



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2024 Period start date

To 31st December 2024 Period end date

Charity name: The Harwich Society

Charity registration number: 1161931

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	To promote public interest in the Harwich area, encourage high standards of planning and architecture and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Harwich and its hinterland
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>Reviewing and commenting upon as necessary the planning applications placed before the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Encourage interest in and awareness of local history by managing and conserving The Harwich Redoubt, a fort built to defend Harwich Harbour during the Napoleonic War. The Society also operates museums charting the maritime history of the town, manages the High Lighthouse and runs a Visitor Centre on Harwich Quay which acts as a focal point for tourist information.</p> <p>The Society encourages awareness of local history by maintaining an archive, publishing information, organising guided walks and arranging lectures for local residents, visitors and tourists. Managing a small wildlife reserve in the town enables the Society to encourage local interest in the natural environment.</p> <p>The Society's sites are popular destinations for people of all ages for leisure and education purposes including supervised groups from local primary schools.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees confirm they have complied with Sec.4 of the Charities Act 2006 in having due regard to the Charity Commissioners general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees actively review the success of the Society's activities and the benefit accrued to local residents and visitors.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making	The purpose of the charity is not primarily as a grant giving body. Any request received would be considered on its merits.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	The Society does not undertake social investment as its focus is on environmental work. However by creating volunteering opportunities, encouraging public interest in the local environment and managing visitor attractions for the public good we enhance opportunities for community and social engagement.
Contribution made by volunteers	The Society would be unable to exist without the support and commitment of volunteers, including our trustees. Volunteers ensure the sites operated by the Harwich Society are managed, maintained and opened to visitors, provide guided walks, undertake research, maintain our archives and ensure the Highlight magazine is published and distributed.
Other	This organisation was formed to update the constitution of Harwich Society. On 1 st January 2016 the charitable activities for public benefit were transferred from the original Harwich Society (Charity no 261798) to this new charity including assets and liabilities. The original Harwich Society was formed in 1969.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p>The Society continues to publish quarterly the 'Highlight' magazine and distribute it to all members whether local, in the UK or abroad. This magazine is seen as an important link with residents and former residents of the town. The magazine includes articles about the history of the area, conservation and planning matters, promotes current events and volunteering and creates a platform for people to share information and reminiscences.</p> <p>Society volunteers manage and staff the seasonal Visitor Centre in Harwich and the iconic historic buildings and museums under its ownership or control which are a significant tourist attraction in the Harwich area including Christopher Jones' house being the home of the Master of the Mayflower and linked to the history of the Pilgrim Fathers.</p>
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	<p>The Bobbits Hole town wildlife area was managed, improved, and was open to the public including families with children during 2024 to promote safe accessible access to the natural environment.</p> <p>Ongoing conservation work was progressed at The Redoubt in liaison with Historic England.</p> <p>The Society website was updated and linked to social media to better promote public interest in the Harwich area.</p> <p>The Society provided guided walks for residents, visitors, including foreign tourists, school groups and parties wishing to explore the locality.</p> <p>The Society was consulted and participated in the statutory planning processes for the Harwich area.</p> <p>The Society participates in town enhancement and tourism initiatives in partnership with others.</p> <p>The Society continued to promote interest and knowledge about the Harwich area including conducting research into the history of the area and publishing information.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	The Society was in a sound financial position at the end of the accounting period. At the year end our funds amounted to £362,707.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The Society has no formal policy on financial reserves other than to ensure funds are ring fenced towards the conservation and preservation of 5 Church Street Harwich ('Foresters') probably the oldest house in Harwich and The Redoubt Fort a key Harwich ancient monument for the benefit of future generations.
Amount of reserves held	As recorded in the Annual Accounts we had £108,681 in the designated Foresters Fund and £156,253 in the designated Redoubt Fort Fund.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	N/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	The Society is in sound heart having over 2000 members and a sound balance sheet.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Membership subscriptions, museum admission fees, sales, donations and fundraising including monthly pub quizzes, provide most of the income in regard to the designated and unrestricted funds. Restricted fund grant income was obtained towards the cost of the conservation activities at The Redoubt Fort.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	We adopt low risk investments for funds held for future use to promote the objectives of the charity.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	The risks are low since the charity insures against risk and generates sufficient funds to maintain its annual programme of activities. We seek grant support for any major conservation projects with the historic buildings in our care. We seek to minimise this risk by undertaking surveys and timely repairs.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Charity Commission Association Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Trustees appointed by members

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Harwich Society
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1161931
Charity's principal address	5 Church Street Harwich Essex CO11 3DR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Colin Farnell	Chairman	To 17.12.2024	
2	Andy Schooler	Chairman	From 17.12.2024	

3	Robert Barham	Vice Chairman		
4	Maria Fowler	Secretary		
5	Diane Bitmead	Treasurer		
6	Dan Beck			
7	Garry Calver			
8	Richard Colley			
9	Sue Daish			
10	Richard Oxborrow			
11	Paul Smith			
12	Nigel Mowle		From 12.11.2024	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
n/a		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
n/a		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	none
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	n/a
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	n/a

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

We employ no paid staff- we are a volunteer based organisation managed by our Board of Trustees.

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

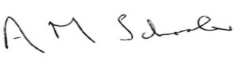
n/a

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andy Schooler	
Position (e.g Secretary, Chair)	Chairman	
Date	08/07/2025	

THE HARWICH SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161931

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Period 1st January - 31 Dec 2024

PAYMENTS

ITEMS FOR RESALE
 REDOUBT - HOUSEKEEP & CAFÉ COSTS
 INSURANCE
 LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL FEES
 HERITAGE LOTTERY GRANT EXPENSES
 MAINTENANCE
 POSTAGE
 PRINTING/PUBLICITY
 RENT PAID
 STATIONERY
 SUBSCRIPTIONS / DONATIONS
 MISC COSTS
 MONTHLY MEETING EXPENSES
 INTERNET/WEB EXPENSES
 UTILITIES
 FORESTERS 200 CLUB
 WATERFRONT DINNER
 FIXED ASSET PURCHASE
TOTAL PAYMENTS

EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS

FUNDS AT 1st January 2024

FUNDS AT 31 Dec 2024

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND	DESIGNATED REDOUBT FUND	DESIGNATED BOBBITS FUND	DESIGNATED MUSEUMS FUND	DESIGNATED SOCIAL FUND	RESTRICTED FORESTERS FUND	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3,276	409		385			4,070	4,083
	1,514					1,514	764
742	676	475	1,150		1,380	4,423	4,388
7,200			620			7,820	13,328
	6,000					6,000	0
492	5031	178	8752		2407	16,860	25,919
2,724						2,724	1,805
3,192	643					3,835	3,885
100			481			581	1,910
443						443	677
70						70	200
2,211	1058		429		396	4,094	4,885
				602		602	735
144						144	110
3,306	5604	296	2516		800	11,722	8,672
				2488		2,488	1,000
225	2207	275	997		353	4,057	2,401
24,125	23,142	1,224	15,330	3,090	5,336	72,247	81,281
3,443	38,374	(356)	(9,277)	(442)	(1,579)	30,163	(8,062)
100,944	117,879	11,907	(8,297)	(149)	110,260	332,544	340,606
104,387	156,253	11,551	(17,574)	(591)	108,681	362,707	332,544

THE HARWICH SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161931

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Period 1st January - 31 Dec 2024

RECEIPTS
 ADMISSIONS
 DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS
 GIFT AID
 GHOST HUNT INCOME
 PRIVATE HIRE FEES
 GRANTS
 GUIDE PANEL INCOME
 INVESTMENT INCOME
 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
 MISC INCOME
 MISC SALES
 QUIZ NIGHT INCOME
 FORESTERS 200 CLUB
 WATERFRONT DINNER
 MONTHLY MEETINGS INCOME
TOTAL RECEIPTS

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND	DESIGNATED RED OUBT FUND	DESIGNATED BOBBITS FUND	DESIGNATED MUSEUMS FUND	DESIGNATED SOCIAL FUND	RESTRICTED FORESTERS FUND	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	16202		3666			19,868	16,562
646	3174	868	1284			5,972	6,066
1,734						1,734	2,091
	6785					6,785	5,144
	375					375	1,500
	29803					29,803	8,679
1111						1,111	790
2366	1281				2232	5,879	2,013
10843						10,843	11,326
770						770	455
7284	3896		1103			12,283	11,877
2814						2,814	2,704
						1,525	1,625
				2196		2,196	2,022
				452		452	365
27,568	61,516	868	6,053	2,648	3,757	102,410	73,219

THE HARWICH SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1161931

ASSET STATEMENT

As at 31st December 2024

CASH FUNDS

CASH IN HAND
CURRENT - CO-OPERATIVE BANK
DEPOSIT - CO-OPERATIVE BANK
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - NATIONWIDE
UNITED TRUST BANK
CAMBRIDGE & COUNTIES BANK

TOTAL CASH FUNDS

FIXED ASSETS

PROPERTY & LAND

PROPERTY CONTENTS & EQUIPMENT

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

IT EQUIPMENT

OTHER ITEMS

TOTAL FIXED ASSETS

STOCK

STOCK - PUBLICATIONS Etc.
STOCK - HS SHIRTS.

TOTAL STOCK

TOTAL ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND	DESIGNATED REDOUBT FUND	DESIGNATED ROBERTS FUND	DESIGNATED MUSEUMS FUND	DESIGNATED SOCIAL FUND	RESTRICTED FORESTERS FUND	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

015						815	815
46,900						46,900	20,989
25,000	7,500	1,000		2,000	21,500	57,000	57,000
72,223	12,000					84,223	84,223
16,000						67,158	82,332
26,380	25,314		5,100		33,817	90,611	87,185
187,318	44,814	1,000	5,100	2,000	122,475	362,707	332,544

421,100

421,100

421,100

1,291

8,651

3,089

4,860

34

3,868

21,793

23,381

7,237

49,393

12,300

68,930

66,335

436

375

86

152

1,048

1,084

442

457

203

1,192

507

430,505

58,876

3,089

17,539

34

4,020

514,063

512,407

3,049

3,086

201

6,336

8,629

320

190

3,086

0

0

6,526

8,949

3,239

3,086

0

0

6,526

8,949

621,062

106,776

4,089

22,639

2,034

126,495

883,296

853,900

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF:
on 11/3/25

A. Schooler

A Schooler
CHAIRMAN

Diane Blimead
TREASURER

D. Blimead

THE HARWICH SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161931

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024

- 1 FORESTERS FREEHOLD PROPERTY STATED AT REBUILD COST
- 2 FORESTERS CONTENTS STATED AT REPLACEMENT COST
- 3 BOBBITS HOLE FREEHOLD LAND VALUED AT ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE
- 4 PAINTINGS AND PLAQUES VALUED AT COST
- 5 MUSEUM EXHIBITS (OFTEN DONATED) AT COST PLUS 1% PER ANNUM
- 6 TOOLS VALUED AT COST LESS 20% WASTAGE PER ANNUM
- 7 SMALL ASSETS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT WRITTEN DOWN AT 20% PER ANNUM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE HARWICH SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of The Harwich Society for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustee's consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011

to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

SIGNED



NAME:

MARGARET SCUTCHER

QUALIFICATION

1 -

ADDRESS:

16 VALLEY ROAD, HARWICH, ESSEX

DATE:

13/3/2025