89,629	49,793
Events	91,403	17,770	115,354	108,211	106.865
Brewery	20,952	8,880	-	-	-
TOTAL	578,245	346,451	377,791	328,588	293,119
Field Studies Centre non-grant income	51,524	3,256	46,735	56,395	53,952
Total takings	629,769	359,707	424,526	384,983	**347,071**
Total Visitor Numbers excluding Field Studies Centre (above)	15,602	7,187	16,344	16,986	13,487

Including Gift Aid

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to maintain Unrestricted General Funds at a level which represents at least three months' operational expenditure. Taking into account the experience of recent years' expenditure, this amounts to approximately £180,000 to operate the museum and the activities of its trading subsidiary; this level was maintained throughout the reporting period. In deciding on holding three months' Unrestricted General Fund Reserves, we have regard to the costs that would be involved in closing the Museum and Field Studies Centre, should the financial position become untenable.

Total reserves held are £2,180,148, of which £4,967 are restricted.

Investment Policy and Performance

The current investment policy is to hold all funds on bank deposit so as to be available to meet needs as they arise.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Charity maintains a Risk Register. This is reviewed each quarter by the Executive & Finance Committee and annually by the Trustees meeting at a board meeting.

GOING CONCERN

After discussions with key management personnel, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. The Charity's business plan shows that it will have adequate reserves and will be able to meet its liabilities. Accordingly, since there are no material uncertainties, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements as outlined in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement.

The impacts of the pandemic on visits to attractions continued to be felt into 2021 and there is now concern that significant increases in the cost of living because of inflation and increases in fuel costs may have an impact on disposable income in 2022 and the trustees will continue to monitor the financial position as the year unfolds.

Plans for future periods

Work to maximise the opportunity of occupying the ground floor of the former Queens Hotel premises for a peppercorn rent (based on a 99-year lease) progressed through the year. A planning application by the developer was turned down in November 2021 and as a result a two-phase development programme is proposed with the second phase subject to a successful appeal. In phase one (2022-23) the trust will open a taproom in one part of the building. This will enable us to sell our own-brewed beers at a higher profit margin. The developer will also open three self-catering accommodation units, which the trust will manage, generating management fees. Initial discussions were held with the University of Winchester on delivering some climate change learning at the Queens and with the Natural History Museum on rolling out the NHM's programme of adult nature learning to the Queens both from 2023 or 2024.

A review of the use of spaces throughout the site in March 2022 led to plans to refresh the Lawrence Oates Galleries to make better use of the current Ponting Room, to add a live link to the Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough and to update the interpretation of Antarctic science. It also led to plans to redesign the entrance and retail space which will strengthen the pay perimeter, provide a direct entrance for garden only visitors and create additional retail display space. This plan would also see the relocation of the collections store to the learning space at The Queens.

A programme of fundraising is being planned and developed in parallel with design work for these development proposals. Current fundraising also includes: the completion of phase 2 of the Gilbert White displays refresh to include activities for children, improves security and a gallery to set out Gilbert White's legacy and relevance today; a salary for a Development Manager post, and; for engagement activities.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the Charity or Museum) is registered as a company limited by guarantee (No. 9069349); it was set up by a Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016. Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is also a registered charity (No. 1159058).

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is the sole trustee of The Oates Memorial Library and Museum and the Gilbert White Museum and the sole member of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A Broke	(Resigned 25 May 2021)
Mr C Carter	
Mr P Cluett	
Mr P Geddes	
Mr R Greenwood	(Resigned 22 January 2022)
Ms H Lane	
Mr M Patterson	
Prof. P Rodhouse	
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
Mr P De Quincey	
Mr G Seabright	
Ms E Moorcroft	(Appointed 25 May 2021)
Mr P Curnow Ford	(Appointed 29 June 2021)
Mrs E Wallace	(Appointed 25 January 2022)
Mr R Nabarro	(Appointed 26 October 2021)

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

The charity has a policy to replace trustees which are recruited generally through existing Trustee and organisational professional contacts. New Trustees are invited to meet with current members of the Board to explore skill areas and are then invited to attend a meeting before making a firm decision.
An initial induction is given to new Trustees and further training is given if required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making

The Trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (Trustees) are responsible for agreeing the policies and strategic direction of the organisation. Operational matters are delegated to the Museum Co-Directors under the immediate oversight of the Board. An Acquisitions and Disposals Committee (two Trustees and staff) oversees management of the museum collections; a Queens Project Group (two Trustees, staff and volunteers) meets to oversee the Queens development project, and; an Income Generation and Fundraising Group (4 Trustees and staff) meets to guide development and fundraising. From time to time, task and finish sub-groups are convened to deal with specific matters.

One Trustee and a Museum Co-Director make up the board of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The Trustees met on seven occasions during the year and the average attendance was 10 Trustees.

Auditor
The Trustees made it known that they will return to the market for the 2022-23 audit.

Thanks
The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported our work during the year, the staff, volunteers and Friends, whose commitment, enthusiasm and many skills have been indispensable. In particular, they would like to recognise the tireless efforts of the co-directors who successfully managed the organisation through the challenges of the pandemic.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

Date: 5th December 2022

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees, who are also the directors of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- enquiring of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

- Assesing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;

- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

12th December 2022

Azets Audit Services

.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ashcombe Court
Woolsack Way
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1LQ

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	269,912	77,374	347,286	614,448
Charitable activities	4	154,476	-	154,476	50,991
Other trading activities	5	14,095	-	14,095	3,594
Investments	6	1,602	-	1,602	1,531
Total income		440,085	77,374	517,459	670,564
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	628,079	8,733	636,812	585,517
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(187,994)	68,641	(119,353)	85,047
Gross transfers between funds	11	63,674	(63,674)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(124,320)	4,967	(119,353)	85,047
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		2,299,501	-	2,299,501	2,214,454
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148	2,299,501

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	602,715	11,733	614,448
Charitable activities	4	50,991	-	50,991
Other trading activities	5	3,594	-	3,594
Investments	6	1,531	-	1,531
Total income		658,831	11,733	670,564
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	573,784	11,733	585,517
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		85,047	-	85,047
Gross transfers between funds	11	2,184,017	(2,184,017)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		2,269,064	(2,184,017)	85,047
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		30,437	2,184,017	2,214,454
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		2,299,501	-	2,299,501

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		2,005,456		2,000,655
Heritage assets	13		8,921		7,192
			2,014,377		2,007,847
Current assets					
Debtors	14	186,403		145,756	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,596		221,335	
		196,999		367,091	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(31,228)		(75,437)	
Net current assets			165,771		291,654
Total assets less current liabilities			2,180,148		2,299,501
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		4,967		-
Unrestricted funds			2,175,181		2,299,501
			2,180,148		2,299,501

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....
Mr P Cluett
Trustee

.....
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

Company Registration No. 09069349

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	22		(133,641)		158,247
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(76,971)		(130,178)	
Purchase of heritage assets		(1,729)		-	
Investment income received		1,602		1,531	
Net cash used in investing activities			(77,098)		(128,647)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(210,739)		29,600
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			221,335		191,735
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			10,596		221,335

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Gilbert White's House, High Street, Selborne, Hampshire, GU34 3JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charitable company are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line
Plant and equipment	20% Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Heritage assets

All Heritage assets acquired prior to 1st April 2016, (which were purchased in the Oates Memorial Library and Gilbert White Museum prior to 1st January 2013), are excluded from the balance sheet on the basis that significant costs would be incurred in obtaining a valuation of the items acquired in previous periods as a collection, compared with the benefit that would be derived from including them. This cost would also have to be incurred following a subsequent addition to the collection on the basis that each addition becomes part of the whole collection and cannot be seen as a standalone item. With effect from the 1st April 2016, Heritage assets acquired are included in the balance sheet where the cost or valuation of the assets are readily available.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	227,200	3,625	230,825	87,039	11,733	98,772
Grants	42,712	73,749	116,461	515,676	-	515,676
	269,912	77,374	347,286	602,715	11,733	614,448
Donations and gifts						
GWOC (Trading) Limited	215,960	-	215,960	55,000	-	55,000
Individuals and friends	6,727	3,625	10,352	22,259	11,733	33,992
Companies, trusts and similar	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Gift Aid reclaimed	4,513	-	4,513	4,780	-	4,780
	227,200	3,625	230,825	87,039	11,733	98,772

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Grants receivable for core activities						
East Hampshire District Council Covid 19 related	26,667	-	26,667	60,115	-	60,115
Arts Council	300	-	300	151,900	-	151,900
National Heritage	-	-	-	156,229	-	156,229
HMRC Job retention Scheme	9,591	-	9,591	93,555	-	93,555
Brewery Grant	4,615	-	4,615	10,582	-	10,582
South Downs National Park	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	-	60,049	60,049	-	-	-
Hampshire Cultural Trust	-	13,700	13,700	-	-	-
Other	1,538	-	1,538	33,295	-	33,295
	42,712	73,749	116,461	515,676	-	515,676

4 Charitable activities

	Museum operation 2022 £	Museum operation 2021 £
Museum operation	102,952	47,735
Field study centre	51,524	3,256
	154,476	50,991

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Exhibitions and events	14,095	3,594

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Rental income	1,601	1,462
Interest receivable	1	69
	1,602	1,531

7 **Charitable activities**

	Museum operation 2022 £	Museum operation 2021 £
Staff costs (net of recharges)	350,901	287,675
Depreciation and impairment	72,170	61,978
Rates	3,958	1,437
Light, heat & power	12,903	20,343
Insurance	19,265	19,162
Repairs & maintenance	64,967	52,376
Advertising	25,217	10,396
Printing, stationery & postage	2,513	2,375
Computer peripherals & software	22,459	17,549
Staff training	1,157	1,160
Travel & subsistence	616	6,871
Project & event costs	2,290	10,374
Consultancy & professional fees	3,451	13,606
Sundry expenses	15,848	18,388
Trade subscriptions	2,244	6,418
Telephone & communication	8,402	7,052
Bank charges	3,754	1,879
	612,115	539,039
Share of support costs (see note 8)	15,622	38,228
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	9,075	8,250
	636,812	585,517
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	628,079	573,784
Restricted funds	8,733	11,733
	636,812	585,517

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accountancy & bookkeeping	13,306	-	13,306	20,566	-	20,566
Consultancy	2,316	-	2,316	17,662	-	17,662
Audit fees	-	9,075	9,075	-	8,250	8,250
	15,622	9,075	24,697	38,228	8,250	46,478
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	15,622	9,075	24,697	38,228	8,250	46,478

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,250 (2021 - £8,250) for audit fees.

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration, benefits or expenses from the charitable company during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	31	28

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	370,853	314,498
Social security costs	18,465	13,626
Other pension costs	5,695	4,359
	395,013	332,483

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Transfers

The renovation of Gilbert White's house & stables using funds granted by the National Lottery Fund was completed in September 2020 and therefore the restricted covenant on the funds was deemed fulfilled.

The transfer from restricted to unrestricted funds reflects the coffee machine purchased during the year and the AIM Biffa Award spent during the year. A corresponding amount has been included in fixed assets.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	2,081,749	27,598	100,695	2,210,042
Additions	-	9,918	67,053	76,971
At 31 March 2022	2,081,749	37,516	167,748	2,287,013
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2021	110,155	18,822	80,410	209,387
Depreciation charged in the year	41,678	6,480	24,012	72,170
At 31 March 2022	151,833	25,302	104,422	281,557
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2022	1,929,916	12,214	63,326	2,005,456
At 31 March 2021	1,971,594	8,776	20,285	2,000,655

13 Heritage assets

	Artefacts
	£
At 1 April 2021	7,192
Purchases	1,729
At 31 March 2022	8,921

14 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	8,011	285
Other debtors	178,392	125,558
Prepayments and accrued income	-	19,913
	186,403	145,756

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	5,083	5,009
Trade creditors	3,038	39,297
Other creditors	7,481	16,488
Accruals and deferred income	15,626	14,643
	31,228	75,437

16 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

The Charity contributes up to 3% of the employee's salary to the scheme, with the employee contributing at least 5%.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £5,695 (2021 - £4,359).

At the end of the year the Charity had outstanding contributions of £ 0 (2021 - £885).

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building development	2,184,017	-	-	(2,184,017)	-	-	-	-	-
Boiler Fund	-	11,733	(11,733)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coffee Machine Fund	-	-	-	-	-	3,625	-	(3,625)	-
Reaching Out Grant	-	-	-	-	-	13,700	(8,733)	-	4,967
AIM Biffa Award: History Makers	-	-	-	-	-	60,049	-	(60,049)	-
	2,184,017	11,733	(11,733)	(2,184,017)	-	77,374	(8,733)	(63,674)	4,967

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to the development of the buildings and property. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

AIM Biffa Award: History Makers

The AIM Biffa Award History Makers Scheme gives grants to museums, galleries and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser known historical figures. The scheme supports projects that use the life and achievements of extraordinary historical figures to inspire and educate visitors.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	2,005,456	-	2,005,456	2,000,655	-	2,000,655
Heritage assets	8,921	-	8,921	7,192	-	7,192
Current assets/(liabilities)	160,804	4,967	165,771	291,654	-	291,654
	2,175,181	4,967	2,180,148	2,299,501	-	2,299,501

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	866	-
Between two and five years	3,462	-
	4,328	-

20 Capital commitments

The charity has contracted for work regarding redesigning of the Gilbert White displays of the following amounts:

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2021 - £53,745).

21 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	42,339	45,073

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Trustees
During the year the charity received donations from the Trustees of £375 (2021 : £Nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Trustees was £nil (2021 - £nil).

GWOC (Trading) Ltd
(Related by common control.)
During the year the company recharged costs totalling £44,112 (2021 - £44,808) to GWOC (Trading) Ltd, and GWOC (Trading) Ltd. made a donation of £215,960 (2021 - £55,000) to the company. At the balance sheet date the amount due from GWOC (Trading) Ltd. was £56,163 (2021 - £15,448 due to GWOC (Trading Ltd).

Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum
(A charity related by common control.)
During the year the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum made a donation to the company of £nil (2021 £nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due from the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum was £96,574 (2021 - £88,927).

Bowles Green Ltd
(Co-directors are also directors of this company.)
During the year the Charity purchased services from Bowles Green Ltd for £Nil (2021 - £7,700). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Bowles Green Ltd was £nil (2021 - £nil).

22	**Cash generated from operations**	**2022** £	**2021** £
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(119,353)	85,047
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,602)	(1,531)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	72,170	61,978
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(40,647)	39,082
	(Decrease) in creditors	(44,209)	(26,329)
	Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(133,641)	158,247

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no debt during the year.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1159058

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1159058

Company Registration No. 09069349 (England and Wales)

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr C Carter	
	Mr P Cluett	
	Mr P Geddes	
	Mr R Greenwood	
	Ms H Lane	
	Mr M Patterson	
	Prof. P Rodhouse	
	Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
	Mr P De Quincey	
	Mr G Seabright	(Appointed 10 November 2020)
	Ms E Moorcraft	(Appointed 25 May 2021)
	Mr P Curnow Ford	(Appointed 29 June 2021)
Secretary	Mr S A Green	
Charity number	1159058	
Company number	09069349	
Registered office	Gilbert White's House High Street Selborne Hampshire GU34 3JH	
Auditor	Azets Audit Services Ashcombe Court Woolsack Way Godalming Surrey GU7 1LQ	

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

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GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles dated 1st April 2016, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our Vision

The principal objectives of the Charity are to maintain a sustainable visitor attraction - a library, museum and garden - at Gilbert White's House in Selborne and an associated Field Studies Centre. This includes caring for the collections of artefacts, documents and specimens in accordance with agreed professional standards and developing educational, outreach and access policies. Accreditation status was achieved in 2008 and was last renewed in October 2018 for a period of five years.

Explorers of the Natural World

Our visitor attraction is a unique centre of international significance. Inspired by the writings, house and gardens of the Revd. Gilbert White of Selborne, complemented by the Oates family collections of early Antarctic and African exploration, Gilbert White & The Oates Collections promotes engagement with and enjoyment of the natural world.

Mission

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is working to:

- Ensure that we speak directly to the concerns and interests of the 21st century by making the natural world accessible to all and promoting the continual exploration and understanding of nature
- Create a dynamic and stimulating environment which people of all ages and ability come to learn and experience
- Preserve a vital element of scientific heritage and history and explain how this is relevant to the present day

In furtherance of this mission, we have identified the following objectives:

- To promote the lives and ideas of Gilbert White and Lawrence and Frank Oates to a wider national and international audience and maximise access for the broadest range of visitors and users
- To make use of the tercentenary of the birth of Gilbert White (18th July 2020) to create and support a range of events that boost knowledge and understanding of the natural world and man's relationship with nature
- To position Gilbert White & The Oates Collections as a destination of choice for local, national and overseas visitors
- To provide and enhance the best possible range of high quality services in ways and at times which suit both the needs of visitors to Selborne and, through an outreach programme, to a wider audience nationally and internationally
- To work in partnership in pursuit of these aims with complementary organisations such as National Trust, South Downs National Park Authority, Natural England, English Heritage, Arts Council England, British Antarctic Survey, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, Scott Polar Research Institute, the Natural History Museum, and other national and international universities, museums and conservation organisations
- To manage Gilbert White & The Oates Collections in a resilient, professional and sustainable way expected of an accredited museum
- Be compliant with the latest Charity Commission requirements.

We achieve these objectives and provide public benefit by:

- Opening the house and garden to the public and providing a good visitor experience
- Caring for the collections in accordance with proper professional standards
- Providing educational courses for schools, colleges and the general public
- Facilitating courses for special interest groups
- Working with likeminded organisations to emphasise the importance of the study of the natural world, both in terms of heritage and the present day

The cost of entry to the house and garden is set at a level which compares well with other local museums. In recent years, charges to local schools for educational activities were subsidised by a generous grant from Hampshire County Council. This has been reducing on a sliding scale for five years and ended on 31st March 2020.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

THANKS

The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported our work during the year, in particular the co-directors, the staff, volunteers and Friends, whose commitment, enthusiasm and many skills have been indispensable.

Strategic report

The description under the headings "Achievements and performance" and "Financial review" meet the company law requirements for the trustees to present a strategic report.

Achievements and performance

Operational Review

Management

The pandemic had a significant impact on the trust throughout the financial year. The museum and Field Studies Centre were closed for much of the time and all income-generating activities were reduced. When restrictions were imposed, the Executive and Finance Committee met on a regular basis to support the Directors and to make decisions in a rapidly-changing situation.

The Trust survived the year through a combination of 'fleet-of-foot' trading, Covid emergency grant income and the Job Retention Scheme.

Collections

The museum closed in March 2020 in compliance with Covid restrictions. It re-opened between lockdowns with a covid-secure visitor management system including screens, removal of interactives, a one-way system and compulsory mask-wearing.

Collections work stalled during the first quarter as the Collections & Marketing Manager was furloughed on the Job Retention Scheme and volunteers were unable to attend because of Covid restrictions. She returned to work in July 2020. The temporary 'Gilbert White Around the World' exhibition was retained for the remainder of the year and collections work focused on planning for the refreshed Gilbert White displays. Design and build contractors were appointed in December 2020, design work took place in February and April 2021 and installation took place in July 2021.

In parallel, arrangements were made to borrow exhibits from the Selborne Society (currently held at the Linnaean Society) and a temporary exhibition of never previously displayed material including the 1766 original copy of Gilbert White's 'Flora Selborniensis' was developed for the temporary exhibitions gallery.

Events and Activities
(includes events managed by GWOC (Trading) Ltd, not recognised in these financial statements)

Events and weddings activity was severely curtailed by Covid restrictions. No events were held on site. A small number of weddings, with restricted numbers, were held between lockdowns. The Events Officer was made redundant in May 2020 and the Weddings and Events Supervisor resigned in March 2021 to take up a similar post in Somerset. With a large number of wedding bookings and a resurgent events programme planned for 2021, recruitment for this team began in March 2021.

The pandemic had a devastating effect on the planned programme of celebrations to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Gilbert White's birthday. The birthday event on 18th July was postponed for a year and replaced with an on-line event which attracted 2,000 views from multiple countries. An on-line autumn programme of Gilbert White talks and winter on-line programme of Antarctic talks extended our geographic reach. Most of the events planned by our partners around the country were cancelled, but a temporary exhibition at Winchester Cathedral was re-arranged for 2021.

Catering
(managed by GWOC (Trading) Ltd, not recognised in these financial statements)

The Selborne Village Stores had closed down at Christmas 2019 and we had agreed to sell newspapers and essentials from Whites' café from February as a service to our local community. When White's café had to close in compliance with Covid restrictions, the café was converted into a village shop. We stocked a range of fresh and dry goods and the kitchen produced take away meals. Staff and volunteers provided a delivery service for the vulnerable and people who were self-isolating.

We liaised with the Selborne Arms to coordinate our activities and provided a Friday night special take-away meal service and a Sunday Lunch take-away when the pub was unable to operate.

During the summer opening period, the Friends provided funding for a kiosk and additional grant funding was found to create an outdoor café operation, outside of the pay perimeter on the museum lawn. We also used this to offer a series of Covid-secure, Friday night outdoor eating events with special menus.

Through the year, White's operated variously as a shop, a café and a hybrid shop and café to maximise income under changing covid restrictions.

Retail
(managed by GWOC (Trading) Ltd, not recognised in these financial statements)

Museum retail income was severely restricted in part through closure and then by the imposition of a covid-secure one-way system under which it was not possible to direct exiting visitors through the museum shop.

Field Studies Centre

All school visits during the usually peak, summer term were cancelled. On-line learning materials, including a virtual tour of the grounds, were developed and promoted. The Learning and Programmes Manager came back from the JRS on a part time basis in the Autumn term and was able to welcome a reduced number of schools and to review the formal education programme, bringing it up to date with school needs and aligning it more strongly with our charitable aims. By the spring term, we were hosting a forest school, operated by an outside contractor, and running home educator days as well as welcoming a steadily increasing number of school visits. By the end of the financial year, the order book for 2021/22 was strong. An extension of the 'Reaching Out' grant enabled us to continue to welcome schools from deprived, inner city communities.

12 months to	**31st March 2021**	**31st March 2020**	**31st March 2019**	**31st March 2018**	**31st March 2017**
Students under 18	435	4,490	4,665	4,571	3,940
Post 18 (includes adult helpers before March 2019)	35*	69*	813	993	769
Out of school activities	117	34	837	369	915
Outreach sessions	0	120	480	135	192
Total	**587**	**4,713**	**6,795**	**6,068**	**5,816**

*Excludes adults accompanying school group visits

Garden

The garden also closed to the public during the first lockdown. During this time, it was maintained by a skeleton staff and volunteer team. The garden re-opened in July and remained open for the rest of the financial year.

In July 2020 a new statue of Gilbert White was unveiled by Alan Titchmarsh.

Financial review

Income for 2020/21 was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. During the year:

- Income from government support schemes, the Job Retention Scheme, grants and donations, in particular grants of £57,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £150,000 from the Arts Council England

12 months to	31st March 2021	31st March 2020	31st March 2019	31st March 2018	31st March 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Admissions to the museum #	47,735	106,434	88,712	94,034	89,915#
Shop and Garden *	37,709	43,094	42,036	42,427	62,446
Catering *	244,357	112,909	89,629	49,793	59,398
Events *	17,770	115,354	108,211	106.865	78,713
TOTAL	347,571	377,791	328,588	293,119	290,472
Field Studies Centre non-grant income	3,256	46,735	56,395	53,952	40,339
Total takings	350,826	424,526	384,983	347,071	330,811
Total Visitor Numbers excluding Field Studies Centre (above)	7,187	16,344	16,986	13,487	19,123

Including Gift Aid

* includes takings of GWOC (Trading) Ltd which are not recognised in these financial statements

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to maintain Unrestricted General Funds at a level which represents at least three months' operational expenditure. Taking into account the experience of recent years' expenditure, this amounts to approximately £180,000 to operate the museum and the activities of its trading subsidiary; this level was maintained throughout the reporting period. In deciding on holding three months' Unrestricted General Fund Reserves, we have regard to the costs that would be involved in closing the Museum and Field Studies Centre, should the financial position become untenable.

The current investment policy is to hold all funds on bank deposit so as to be available to meet needs as they arise. Following completion of the Project, the remaining funds for Towards Sustainability – Inspiring Journeys of Discovery in the Natural World are still held in a separate bank account but are now available to be employed in other projects for the benefit of the Museum.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Charity maintains a Risk Register. This is reviewed each quarter by the Executive & Finance Committee and annually by the Trustees meeting at a board meeting.

COVID-19 AND OUR RESPONSE

The Covid-19 virus began to spread through the UK during the first months of 2020, a national lockdown was imposed on 23rd March and this continued until the summer. It had a number of effects on the charity, as follows:

- The museum and White's café closed on 21st March and the garden closed on 23rd March in line with the lockdown
- On 4th July we opened a kiosk and outdoor seating area on the rear lawn outside of the pay perimeter and this operated until the end of September
- The museum was 'soft-opened on 25th July to test the Covid-secure visitor system and opened fully to the public on 31st July
- The museum was closed again for the November and the January-April lockdowns, but the garden remained open during these times (with reduced admission prices)
- We had planned an extensive programme of events and activities, with a partnership of 50 organisations located throughout the UK, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Gilbert White in 1720. A few small events had taken place before the lockdown but the decision was taken to postpone the programme

Our Trustees and staff team responded rapidly to the lockdown. Our ability to make decisions and adapt our business model quickly meant that we have secured the immediate future of the Museum and, subject to the impact of the increased early 2021 movement restrictions, we have ended the year 2020/21 Financial Year close to break even, with restricted funds for development projects raised.

We are grateful to the Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England, the Laing Family Trust, the South Downs National Park Authority, South East Museums Development, the Friends, and the many local residents who generously supported us through grant awards and donations, and through volunteering. Without their support the picture would be very different today.

Measures taken to address the impacts of covid-19 included:

- Museum, education and some garden staff were enrolled on the Job Retention Scheme and one member of staff was made redundant
- White's café became a village shop; the Selborne Village Stores had closed at the end of Christmas 2019; White's had begun to sell newspapers, milk and essentials in January 2020. Takeaway home-cooked ready-meals, fresh food, wine and other essentials were added to the range. A number of local residents volunteered to work in the kitchen, on the shop counter and making deliveries to the vulnerable and isolating
- An outdoor café was operated during the summer months from a kiosk funded by the Friends
- Successful applications were made for emergency and recovery funding (including the National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund and the Cultural Recovery Fund)

Positive impacts of Covid-19 are the increased use of Zoom for meetings, which has helped to make us more efficient, and continued income from a (scaled back) village shop operation. Providing a shop, take-away food and access to our grounds was very well received by local residents had has done much to strengthen the reputation of the Trust.

Summary

Under the circumstances, the Trust performed reasonably well during the year. The core staff team was retained and only one redundancy was necessary, and one staff member moved on. The trustee board was further strengthened and reputation was increased through operation of White's as a shop, for the local community.

Future Developments

The trust continued its work to increase its commercial income to become financially independent and resilient. This includes:

- Introducing car parking charges in our car park during 2021
- Retailing a small village shop, with a view to developing a larger shop in new premises in 2021 or 2022
- Expanding its retail, hospitality and tourist accommodation business

In February 2020 we were approached by the developer of the Queens Hotel site (opposite the museum in Selborne). The developer offered to gift the ground floor of the former public house to the Trust for 99 years in return for support for his development proposals. During the remainder of the year we prepared a draft legal agreement to this effect but nothing as been signed to date. The latest planning decision is to allow partial permitted development on site and we await the the revised plans. The Trust should begin a phased occupancy the Queens at some time, we estimate, in 2023.

This will enable us to provide extra facilities which may include a retail business selling local South Downs and Hampshire produce and a tap room to retail our own beer in the evenings and eventually an education space subject to agreement. We are also negotiating to manage 3-6 holiday flats in the building on behalf of the developer and we have submitted a pre-planning application for shepherds huts in our grounds.

During 2020/21 we prepared a sustainability strategy to achieve net zero carbon. During 2021/22 we will implement an action plan to begin this process.

We will also review our events, activities and adult learning with a view to adopting a new strategy and action plan for implementation in 2022.

Structure, governance and management
Constitution

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the Charity or Museum) is registered as a company limited by guarantee (No. 9069349); it was set up by a Memorandum and Articles dated 3rd June 2014 as amended by special resolution on 8th March 2016. Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is also a registered charity (No. 1159058).

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is the sole trustee of The Oates Memorial Library and Museum and the Gilbert White Museum and the sole member of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A Broke	(Resigned 25 May 2021)
Mr C Carter	
Mr P Cluett	
Mr P Geddes	
Mr R Greenwood	
Ms H Lane	
Mr M Patterson	
Prof. P Rodhouse	
Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA	
Mr P De Quincey	
Mr G Seabright	(Appointed 10 November 2020)

Ms E Moorcraft	(Appointed 25 May 2021)
Mr P Curnow Ford	(Appointed 29 June 2021)

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

The charity has a policy to replace trustees which are recruited generally through existing Trustee and organisational professional contacts. New Trustees are invited to meet with current members of the Board to explore skill areas and are then invited to attend a meeting before making a firm decision.
An initial induction is given to new Trustees and further training is given if required.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees met on five occasions during the year and the average attendance was 8 trustees.

Organisational Structure and Decision-making

The trustees of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections are responsible for agreeing the policies and strategic direction of the organisation. Operational matters are delegated to the Museum Co-Directors under the immediate oversight of the Executive & Finance Committee, which consists of five Trustees. A fundraising committee of three Trustees (plus staff) guides non-business fundraising and an Acquisitions and Disposals Committee of two trustees (and staff) oversees management of the museum collections.

A Project Board, a Project Professional Team and a Project Executive Committee that were convened to oversee delivery of Towards Sustainability – Inspiring Journeys of Discovery in the Natural World were disbanded during the year following completion of the Heritage Lottery Project.

One Trustees and a Museum Co-Director make up the board of GWOC (Trading) Limited.

The senior management consists, at present of a job share Managing Director position split on an 80/20 basis. The salary level is set by the board of trustees based on a recommendation from the E&F committee. At least 2 members of the E&F committee will appraise the joint Managing Directors based on annual targets set and then, as required make an adjustment to the salary level as appropriate. Any such adjustment is on the basis that Gilbert White is profitable and able to afford any adjustment in salary level.

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report, including the strategic report, was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee
Dated: 29 November 2021

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gilbert White & The Oates Collections (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material mistatement due to fraud;
- testing the appopriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
- assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias, and;
- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

7 December 2021

Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ashcombe Court
Woolsack Way
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1LQ

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	602,715	11,733	614,448	204,133
Charitable activities	4	50,991	-	50,991	153,169
Other trading activities	5	3,594	-	3,594	50,879
Investments	6	1,531	-	1,531	762
Other income	7	-	-	-	11,563
Total income		658,831	11,733	670,564	420,506
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	573,784	11,733	585,517	586,466
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		85,047	-	85,047	(165,960)
Gross transfers between funds	12	2,184,017	(2,184,017)	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,269,064	(2,184,017)	85,047	(165,960)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		30,437	2,184,017	2,214,454	2,380,413
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		2,299,501	-	2,299,501	2,214,453

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	189,433	14,700	204,133
Charitable activities	4	153,169	-	153,169
Other trading activities	5	50,879	-	50,879
Investments	6	762	-	762
Other income	7	11,563	-	11,563
Total income		405,806	14,700	420,506
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	8	500,595	85,871	586,466
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(94,789)	(71,171)	(165,960)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		(94,789)	(71,171)	(165,960)
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		125,226	2,255,187	2,380,413
Fund balances at 31 March 2020		30,437	2,184,016	2,214,453

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		2,000,655		1,932,455
Heritage assets	14		7,192		7,192
			2,007,847		1,939,647
Current assets					
Debtors	15	145,756		184,838	
Cash at bank and in hand		221,335		191,735	
		367,091		376,573	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(75,437)		(101,767)	
Net current assets			291,654		274,806
Total assets less current liabilities			2,299,501		2,214,453
Income funds					
Restricted funds	18		-		2,184,016
Unrestricted funds			2,299,501		30,437
			2,299,501		2,214,453

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29 November 2021

Mr P Cluett
Trustee

Prof. K Aziz LVO DL FRSA
Trustee

Company Registration No. 09069349

GILBERT WHITE & THE OATES COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	22		158,247		(156,822)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(130,178)		(32,731)	
Investment income received		1,531		762	
Net cash used in investing activities			(128,647)		(31,969)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			29,600		(188,791)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			191,735		380,526
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			221,335		191,735

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Gilbert White & The Oates Collections is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Gilbert White's House, High Street, Selborne, Hampshire, GU34 3JH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

However, the pandemic had a major impact on the charity's finances during 2020-21 and the year's outcome was heavily dependent on government support through grants and the Job Retention Scheme. The pandemic will continue to restrict income during 2021-22 and the trustees will continue to monitor the financial position as the year unfolds.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% Straight line
Plant and equipment	20% Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Heritage assets

All Heritage assets acquired prior to 1st April 2016, (which were purchased in the Oates Memorial Library and Gilbert White Museum prior to 1st January 2013), are excluded from the balance sheet on the basis that significant costs would be incurred in obtaining a valuation of the items acquired in previous periods as a collection, compared with the benefit that would be derived from including them. This cost would also have to be incurred following a subsequent addition to the collection on the basis that each addition becomes part of the whole collection and cannot be seen as a standalone item. With effect from the 1st April 2016, Heritage assets acquired are included in the balance sheet where the cost or valuation of the assets are readily available.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	87,039	11,733	98,772	114,387	-	114,387
Grants	515,676	-	515,676	75,046	14,700	89,746
	602,715	11,733	614,448	189,433	14,700	204,133
Donations and gifts						
GWOC (Trading) Limited	55,000	-	55,000	68,400	-	68,400
Individuals and friends	22,259	11,733	33,992	34,332	-	34,332
Companies, trusts and similar	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Gift Aid reclaimed	4,780	-	4,780	11,655	-	11,655
	87,039	11,733	98,772	114,387	-	114,387

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Grants receivable for core activities						
Government grants	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
Grants from charities	-	-	-	47,555	14,700	62,255
East Hampshire District Council Covid 19 related	60,115	-	60,115	-	-	-
Arts Council	151,900	-	151,900	-	-	-
National Heritage	156,229	-	156,229	-	-	-
HMRC Job retention Scheme	93,555	-	93,555	2,491	-	2,491
Brewery Grant	10,582	-	10,582	-	-	-
South Downs National Park	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Other	33,295	-	33,295	-	-	-
	515,676	-	515,676	75,046	14,700	89,746

4 Charitable activities

	Museum operation 2021	**Museum operation 2020**
	£	**£**
Museum operation	47,735	106,434
Field study centre	3,256	46,735
	50,991	153,169

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Shop income	-	87
Exhibitions and events	3,594	50,792
Other trading activities	3,594	50,879

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Rental income	1,462	365
Interest receivable	69	397
	1,531	762

7 Other income

	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Museum tax credit	-	11,563

8 Charitable activities

	Museum operation 2021 £	Museum operation 2020 £
Staff costs (net of recharges)	287,675	290,576
Depreciation and impairment	61,978	57,553
Rates	1,437	9,837
Light, heat & power	20,343	13,444
Insurance	19,162	17,155
Repairs & maintenance	52,376	47,959
Advertising	10,396	16,004
Printing, stationery & postage	2,375	2,684
Computer peripherals & software	17,549	15,643
Staff training	1,160	2,126
Travel & subsistence	6,871	3,659
Project & event costs	10,374	26,716
Consultancy & professional fees	13,606	4,009
Sundry expenses	18,388	11,022
Trade subscriptions	6,418	3,480
Telephone & communication	7,052	9,712
Bank charges	1,879	3,960
	539,039	535,539
Share of support costs (see note 9)	38,228	18,447
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	8,250	32,480
	585,517	586,466
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	573,784	500,595
Restricted funds	11,733	85,871
	585,517	586,466

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accountancy & bookkeeping	20,566	-	20,566	9,467	-	9,467
Consultancy	17,662	-	17,662	8,980	-	8,980
Audit fees	-	8,250	8,250	-	9,500	9,500
Legal and professional	-	-	-	-	22,980	22,980
	38,228	8,250	46,478	18,447	32,480	50,927
Analysed between Charitable activities	38,228	8,250	46,478	18,447	32,480	50,927

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,250 (2020- £9,500) for audit fees.

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration, benefits or expenses from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	28	30

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	314,498	315,844
Social security costs	13,626	15,076
Other pension costs	4,359	4,464
	332,483	335,384

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Transfers

The renovation of Gilbert White's house & stables using funds granted by the National Lottery Fund was completed in September 2020 and therefore the restricted covenant on the funds was deemed fulfilled.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2020	1,968,262	21,130	90,472	2,079,864
Additions	113,487	6,468	10,223	130,178
At 31 March 2021	2,081,749	27,598	100,695	2,210,042
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2020	68,477	13,685	65,247	147,409
Depreciation charged in the year	41,678	5,137	15,163	61,978
At 31 March 2021	110,155	18,822	80,410	209,387
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2021	1,971,594	8,776	20,285	2,000,655
At 31 March 2020	1,899,785	7,445	25,225	1,932,455

14 Heritage assets

	Artefacts
	£
At 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021	7,192

15 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	285	8,652
Other debtors	125,558	161,915
Prepayments and accrued income	19,913	14,271
	145,756	184,838

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	5,009	14,001
Trade creditors	39,297	69,658
Other creditors	16,488	2,967
Accruals and deferred income	14,643	15,141
	75,437	101,767

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The Charity contributes up to 3% of the employee's salary to the scheme, with the employee contributing at least 5%.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £4,359 (2020 - £4,464).

At the end of the year the Charity had outstanding contributions of £ 885 (2020 - £845).

18 Restricted funds

The Income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building development	2,255,187	-	(71,171)	2,184,017	-	-	(2,184,017)	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	14,700	(14,700)	-	-	-	-	-
Boiler Fund	-	-	-	-	11,733	(11,733)	-	-
	2,255,187	14,700	(85,871)	2,184,017	11,733	(11,733)	(2,184,017)	-

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating the development of the buildings and property. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	2,000,655	-	2,000,655	6,669	1,925,786	1,932,455
Heritage assets	7,192	-	7,192	7,192	-	7,192
Current assets/ (liabilities)	291,654	-	291,654	16,575	258,231	274,806
	2,299,501	-	2,299,501	30,436	2,184,017	2,214,453

20 Capital commitments

The charity has contracted for work regarding redesigning of the Gilbert White displays of the following amounts:

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £53,745 (2020 - £nil).

21 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	45,073	37,484

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Trustees
During the year the charity received donations from the Trustees of £nil (2020 : £5,640). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Trustees was £nil (2020 - £nil).

GWOC (Trading) Ltd
(Related by common control.)
During the year the company recharged costs totalling £44,808 (2020 - £44,808) to GWOC (Trading) Ltd, and GWOC (Trading) Ltd. made a donation of £55,000 (2020 - £68,400) to the company. At the balance sheet date the amount due to GWOC (Trading) Ltd. was £15,448 (2020 - £91,274 dr).

Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum
(A charity related by common control.)
During the year the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum made a donation to the company of £nil (2020 £nil). At the balance sheet date the amount due from the Oates Memorial Library and The Gilbert White Museum was £88,927 (2020 - £43,625).

Bowles Green Ltd
(Co-directors are also directors of this company.)
During the year the Charity purchased services from Bowles Green Ltd for £7,700 (2020 - £2,460). At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Bowles Green Ltd was £nil (2020 - £nil).

22	**Cash generated from operations**	**2021** £	**2020** £
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	85,047	(165,960)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,531)	(762)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	61,978	57,553
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	39,082	(109,436)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(26,329)	68,805
	(Decrease) in deferred income	-	(7,022)
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	158,247	(156,822)

23 **Analysis of changes in net funds**

The charity had no debt during the year.